

Hey, we were going to have, okay, yeah, I'm sorry, the junior high middle school class, you guys are dismissed, go to your study time. Appreciate you guys. Gospel of [John](#), right? You're starting today?

Oh, all right, praise the Lord, that's gonna be great. Enjoy your time, guys. Well, we are in the book of [Revelation](#). We're halfway through chapter 16, and of course we're in some very interesting verses here.

Very interesting stuff happening in God's Word. And we went through the first 11 verses of this chapter last week, and of course we are right in the heart of the study that deals with Armageddon. Now, you mentioned that word, you throw that word out, and probably in everybody's minds there could be different connotations, because that word has been so often used or misused perhaps. To apply to various things, if something is very challenging or difficult or looks like something is gonna be overwhelming, they talk like it's Armageddon.

There's been movies made called Armageddon. There's been songs have been written called Armageddon, it's all deaf leopard stuff, and years ago. But the reality of what Armageddon biblically is speaking of, we're gonna see that here today in these last closing verses. So, last week, what we did, as we went through the first 11 verses, so now we're going to pick it up in verse 12 of chapter 16, and we've seen the first five bowls of judgment poured out in verses 1 through 11.

So now, in verses 12 through 21, we will see the final two bowls of judgment, and the final situation where God does conclude the judgment upon the year during this hour. Again, if you haven't been part of this study, and maybe haven't been in fellowship for a while, it might be kind of heavy to come in and hear something like this in the book of [Revelation](#). And we thoughtfully worked our way through this, but you know what it is going to be an absolutely incredible day and age in humanity, and it's not going to be pleasant. The reality is, at this point, in the scope of things, God has pouring out judgment because the world has totally rejected him, totally turned its back on his grace, and it's actually continually blasphemed him.

And we'll see how we respond to that today. So let's pick it up in verse 12, we'll read through the conclusion of the chapter, then we'll come back, and tear these verses apart. We find in verse 12, then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the grate, you afraid he's a river, and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies toward the west without hindrance. As I saw, three evil spirits that looked like, thogs, leap from the mouse of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, their demonic spirits who worked miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God, the Almighty.

Verse 15 says, look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief, and blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed. And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers of the armies to a place with a Hebrew name Armageddon, and the demonic spirits, again, gathered all those rulers to this place that were emphasized today known as Armageddon. Verse 17, then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a mighty shout came from the throne and the temple saying, it is finished. Then the thunder crashed and rolled, a lightning flashed, and a great earthquake struck, the worsens people were placed on the earth.

The great city of Babylon split into the three sections, and the cities and many nations fell into heaps and rubble. So God remembered all the Babylon sins and made a drink of the cup that was filled with a wine of his fierce wrath, and every island disappeared and all the mountains were leveled. There was a terrible hailstorm, and hailstones weighing 75 pounds fell from the sky out of the people below, but they cursed God because of the terrible plague of the hailstorm. That's powerful stuff.

Heavy duty. Now remember again quickly, in the timeline of what's happening here during the tribulation hour, remember the tribulation hour begins somewhere after the rapture, the catching up of the body of Christ. We talked about that last week. Then the seven year period known as the time of Jacob's trouble, the great tribulation would begin.

We looked at the seals before, the seven judgments that came out of the seven seals, and then we also saw the trumpet judgments, there were seven of those. And of course at the end of the seventh seal, the seven trumpets came out of that, and of course at the last trumpet, then the seven bowl judgments came out of that. So what we're seeing here with these judgments is a reality of what was happening with the bowl judgments being poured out in God's wrath. Remember, he escalated it.

We saw under those first two judgments through the seals and through the trumpets that God didn't impact the entire world at that point in time. And what he's hoping for is for men's hearts to turn to him because he's always gracious and merciful. But when men don't respond, what does he do? He turns the heat up.

What we see here with the outpouring of the bowl judgments, God has turned up the heat all the way. And what we looked at last week was the bowl judgments with the boils upon the earth, where God turned the seas into blood and also the fresh waters, the rivers, and under the third bowl, and to the fourth bowl we saw that God would bring, and will bring at some point when this is happening, the ultimate global warming, people will be receiving the ultimate sun burns. Is anybody ever gone through death valley? I mean, some of you guys are from California.

Is it in Baker? Is that where that's at? Is that that place you drive through and you see that giant thermometer out there in the middle of the desert? And I think it goes up to like 120, 125 degrees.

I can't even imagine. I mean, we think 105 degrees is pretty rough. I know some of our troops who were serving in Iraq and over in the Middle East, sometimes the environment for them, when they've got their uniforms on, it can be 110, 115 degrees, and with those uniforms on, it's almost unbearable. Well, the environment here will be so much greater than that.

Again, God is affecting the judgments on the earth again because of sinful men. And we saw that with the scorching of the sun. And in the last bowl judgment, we looked at last week was God pouring out darkness upon the beast and his kingdom. So that judgment seemed to be limited upon those who were evil who fell under his kingdom, who accepted the [Mark](#) and were following him.

And we see as we looked at the Old Testament last week, when we saw the nation of Israel, we saw it was happening in Egypt when God delivered them and how God brought the plagues upon the nation of Egypt, that there were a lot of similarities occurring here as what we saw there. And God provided light for the Israelites. So

God's people, those who remain faithful during the tribulation hour, there would be only a few of them, by the way. God will take care of them through this.

Now today, where we're going to look at them and including this chapter is watching God bring up on this seventh, sixth and seventh, the full judgment, and you'll see this then. It's on the heels of these final judgments being poured out that Jesus will come back at the second coming. Some powerful, powerful stuff. Let's pick it up here in verse 12 and really begin to look at this with more depth.

We find this as then the sixth angel. Remember that messenger, the one who had the assignment, the angel who was involved with the pouring out of this bowl. The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River. Now what's the significance of that?

No, it's interesting because as we study God's word, there's a mention of the Euphrates River all the way back in [Genesis](#) chapter 2. There are four rivers that are mentioned in the proximity of an area known as the Garden of Eden. So we can trace the existence of the Euphrates River all the way back to that day and age. And we know historically, I mean it's a giant river today, but we know historically, especially during the biblical times, that is about 1800 miles long.

And it could be anywhere from 900 feet in its narrowest parts, which is what like three football fields wide. That's the narrow parts guys up to like 3,500 yards in width. This is a huge body of water. So what's going to happen during this time frame is the sixth angel will pour out his bowl on the great Euphrates River.

It's going to be targeted at that for a purpose. And what happens is it says, and it dried up. So God will dry up that river for a purpose. What is the purpose?

It says moving on so that the kings of the east can march their armies towards the west without hindrance. See the table, the stage is being set here for not only what is called the Battle of Armageddon, but a war. A war that's occurring. And it will be absolutely astronomical.

I don't think as human beings today we can imagine the scope of what that war is going to be like. So when people ask who are the kings of the east, you know how throughout the ages there have been speculation. Now we know that do east of there, most people automatically think of China. And reasonably so.

And today based on their capabilities, based on the population, the size of country that is, and the size of their standing army, they probably will be involved with this. I can't imagine that they wouldn't be. And we see them taking a very prominent role in the world today. In economics, no, some militarily.

And they're moving full force as America is struggling as we're having financial difficulties. They're getting stronger all the time. And by the way, a lot of our debt is owned by China. We're be holding to them in a major way to kind of holding us over the barrel.

It's kind of an interesting development that we find in the days that we're living in. So we know that this is a massive country with well over one billion people. Even under Mao Zedong, he said at that time back in the in the 60s and 70s that they could feel the standing army of 200 million. Now we saw back earlier in the book of [Revelation](#) that it mentioned that there would be a 200 million man army that would come from the east.

So this country alone could probably facilitate that, but it could also include some nations coming together in allegiance and alliance. India, over a billion people there, also Japan. So we don't know for sure, but it's pretty safe to say that probably China will be involved in that. And what will happen?

The kings from the east can do what they could march their armies towards the west without hindrance. They will march westward towards what? The valley of Megiddo. Megiddo, that's where Armageddon will occur.

And they will not be hindered. You say, oh, easily it's going to be for them to do that. Verse 13 tells us this. Now remember, this is some interesting stuff we see here.

And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs, came from the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. Wow, can you imagine that? Now you have to take into consideration again that God is giving [John](#) a vision of what will be happening during this timeframe. And his visions, guys, are not limited in scope just to the four-dimensional world you and I live in.

God is obviously giving him some insight into dimensions here where he can see the activity of these demonic spirits at work. And we know the power of those demonic spirits. So he saw three of them, three evil spirits that appeared to him like frogs. Now what's that all about?

Now I think in his context here, when [John](#) originally wrote this, at the end of that first century being Jewish, he understood, especially as it related back to Egypt and the history with Israel and Egypt and the plagues and everything else, that there were frogs involved there. To the Jewish people, the frogs are unclean. It's kind of like pork and stuff like that. But to the Egyptians, they revered a goddess who was frog-like.

So that was kind of the heart of Pharaoh who was actually a type of antichrist, right? So these three evil spirits, they looked like frogs, they did what they leap from the mouth of who, the dragon. Who's that? Satan.

We saw back earlier on, for example, in chapter 12 that he said he was the red dragon, which spoke of his fierceness, meaning his desire to steal and kill and destroy. He desired to wipe out mankind before they could come to faith in Jesus Christ. So the first one is the dragon that Satan. The beast would be the antichrist.

This one was empowered raised up by Satan. He will be a world leader at some point in the near future. And then also this third person known as the false prophet. And within the dynamic of these three we see a false trinity.

We see a hell of a trinity, right? Not a holy trinity, but a hell of a trinity. Because that's what Satan tries to do. He tries to, in so much shape or form, pretend like he's God or to see people through some of these things.

That's exactly what happens. The dragon, Satan plays like he's the role of father. The beast, the antichrist, will play the role if you will of Jesus. He'll even present himself as who?

They're Messiah, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Majority of the people will embrace him. And then of course the false prophet would be synonymous with the role of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ and the church today. So again, [John](#) sees this unique thing happening here.

So these demonic spirits leap from the mouths of Satan and the antichrist and also the false prophet. And what's the purpose? It defines for us in the verse 14 that these are the three spirits he sees. Our demonic spirits will of course.

Absolutely. And I'll tell you what folks. If you don't believe that demons are real, you're deceived. Because just as God and the angelic realm is real and certainly it is, Satan is real.

He's a real entity. He's limited, of course. He's not omniscient. He's not omnipresent.

He's a powerful entity, but he's not even close to the power that they have that God brings to the table. We know that, but he's real. The demonic spirits are real. And so what we're seeing here are three demonic spirits that have power in their rank apparently because they're going to affect the nations of the world in a great way.

And we know as we study God's word that these demons, just like with the angels, some of them have different levels of authority. So again, these guys must be very powerful. Just like we saw in [Daniel](#), we saw this angel over the area of Persia at that point time. And he was called the Prince of Persia.

And God dispatched an angel to do battle with the Prince of Persia. So we know that this is real. And these are demonic spirits again as a verse 14 tells us. They are demonic spirits who do what?

They work miracles. Why? To attract people and to deceive people, to make people think that they have the power of God. Again, [John](#) is seeing at the heart of who these entities really are, but what they're going to present themselves outwardly as is inviting, something that people want to adopt.

We know God's word tells us that we should not be surprised when Satan himself appears as an angel of light. And that he does these false miracles and these fake, miraculous things. Why? Because it draws people to them.

So we should always judge things by the truth of God's word. In fact, Paul the Apostle warned the Church of Thessalonica in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 that in the last days, that's exactly what would be happening, as the enemy will be working miracles, they will attract people to a false Messiah to the Antichrist. And that's what will be happening even here. They'll be working these miracles and what else?

And they will go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for what? For battle against who? The Lord! On that great judgment day of God, the Almighty.

Now this is interesting. We've heard it as we said in God's word and we've looked at the phrase, the day of the Lord. Now the day of the Lord, guys, it's not a specific day per se. It's a time frame.

And it literally is initiated and begins at the rapture and the rapture occurs the day of the Lord begins. And it's going to last for a period of time. But there will be this incredible day in time where God's, when He intervenes and He finishes His judgment on the earth, that that will be the great judgment day of God, the Almighty at that point. And we know that even beyond that, at the end of the thousand year millennial reign of Christ on earth, there will be what's called the great white throne judgment.

There will be another judgment for all those who have rejected the love and the truth of God. So these three demonic spirits, they go out to all the rulers of the world and what are they doing? They're compelling the rulers, the leaders of the country to come, to battle against who? The Lord!

Again, that Greek word for Lord, their couriers, would be the equivalent of Yahweh, the Old Testament. The God of Abraham, Yitzhak and Yachav, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Almighty God! Who are people that they think they could come against God like that?

Well, turn with me back to the Old Testament to [Psalms](#). [Psalms](#) chapter 2, and you can see very clearly that hundreds, thousands of years ago, in the scope of prophecy, they got shared about what would be happening during this very time frame. Let's pick it up in [Psalms](#) 2, right off the bat with verse 1, right at the top. Of course, the Scripture will be up here on the overhead as well if you want to pull that.

Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? Now, think about the scope of our studying [Revelation](#) what's been happening here. Why are the nations so angry?

And why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle. What are we talking about here in [Revelation](#) 16:14? The kings of the earth prepare for battle.

The rumors plot together against who? The Lord, Yahweh, the self-existent one. And against his anointed one. Who is the anointed one?

Jesus, the Messiah, the Mashyach. Messiah the king, Mashyach and Iguid. The kings of the earth prepare for battle. It's exactly what we're seeing happen here.

And this prophetic development was a couple thousand years at least before this time frame. And of course, even before the time of Christ, hundreds of years before then. Look what it says in verse 3, let us break their chains they cry. And free ourselves from slavery to God.

So what we see here is the heart of man in complete and totality, which certainly fits the scope of what we're seeing in the book of [Revelation](#) here. Man's heart is totally turned against God and continues to blaspheme God even in the face of the judgements and the reality of his power in that situation. And like again, they say let us break their chains. Who's changed?

Speaking of the triumphant nature of God, we already see here the Lord and is an anointed one that's speaking of the Father and Jesus. Two persons of the Trinity for sure. Look at verse 4 then. But the one who rules in heaven, he does what he laughs.

Similar old translation says he scoffs. He's like, huh, yeah, whatever. But the one who rules in heaven laughs, the Lord scoffs at them. Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury.

For the Lord declares, I have placed my chosen king on the throne in Jerusalem and on my holy mount. Now what we see here is really almost like an outline of the future as well because that is ultimately what's going to happen after this seventh bowl judgment is poured out. And God finishes the judgment on the earth and Jesus

comes back, establishes his kingdom on earth for a thousand years. That's exactly what will be happening here.

For the Lord declares, I have placed my chosen king, that's Jesus, on the throne in Jerusalem and on my holy mountain. For seven, the king proclaims the Lord's decrees. The Lord said to me, you are my son, today I have become your father. Boy, in [Hebrews](#), chapter one, there's familiar language like that.

There's a study on going some people are doing in [Hebrews](#) and they've been looking at that as well. It's very powerful. So we see that unique dynamic again of that time and eternity when Jesus elected to step out of eternity into time as a man to take upon our sins, to die on a cross for sins. So we can have eternal life and it's awesome to see this hundreds of years before it ever came to fruition.

And now looking back beyond the time before Jesus came and seeing prophetically its relevance in the future, very powerful. Look at verse eight, only ask and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the whole earth as your possession, you will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. Verse 10, now then you kings, act wisely, be warned you rulers of the earth, serve the Lord with reverent fear and rejoice with trembling, submit to God's royal son or he will become angry and he will and he will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities. For his anger flares up in an instant.

But what joy for all who take refuge in him, boy, you see that dichotomy, those reject God, especially in the last days, what a tragedy. But for those who do what take refuge in him, accept his salvation is grace, what joy like Psalm 34 says in the presence of the Lord is the fullness of joy, how powerful is that. So I think that's real cool that we see that back in [Psalms](#) chapter two, that reality of what's happening here back in [Revelation](#) 16. Again, turn our attention back to [Revelation](#) 16 verse 14.

We just saw prophetic realities about against the Lord and that's exactly what's happening. Satan is convincing these rulers of these armies that they somehow can come against God and I'm sure they're going to think in their arrogance and their pride will take God out. And what does it say in Psalm two, like we just said God's going to laugh at him like you've got to be kidding me because it's nothing for God, of course. He spoke creation into existence.

He created mankind, right. But they will come against the Lord on that great judgment day of God Almighty. Verse 15, it says this. And this is Jesus speaking.

Jesus himself says, look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Boy, does that sound familiar? Did he say that in the Gospels even to Jesus mentioned at a couple times? I will come as unexpectedly as a thief.

We know in 1st, the Sons of chapter 5, the Paul said that if you are a child of light, a not darkness, meaning if you know Jesus, if you're a believer that you're not like somebody who is drunk or you're not like somebody who is a thief. And the thief comes in the night for those who are not prepared. But if you know Jesus and your children of the light, you should know. Now, Jesus himself says it's a related to the rapture.

No man knows the hour of the day of when he would come and catch the body of Christ up to you with him. Okay. But he did say we should know the times and the seasons and we're living in those times and seasons. So we should not be caught unaware.

And that's what he's telling these guys here. And he's even proclaiming this to those who have accepted God's grace in that time frame. He's saying, look, stay focused. He goes on to say, blessed are you who are watching for me.

That's relevant to you and I. The blessed hope, folks, are you looking forward to the coming of Jesus Christ? Do you desire to leave this world to be in a very presence of God? I don't know about you, but I can't wait.

But here's the balance we got to strike folks. We don't want to be so focused here that we're not of any earthly good to God. We had to be so focused on the Lord and so connected with him and have such a level of intimacy. There were anxious to be with him and yet because of that intimate relationship with him, he empowers us and he uses us to impact the kingdom for his glory here and now.

That's what he wants to do. So yes, there's an application for you and I. We should be watching for him to catch the body up. And if you were here today and you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you've never been born again by a spirit, and again, I'm not talking about a religious thing.

I'm talking about having a relationship with God. It's not about doing a bunch of good works because you can't do enough good works to get saved is by embracing the grace of God, accepting the eternal gift of eternal life that it gives. It's free to us. When you've got that relationship, then you're going to experience the heart pods of the rapture.

If you don't and say, Jesus, rapture the body of Christ out tomorrow, we don't know that it could happen. Say the tribulation now or began a week later. If you had not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior before the time of the tribulation began, you can still accept him, but it's going to be much tougher and the price you could potentially pay during that time and during that environment will be horrendous. You don't want to be there except the grace of God now if you don't know him.

In his context, what he says here, though, is blessed are you. All of you who are watching for me who keep their clothing ready so that they will not have to walk around naked in the shame. So he's talking about being covered, being prepared. And in some of your translations, it talks about being clothed in a righteous linen or a white linen.

And anytime you see that in God's word, it's speaking of being clothed with the righteousness of God. We know that the book of [Galatians](#), Paul tells us that we're to put on Christ. We're supposed to be clothed with the righteousness. And praise the Lord that when we accept Jesus, that's the way the Father sees us is clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

So we put on Christ and we're clothed, if you will, with this symbolic white garment. And that's what he's saying here, be prepared. Don't be taken by surprise. Keep your clothing ready.

And there's probably some significance it relates to like in that day and age, couldn't now, to military preparedness. Armies are prepared. There's a go at a moment's notice in that day and age, the soldiers usually slept with their clothes on. I'm sure that most of the soldiers who are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, I've seen some of those pictures, those guys sleeping in furrows that they've dug and guess what?

They've got their feet on their ready. People who serve as firemen or a full-time firemen, when they're in the station house and they're asleep, they've still got most of their stuff. And all I got to do is flip over off their bed, put their feet in their boots and put that coat on them. They're gone.

So that's what he's saying, be prepared like that. Be looking. And why so that they will not have to walk around naked on a shame? Why?

Because if they've been prepared, they will not stand before the Lord on a shameeably. Verse 16, then. And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place. And here we go.

With what? The Hebrew name Armageddon. There it is again, right? You know what's going to happen here is going to be something that truly again in the scope of human history, we cannot even begin to comprehend.

And in this place, Megidoh, the Valley of Megidoh, Armageddon, by the way that speaks of a mountainous area, but really what's going to happen in the Valley of Jezreal is there's going to be this conflict that takes place in this lower area. In fact, it's not much of a mountain the way you and I think about mountains. In fact, they believe that even archaeologically that there have been over history in that very place about 20 cultures that have existed. And cities have been built on top of each other and on top of each other.

And when archaeologists excavate back thousands of years, they find layer after layer of cities. And so even that mountain or that mountain that exists there today, most archaeologists believe that that was civilization after civilization that built on top of each other. And that's what we have is the Mount of Megidoh. But in this value of Jezreal, again, these demonic spirits are going to draw.

They're going to compel all these rulers to come to this place as we saw in one of our previous verses. They're going to want to do battle with the Lord. I still cannot believe the arrogance and the pride in their human hearts. But all we have to do is think about Satan himself, right?

As Lucifer, we've talked about this many times, is that Archangel having the privilege to lead the angelic hosts into worship that it wasn't enough for him that he wanted to be like God. When pride entered into this heart, that was the fall. And we see the power of pride in the hearts of every human being. And if you don't think that you can have an issue with pride where you're deceived again already because, man, that issue of pride in the hearts is so strong sometimes.

And you're going to see it multiplied here. These rulers in their arrogance and their pride will think they can come against the Lord. And I believe that Satan himself still believes that some way, shape or form, he's going to outwit God. He's been trying to.

And he's even got God's word that tells him how it's going to turn out. But I believe his pride is so blind in him that he thinks that God's going to slip up some way, shape or form, somehow he's going to come up on top. We know it's not going to happen. But that still fuels his pride to try to bring the nations of the world together to this place known as Armageddon to come against God.

Now, the value of Jezreel, it's interesting because it's about 14 miles wide. It's about 20 miles long. And a lot of people think, well, how can they get all the armies of the world in a space that small? Well, that's pretty concise space.

But really, that's just probably the heart of the theater of the battle. It'll be in the surrounding areas as well. But we also saw earlier in the book of [Revelation](#) when we saw the grapes of wrath, if you will, when God is trampling out the grapes, we saw the battle him and the republic that him came from. We saw that it says that the blood will flow to the horses bridle for 180 miles in a link.

Now, whether that's accurate or is just speaking symbolically about the carnage that will happen, that's 180 miles long. So that theater is obviously bigger than just the 14 by 20, but that's going to be the heart of where the battle occurs. And it's interesting because throughout history, there have been over 200 documented wars there. And major battles have been fought throughout history.

And even Napoleon Bonaparte himself was involved in a battle there. And he proclaimed that that was the most perfect environment for war to stage a war. And so it's interesting that God will do just that. He will allow this war to be staged there.

And certainly even in Jesus' ministry, he stood and he looked over. Jizriel and Mount Magito in his ministry and in his heart, I could only imagine as Messiah knowing what would ultimately happen, knowing the word. So again, this place called Armageddon for 17 says. And of course, that is fulfillment of the six-bowl judgment.

So basically, there's more staging bringing these guys together. We find this then in verse 17. Then the seventh angel. Remember what seven means again in this context.

You can either mean perfection, but in this context, it means completion. So the seventh angel, there's going to be a completion here. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Now that's interesting.

Into the air. And a mighty shout came from the throne in the temple saying, it is finished. Why would he pour out this bowl of God's judgment into the air? Well, think about this.

[Ephesians](#) 2.2 tells us that Satan or Lucifer is the prince of the power of the air. We know that back in chapter 12, that at the midpoint of the tribulation, that he will no longer be given access to God's presence in the third heaven. But then he will be cast down. And the only place he can be is limited here to the scope of the earth and the surrounding atmosphere.

So it's interesting to note again that he is called the prince of the power of the earth. So what is happening here is not only affecting the world and God bringing judgment, but also his realm and his kingdom, the enemy. So that's where it's being poured out. [Ephesians](#) 2.2 again, you can put that as a reference.

And what's the response? And a mighty voice shouted from the throne, from the throne, speaking of the temple where God's presence would be saying, it is finished. And you cannot help but think about Jesus as he was hanging on the cross after he had endured the punishment, the torture, everything that he went through for you and me, for the sins of all mankind. As he hung up on the cross and said, father, forgive them because they don't have a clue what they're doing.

Evidenceing that incredible love that would ultimately convince one of those two things was hanging on either side of him, that he wasn't a side because there's no way that a love like that could be poured forth from somebody who was in the state that Jesus was. But the reality was it's just prior to drawing his last breath and

committing a spirit to the father. He said it is finished, meaning it was paid in full. The price for the sins of all mankind had been paid in full with the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Praise God that he gave himself on that cruel altar because of his love for us. Isn't that incredible? And it was finished three days later with his resurrection. There's the power to live for him knowing that we have eternal life.

If we have a relationship with him, there's going to be another conclusion. The conclusion of the judgments upon the earth from God during the tribulation and God will basically say, if Aneto it is done, it is finished. My wrath has been poured out. Verse 18.

As a result of all these things it says, then the thunder crashed and rolled in lightning flash. So probably guys in the monumental proportions like the world has never seen before. Most of us have probably been out with a thunderstorm or the lightning striking. I mean all around you.

There were some there were some mean ones this last summer around here in some of your homes. I know the Thompson's you guys were out there on the south side of town. There was stuff popping all around you. It was amazing.

Some of these storms can occur. Well nothing like what will be happening during this day and age. And it says in the second half of that verse and a great earthquake struck the worst since people were placed on the earth. Now is there a coincidence that this is happening?

Absolutely not. Even Jesus himself said the just prior to the tribulation hour beginning and him culminating all these things that there would be evidences in the world that he was a great person. He was about to wrap stuff up and a lot of that would be a natural disasters. Is it a coincidence that there are more and more earthquakes and hurricanes and natural disasters all the time and they're escalating and their intensity and the scope of the damage.

What has been just a little over a month since earthquake and Haiti. And the scope of the damage that occurred there. And we've seen some of the other earthquakes the one that happened I believe was in China just a few years ago and how many people died in that. Now those are just limited to small areas the earthquake that will occur at this point time will be enormous and it will shake the entire earth.

That's powerful. It's good to shake the entire earth. It's going to be off the charts. Verse 19 says this.

And what will be happening also the great city of Babylon. Now that's sin-treating. Now I want to let you know that in the next couple of chapters in chapter 17 and 18 we're going to define Babylon. We're going to see, you know, is it really a literal city?

You know what has been in the past still is today. It's about 60 miles south of Baghdad and Iraq. It's interesting that all these things are happening during this time frame. We're coming back and it's culminating in this area where we call the cradle of civilization.

Just as we looked at the beginning of our city with the great river Euphrates begins in that area. Interesting to know. But we'll define that. We'll see is it just a city or is it also speaking about an economic system?

Is it speaking about a religious system? What is it? Because some experts vary on their interpretation of that. So we'll look at that in 17 and 18.

But it's saying here that the great city of Babylon split into three sections. So at least in this case the context seems to be speaking of a literal physical city. And the cities of many nations fell into heaps of rubble. So God remembered all of Babylon sins.

So again as he speaking specifically of this city or something that's influenced the entire world, we'll see that in upcoming studies. And he made her drink of what? The cup that was filled with the wine of his fierce wrath. Now I want to point something out.

We've we've looked at the fact that when it talks about wrath in the verses leading up to this and some of the other chapters that in God's word in the Greek language, there are different definitions. Because you can see the word wrath. It doesn't mean it's the same each time just like love. A goth, which is the highest form of love, selfless and sacrificial and agapato, which is the verb form of that.

We know Astorge is a familiar love. We know Faleo is a friendship love. But it's all just love in the Bible. The context tells us what kind of love.

Well here, as we've looked through here, we've seen that wrath has been defined in the book of [Revelation](#) as a flashpoint anger where God has come to a place where it's on. And he pours out his fierce wrath. But it's interesting to note that that's the term for fierce in this case. He's Fumus and that's that one.

This intense fierce anger. It's a flashpoint type anger. But the word wrath following on the heels of this is a different Greek word that we see sometimes. And it's the Greek word orgy.

And it means from a settled disposition. It's really a combination of the two angers. I'll roll them to one. And God in his, of course, omissions in advance knows what's coming.

He's prepared. And it's at this stage that he's in a settled disposition of wrath. And from that wrath is a fierce wrath that he pours out on humanity in conclusion to these judgments. Only two more verses here.

Verse 20, then says this. And every island that disappeared and all the mountains were leveled. Some people wonder, is that speaking symbolically? Is that really going to happen?

Well, we know that because of earthquakes, we know because of the shifts and tectonic plates and those kind of things, the geographies can change all the time. Some of you are old enough to remember the damage caused at Mount St. Helens some 30 years ago, just because of that volcano. Wow.

When it's on and God is bringing judgment, it'll be incredible to see what happens. But the reality is just what God says here that islands will disappear and the mountains will be leveled. God is going to do a restructuring in the way the earth is set up. And why is he doing this?

Because he is preparing the world for what is called. The 1000 year millennial reign of Christ. And the world is going to be much like it was at the Garden of Eden. The way God had intended it.

It's going to be an amazing environment to live in. So God is beginning to prepare the world for that. And Jesus, of course, coming up on the scene to see it on the throne of David. Now verse 21 says this.

There was a terrible hailstorm and hailstones weighing 75 pounds. It could be up to 100 fell from the sky onto the people below. Now imagine that. Can you imagine being in that environment?

All of a sudden you look up and they're not these little bit of hailstones or golf ball size or softball size. You see these huge boulder like pieces of ice coming from the sky. How would you respond? I don't think I would curse God.

I think my first response would be, help me Jesus. Lord, forgive me. I can't believe I was so blinded. But that's the heart of man.

Man's heart is so depraved and so hard at that point that even with those hailstones literally falling from the heavens, their response will be to curse God because of the terrible plague of the hailstorm. You know, this is not the first time throughout history. God has used hail as part of his judgment. We know it's Sodom and Gomorrah.

Various other places. It's Egypt back in [Exodus](#) chapter 9. God has done it before. He will do it again but in a scope far greater than the world has ever seen before.

It's going to be absolutely unbelievable. Now, as we conclude our part of the study today, it's interesting to know why. What's the significance of God bringing hail stones, think about the part of it that says stones upon the earth? Think about the blasphemy of the people because that's what it says they curse.

That means they blaspheme God. When we look through our God's Word, especially under the old covenant, and we see there are so much of what's happening here in the book of [Revelation](#) that has old covenant perspective. You see a lot of stuff with Israel. You see the two prophets.

You see so much that has that here. He breaks flavor to it. Well, we know that under the old covenant that people were stoned for blasphemy. So God is stoning the people for blasphemy.

Isn't that something? God's throwing hail stones on the people for blasphemy. And that's what happened in the old covenant anyway. People would pick up rocks and here's the interesting thing.

And thinking about Jesus' ministry, when he had those engagements with the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the scribes, the religious leaders of the day, and they got into it, there was that one extremely intense situation in [John](#) chapter 8. Well, they're basically, if you understand the context or accusing him of being illegitimate, and he says, hey, I know my father. Your father is the devil. He really lays it on him.

But he said, if you really knew the father, you would know who I am. You would accept me for who I am because I am the Messiah. And that's when he moved on to say in verse 8, I mean chapter 8 verse 58, before Abraham was, I am. A goi me again.

Is what that language would say. It would be the equivalent of X, 3, 14 when Moses again stood before the burning bush. And God said, I am that I am. I am the self in existence one.

Yahweh. The response of the people in [John](#) chapter 8, the Jewish religious leaders after Jesus said, before Abraham was, I am, and I existed before Abraham, they said, you're not even, you know, you look how young you are. And you say that you existed before Abraham. Their response was to what?

Pick up rocks. Because to them he had blaspheme. Because they understood that Jesus was claiming to be God. That's why they were going to kill him.

So they were, they were going to stow at him for blasphemy. And that's exactly what we see happening here, the conclusion of this chapter. To consummate, to bring to conclusion these judgments, he will stone a blasphemy world. Now as we move on, next week we jump into chapter 17, we're going to expand more detail, the relates to events that are happening under these bold judgments.

Even though we've concluded really kind of an outline here with some information, just as we've seen that pattern through the book of [Revelation](#), the next few chapters are going to give us even more depth and we're going to see about Babylon. And to find again, what is this issue with Babylon, whether the city and the religious system and the economic system. So wow, what an adventure we're on. And again, I would just for our own application again, reflect back to one of the verses that told us just like Jesus said in verse 15, we should be watching.

Let's read that verse again. Now again, understanding the context is speaking of those alive during the tribulation hour. But Jesus also warned us that we should be prepared when our master returns. We shouldn't be out, lullogagging around and partying it up and go, woohoo, you know, he's out.

He's gone. I'm going to, you know, just like kids like if their parents are gone, right. And all of a sudden the parents show up and the kids weren't expecting, like, uh-oh. God says, don't be in that place.

And that's basically what we need to be doing. It says, look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief. It doesn't need to be that way for you. If you know Jesus and if we know Jesus, we should be looking for his coming because folks, he is coming soon soon and very soon.

We're going to see the king because of all the prophetic things are happening before very eyes so much of the Bible prophecy about the end times. A lot of it's been fulfilled folks. It's incredible. And a lot of it is being fulfilled now and some of it is being staged to be fulfilled.

And I want to close with this again quickly kind of an update of some of the things are happening in the Middle East. I don't know if you've been watching what's happening there, but it's growing and intensity. It's always been like a powder cake. It's getting worse day by day.

In fact, in just the last couple of days, the rhetoric between Syria and Israel is becoming very heated and the Assad, Bashar Assad, the prime minister of Syria said that if there's another conflict with Israel, that it will be ruined. Basically, he's serving threat to Israel that they were going to completely destroy Israel. Now, having said that, we know that [Isaiah](#) 17-1 gives a prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled that tells us that Damascus will be completely and utterly destroyed. It hasn't happened yet.

That is going to happen in the future. That is the capital of Syria. We could wake up one of these days and all of a sudden the news flash says Israel and Syria are at war

and Israel has used limited tactical nuclear weapons and has totally destroyed Damascus' awarding. Nine to them, but all those in the Middle East who threaten her very existence because right and left, they're calling for Israel's annihilation.

And they're an island unto themselves. They're all alone, folks. We're not that big a friend anymore. Under the last administration, and certainly under the new administration, we're putting more and more pressure on them and we're turning our back more and more against the nation of Israel.

God help us. God has given favor to us because of our friendship with Israel. We're on shaky ground, folks. This nation needs to return.

The rightful foundation of truly having God as a leader of this country and hearing those principles and the truth of this word and being a real friend to Israel. But I believe if that thing escalates, we know that hisbalan Hamas, those terrorist organizations, they have more armaments now. They're more militarily prepared than they ever have been. There's a lot of saber rattling occurring over there.

And we know, of course, that Iran wants to totally annihilate Israel. And they are to a point now most experts believe that if they haven't got the capability already within months, they will be able to launch a nuclear weapon towards Israel. And we understand that the leader, the certainly religious leaders of Iran and the president of Iran believe that that's part of their Islamic eschatology that they have to facilitate some type of major war that pretty much involves the whole world in order to bring their Messiah on the scene. And it's interesting because a lot of the things that define who their Messiah's sounds eerily like this person we call the Antichrist.

Very interesting stuff that's happening in the world today. Praise the Lord, he's coming. And we need to be prepared. Let's pray.

Father, in Jesus' name we thank you for the truth of your word, Lord. We thank you that we are privileged to live in such a unique time. Lord, I know that we imagine what it would have been like to be one of the disciples or be those people who were walking the earth when you were and just to see you in your earthly ministry. And truly that would have been unique and wonderful.

And yet Lord, again, this day and age that we're living in is so amazing to see so much of your word coming to life before us Lord. So much of the prophecies of the old and the New Testament coming to fruition and seeing the stage being set for major prophecies Lord that seemingly will be fulfilled in the not to distant future. Father, in light of that as we see in your word, Jesus, as you exhort, let us be prepared and not be caught unexpected to be prepared having our garments white, walking in righteousness Lord, equipped by your power and by your grace. Lord, help us to live for you to truly follow and to serve you all the days of our lives and we thank you Lord again that we can.

When we surrender our hearts and our lives to you that we don't try to do it in a number of ourselves in our own strength because we don't have it. When we simply come to you and surrender and say here I am Lord, have your way. Lord, help us to do that this morning as we take this time, see this opportunity for a time of prayer Lord. As we continue to worship you Lord, we just pray that you speak to your hearts.

Let us seize this opportunity to pray individually or to pray for those who need prayer. Father, we surrender this time to you and again thank you for your presence here this morning in your ministry to a see your presence and through your word. As far as we

keep our eyes closed in this moment, speak to our hearts. Have your way Father in this time in Jesus name.