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**C1305 – January 30, 2013 – Revelation 16 & 19**  
**Every Nation vs. Israel**

We are studying three battles in the land of Israel that will occur in the last days and tonight we'll start by turning to Matthew 24:6. I want to make two points up front. First, thank you for bearing with me through a lot of detail. Actually there is a lot more detail but it's necessary to go through it in this manner so I have time to process the data and come up with a valid scenario that fits all the details of the text. Of course it would be nice to just be able to put it all together in one sweeping picture and if I ever teach this again in the future that's what I'll do but because of the level of difficulty it takes time and study to get there.

Second, realize that while we are studying three battles there are actually many more battles in the Tribulation period. What did Jesus say in Matthew 24:6 that the nation Israel would be hearing of? "wars and rumors of wars..." verse 7, "for nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom etc..." So there will be many wars in the Tribulation period, many more wars than are currently occurring. Always there are wars going on but these expressions refer to every place on earth being in war and its parallel to the second seal in Rev 6. So while there are many wars going on across the world in this future time we are singling out three specific battles because the Scriptures describe these three battles in great detail. And the reason these three battles are given great detail is because the land of Israel is God's land and the city of Jerusalem is God's city and the Jewish people are God's people and Israel is located at the center of the earth. God promised to rule the world from Jerusalem through His Davidic King. So if Satan can conquer the land of Israel, annihilate the people of Israel and take over the city of Jerusalem then God's word will be nullified and Satan will rule the world. So that's why the Bible is so interested in these three battles concerning Jerusalem. It's a battle ultimately between God and Satan.

Now putting a few things together from what we've already studied, the first invasion will be Egypt and Syria vs Israel as described in Daniel 11:40-45. According to the text, after the anti-Christ has forced his *protection* treaty on Israel then the kings of Egypt and Syria will attack in a pincer movement by land and by sea. At the time the anti-Christ will not be in the land and so Egypt and Syria will take advantage of his absence. Why? I'm speculating that their reason for attacking Israel is that both governments will at that time be fundamentalist Muslim and so will hate Israel. Further, the Jews will start sacrificing on the Temple Mount and that means the third most holy site in Islam will have to be desecrated. So they will invade but the anti-Christ will respond by bringing his powerful military machine from the north into Syria and then south into the land of Israel where he will defeat the Syrian and Egyptian forces and then further south into Egypt where he will defeat the fleeing Egyptian forces. He will then intend to defeat Libya and Sudan but he will hear rumors from the North and the East of Israel that will hinder his campaign in Africa and so he will return to Jerusalem to set up his military headquarters protecting his primary interest.

Now when he arrives he will have discovered that there is a coalition of five nations planning a second invasion. These five nations are Russia, Iran, Turkey, Libya and Sudan vs Israel as described in Ezekiel 38-39. According to these two chapters what will happen is these five nations will invade the land of Israel, also during the first half of the Tribulation. Their purpose is to take spoil and to exterminate Israel. The Israelis will be extremely wealthy at the time, the land will have recently been restored from the sword and they will be at rest and living under the false security of the anti-Christ. These five nations will think they can defeat the anti-Christ and take the spoil. But when the invasion occurs God will supernaturally destroy them on the northern mountains of Israel. This defeat will occur about the mid-point of the Tribulation. Two responses from the world will result from this awesome defeat. First, belief in anti-Christ. Many will attribute the victory to the anti-Christ whose prophet will be able to call down fire out of heaven in a manner similar to the fire God sent to defeat the enemies' lands. Second, belief in Christ. Many from the nation Israel and the nations will attribute the victory to God and will worship Him. So there will be two responses, one for Christ and the other for anti-Christ. About the same time somehow the anti-Christ will be killed but he will be resurrected from the dead. He will

then have a free hand to do whatever he wants in the Middle East. So he will enter the Temple, commit the abomination of desolation and make himself out to be God demanding worship from the whole world. He will then set out to annihilate the Jews. Now the land will be defiled since the dead bodies of Gog's massive army have been supernaturally slain by God but the Jews won't be able to do anything about it at the time because of the anti-Christ's persecution. So they will flee for their lives SE to the areas of Edom, Moab and Ammon in present day Jordan. The horde of weapons and dead bodies that defile the land will therefore remain for 3 ½ years. During this time the birds and beasts of the field will pick away at the flesh cleaning them down to the bone. After the 3 ½ years, the nation Israel will be regenerated and will call on the Lord to be saved and Jesus will return and defeat the final invasion of Israel which we will study tonight. He will then instigate a seven month burial campaign as part of the cleansing of the land for the kingdom. All the bones will be buried in a valley re-named Hamon-Gog as a memorial to God's victory over Gog. I think this burial ground will be in the mountainous region of northern Israel. A city will be built for the special crew assigned to search out and find the last remaining bodies. The city will be given the name Hamonah, another memorial to God's victory over Gog. These two memorials will remain throughout the entire 1000 years serving as a warning against any who might consider revolting against Christ's kingdom rule. As for the weapons of Gog that remain lying on the battlefield, they will be burned as fuel for the first seven years of the millennium providing free energy for Israel during her early years of rebuilding in the kingdom.

So those are the first two battles for Jerusalem; they both occur in the first half of the Tribulation. In the first two, nations come against Israel and the anti-Christ protects Israel, in the second one five nations come against Israel and God protects Israel. Tonight we come to the third and final battle during the Tribulation, which will occur at the end of the second half of the Tribulation. This battle is typically called the Battle of Armageddon but the better scholars refer to it as the War of Armageddon. The difference being that a war is a series of battles. So this time we're looking at a series of battles that occur, and this war is described in Revelation 16:13. So turn there and we'll try to trace the series of battles in this final war before the millennium. There are many passages that describe facets of this war and we'll turn to those in a moment. But for now let's just look at the context of Rev 16. And notice at the end of verse 14 the actual name of this war is given.

Technically this is not even the War of Armageddon but **the war of the great day of God, the Almighty**, that's the proper name.

Now when does this war occur? Observe that Rev 16 begins with the first bowl judgment. There are seal, trumpet and bowl judgments; seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls that are poured out in a sequence; they don't overlap, some of the bowls overlap but they are distinct judgments. So in all there are twenty-one judgments and I take it that the seven seals and seven trumpets occur in the first half of the Tribulation whereas the seven bowls occur in the second half of the Tribulation. So Rev 16 is describing the mighty judgments of the second half. Rev 16:2, the first bowl is malignant sores, Rev 16:3, the second is the sea into blood, Rev 16:4, the third is the rivers and springs into blood, Rev 16:8, the fourth is scorching heat, Rev 16:10, the fifth is thick darkness and Rev 16:12, the sixth is the drying up of the Euphrates River to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And that drying up of the great river Euphrates is what sets the stage for the kings from the east to make their way to the land of Israel in order to gather for **the war of the great day of God, the Almighty**. So since the gathering for the war occurs after the sixth bowl then this is very near the end of the second half of the Tribulation. And you see in verse 13 the source of the spirit that causes the gathering. **And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs**. The cause of the gathering is demons going forth out of the mouths of the counterfeit Trinity. Satan will form a counterfeit Trinity at the midpoint of the Tribulation. The **dragon** is Satan himself, he's the counterfeit Father, the **beast** is the anti-Christ, he's the counterfeit Son and the **false prophet** is the counterfeit Holy Spirit. Three personalities and each one of them is indwelt by many, many demons and out of each of their mouths comes one of the many demons. Satan and his demons are literally ruling the world at this time through the kings of the earth. Now John was seeing this in a vision and what he saw was a dragon, a beast and the false prophet and out of each of their mouths a demon came out that looked like a **frog**. The frog was an unclean creature and so he knows these spirits are unclean. And verse 14 states explicitly that these unclean spirits are **demons**. And these three demons go forth from the counterfeit Trinity to the kings of the whole world and **perform signs**. The **signs** will be false signs and wonders that will deceive the **kings of the whole world** and the

purpose of the false signs is to gather them to Israel to destroy the Jews. This is **the war of the great day of God, the Almighty**. Its sole purpose is to destroy the Jews.

And verse 16 gives the first stage in this war, the gathering location. **And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon**, an alternative reading in some manuscripts is **Armageddon** but the actual rendering is **Har-Magedon** and means “hill of Megiddo.” It’s actually a raised hill with an ancient city on it known as Megiddo where many battles have been fought. Archaeology has discovered twenty-one layers of destruction so this city is associated down through history with war. And it is situated on a hill on the W side of a massive plain overlooking the Plain of Esdraelon, it’s the entry point into that valley, so he who controls that city controls the valley, also know as the Valley of Jezreel. And it’s this massive valley that will be the gathering place for the kings of the whole world and their armies. Now it’s important to recognize that this valley is not the place where the war will be fought, it’s only the place where the armies gather to deploy for the coming war.

To see where the first battle of the war will occur turn to Zechariah 12:2. **Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.** <sup>3</sup>**“It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.** So the first battle will occur in Jerusalem, anti-Christ’s central objective; he wastes no time pursuing his central aim. So the armies will deploy from the valley of Jezreel and head south to **Jerusalem**. But you see in verse 2 that **Jerusalem will be a cup that cause reeling to all the peoples around** meaning it’s going to be a very difficult objective for anti-Christ and his armies to conquer. It says also in verse 3 that God **will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples and all who lift it will be severely injured**. So God is going to be at work weakening the armies of the anti-Christ so that they are easy prey for the Israeli’s. Notice verse 4, **In that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with bewilderment and his rider with madness. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.** So God will weaken anti-Christ and his armies and the people of Judah will

recognize that God is fighting on their behalf. At the same time He will strengthen Israel and their armies. If you notice verse 8, **In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the one who is feeble among them in that day will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the LORD before them.** So God will revive His ancient work, as He worked in the time of Joshua to supernaturally strengthen them and given them victories, going before them, so He will do again and His foes will suffer extreme losses.

However, if you turn to Zech 14:2 you will see that the anti-Christ will be partially successful. **For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.** In conclusion, in the first battle of the war the anti-Christ will capture half of Jerusalem but in doing so he will suffer serious military casualties. Furthermore, God's fighting on Israel's behalf will set off a revival in Jerusalem among the families. Remember, anyone who is in Jerusalem at this time was not a believer at the midpoint because Jesus said in Matt 24:15 that at the midpoint the abomination of desolation would occur and this was a signal to the believing Jews in Jerusalem to flee. So I take it that all the Jewish believers at the mid-point will flee Jerusalem. Therefore those who stay in Jerusalem would be Jewish unbelievers. They will have to somehow try and survive the anti-Christ's vicious persecution. Some obviously will survive until this battle at the end of the Tribulation and God's miraculous intervention and pouring forth of His Spirit will result in their recognizing that they have crucified God's Messiah and they will mourn greatly. Notice Zech 14:10, **I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.** So the inhabitants of Jerusalem will recognize Jesus as the Messiah as a result of this battle in Jerusalem.

Recapping, first, the gathering for the war will be in the valley of Jezreel, second, the army will deploy for its first battle in the city of Jerusalem, there anti-Christ will suffer tremendous casualties, third, anti-Christ will move his armies SE into modern day Jordan for the second battle to annihilate the

Jews. If you recall, once more, when the anti-Christ commits the abomination of desolation at the midpoint of the Tribulation Jesus said to the nation Israel, flee to the mountains, do not look back, do not go back to get your coat, pray that it not be winter or on a Sabbath, because at that point the anti-Christ is going to turn against Israel to annihilate them. And obviously since Jesus was saying that in Matthew 24 the only Jews that are going to pay attention to what Jesus said are believers. Ask a modern Jew what they think about Jesus and they might rip you to shreds. They don't like Jesus. But in the first half of the Tribulation the two witnesses are going to be actively evangelizing Jews in Jerusalem - you have the 144,000 witnesses in the first half of the Tribulation, God's going to defeat Gog in the first half, all these things are involved in many Jews coming to belief in Jesus as the Messiah. And of course once they believe in Jesus then they're going to start studying the NT and when they read Matt 24:15, when you see the abomination of desolation, they're going to flee and the place they flee to is indicated several places in Scripture to be a place in S Jordan known as Bozrah which may be Petra, the ancient rock city, in ancient Edom. And if you recall in the battle of Daniel 11 Edom was one of three areas in Jordan that the anti-Christ would not conquer. And the reason why is that area has been reserved by God for the believing Jews to flee to at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

Turn to Rev 12. Rev 12 is one of the most symbolic chapters in the Bible but the symbols are easily interpreted either directly in the context or by comparison with other passages. You see for example in verse 1 **a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and on his heads seven diadems.** A very strange dragon but you don't have to guess the identity of the dragon because verse 9 tells you who it is. **And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan.** So the dragon is Satan, the first member of the counterfeit Trinity, he's the counterfeit Father. And to make a long story short, he's cast out of heaven along with his angels at the midpoint of the Tribulation and they're the ones ultimately behind the anti-Christ's persecution of the Jews. You see verse 13, **And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.** The woman is the nation Israel, the male child is Jesus the Messiah. So he's persecuting Israel. **But,** notice verse 14, **the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place,**

where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. The time, times and half a time is language we learned from Daniel and refers to three and a half years; Israel is given supernatural help to escape **into the wilderness**, notice, **to her place**. And the Greek uses the definite article, it's a definite place that God has reserved for the believing Jews that flee at the midpoint and I'm saying that place is indicated in other passages to be Bozrah in Edom, a place that the anti-Christ will not be able to conquer during his Daniel 11 campaign. It's reserved for Jews during the second half of the Tribulation and God is going to supernaturally **nourish** them. And if you've ever been there you'd have to be supernaturally nourished just to survive. It's nothing but a huge orange and red rock. There's nothing there, they get about 1-2 inches of rainfall annually.

Now to see that this place is called Bozrah and may be the ancient rock city fortress of Petra turn to Micah 2:12. This region is off limits to the anti-Christ until the very end of the Tribulation but after the partial defeat of Jerusalem he will set his sites on Bozrah and these Jews. Verse 12, **I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob**, that's God assembling them, **I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men**. Okay there's this huge multitude of Jews making a bunch of racket in some place. What place? It's not clear from the English translation but the Hebrew for **the fold** or the **pen** is *Bozrah*. What do you do with sheep? You gather them in a pen. What is God going to do with His sheep Israel? Put them in a pen. And the Hebrew word for pen is *Bozrah*, an ancient city in Edom. This is the place God has reserved for them where He will supernaturally protect and nourish them for three and a half years. But the anti-Christ is going to make his way to *Bozrah* after he captures half of Jerusalem, that's the third movement in the war of Armageddon.

Fourth, and for this turn to Matthew 23:39. The nation Israel must call on the Lord to come back. This verse is very important. Jesus has just got done condemning the national leadership of Israel for not recognizing their time of visitation. They were blind, blind men, fools and they led the nation in rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. That generation was worthless. And he says in verse 37, **Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your**



**children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.** The nation Israel did not want Jesus as their Messiah. Verse 38, **Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!** The house being the Temple in Jerusalem. Verse 39 and here are the key words; this is the condition Israel must meet for the Second Coming to occur. What is prohibiting Jesus from coming again? Answer, **For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!** The nation Israel must utter this Messianic greeting. It's a quotation from Psalm 118:26 and the context there is the Messiah coming to bring salvation. And until the nation Israel says this Messianic greeting...Jesus is not coming back. They have to pronounce this blessing. And when they pronounce it Jesus will come back.

But they're not going to pronounce it until God has poured out His Spirit upon them in a national regeneration. So the fourth stage is the national regeneration of Israel and their calling on Him to be saved. Those are actually two distinct things but they are closely related. To see this turn to Hosea 6. Actually Hosea 6 is a carryover from Hosea 5:15 so for context back up to Hosea 5:14, he's pronouncing discipline on the northern kingdom of Israel which came to be known by the name of the dominant tribe, Ephraim. God is like a lion that is going to rip the northern kingdom to shreds, send them into captivity to Assyria, intense divine discipline. Observe verse 15, **I will go away and return to My place Until** what? We just saw a parallel passage in Matt 23:39, **Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;** they were going to be under captivity until they seek His face. And when will they seek His face? **In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.** When they are being afflicted? The discipline has to reach a point of such intensity that they will finally give up and earnestly seek Him. Israel is stubborn. In fact, Israel means "wrestles with God" and it stems from the wrestling match between Jacob and the pre-incarnate Christ. Jacob wouldn't quit until the pre-incarnate Christ incapacitated him by injuring his hip joint. So God renamed him Israel, "wrestles with God." And Israel has been wrestling with God ever since. They are a stubborn people and God has to afflict them greatly for them to give up and seek Him. Now when they do they will be in Bozrah, the anti-Christ and his armies will be at the gate trying to break through the defenses to annihilate the remnant of Israel. And what is going to occur among the Jews inside Bozrah? They are going to seek His face, just like the new believers in Jerusalem, are going to

simultaneously be seeking His face. And the reason, though not stated here but elsewhere is because He will have poured out His Spirit on them that removes the blindness and they see the one whom they have pierced, Jesus, is God's Messiah. And observe the results in verse 1, **Come, let us return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.** They recognize they've been under divine discipline for the entire times of the Gentiles. So the leadership says let's return to the Lord. They will lead the nation in repentance. And from verse 2 you can see this will occur for two days. **He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.** For two days they will be in mourning and in repentance and on the third day God will raise them up. God will rescue them. So it must be on the third day that they are saying Matt 23:39 **'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'** They want Jesus to come.

And if you turn to Joel 2:32 you will see that there will be those who call on Him in this manner. **And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape,** we already saw that with the anti-Christ's attack of Jerusalem and half the city escaped, **As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.** So the LORD is calling Jews out at this time and they are responding to His grace. And the beginning of verse 32 says **whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered.** The Hebrew word for **delivered** means saved or rescued, it's a physical rescue from the anti-Christ. You've got Jews in Jerusalem calling on Him to be saved, you've got Jews in Bozrah calling on Him to be saved. And He will do it!

Turn to one more passage, Isaiah 66:7. This is speaking of the difficulty Israel will face in that time and the miraculous work that God will do on behalf of Israel and the land of Israel on one day. **Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.** <sup>8</sup>**“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.** <sup>9</sup>**“Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says the LORD. “Or shall I who gives delivery shut *the womb?*” says your God. Oh yes, God will**

deliver and God will birth a nation in one day, God will birth a land in one day, that's the third day of Hos 6.

Now fifth and finally, to see where He will initially come back to turn to Isa 63. This is the fifth movement. All these passages interlock into a cohesive picture. **Who is this who comes from Edom, With garments of glowing colors from Bozrah,** The initial stages of the Second Coming occur in Edom, at Bozrah, where the Jewish believers are and where the anti-Christ is trying to destroy them. Who is **This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."** It's none other than the Messiah, marching in His omnipotence. The question is asked in verse 2, **Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?** The picture is of His battle garments. The Lord Jesus has fought many battles in history, particularly during the time of Joshua as He would go before them and fight their battles giving them miraculous victories. And here He is seen as going to His closet and pulling out His battle garments and having put them on they are bloody with the blood of His enemies. Verse 3, **"I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment.** He's going to single handedly defeat the anti-Christ and all his armies such that the blood runs four feet deep for some 200 miles in the valleys from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea and down to the Red Sea. Blood, blood, blood of millions and millions of His enemies. Verse 4, **For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. <sup>5</sup>"I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. <sup>6</sup>"I trod down the peoples in My anger And made them drunk in My wrath, And I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.** That's a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ most Christians don't want to think about. But that is our Lord, He is a Mighty, Conquering Warrior and He will come to reclaim what is His, what He purchased with His own blood and that involves His people, His land, His city, His earth and His universe. No one is going to stop the King of kings when Israel calls upon Him to be saved.

Notice Psalm 2. **Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? What vain thing?** Verse 2, **The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed,**” The vain thing is trying to go to war against YHWH and His Messiah at the War of Armageddon. Fools! Verse 4, **He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.** He’s laughing, what a joke. That’s the logical end of unbelief, it’s a joke. Verse 5, **Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6”But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”** What mountain is that? It’s the Temple Mount. God is going to put His King there. Verse 7, **I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.** Begotten, that terminology refers to the heir, the son who would inherit the father’s things. Jesus is the heir of all things and you can see from verse 8 that’s what the begotten terminology refers to. **Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.** Jesus Christ is the heir of the world and we are heirs through Him, this is where I’d tie in a truth like 1 Cor 3:21ff. He says in verse 9 when these kings take their stand against God and the heir of the world Jesus Christ, **You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.** The end is already decided. Jesus Christ is victorious. Verse 10, **Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth.** They should learn from this not to take their stand against Him but to worship Him.

Finally turn to Rev 19 and we’ll conclude with this picture of the end of Messiah’s enemies at the conclusion of the war that He singlehandedly wins. Rev 19:11, **And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.** Alright, so the nation Israel has called on Him to come back, they’ve repented, they’ve recognized their Messiah, they’re nationally regenerate and they’ve called on Him and heaven opens and He’s coming in His battle garments. Verse 12, **His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.** He’s awesome. Verse 13, <sup>13</sup>**He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, those are His battle garments, and His name is called The Word of God.** <sup>14</sup>**And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him**

**on white horses.** That's us riding on the wings of cherubim, we're coming back with Him. Verse 15, **From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.** He's defeating the armies of anti-Christ from Bozrah all the way to Jerusalem by His mere word; He just speaks and they are sliced to pieces. Verse 16, **And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."** <sup>17</sup>Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, **"Come, assemble for the great supper of God,** <sup>18</sup>**so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."** <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. <sup>21</sup>And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh. And that's that, the times of the Gentiles that Daniel prophesied will have come to an end and the times of the Son of Man will commence.

He will arrive at Jerusalem and put His feet down on the Mount of Olives. Then transitional things will begin to take place. God will send forth his angels to gather the rest of Israel from the four corners of the earth (Matt 24:31) and He will take them to judgment outside the land of Israel (Ezek 20:34-38). There He will slaughter the unbelieving Jews and the believing Jews will enter the land and kingdom. He will then take the remaining Gentiles from the world over and enter into judgment with them. The unbelievers known as goats will be slaughtered, the believers known as sheep will enter the kingdom. He will also remove the abomination of desolation that was set up in the Temple. He will further start the cleansing of the defiled land by removal of all the dead bones from the Gog from Magog battle and from the War of Armageddon.

In conclusion, you can see five basic stages of the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. Stage 1, the gathering of the armies of the world in the valley of Jezreel. Stage 2, the deployment of the armies to attack Jerusalem. Stage 3, the deploying of the armies to Bozrah. Stage 4, the national regeneration of Israel and calling upon Jesus to be saved. Stage 5, the Second Coming and defeat of anti-Christ's armies. There are many other details you can slip in here as I've done but that will conclude the times of the Gentiles.

In conclusion, there are three battles in the end times for Jerusalem, the center of the world, the most important city in history and in all three battles for Jerusalem God preserves Israel against unrelenting Gentile armies. This would generate hope for Israel, hope that in the end their time of despair and oppression would come to an end and finally their Messiah would rescue them and give them their land and rest on all sides. Finally the conquest that the OT Joshua never completed the NT Joshua, Jesus will complete.

Finally, what, if any, application is there to us in the Church? Answer; if God is faithful to fulfill all of His promises to Israel, will He not be faithful to fulfill all of His promises to the Church? Of course He will. And one promise on the near horizon is the rapture of the church. Surely we see even as we speak every nation on earth lining up against Israel, I speak particularly of America, one of Israel's last friends. Surely the stage is being set and we are living in the midst of very important times. Will it come in our time? This remains to be seen but certainly Revelation 22:20, **He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

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