

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
16:13-16

OUTLINE

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MAIN POINT

- 👤 God gathers together armies from around the world in the area of Meggido
 - 👤 Lying spirits are sent from Satan, and the First and Second Beasts to gather people together
 - 👤 Satan has one last shot to win and is going to take it
 - 👤 The place of the gathering and the place of the battle/slaughter appear to be separate in Scripture
 - 👤 Will deal with this more in **Chapter 19**
- 👤 The control of God and the control of Satan
 - 👤 God gave Satan tremendous power
 - 👤 Satan is using that power for his reasons
 - 👤 But beneath the surface, God is still in control and using that to accomplish His ends
- 👤 Do not be afraid to deeply study the Scriptures
 - 👤 There are some legitimate questions that arise when studying the Sixth Bowl
 - 👤 Often Christians are afraid to study further when arriving at difficult passages
 - 👤 Either because they have not been taught, or laziness, or from fear/lack of faith
 - 👤 If it is in there, then God intends for us to study it and apply it to our lives

THE VISION



UNCLEAN SPIRITS (V. 13)

Review of the people from Revelation 12-13

-  **Dragon:** Satan
-  **Beast:** First Beast/Antichrist
-  **False Prophet:** Second Beast
-  Form a Satanic Trinity in emulation and parody of the True Trinity
-  Power comes from Satan, executed by the First Beast, and the Second Beast points people to the First Best

Frogs

-  Designated as unclean animals in **Leviticus 11:10-11, 41**
-  Used in the Second Plague of Egypt (**Exodus 8:5**)

Unclean Spirit

-  Common way to describe demons/fallen angels in the Bible (e.g. **Matthew 10:1; Mark 1:23-24; 3:11; 5:2, 13; Acts 5:16; 8:7**)
-  These are sent out directly from the Satanic Trinity for a mission

Passage has led to some speculation on demon possession

-  Not really what the verse is talking about, either in general or in the case of the First and Second Beast
-  Additional speculation that demons possess or leave people through the mouth
-  These are spiritual beings and are not limited by a given physical opening
-  Do not see a similar idea in the Bible when other demons are cast out

MISSION OF THE UNCLEAN SPIRITS (V. 14A)

Sent out on a mission to gather the kings of the earth together for battle

-  Note the distinction between the kings of the east

-  Sent on a “propaganda campaign” (Thomas v2, p. 264)

-  Use miracles

 -  Demonstrates power

 -  Authenticates the message

 -  Possible implication of force or the consequences of disobedience

-  Miracles attributed to Beasts/Satan several times (**Revelation 13:13-14**; c.f. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**)

 -  Same Greek words used for the miracles of Jesus

 -  They are not false miracles, but intended to deceive people

Use of deceiving spirits

-  Similar use in **1 Kings 22:19-22**

-  God is using them there and here to bring about His will

-  People were allowed (or wanted) to be deceived, so God is giving them what they wanted

 -  Reminded of **Romans 1:25-26**

The gathering

-  In response to or as part of the movements of the Kings of the East

-  Only see the gathering here; the battle and the result will come later

-  Likely what is referred to in **Psalm 2:1-3**; **Joel 2:11**; **3:2**; **Zechariah 14:2-3**

-  God is working to bring everyone together for destruction at His personal return and reign on the earth

-  This is the whole point of **Revelation**; showing us how (but not when) the Kingdom will be established

COMMAND TO BE WATCHFUL (V. 15A)

Parenthetical passage is now inserted

-  Similar to **Revelation 1:8; 8:13; 9:12; 11:14; 13:9-10, 18; 14:12-13; 16:5, 7; 18:20; 20:6**
-  Speaker is not directly identified, but its similarity to **Revelation 1, 3:3, and 3:8** likely means this is Jesus (Thomas v2, p. 266-7)
-  Based on the context of both passages nothing else really fits logically

Who is addressed?

The faithful in the Tribulation

-  Implies His return is the one in **Revelation 19:11-16** which comes after the Sixth Bowl
-  Implication that all these are martyred by now based on **Revelation 13:15; 14:1-5, 13; 15:2**
-  Possibly directed to the remnant of Israel, but it is debatable if Israel has repented at this point (c.f. **Hosea 5:15-6:2**)

Repetition of previous statements to the Church's

-  Returns to the practical theme of the **Revelation** for the recipients in the 1st Century Asia Minor
-  The “soon” in **Revelation 1:1** means that there are no further intervening events needed for fulfillment of the plan
-  Encouragement to do the right things that God has commanded them
-  Live out what God has done in them and what they say they believe
-  Note that these cannot be the same groups as shown in **Revelation 3:10**

COMMAND TO LIVE WELL (V. 15B)

👤 Because God can come at any time we need to live correctly

👤 Garments

👤 Used continually in Scripture to represent our lives, habits, etc.

👤 First used in **Genesis 35:2**

👤 God has given us these garments, but how have we kept them (c.f. **Matthew 22:11-13**)

👤 He has given us righteousness, but what have we done with it?

👤 Naked

👤 Used to express shame due to exposed sin (e.g. **Isaiah 47:3; Ezekiel 16:37; 23:24-29; Hosea 2:10; Nahum 3:5**)

👤 Basically, someone who said they were living for God, but the exposure of their lives demonstrated they were not or there was undealt with sin in their lives

👤 Shame

👤 Note who sees the shame

👤 “They” is a separate group and not part of the Believers addressed

👤 People will see the difference between what we say and what we do and will not believe what we say

👤 Similar to David in **2 Samuel 12:14**

👤 Christians do have a very bad reputation in the world, not because of what we say, but often because of how we act

👤 Every day we are found “naked” because we never followed **1 John 1:9**

👤 We also are guilty of not following God’s plan and instead following our own and claiming it is God’s plan

THE GATHERING (V. 16)

👤 And (*kai* in Greek) connects back to v. 14 and is not part of the previous interlude (Thomas v2, p. 268)

👤 The Gathering

👤 The actor is spoken of as plural, not singular, making it “they” and not “he” (Thomas v2, p. 268)

👤 Relates back to the spirits spoken of in v. 13

👤 *Har Megedon* = the Mount of Megiddo

👤 But Megiddo is a valley

👤 Site of Deborah and Barak’s victory (**Judges 4; 5:19**) and Gideon’s victory against the Midianites (**Judges 6:33; 7**)

👤 What is this mountain?

👤 **Hypothesis 1:** Mount Carmel. Near Megiddo, but Mount Carmel is not referred to like this anywhere else in the Bible, and it would likely confuse John’s readers unfamiliar with the geography.

👤 **Hypothesis 2:** Mystically assembling before God. **Har Megeddio** is close in the Hebrew to **Har Maced**, which is the Mount of Assembly and could relate to **Isaiah 14:12-15** (Thomas v2, p. 269). But this is a stretch, would also have confused John’s readers, and removes the need for a literal Euphrates as seen previously.

👤 **Hypothesis 3:** Babylon. *Megiddo* traces its origin to *gadad* and, when combined with *har* means “marauding mountain” a name similar to “destroying mountain” used in **Jeremiah 51:52** for Babylon. Can also be translated as “gathering in troops” making it a generic but unspecified (though likely mystical) gathering. These are both a stretch and fails for the same reasons as **Hypothesis 2**.

👤 **Hypothesis 4:** Symbolic for overthrown. This is because Josiah was defeated there (c.f. **2 Chronicles 35:22**). This is a stretch, we never see Megiddo used elsewhere like this, and also fails as a symbolic meaning for the reasons discussed above.

👤 **Hypothesis 5:** Jerusalem. The Hebrew could be rendered as “His faithful mountain” and would align with **Joel 3:2** and **Zechariah 14:12**. Would still confuse John’s readers, especially with his clarification. While there may be a slaughter at Jerusalem, it appears that the gathering itself is at a separate location.

👤 **Hypothesis 6:** The area around the Mountain of Megiddo. *Har* can mean “hill-country” which would fit. The site of numerous battles, but not large enough for the deployments hypothesized (Thomas v2, p. 270) (with our current technological assumptions). While a battle takes place around Jerusalem (**Zechariah 14:1-3**), the gathering is here.

LESSONS FOR US

A call to seriously study the Word of God

-  There are often issues hidden just beneath the surface
-  God has given them to us for a reason, and it is for us to find them (c.f. **Proverbs 25:2**)
-  There are always good things in there; we just have to show ourselves diligent (**2 Timothy 2:15**)

God uses everything and everyone

-  Even those in rebellion
-  God is/will using us for some reason, but are we willingly being used, or are we being dragged along?
-  God does not require our understanding, only our obedience
-  This is what faith is all about

The Why, the What, and the How

-  The Bible as a whole tells us the Why of the eschatological plan
-  **Revelation** tells us the What
-  Much of the How is left out, but that is the part we study and obsess over more than anything else