

THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF

GOD ALMIGHTY

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14.3.26

We've been looking at the Rapture for several weeks. Jesus comes to rescue His saints.

The timing is debated. The most popular view is that the Rapture is "Pre-Trib" — Jesus returns just before the Tribulation (which is commonly said to be 7 years in duration).

But in Matthew Chapter 24 Jesus says His Coming will be "after" the Tribulation of those days. I've explained why I believe that the Rapture is "Pre-Wrath". The saints are rescued just before the wrath begins — indeed the SELF-SAME DAY!

Last time ... we looked at the confusion that can occur if we believe Jesus' return is a "one-day event". People look at Jesus' Coming in Matthew Chapter 24 ... when He comes for His saints ... then look at Jesus leaving Heaven on a white horse in Revelation Chapter 19 ... and assume it's all on the same day.

I believe that these are two completely separate events — about one year apart. Last time we examined a number of very clear differences in these two occurrences.

I think that we've got a reasonable understanding of **Jesus' initial Coming in Matthew Chapter 24? Jesus comes on clouds ... angels are sent out to gather the Elect ... Great Trumpet blast** ... all happening in the context of many heavenly signs in the sun ... moon ... and the stars.

We may not be as clear as to what the Revelation Chapter 19 return is all about? So I'd like to look at that in some detail today. It is a major event in man's history!

Revelation 19:11-16

11 Now **I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse**. And **He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood**, and **His name is called The Word of God**. (*The blood of His enemies*)

14 And **the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. **He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

16 And **He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Note that Jesus is coming to make war. There will be much death.

The WINEPRESS OF GOD'S WRATH. Begins at Seal 6 (as people hide). Includes 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls — but culminates in the greatest battle of all time.

Jesus will be accompanied by “armies in Heaven”. Who are they? Angels? Note — “clothed in fine linen ... white and clean”.

I believe that these are the saints. Raptured a year earlier ... and recently married to Jesus!

Revelation 19:1

1 After these things **I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven**, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!

A Great Multitude = “much people” in the KJV. Greek “OCHLOS” (appears 176 times in the New Testament) — always people —human beings.

Revelation 19:2-7

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”

3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke (*Babylon*) rises up forever and ever!”

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

6 And I heard, as it were, **the voice of a great multitude (of people)**, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, **“Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”**

7 **Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”**

Marriage — of saints to Jesus has come.

Revelation 19:8

8 And **to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

The saints are in “fine linen ... clean and bright”. Almost identical description to Jesus’ armies in verse 14? (That’s why I believe that the armies in Heaven are the resurrected saints).

Revelation 19:9-10

9 Then he said to me, “Write: **Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!**” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Verses 11–16 we’ve read. **Jesus and the armies leave Heaven to make war ... and tread the WINEPRESS OF GOD’S WRATH.**

Revelation 19:17-18

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, **saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,**

18 **that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.”**

Multitudes of corpses.

Revelation 19:19

19 And **I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.**

The kings of the whole world gather to battle Jesus and His army.

Revelation 19:20-21

20 **Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet** who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And **the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

The Beast and the False Prophet defeated — cast into the Lake of Fire. The rest (perhaps many millions?) ... killed by Jesus ... and the birds feed on their corpses.

This is the Greatest Battle of All Time!! Millions killed including their kings ... leaders ... and especially the Beast and the False Prophet.

When the Millennium starts ... the world's militaries — and leaders — will all be gone!

We can find more detail:

Revelation 15:1

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: **seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**

The final 7 Bowls — or vials — complete the Wrath of God.

It began at Seal 6 — Trumpet 1 ... and by now ... all 7 Trumpets have been blown. Trumpet 5 alone lasts 5 months ... so — much of a year has probably past since the Rapture ... with the final 7 Bowls taking us up to a full 12 months?

Revelation 16:1-11

1 **Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."**

First Bowl: Loathsome Sores

2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and **a foul and loathsome sore** came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on **the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man**; and every living creature in the sea died.

Third Bowl: The Waters Turn to Blood

4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the **rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.**

5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying:

“You are righteous, O Lord,

The One who is and who was and who is to be,
Because You have judged these things.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
And You have given them blood to drink.

For it is their just due.”

7 And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on **the sun**, and **power was given to him to scorch men with fire.**

9 And **men were scorched with great heat**, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; **and they did not repent and give Him glory.**

Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain

10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on **the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness**; and they gnawed their tongues because of **the pain.**

11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, **and did not repent of their deeds.**

The First 5 Bowls. Much pain and destruction (nobody is living a normal life at this time). **Notice that most will not repent!** Either hopelessly deceived or incorrigibly evil?

Then the Great Battle of Revelation Chapter 19 is described.

Revelation 16:12-16

Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on **the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up**, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

13 And **I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.**

14 For **they are spirits of demons**, performing signs, **which go out to 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 am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

16 **And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.**

The demons lure the kings and leaders of the whole world to gather at Armageddon (a “code word” for Jerusalem from the Hebrew meaning “Mount of Assembly”).

This is the Battle of Revelation Chapter 19 where the Beast ... False Prophet ... kings and armies are all slaughtered and the birds feed on their corpses.

More detail in Zechariah Chapter 14 ... but we will start in:

Zechariah 13:8-9

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,”

Says the LORD,

“That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die,

But one-third shall be left in it:

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire,

Will refine them as silver is refined,

And test them as gold is tested.

They will call on My name,

And I will answer them.

I will say, ‘This is My people’;

And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ” *(one-third survive and turn to God)*

Great trouble in the Land of Israel — 2/3 killed.

Zechariah 14:1-2

1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming,
And your spoil will be divided in your midst.

2 For **I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem;**

The city shall be taken,

The houses rifled,

And the women ravished.

Half of the city shall go into captivity,

But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

All nations are gathered to Jerusalem (as Revelation Chapters 16 and 19)

Zechariah 14:3-4

3 **Then the LORD will go forth**
And fight against those nations,
As He fights in the day of battle.

4 And **in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,**

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south.

Jesus' feet on earth — to stay!

Zechariah 14:9

9 And **the LORD shall be King over all the earth.**

In that day it shall be—

“The LORD is one,”

And His name one.

The King of the whole earth — all other “kings” defeated.

Zechariah 14:12

12 And **this shall be the plague with which the LORD will**
strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem:

Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet,

**Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets,
And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.**

A gruesome death to all of man's armies. It won't make much difference how much armour they are wearing.

These are the events associated with Jesus' return at Revelation Chapter 19. Very different from His initial Coming to rescue the saints at the Rapture!

Isaiah 63:1-6

1 Who is this who comes from Edom,
With dyed garments from Bozrah,
This One who is glorious in His apparel,
Traveling in the greatness of His strength?—

"I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

2 **Why is Your apparel red,**

And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

3 **"I have trodden the winepress alone,**

And from the peoples no one was with Me.

For **I have trodden them in My anger,**

And **trampled them in My fury;**

Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments,

And I have stained all My robes.

4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart,

And the year of My redeemed has come.

5 I looked, but there was no one to help,

And I wondered

That there was no one to uphold;

Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me;

And My own fury, it sustained Me.

6 **I have trodden down the peoples in My anger,**

Made them drunk in My fury,

And brought down their strength to the earth."

Jesus is directly and personally involved in violent warfare. There is blood on His garments ... as He treads the winepress.

(Revelation 19:13 Jesus' robe "dipped in blood". Revelation 19:15 Jesus treads the winepress of God's Wrath).

These are the same event? **THE DAY OF VENGEANCE.**

Joel 3:1-2

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 **I will also gather all nations,**

And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;

And **I will enter into judgment with them there**

On account of My people, My heritage Israel,

Whom they have scattered among the nations;

They have also divided up My land.

All nations gather at the Valley of Jehoshaphat (probably the valley below the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem). God will judge the whole world there.

Joel 3:12-16

12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; (*The Kidron Valley?*)

For there **I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.**

13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, go down;

For **the winepress is full,**

The vats overflow—

For their wickedness is great."

14 **Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!**

For **the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.**

15 The sun and moon will grow dark,

And the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion,

And utter His voice from Jerusalem;

The heavens and earth will shake;

But the LORD will be a shelter for His people,

And the strength of the children of Israel.

The nations of the world will gather there. Note the reference to winepress ... the red juice of grapes symbolises blood. A very vivid picture.

Revelation 14:14-16

14 Then I looked, and **behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.**

15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for **the time has come for You to reap**, for **the harvest of the earth is ripe.**”

16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Jesus is on a CLOUD — NOT A HORSE! He is “harvesting ripe fruit” — the first fruits. This is the Rapture — often pictured by Pentecost ... The Feast of Harvest.

But there is another “harvest” — a WINEPRESS HARVEST — a very bad one.

Revelation 14:17-20

17 **Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.**

18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.”

19 So **the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.**

20 And **the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.**

The “Grapes” — the wicked of the earth — will be thrown into the WINEPRESS OF GOD’S WRATH TO BE TRAMPLED.

BLOOD EVERYWHERE (and Revelation Chapter 19 tells us the birds will eat of their corpses).

You may be familiar with this picture from the “**Battle Hymn of The Republic**” ... first verse:

“Mine eyes have seen the glory of the Coming of the Lord, He is trampling out the vintage where the Grapes of Wrath are stored. He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword; His Truth is marching on”.

This return of the Lord Jesus will be bloody and fearful. Very different from His initial Coming for the saints at the Rapture.

If you want to understand end-time prophecy ...do not confuse these two separate events!