

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Last week I completed a study of Rev 19:17-19 and when the clock struck 7:45 we had just begun the exegesis of Rev 19:20-21.
2. Before continuing I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's review some of that learned and then begin new material on page three.
4. Earlier, I provided a review of how we arrived at our climax - The Second Advent of Jesus Christ. It is described in considerable detail in Revelation chapters sixteen and nineteen. Preceding the Second Advent will be the Day of the Lord: a time of wrath and judgment from God.
5. The time of wrath will be terminated by a series of battles in which Christ destroys the armies of the world and Israel receives their four unconditional covenants.
6. The seven years preceding the return of Christ is commonly referred to as the Tribulation. There will be many saved during the seven years. At the Second Advent opportunity for salvation will be temporarily suspended.
7. Now let's study of Rev 19:20-21
8. Paul in 2Th 2:7-10 describes Christ's coming in judgment to destroy the Antichrist which parallels the passage we will find in Rev 19:20 where we see the Antichrist cast into the Lake of Fire.

2Th 2:7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.
2Th 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.
2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,
2Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
9. Let's take a look at what many glibly refer to as the Battle of Armageddon. The term Battle of Armageddon is actually a misleading expression because Armageddon means "Mount of Slaughter" and refers to the beautiful valley to the east of Mount Megiddo. The word "battle" should better be translated "campaign" or even war.

10. No war has ever been won by a single battle. In fact, it is possible to lose many battles and still win a war. The war of the great Day of God Almighty takes place in a single day, and the Battle of Armageddon will be just one of the battles of that war.

11. This conflict, culminating in Christ's defeat of the armies of the Antichrist, will be a series of at least four "campaigns;" therefore it is more properly called "the battle on the great day of God Almighty." (Rev 16:14)

Rev 16:14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

12. The carnage and the horror of the scene are described only generally in Rev 19:17-19.

12.1 Rev 19:20-21 will elaborate.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 The rest of them were killed with the **sword (Romphaia)** that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any **twoedged sword (Machaira)**, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13. When we studied Revelation 16, we noted how the Euphrates River will dry up to make possible the way for the kings of the East with their vast hordes moving like a cloud to cover the land.

14. The satanic trinity of the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and the Devil himself send out "evil spirits that looked like frogs" to deceive the kings of the earth to bring them into this great battle of Armageddon, where they will first fight among themselves and then against Christ Himself. Three mountains overlook this valley: Carmel, Gilboa and Tabor. The mountains overlook the plain of Esdraelon.

15. Col. R. B. Thieme in his book Armageddon writes:

"A campaign involves a military invasion into unfriendly territory in an effort to locate enemy forces and peoples for the purpose of destruction and subjugation. Thus, a campaign is composed of a series of battles in a specific geographic location, fought either simultaneously or in chronological succession.

Inasmuch as this titanic struggle occurs in one land, Palestine, the translation of **Polemos** as campaign is preferred to war. There are then several battles which lead to the final battle. The entire series of battles are often in error called "the Battle of Armageddon."

16. The Scriptures describing the location of the campaign lead to the conclusion that the campaign (a series of battles) leading up to "the great day of God the Almighty," is fought in at least four specific geographical areas:

16.1 Jerusalem (Zec 12:2-11)

Zec 12:2 "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem.

Zec 12:3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

Zec 12:4 On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness," declares the LORD. "I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations.

Zec 12:5 Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.'

Zec 12:6 "On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

Zec 12:7 "The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem's inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah.

Zec 12:8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them.

Zec 12:9 On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

Zec 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Zec 12:11 On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

16.2 Esdraelon

Wycliffe writes of Esdraelon:

"ESDRAELON: The Greek name derived from Jezreel for the western portion of the valley of Jezreel to include the valley of Megiddo."

16.3 Jehoshaphat Valley

Eze 39:11 "On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east toward the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So, it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog (the city of graves).

Joe 3:2 I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

Joe 3:12 "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

16.3.1 Wycliffe writes of the Valley of Jehoshaphat:

JEHOSHAPHAT, VALLEY OF: A valley in which the Lord will gather all nations together for judgment (Joel 3:2,12). No actual valley bore this name in pre-Christian antiquity. Since the 4th century A.D. Christian tradition has commonly identified it with the Kidron Valley (between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives).

16.4 Edom

Isa 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Isa 63:2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress.

Isa 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.

17. That the conflict will rage throughout the entire land of Palestine is confirmed in the phrase "covering the land" (Eze 38:9, 16) and alludes to the fact that the armies will sweep over the land of Palestine.

Eze 38:9 You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

Eze 38:16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

18. As to the timing of the events I believe it is clear that the battles of Armageddon take place nearer the middle of the Tribulation extending to the end of the Tribulation when Christ comes to rescue Israel from total annihilation.

19. The invasion will take place after Israel has been restored to their land, a fact set forth clearly in these chapters.

20. Let's see what Dwight Pentecost has to say of the events in his book *Prophecy for Today* (First Printing 1961). I point out the date of the first printing to emphasize that the Cold War was in full progress at the time of Pentecost's writing.

"In Ezekiel 38:22 we learn that when, in the Tribulation period, Russia moves into Palestine to conquer it, God is going to pour out a judgment from heaven that will wipe out Russia and the military might and power of the Russian confederacy. The world is going to have evidence and testimony that God is in sovereign authority over this earth. In Eze 39:1-6 we read, "Son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, I am against Rosh, with Meshech and Tubal, his princes. I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

"Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands for, all those who were allied with thee and the people that is with thee: I will give thee to every ravenous bird of every sort, and every beast of the field to be devoured. And I will send a fire upon Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord." That last verse suggests that this judgment is not only upon that invading army, but on the headquarters of that power and upon all those who have supported this great movement multiplied millions that will be removed in a moment of time. Why will God do it? This is divine judgment on godless, atheistic Communism. God is going to demonstrate that no man can repudiate Him and live. The extent of this vast judgment is described in Eze 39:9.

"It is going to take the Israelites seven years to collect the debris and dispose of it. And according to verses 11 and 12, the physical death is going to be so extensive it is going to take seven months to bury the dead."

Eze 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.

Eze 39:12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

"And those trying to go from the south of Palestine to the north of Palestine have to travel, "stopping their noses" because of the corruption when God moves in to destroy the greatest enemy of God that this world has ever seen. The question arises, "When does this take place?"

“In Revelation 13 we have a description of the one whom we know as the head of the Federated States of Europe. As we have seen, this one will come on the world scene to unite Europe under him just after the Church has been translated. This head of the Federated States of Europe will make his covenant with the nation Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period. He will claim to be a prince of peace, and he will guarantee peace for Israel through the opening years of the Tribulation. In Rev 13:7-8 we have an event that takes place three and a half-years after we have been caught up to meet the Lord in the air and three and a half years before the Lord Jesus comes back to this earth to reign.

Rev 13:7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

“At that time, this head of the Federated States of Europe is given power "over all kindred and tongues and nations and all that dwell on the face of the earth will worship him." How can this man have world-wide power and authority? There is only one reason. Everyone who would test his right to world rulership has been removed. This suggests to me the following sequence of events. The head of the Federated States of Europe gives the land of Palestine to Israel, Russia is going to want that land. But will do nothing about it for probably three years. Then in the middle of the Tribulation period, Palestine is going to be invaded by Russia and his allies. It is at that time, in the middle of the Tribulation period, that God will wipe out Russia and Communism with all of her allies. Then the Federated States of Europe will be able to move into the vacuum created by the overthrowing of Russia and will rule over all the earth.

“It is then there can be one world government, one world religion, world dictator, with no competition from the "king of the North or Russia.” I understand then, from these passages ... that Russian Communism is going to increase, but it is not going to take over the Western sphere of influence. There is going to be a constant stalemate between these two great powers. Russian Communism will feel sufficiently strong to move against Palestine to start another great world war ... confident that they can win. They make the first thrust ... by invading Palestine. Then God steps in and wipes them out by a judgment from heaven. I have no hesitancy whatsoever in declaring to you ... Russian Communism ... is a doomed system which God is going to judge. What will be the result? ... When the nation has been invaded by this great northern invader and has seen God wipe it out as He wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah ...”

Eze 39:22-23 "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day forward. And the heathen [or, the Gentiles] shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me ..."

“Two great groups will be aroused by the destruction of Russian Communism. The nation Israel will see it and say that the one who brought that judgment is none other than our God, the one who will send us our Messiah. Many in the nation Israel will turn to God, accept Him, become His servants and become a witnessing people during the last years of the Tribulation period to bring multitudes from every kindred and tongue and tribe and nation to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. And the nations of the earth will behold this sign and many will acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour. God permitted this system to come to power so that He could destroy it in order to demonstrate that He is God, so that multitudes could come to know Him, the only true God, through Jesus Christ whom He has sent. If you are acquainted with the world situation even in the least degree, you will agree that the situation is such that the events of Ezekiel's prophecy could be set off at any time. The power to the north is bringing the Near East under its influence, ready to move down through Palestine at any time. How long will it be before Russia decides that the time is right to move?

“We do not know. But we have this assurance from the Word, that when Russia decides to move, you and I, before that time, will have been translated into the presence of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. While this awful conflagration unfolds upon the earth, we will be with Him and shall have seen Him as He is.”

21. The similarity of the events described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are a mirror of what we find in Dan 11:40-12:2 where a similar description is found.

21.1 In Daniel the King of the north attacks at the time of the end. His attack comes in response to a military incursion into Israel by the King of the south.

22. Putting all of these passages together I think we can reasonably assume that sometime after the Antichrist sets himself up in the Temple as the one to be worshipped, the campaign of Armageddon will begin with the King of the south making a move toward Israel, only to be defeated by the King of the north.

22.1 Recall the False Prophet is active in Israel and the Antichrist rules from Rome. Overrunning the Pan Arabic States, particularly Egypt, the King of the north hears of the coming army from the east and in fear turns back toward home only to be destroyed ultimately by the Lord Himself.

23. All of this takes some time. It is in the Valley of Megiddo that the armies of the west, south and east engage one another.

24. While the Book of The Revelation lacks details of the campaign, it verifies the fact that a mighty conflict involving all the nations of the world takes place in Palestine. These satanically inspired forces assembled in defiance against God are bent on complete annihilation of His people, Israel.

25. However those elements and personalities under the domination of Satan and in opposition to God, are themselves destroyed at the climax of this final campaign, the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ.

26. Armageddon is not just the decisive defeat of vast military forces representing mighty international empires, but is an integral part of both the closing campaign of the Tribulation and the fulfillment of God's predicted plan.

27. Part of God's predicted plan is to have Israel as the focus of four great powers. One could say Palestine is the bait and God is the fisherman.

28. During the biblical 'week' Palestine's strategic location is even more crucial than ever before. Four great spheres of influence are engaged in a power grab for the wealth and control of the world with Palestine as the central focus.

29. They are designated in Scripture as the "king of the West," the "king of the North," the "king of the South" and the "kings from the East." Their identities are derived from their directional relation to Palestine. Each entity is a group of gentile nationalities united as Satan inspired combatants for the purpose of destroying Israel and controlling the earth's surface.

30. In identifying the spheres geographically, we can relate them to current geopolitical conditions, but even a few years from now the picture could change completely. I have elected to use Scofield's heading for Rev 19:20: "Doom of the Antichrist and the False Prophet."

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Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Principles

1. The consummation of the battle with victory for Christ and the armies of heaven is described in verse twenty.

2. The Antichrist and the False Prophet are both taken as prisoners of war.

3. The Antichrist is called the beast. He is so described in Rev 13:1-10.

4. The false prophet is identified as the one who wrought miracles and deceived them that received the mark of the image. (Rev 13:12-17)

5. The doom of the beast and the false prophet culminates in their being cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. The lake of fire thus introduced is mentioned again in Rev 20:15.

Rev 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

6. By comparison with other scriptures, it seems that the beast and the false prophet are the first to inhabit the lake of fire.

7. Unsaved who die prior to this time are cast into Hades or Sheol, a place of torment, but not into the lake of fire, which is reserved for those who have been finally judged as unworthy of eternal life.

8. Alford observes: "These only, and not the Lord's human enemies yet, are cast into eternal punishment. The latter await the final judgment, Rev 20:11 ff. These who were Satan's masterpieces precede Satan himself to this final place of everlasting punishment into which he is cast a thousand years later. (Rev 20:10)"

Rev 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

9. The rest of the wicked dead after being judged at the Great White Throne will follow the beast, the false prophet, and the devil into this eternal doom.

10. H.A. Ironside comments on the capture of the beast and the false prophet in these words:

"Two men, be it noted are taken alive. They are the two arch conspirators who have bulked so largely in this book the beast and the false prophet, the civil and religious leaders of the last league of nations, which will be Satan inspired in its origin and Satan directed until its doom. These two men are cast alive into the lake burning with fire and brimstone, where a thousand years later they are still said to be suffering the vengeance of eternal fire, thus incidentally proving that the lake of fire is not annihilation, and that it is not purgatorial either, for it neither annihilates nor purifies these two fallen foes of God and man after a thousand years under judgment."

11. Before we analyze the last verse of chapter nineteen, let me give you an expanded translation of verse twenty:

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