

Revelation_16

1] I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 2] The first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast and upon them which worshipped his image. 3] The second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 4] The third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5] I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and was, and shall be, because thou hast judged thus. 6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7] I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. 8] The fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9] Men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. 10] The fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11] and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. 12] The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13] I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14] For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15] Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16] He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. 17] The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying: It is done. 18] There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19] The great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the

fierceness of his wrath. 20] Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21] There fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

1] I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. It is the Voice from the Heavenly Temple directing the heavenly messengers. We read in Exodus 39: 32 - Thus all the work of the tabernacle in the congregation tent was finished: and the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they. 40: 34&35 - Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. 1st Corinthians 6:19 questions: Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

When we walk in the Light of Truth, our body is the temple of our Lord and we hear His voice. 1 Corinthians 12:12&13 tell us: For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...to drink into one Spirit...

As the Voice from the Heavenly Temple directs the heavenly messengers, so God's voice guides His messengers all over this world as His voice sounds and is obeyed in every temple sanctified by the presence and loving Lordship of Christ. We all declare the day of grace and herald the time of judgment. Many times during the human history some signs of God's judgment were manifested foretelling the final judgment. At the end of the day of salvation by grace comes suffering of our God's righteous judgment upon all who refused God's grace and thus reserved themselves for the horrifying consequences for their violation of our Creator's good order.

2] The first angel went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast and *upon* them which worshipped his image. In 1st Samuel 5 the Philistines suffered for capturing the ark of God's covenant. Exodus 9 tells us of Egyptians' suffering boils and hale for denying Israel's leave.

Many epidemics happened in the past times; many disasters and catastrophes.

All these point to the end of our Father's patient waiting and to His final judgment. The final judgment is coming upon all rebellious - impenitent sinners.

3&4] The second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living soul died in the sea. The third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. In this chapter the visions are unfolding in rapid succession. Nowadays when we see events taking turns rapidly, we wonder...

Is this the beginning of the end? And right after this question our Lord's answer comes to our mind in Acts 1: 7&8: It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father keeps in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me... unto the uttermost part of the earth.

We remember our Lord's admonishment in Matthew 26: 41, Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation...

The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he comes and knocks, they may open unto him instantly. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he comes shall find watching.

Verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. [Luke 12: 35-38] Nothing will ever surprise our Father; when we trust and obey Him, we are safe, secured and in sound health.

We are beholding the closing changes rolling over the generation of murderous persecutors that shed the blood of our Lord's martyrs. Sinners despise the truth in Zechariah 2: 8; ...thus says the LORD of hosts; ...he that touches you touches the apple of His eye. What the stubborn rebels were laboring for all of their time and with all of their might - is now here: our God's gifts and blessings are not available any longer for the progress of corruption and degradation.

Since our Savior's offering manifested on Golgotha so many centuries ago, the Gospel of salvation in Christ has been declared and witnessed in the world. Stubborn rebels waste every opportunity. In John 6: 53-58 our Lord Jesus says

unto religious sinners: Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood ye have no life in you. Whoso eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

My flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him. As the living Father has sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he lives by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven... Impenitent sinners refuse to receive in a humble heart the abundant grace of our God.

Slaves of darkness are always eager and quick to despise and profane our Savior's holiness. In John 19: 34 one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. The faithful witnesses observed it all and our Father never forgets rejection of His grace in Christ. The murderers of His saints sin against their own blood.

After these murderers had been drunk with the blood of saints for so long, in their blood thirst they feed on the blood and flesh of one another and in the end all that is left to them is their own blood to drink. They must face their own despair and stand before the uncompromising Judge – the Same One they rejected as long as He offered His free grace.

Human arrogant self confidence and vain trust in the “world powers”, political systems, police and military might – all crumble into its own dust and ashes of emptiness. All that remains for sinners is to face the judgment of perfect divine justice. The empires of the lands perish. The sea powers disintegrate... The large oceans of resources are all corrupted...

Destruction by corruption spreads up the rivers that seemed indestructible for millenniums. The full circle is closing fast.

Among the ancient traditions of civilizations some dogmas and “untouchable sacred rules” were kept from generation to generation - many centuries; but not any longer... All is questionable, nothing is considered reliable... In all that maze and confusion, the humanity is not turning from paganism to the true and ever Living God, the only Creator and Savior.

The only reliable testimony guiding sinners to the Light of Truth has been also categorized as just another mythology. In moral, intellectual and emotional experiences just like in the physical world of these decades there is nothing stable, solid, firmly established and preserved. Can we find a naturally pure and healthy drinking water, and any uncontaminated food?

Can we see noble literature on the market or in libraries? How long we dare to

consider our children and youth innocent? How much wisdom we can hear from our ancient and highly educated people? How much we can take as a good example from their daily living? Are the world leaders known by their bright or dark characters? Is this world disoriented; lost...?

From the highest mountain peaks to the bottom of the deepest canyons, from the deepest oceans up the rivers and even to the most remote and secluded springs and fountains, all is only blood of the dead humanity. That is the food and drink of today's world. The only pure and holy redeeming and purifying Blood of the only Savior is neglected, rejected, forsaken.

5-7] I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and was, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus; for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say: Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

In the beginning of the creation our Creator beholds all that He creates in His mighty power and abundant grace and says: all is good. Now His faithful messengers and witnesses observe the visions and obvious signs of His judgments that at His appointed time spell the end of sin and woe, and we all agree: our Creator and Savior is holy in all His words and deeds.

In Romans 8: 32 we read: God that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? This truth is glowing encouragement for prayerful and grateful believers. This is also a stark warning to backsliders and impenitent sinners. God judged our sins in His only begotten beloved pure and righteous Son.

Is He going to omit full judgment upon any sinner that stubbornly rejects God's grace and salvation in the only Savior?

Throughout the Scriptures we see many testimonies of our God's mercy and grace... But we also see many evidences of His uncompromising justice. Our Father gives us these lessons to teach us. No sin will escape His judgment. **God is just.**

8-9] And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire; and men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. They refuse to repent when our God's sun was accommodating the needs of organic life.

When our Lord withdrew the abundance of His provisions, the sinners do not think: God is righteous, let us turn to our Creator and acknowledge our worship due to His great Name. They receive God's blessings without gratitude, and respond with blasphemy instead of humble prayers. Sinners that prove so hardened are ripe for our God's judgment.

In some pagan myths the sun is worshipped as a great idol. Some emperors are regarded as sons of the sun. In the 2 Kings 23 we find the king Josiah laboring for the restoration of our Lord's covenant and worship. In the verse 5: king Josiah put down the idolatrous priests that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, moon, the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

11] He took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the LORD's temple. He burned the chariots of the sun with fire. Malachi says in 4:1&2: Behold, the day comes, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD...

He shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings... We see so many places where the prince of darkness claims the title of the blessing provider... He does that in physical – organic - life and in the realm of spiritual dimensions. Often in the Revelation both sides blend...

In the end all the provisions – of temporal and of lasting values – fade away and the world of sinful rebellion is prepared for total, complete judgment. Our eternal Father turns temporal suffering of His children to the joy of eternal adoration.

Our Holy and righteous God waits for the rebellious humanity to fulfill full measure of iniquity and all that never turn away from evil, never seek His mercy unto salvation to be brought face to face with the full consequence of all their evils.

10-11] The fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness. They were biting their tongues in pain, blasphemed the God of heaven in their pains and their sores, but still repented not of their deeds. What a glorious revelation about the most infamous positions and individuals in the leadership of fallen humanity!

Think of Cain, the first eldest brother! Consider Lamech, the first recorded polygamist and his bitter attitude in Genesis 4. Is there any lasting peace, any blessedness in sinful leadership of sinful societies? Read Daniel's testimony in

the chapter 4: 29-37. At the end of twelve months the king Nebuchadnezzar walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

The king spoke, and said: Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men. Thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen. Seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will. The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven. My understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing. He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay his hand, or say unto him: What doest thou? At the same time my reason returned unto me; and the glory of my kingdom, mine honor and brightness returned unto me; and my counselors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me. Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, extol and honor the King of heaven, whose all works are truth. His ways are judgment of those that walk in pride. He can abase them. How much real security is in the sinful leadership of sinful establishments? Now, compare these records with the evidence given to us about one of the greatest godly sufferers... Job –speaks to our Lord [42: 5]: I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eyes see thee. 9] The LORD also accepted Job. 10] The LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 12] The LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. 13] He had also seven sons and three daughters. How many dictators in the recent history were ruling over great nations publicly worshipped by their masses? Their subjects lived in fear and trembling and many thousands of them were cruelly exterminated... In the end the “great

genius, glorious liberator, supreme leader” and whatever blaspheme was misapplied to decorate his or her demonic statue, died poisoned by his or her nearest helpers, just before he managed to kill them. Now, compare that with the farewell greetings of the apostle Paul: Acts 20:18-28 When the elders were come to him, he talked to them. You know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house. I testified both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesses in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me. I count not my life dearer unto myself, than my completing my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. In the 2nd Timothy 4: 5-8 Paul wrote: But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. Paul writes in Ephesians 6:12: We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

There is a seat of the beast in every nation and in every impenitent sinful rebel's heart. In the Scriptures we see numerous violent changes of rulers & regimes. Monarchs and dictators were overthrown in bloody revolutions because they lost loyalty of their nations. In the modern times and so called

democracies before every election of candidates on every level of government promises are multiplied; but new hopes for improvements soon turn into disappointments. Ruling side and opposition switch places. But new disappointments are replacing the old ones and crises deepen more and more. The people's disrespect toward their leaders is growing, molestations of children are multiplied, immorality is rampant; the sick and the elderly are less and less secured. It seems obvious that there is no leadership knowing the direction toward recovery. All is uncertainty. How can we understand the darkness filling the very seat of the beast in the verse 10? The seat of the beast indicates the center of the empire of darkness. Yet there was some light visible: at times a tiny candle, at other times glowing martyrdoms. As long as the true Gospel light was present in the world lost in sin-darkness, there was hope of salvation. When the light is extinguished because there were no true witnesses and because there were no seekers of the Truth, **a lifeless** social, carnal, man-made **gospel of antichrist** became a common denomination... After a while the nations must face their total loss of direction and reasonable solutions for their moral, economic, intellectual and emotional problems. As the prince of darkness ruled in the religious minds and hearts of the godless priests in Jerusalem and they believed that their only solution was murders of our Savior and His faithful, so now the faithless empty souls often fall victims of suicide. There are millions of people living in the large cities and so many of them feel all alone and strange to all around. So many of the dark minds these days hate all the people they know and murder their family members before taking their own life and forever sealing their fate. Darkness, darkness and more darkness... The invitation to repentance is still standing, but the darkness comprehends it not [John 1: 5]. The end is coming closer and closer; the end is near... When then did the 5th angel pour the plague upon the seat of the beast: perhaps all the way back when our Lord said to our fallen father Adam: Dust thou art... When did the Light of our God's grace in Christ brighten the path of these godly witnesses? Perhaps when our Lord said: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel [Genesis 3: 15&19]. I say: perhaps... Revelation 13:8 tells us of "the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". The entire Revelation brightens our spiritual sight to see more of the measureless beauty, glory and majesty of our great Creator and Savior. The bright beam of God's Lamb's salvation is stronger than the darkness over all the earth [Luke 23: 44]. The persuasive power of the

Gospel Truth and salvation is enduring to the end for all that trust and obey our Lord. Isaiah 59: 1-4 tells: Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calls for justice none pleads for truth: they trust in vanity and speak lies. They conceive mischief and perform iniquity. If our Lord gives them more time to repent, they multiply their sins.

12] The sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. Genesis in 2: 10-13 tell us of a river that went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. And the fourth river was Euphrates. It's amazing!

One river flows and is divided into four: isn't that the opposite order in comparison with the system we see in today's world? We are used to see in today's "natural" irrigation a number of smaller rivers merged together thus making one larger river. A marvelous vision is recorded for us in Ezekiel 47: 1-10. ... Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward. The forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. 2] Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looks eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. 3] And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. 4] Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. 5] Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. 6] And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. 7] Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. 8] Then said he unto me,

These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. 9] And it shall come to pass, that everything that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live. There shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and everything shall live whither the river come. 10] And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. Here we see in this revelation to the prophet Ezekiel the River of God's grace in Christ: no tributaries make it bigger; it grows in Christ! Genesis 15: 18 tells us: In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates... The great river was the boundary of the promised covenant land. Deuteronomy 11: 24 confirmed this covenant: Every place where on the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. In 1st Chronicles 18: 3 we see a record of some fulfillment at the time of Israel's Jehovah - worship: And David smote Hadarezer king of Zobah unto Hamath; as he went to establish his dominion by the river Euphrates. One of the king David's descendants, the king Josiah was a faithful worshiper of the True God and labored hard to turn Israel to God. His wonderful zeal for the Lord is recorded in the 2nd Kings 23. Tragically, in the verse 29 we see that this godly King failed to be diligent to follow the Lord in some important decisions. Josiah led his worriers all the way to the river Euphrates, to the boundary of the Covenant Land; but he went on his own; he ignored God, and that was his catastrophe.

In the Revelation 9: 13&14: The sixth angel sounded. From the four corners of the golden altar before God comes one voice saying to the sixth angel to release the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. In the chapter 8, verse 3 is a golden altar before God's throne where prayers of saints and incense are offered. Verse 13 is telling us of one voice coming from the four corners of this altar. All the godly prayers are generated by the Spirit of Christ our great High Priest. All these prayers are pleasing our Heavenly Father and the common desire and the ultimate goal of praying is that God's will be done to glorify His Son. All the prayers are in one Spirit although the

petitioners are scattered all through the centuries and all over the earth. In this entire world wherever a child of our Father would offer a prayer and praise to our God in the name of Christ, there is no spot out of the sight and hearing range of our almighty Creator. The same Mediator that generates prayers in the hearts of His redeemed Flock, is the One bringing them to His Father, and He brings us back one voice, one answer from our Father: our Father's will is being done. This voice is revealing to us step by step the entire path appointed for us to follow our Redeemer. Ever since the loss of the Garden of Eden, the mankind is heaping up awful consequences of sin and storing them in the future. Our Lord provides a way of repentance, correction, deliverance and postponement of judgment sinners deserve. Our Lord is patient with us that we perish not, but come to repentance [2nd Peter 3: 9]. The sound of the sixth trumpet is telling of a major calamity coming because of sins multiplied and never repented of. This massive change is just one of the many forerunners before the final judgment. For a long time our Lord is calling, warning, and waiting. Here He allows one third of sinners to reap what they saw. We remember that this is a revelation spreading light over the entire Word of God. There was a spell of blindness in Sodom - cast upon the worst violent sinners before their destruction [Genesis 19: 11]. There were lost battles and many warning prophecies in Judah before the final destruction and captivity. In Luke 13: 1-5 our Lord is telling us to repent and obey our Father's Word betimes. In Genesis 15: 18 our God indicated the great river Euphrates as His boundary of the seed promised to our father Abram. All these passages point to the symbolism and significance of the river Euphrates. When we walk in the light of our Father's guidance, as long as we are diligent in His grace offered to us in Christ, we are safe & the victory in our life is His.

Here, in the Revelation 16:12 the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. A huge ancient river to get dry must indicate an enormous change. Before the great flood in Genesis the entire humanity was in the danger of the foretold judgment. Our God has not permitted the flood to start until the deeds of the people professing godliness reached the level of

godlessness. In the Revelation 16: 12 the sinners crossed the boundary of our God's grace already in the preceding verses. Outside of Christ we can be only in sin and darkness; only under condemnation. In His grace we are safe & sound.

13-14] I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. If we try to figure out why would our Lord give us frogs as signs or symbols of the devil's spirit, we might end up speculating without much base to give strong priority to our speculation over the already numerous interpretations or misinterpretations of the frogs representing the spirits of the devils. I'm thankful for the angel's explanation to John. Satan's very well known disguise is presenting himself as anything but what he really is: the evil spirit. So, perhaps here the spirits of the devils are not represented by serpents, or adders; not even by lizards. Yet the frogs are not able to hide Satan's identity given to him by our God's judgment in Genesis 3: thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; **upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:** Frogs jump, but fall back. In the camp of the Deceiver there is no harmony and peace. We remember in the days of crucifixion in Jerusalem: Hebrews hated the Romans. Romans despised the Jews. Pharisees hated Sadducees and both groups hated Romans. They all agree in one project and purpose alone: Jesus of Nazareth must die and His Gospel must be kept from spreading. Here we have the dragon, the most self-centered, most selfish being that ever existed and his two consorts that are no better. They have identical message in this one single sense: to mobilize the humanity against believing the Gospel, trusting and obeying God's own Son, the only Savior of the mankind. Our Lord and Savior resurrected on the third day. The Gospel is proclaimed in the world still. The Romans, Pharisees and Sadducees have been gone to face their fate long ago. The mobilized armies of the dragon, the beast and their falls prophecies and teachings will all fail again, but God's Lamb will complete the redemption in the final triumph; He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords eternally. Satanic madness must go to its end. The devil knows that our Creator and Savior is the Almighty. Satan must be aware of personal inferiority. Yet he cannot resist his lust of opposing God and destroying souls of men. Here is a

total mobilization of enslaved humanity against the children of our Heavenly Father – the part of His Family still on earth. The last part of the verse 14 tells us the purpose of our Lord in allowing this movement: to get the evildoers ready for the great day of the Almighty. The purpose of the evil spirits is the destruction of faithful testimony; but their endeavor must fail again – as always. Is this a prediction, or just a record of the old times? These are two opposing trademarks. Ever since the beginning our God's purpose prevails and Satan's intension fails. Here again we see the same battle as we have been seeing throughout this Book. The Destroyer strives to annihilate godliness on the earth. Christ is victorious in His faithful weather in life or through death of the flesh. Sinners have great confidence in their numerical majority. Believers have reliance on ONE alone: Crucified and resurrected Lamb of God – our King of kings and Lord of lords. Around us is the tumult and commotions of the sinful world, but we must keep our focus on our Captain, King Jesus. His sheep must recognize His voice and follow His guidance. In the next verse His voice is sound and clear to His Flock.

15] Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. We can lament the predicament of the lost humanity and morn for the good old times; but if we are not watchful to keep ourselves from the pollution of the world and the filth of sinful flesh, we could ignorantly end up in the same mess.

Let us be assured and fully aware that the suffering Jesus is infinitely mightier than the raging prince of darkness. Christ is victorious; Satan is a defeated enemy. Let us strive for Christ's righteousness in our heart, mind, souls and body; and daily bow down at His feet with confession and prayer for purifying, sanctification, enlightenment, guidance and correction.

As awful as onslaught of tyranny, destruction, corruption, lawlessness, or any other form of Satanism raging in today's world, appear to be, let us trust our mighty Lamb of God: all is just getting ready for yet one more, or, the final – ultimate – manifestation of His victory over our defeated Enemy. Let us pray and strive for more separation from all evil...

16] And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. Who did gather all these masses? The evil spirits mobilize, motivate and stimulate them by their sinful lusts; but every molecule of their universe is our God's creation. He designed it to thrive in righteousness and to

perish in wickedness. They have chosen to perish.

In 2nd Thessalonians 2: 3 and on, we read: Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4] Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

5] Remember you not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

6] And now ye know what withholds that he might be revealed in his time.

7] For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now holds it back until he is taken out of the way, will let. 8] And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: 9] Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11] And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. All battles were smaller or greater evidences of clashes between the Power of Truth and the forces of evil; all are only parts of one and the same war between the victorious Christ, the Son of God and, the defeated Adversary, the devil. Remember the prophet Elisha in the 2nd Kings 6: 11 and on: Therefore the King of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? 12] One of his servants said: None, o lord, my king: but Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that thou speak in thy bedchamber. 13] And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. 14] Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. 15] And when the servant of God's man was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a host compassed the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him: Alas, my master! How shall we do? 16] And he answered, Fear not: for they that are with us are more than they that be with them. 17] And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18] And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the

LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 19] And Elisha said unto them: This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria. 20] And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. 21] And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them: My father, shall I smite them? Shall I smite them? 22] And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: would thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? Set bread and water before them that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. 23] And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel. Elisha was right: the Syrian king wanted to take Elisha out of the way. Their real target was the king of Israel. The place of Armageddon is also very significant and meaningful. The king Josiah was a faithful worshiper of the True God: he labored hard to turn Israel to the Lord God of their Fathers. His wonderful zeal for the Lord is recorded in the 2nd Kings 23. Tragically, in the verse 29 we see that this godly King failed to be diligent to follow the Lord in some important decisions. Josiah led his worriers to Armageddon; but he went on his own; he ignored God and that was his catastrophe. In Judges 4 & 5 we see the children of Israel lead by Barak. Deborah, the prophetess persuaded Barak to heed our Lord's command and lead the people. Our great God granted victory to untrained leaders and worriers. These two verses, 15 & 16 indicate that ultimately our Lord's judgment is separating God's Family from every sin and disobedience: in Christ is Life eternal; in sin is only death. [Matthew 25: 31-46 & Luke 13: 24-30] Historically, Armageddon was the place where these strong testimonies were manifested: our God is the Great Helper of the helpless giving His mighty victory to the obedient and faithful. He is also the Just and the Righteous Judge that will not justify iniquity. In Ezekiel 33: 12-16, our Lord says these words: The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression.

As for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turns from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sins. 13] When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit

iniquity, all his righteousness shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it. 14] Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; 15] If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. 16] None of his sins that he has committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live. The amazing old Hebrew language formed a word full of symbols. The big battles that happened in the valley and other locations surrounding this mountain help us to understand its symbolism.

For the faithful, trusting and obeying our Lord and Savior, this is a place of a great victory in Christ. For negligent people that know and ignore God's Word it's a place of suffering God's displeasure. For stubborn rebels this is a place and time where their dreams are turned into nightmares and their false glory to real misery.

Armageddon has happened many times in the human history. The final Armageddon is going to be the greatest disaster for sinners and the final triumph of the Lamb of God, our King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ. Armageddon happened to the leaders and their followers before the great flood in the days of our father Noah.

Armageddon is going to happen again to Darwinian scientists, Freudian teachers, immorality activists, oppressive religions, false liberators and similar "elite" of our millennium. Armageddon happened to the cities of the plain in the days of Lot. It is going to happen to every sinful city – regardless how small or great.

17] The seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying: It is done. These two verses [16 & 17] add clarity to our perception of a significant portion in this book. For a rebellious hater of our God the plagues might be a ground for accusation. The Almighty God punishing "all these poor, helpless human beings" is condemned in our world of "It feels good! Go for it!" as utmost cruelty. I wonder if the rebels think it was cruel of God to bring back the seawater and to drawn the army of Pharaoh? Do they ever ask: who told Pharaoh to enter the Red sea in the first place? When the spirits of the devils mobilized the entire humanity against the faith and testimony of our only Savior, we see the clear indication that the universe of these sinners is filled

with their sinful intensions. The air here indicates the last remaining segment of human existence – in addition to the six segments listed in this chapter. The 1st angel “covered” the earth [#2]; the 2nd, the sea [#3]; the 3rd, the rivers and fountains [#4]; the 4th, the sun [#8]; the 5th, the seat of the beast [#10]; the 6th, the river Euphrates [#12]; and finally, the 7th indicates the entire humanity soaked in bloody hatred against our Lord and His redeemed people. All along sin corrupts the wicked.

All along the rebellious humanity refuses to face the fact that they are destroying themselves by following the spirits of the devils, by refusing our God’s grace in Christ, by persecuting our Lord’s people; eventually, they must look in the face of the Truth; but the saving Truth is the condemning Truth for all who reject God’s grace.

18] There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. Let us read Elijah’s experience in the 1st Kings 19: 9-13. Elijah came unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him: What do you do here, Elijah? And he said: I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said: What do you do here, Elijah? In the days of great apostasy and corruption, our God manifests His power to His prophet to teach him God’s patience. Elijah followed our Lord and did behold His glory. As many calamities slammed the humanity, our Lord sounds with His gentle voice to us in the verse 15: Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Blessed is everyone who cleaves to our Lord continually. Blessed are we when our God’s grace brings us to our Savior and His judgments against sin remind us of His redemption and His marvelous

salvation in Christ our Lord. The wind, fire, and the earthquake are disasters for sinners without protection of our Father's marvelous grace. For Elijah all these make his faithfulness stronger. Our Father can appoint suffering and martyrdom for us as He did for Job, James and Stephen as we pray and strive to grow in our faith and knowledge of our Savior and Master. For all that trust and obey the Son, there is only one way: the way of salvation and life forever. If a sinner could rejoice till his death, his eternity is awful. Earthquakes are physical disasters.

Many social, political and military clashes from time to time made the humanity tremble and quake as we see in Daniel 5: 4-9] They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace. The king saw the part of the hand that wrote. The king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. Then came in all king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof. Then was King Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished. We see a similar situation in this book 6: 15-17. The entire rebellious humanity hides itself in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains. They seek refuge in, and, help from the lifeless rocks and cliffs. Misguided for so long by the Evil One, they now try to escape from the merciful and just God they deliberately ignored and despised till now. By their words, or deeds, or both, they denied Him existence or His authority altogether, but now they see Him on His throne judging! And - they still trust in their caves. Their last hope is ending in their own destruction... They still refuse to acknowledge His supremacy; such is idolatry-darkness!

19-20] The great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. In Deuteronomy 19 is our Lord's commandment for cities of refuge.

The commanded was to divide the land into three regions and to designate a city of refuge in each. Our Savior delivered us from our own false refuge - sin and death. He turned this world to our fruitful field to spread the seed of proclaiming our High Priest and point to the City of Refuge. Babylonians reject

this Refuge. The time is coming for them to see their great Babylon divided into three parts; and in no part of her any true Refuge; only hopeless despair; for their great Babylon is condemned and fallen. Every nation has a Babylon; all religions, even the smallest island nations, have their false security-mountains that sink on the judgment-day. Think of the chapter 2 & 6 in Joshua. Consider chapters 51&58 in Jeremiah. In the Book of Jonah and Nahum: the great city once delivered, perished later: she neglected God, the only Savior.

21] A great hail out of heaven fell upon men, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. Will they still blaspheme - in hell?