

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 26 (16:10-16)

Setting the Stage for Armageddon

Introduction: We have come to the part of the Bible where it describes the judgment of God coming upon the wicked mankind at the end of time. We have gotten down to verse 10. A short review: The Church age is now over, every born again child of God has been taken to heaven (Church age saints). At the end of the Church age seven years of the worst time of world history begins - intense suffering, intense evangelism, angels come to preach, 12,000 from each tribe, 144,000 Jewish evangelists, Moses and Elijah will be revived and will preach. God will bring forth extreme catastrophies and God will preach and give mankind one last chance, after that, God will come to earth in judgment and wrath.

At this very moment there are people who are charting and planning on conquering this world. Men have tried it all through the ages but never have and never will. God will take their plans and wad them up like a piece of paper. Communism will never rule this world, nor socialism. ONLY Jesus Christ will ever rule the whole world. REMEMBER THIS: The Church age saints will be taken from this world and the dead in Christ will be joined with their bodies and all of the Church age saints will be caught up to heaven, THEN will come the seven year period of Tribulation. Two men will rise to power and seek to conquer the world. At the end of the seven years, after intensive evangelism on God's part, Jesus Christ will come back to earth and with the wave of His hand millions and millions of wicked people will be wiped off the face of the earth and Satan will be sent to the bottomless pit with his demons and Jesus Christ will set up His millineum reign - that is what the Bible says. LISTEN TO WHAT THE LORD JESUS HAS TO SAY:

v10 - "seat of the beast" - the ruler's place (from the revived Roman Empire). God is going to pour out His judgment upon this man.

- "full of darkness" - Matthew, Luke, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea talk of this darkness. Remember when Jesus hung on the cross and it became dark? Three hours of intense darkness, the same kind is going to happen again and it will stop all these enemies gathering to war against God will be stopped. At this time, the Jews are instructed to flee to the mountains (Matthew 24:16), for there God will protect them as the great armies march past.
- "gnawed their tongues" - chewing their tongues in pain.

v11 - "repented not" - even in this awful time of calamities and the wrath of God falling on earth, disease, suffering, famine, earthquakes, people will still shake their fists at God. Some say that unless God reaches His finger down into your life and shoves aside your will and volition one can't ever be saved - THAT IS JUST NOT TRUE. One thing that God did was to give man a will and God never has or will reach inside a man and push him/her one way or the other. Esau was not a believer, yet Jacob was, remember? Those who say that unless God reaches down inside you and pushes aside your will, you can't be saved, just don't know the word of God. You have a free will and you can go to heaven or hell, YOU make the choice. Jesus Christ has made the way, every person has the potential to be saved - it all depends upon the person. Multiplied millions will die saying "NO" in these last days.

v12 - begins to set the scene for the battle of Armageddon, but first turn to Daniel 11:36:

- v36 - these events are outlined, one by one, the events of Armageddon. Here's the picture: The Northern Kingdom (Russia today), have never had an outlet to the sea and are surrounded by land or ice and have no ports, built a railroad across their country and came to a town called Vadiblastock, which is on the Pacific Ocean therefore giving them an outlet to the sea, but it is so far away from the great part of Russia that it is not satisfactory. Remember, they fought the Criemean War, the Russo-Japanese War and the Japanese defeated Russia and Russia went back and now they are looking at the Black Sea South of them and they are building their war machines, sea vessels, airplanes, missiles, etc. When they get ready to make their move, they will come down through the Black Sea and into Palestine

when they get ready to make their move. This is all revealed in the Bible, use your imagination now:

Here is the little land of Palestine, right at the bridge of three continents: Europe, Asia, Africa. It has been called the "land of coming and going", a little bridge, it is like a hub between these three continents - Palestine. Notice now what is happening in this little land. The bible talks about the King of the North (known today a Russia), then there is the King to the East, Communist China, Japan, the Oriental, then the King of the South, the Arabs, Africa, then the Western Empire, made up of the USA, the Revived Roman Empire and other countries of the Western Hemisphere. See the little land of Palestine sitting between all four of these empires. Can Palestine trust Russia - No, no faith in the Orient. For centuries the Jews have been at war with the Arabs. The ONLY one way for Israel to turn is to the Western Empire. An alliance will be made with the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire which will be the Western Empire and we'll read about that in God's Word.

- "king" - dictator of Palestine, a Jew from the tribe of DAN
- "will" - stubborn, but a great personality, following similar to Hitler
- "speak against God" - he will lead the people to believe that there is no such thing as Jehovah God, many will believe what he says.
- "indignation be accomplished" - a term meaning the end of the Tribulation, the end of the seven year period.
- "shall be done" - God has chartered history and things will happen as God has planned.

v37 - What kind of dictator will this man be?

- "God of His Fathers" - technical name for Jesus Christ - doesn't believe in Jesus.
- "desire of women" - women will not be influential in government at that time. This dictator will not recognize the leadership of women.
- "any god" - he will be an Atheist
- "magnify self" - He plays the part of God, fooling millions into thinking that he is the long awaited for Messiah.

v38 - "god of forces" - technical name for the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. If the USA is in this prophecy, it is HERE. The USA is closer to Rome today than ever before, with a representative in the Vatican in Rome and of course every one goes to see the Pope.

- "shall he honor" - he is going to take all the wealth of Israel and give it to the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, make an alliance. These two men will become allies and will rule the world.

v39 - "acknowledge" - the Bible tells us that after 3 1/2 years these two will become so close to one another that the Jewish dictator will take a golden statue of the Roman dictator and place in the very Temple of God in Jerusalem - "Abomination of Desolation" - In Matthew 24 Jesus warned about the statue, Jesus said then that the time was very near when this happens.

- "divide" - these two will divide up the whole world between themselves.
Isn't it amazing that we find all this in the Bible? Now, what is going to happen at that time?
What is going to be going on in the other Empires?

v40 - "of the end" - that last 3 1/2 years

- "South" - Arabs and they have always been at war with Palestine, even today.
- "push" - get ready to make war
- "North" - Russia today
- "like a whirlwind" - control the Mediteranian
- enter into" - come down over Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and into Palestine
- "overflow" - conquer Palestine very easily

v41 - "glorious land" - Palestine

- "many countries" - Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Palestine
- "these shall escape" - Edom, Moab, Ammon - any Jew knowing the Bible will know that if they flee to these countries, they shall escape for God will protect His people in these areas and God will take care of them. These three countries are mentioned over and over, again and again. It will be safe in the mountain ranges of these three countries.

v42 - "Egypt not escape" - conquered by the Northern Empire. Instead of the USA, it is Africa. Listen and watch what is going on today in Africa.

v43 - "Libyans" - North Africa, Ethiopia

- "at his steps" - be a part of the conquest. The dictator's plans are to conquer Libya and then sweep into Ethiopia and conquer the whole of Africa. Notice what God is doing.

v44 - "tidings shall trouble him" - Armies from the East and from the West begin to move in and the Arab nations begin to pull in. All the nations and empires are congregating for the great battle of Armageddon, the last great battle on the earth.

Just when the North gets ready to finish off Africa, notice what happens behind the dictator:

- "great fury" - turns around and begins to march back into Palestine. All the forces are gathered here.

v45 - "between the seas" - between the Mediterranean and Dead Sea. Draw a line from the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea and it intersects Jerusalem. Notice how the Bible quickly shows his elimination - comes to his end.

To finish, lets now turn back to chapter 16:

The Bible doesn't leave us guessing. We now exactly where all will stop. There is in the Kremlin of Russia a Bible that is worth millions of dollars. It has been shut and locked for eight (8) centuries. That Bible contains the very same words that we have just read. If they only had sense enough to open it and read and realize that world conquest will never happen - but they have shut it and will not listen to God.

v12 - "Euphrates" - always been the border

- "dried up" - as the powers of the East prepare to march, the waters of this dividing river will be miraculously dried up and they'll march right across it into Palestine.

v13 - "unclean spirits" - are of the devil. What has he been doing all this time? The same thing, trying to defeat God.

- "dragon" - Satan
- "beast" - Dictator of Rome
- "false prophet" - Dictator of Palestine (Jews)

v14 - "whole earth" - deceived, the whole world is drawn into little Palestine

- "gather them" - the battle of Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation

v16 - "Armageddon" - the place is set up. Millions have come into this little area. All of a sudden, God is going to turn to Jesus saying "put on your golden crown, take up your sickle, go back to earth and reap the harvest." Not a minute early, not a minute too late. As they converge on that little Palestine, darkness will envelope the earth and the saved Jews will flee to the mountains where God will protect them and the battle will ensue and blood will run as deep as the horses' bridles for 175 to 200 miles. Jesus Christ will emerge victorious.

Now this is the word of God just as it is written. This is true. Jesus Christ is going to rule this earth and He's coming back to establish His kingdom and rule as it was intended from the beginning.

This has been a most interesting study and there is more to come. Stay with us in this study.