


TIME SERIES NO. 1

ARMAGEDDON

A WESTGATE
MONOGRAPH

ARMAGEDDON

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INTRODUCTION

This monograph is No.1 in the present series. It sets what we know from the biblical prophecy alongside where we are in history in the context of the international signals to which our Lord referred.

The “war to end wars” (WW1-10million fatalities) was followed by the Second World War (50-85million fatalities). Scripture says “Wars are determined to the end”. Jesus said “You will hear of wars and rumours of wars!” Armageddon is the culmination of WW3 and the demographic results will be devastating.

Westgate Monograph No.1 examines the prophetic denouement, Jesus’ teaching on the time of unprecedented trouble and the apocalyptic vision of John the divine and seeks to stable the results within a running order of future events.

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 leased the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on.
Glory glory hallelujah Glory glory hallelujah
Glory glory hallelujah, His truth is marching on

During the Thatcher era our Sovereign prepared an address to the nation in the event of the onset of the 3rd world war. Such realism serves to concentrate the mind.

Bob Coffey Westgate August 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. FROM THE CROSS TO JACOB'S TROUBLE
2. EZEKIEL SAW THE WHEEL AND THE BIG WAR
3. JESUS SAID IT'S BAD
4. CURTAIN UP ON THE LAST SEVEN YEARS OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT
5. SWEET -THEN TOO SOUR TO SWALLOW.
6. GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE
7. THE LINES ARE OPEN

CHAPTER ONE

POLEMATHY AND CHRISTIANITY SINCE THE CROSS

Tolstoy wrote his epic "War and Peace" portraying Russian society and its disruption during the struggle with Napoleon. The charisma of Czar Alexander whose decision to set Moscow on fire in response to a note from a former student friend turned priest who based his advice on John 12.24 "Except a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die it abides alone" shows that in the polemathy of the centuries the counsel of Christ is vital. During the period since Christ society has been shattered by war generation by generation but man has not been left without hope where the gospel has been heralded. The cross has had its victories more glorious than the sword.

The most devastating war ever lies ahead. its crisis will not break before the Church is removed from the earth" when the saints go marching in". In Isaiah 26.20 we read of God hiding His own in "chambers" till the indignation is over past. Daniel speaks of the coming of the Lord with clouds and His return to receive a kingdom (Daniel 7.10). Our Lord spoke of His sudden Parousia (visit) whilst the angels gathered the elect (Matthew 24.27, 37 39-40, 25.1) and Paul specifically instructed believers to watch for that time when the trumpet clarion for the church to march off into glory would sound (1Cor 15: 52) and 1Thessalonians 4.16. The completion of the work of the church among the nations is spaced by seven years (the Heptad) from His glorious coming to rule on earth. It is this inter-stitch of history after warring in heaven that Satan comes down with great fury to oppose the people of the Jews and to persecute the righteous. In Jeremiah 30.7 we have that prophet's comment on a time aptly named "**Jacob's trouble**"- a time with no counterpart. God says "though I completely destroy all the nations among whom I scatter you I will not completely destroy you". What the furnace of Egypt did not do nor the curse of Balaam nor the scheme of Haman nor the holocaust of Hitler Satan will attempt in the manner described by Ezekiel in the Old Testament and John in the New.

In the latter days God promises "I will bring them from the north country and the coasts of the earth". God promises "There is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border." Not only so but great felicity and spiritual revival was to characterize the nation. Jeremiah sums it up like this: "They shall teach no more every man his brother saying 'Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.'" This promise runs parallel with another oath of the Lord" If the ordinances of the sun by day and the moon and stars

at night depart from before the Lord then Israel shall cease from being a nation before me.”(Jeremiah 31)

CHAPTER TWO

EZEKIEL FORESAW THE BIG WAR (CHAPTERS 38-39)

How do we know Russia is established to trigger the third world war? Because God instructed Ezekiel to set his face against the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal which ancient peoples are Cimmerian and Russian. Further the word “Prince” is Rosh or Russia. Besides this adversary is from “the far North” (Ez.39.2)

(1) God will I will keep turning you back with intensity (Hebrew Pilel of בנ) to your former state [*not “drive back”(Hiphil) but rather restore Russia after the revolution and communism to a greatness beyond that of the Czars much like Israel was brought back. Russia profiles also because of her Bolshevik revolution.*

(2) I am permitting or imposing (Hebrew נתן "impose" with ב "in") hooks in your jawbones *I am sure that God is showing that just as Leviathan was too much for Job in Job 41 modern Russia’s submarine fleet is not an issue for God.*

(3) And I will have you brought out to war. *Russia will lead a world struggle*

(4) And all your expeditionary soldiers *(Hebrew לץ meaning army divisions)*

(5) Horses that draw chariots and pairs of riders *(Hebrew שׁוֹס and צָרַפּ speak of “horsepower” and “drivers” who use their feet to propel their armour.*

(6) All protected and supplied with weapons *(Hebrew יל כ "arms")*

(7) A great assembly of nations with full cover shield and small protective shield. *Fall out fall-out protection plus body armour for conventional armed conflict.*

(8) All of them handling swords *each modern soldier has a bayonet and knife*

WORLD WAR III ALLIANCE

The allies of Russia are prophesied to be “Persia and Ethiopia with Southern Egypt and Libya complete with body armour and helmet. Gomer (*Aryans-Celtic races and Germans entailed*) and all its armed wings; the house of Togarmah (*Jewish Targum “Garmania or Kerman in Persia*) the remote regions of the obscure north and all its armed wings (*Hebrew רָגָא*): great peoples with you”.

NEW RUSSIAN LEADERSHIP & CONSTITUTION

The Lord has complete foreknowledge of Russia and her influence even ahead of our time and of her international alliances and satellite surveillance-cum- protection.

“Establish yourself (Hebrew Niphal of נָמַק) and be constituted (Hebrew Hiphil of נָמַק) with a leader; you and all the assemblies that are assembled about you or under your command and you be for them a watcher.”

THE TIME FACTOR OF THESE EVENTS

The timing of the assault is yet future- **“From the time of many days you will be visited with punishment. In the uttermost of years or latter time** (*Hebrew מִיַּמְנֵהוּ תִּירְיָא*) you will come to a land after its return from sword; after its kibbutz gathering from many peoples upon or over the mountains of Israel”.

RUSSIA'S SURPRISE AERIAL ASSAULT

You will rise against (her), coming like a noisy wasting tempest; you will be as a cloud to cover the land. You and all your armed wings and great peoples with you. *Here aerial attack is suggested and the effect of modern warfare is easily understood by billowing smoke of explosions.*

SCRIPTURE PREDICTS COMPUTERISED WARFARE

"It will come to pass in that day that affirmations or words of action will come up over your intellect or will and you will devise an evil scheme." *The first term is the Hebrew rbd which means "action taken simultaneous with speech"—with haste. The second term indicates "**computed design**" – Hebrew bvj –accelerated plan-to-operation execution of this attack*

THE WEST & OIL RICH STATES REACT

Sheba and Dedan, the travelling merchants of Tarshish and all their young lions will say to you, (a)"Is it to take prey you have come and to get spoil and have you assembled your (general)assembly to carry off silver and gold, to take livestock goods and gain and to gain possession of great wealth? *Clearly this attack is mounted when fabulous wealth develops in Israel (Her Leviathan oil & gas field is now being developed-some of the richest resources on earth are there). The representatives of the rich oil states and great merchant economies of western nations which formed the "iron and steel community" (Tarshish-roots in the Hebrew for iron smelting) or the European nations and the **blood thirsty young states** (the United States) will unite to contest the Russian action. The Saudi adherence to the west remains firm even after the rapture.*

LINK WITH THE FORTHCOMING PEACE PLAN

"Thus says the Lord Yahweh, "In that day when my people Israel Sabbath (cf Daniel's seven year end-time peace agreement) in safety will you not know it?" And you will come from your place(where you rose and were established) from the great distances or far reaches of the north and many peoples with you – all manning swift armed military vehicles, a great gathering of troops and a mighty force" *(The Hebrew SWS meaning "swallows" or "horses" or "that which leaps" or "that which flies" suggests aircraft or tanks or both). If we were to assume the previous occurrence of the rapture and the retrenchment of materialist power the question of the nations leagued with Russia is more readily understood.*

GOD'S HOLINESS & RUSSIA'S HUMILIATION

"You will come up against my people like a cloud to cover the land. It will be in the latter days I will cause you to come upon my land in order that the nations may know me in my setting myself apart as alone "holy" through or by you, O Gog, before their eyes." *The LORD has determined to use Russia to teach nations that have spurned the gospel that He is Israel's God and that the absolute final days of the Gentiles when it seemed possible to pull true faith down prove to be days when a far reaching lesson on God's sovereignty is learned.*

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

“Thus says the Lord Yahweh, ‘Are you the ‘He’ of whom I spoke about while indicating my action (*in my "act-word"*) in ancient days or former days by the hand of my servants the prophets of Israel...I will call for a sword against him on account of all my mountains whispers the Lord Yahweh – the sword of a soldier will be against his confederate and I will set myself up as his judge (*Hebrew Niphal*) by deadly plague or "destruction"; and by bloodshed and inundating violent rain (*Hebrew mvq*) and stones of ice (*great hail*) fire and flammable material (*Hebrew tyrpq*) I will cause to pour down heavily (*Hebrew rfm*) upon him and upon his army wings and all the great peoples who are with him” (*An expression used only once elsewhere in Isaiah 8.8 of the "wings" of the Assyrian army - and probably indicative of paratroopers who were flown in to the high ground*)

RUSSIA’S NORTHERN ARMOUR NEUTRALISED

“I will keep leading you astray (*Hebrew abb*) and I will cause you to come up or be strong and elevated from the remote recesses of the north and I will bring you up over or upon the mountains or mountain areas of Israel. And I will beat down or smite (*Hebrew hkn*) your bow (*Hebrew yvq* meaning "that which is "fired" and "smiting the bow" means "breaking or overcoming Russia's power) from your north quarter (cf. Job 23.19) or from your covered places (*silos?*) We are to assume that the weapons involved are stored in the north of the country. I will cause the arrows (*Hebrew xj* meaning "iron heads" attached to flight bases) to fall (*Hebrew lpn* as in the case of Satan can mean "to fall from heaven") from your right hand. Dr. Cohen comments on “Smite the bow” One might add “nor shall skill in rocketry”. And you will fall upon the mountains of Israel and I will give you for food to all the fierce rapacious small circling or revolving birds, to every sort of wing There is something of a give-away in this prophecy because Israel's forces resemble sparrows (*Hebrew rnpk*) in their being attached to the territory at this period and flying sorties day and daily. They qualify equally as fierce birds that devour by their redoubtable modern armour and to the beasts of the field signalling the engagement of other world powers (as in Daniel described as "beasts") ... to be destroyed” (*Hebrew lka* is often used of fire and slaughter and of "diminishing")

A WINTER ROUT

You will fall on the faces of the fields (*Hebrew hdv*) ploughed and sown for persist or continually order it whispers the LORD. The time of this battle is after ploughing and sowing – these farming tasks are executed from October to December. The heavy rains fall in January. It is at or beyond year's end or towards the beginning of the year that this event is to be expected to culminate in slaughter.

WIDER NUCLEAR WAR FRONT

And I will send (*Hebrew hl v* as if to "send out a finger" or "to let go" as if a judgement held back was released) fire (*Hebrew ba* used of "war")

On Magog (*the region of the Russian or Northern power*) and on those who dwell in the maritime coastlands and islands of the Mediterranean (*Hebrew mya*) who fear

nothing for themselves (Hebrew *j fbl*) The fact that the whole Mediterranean and presumably the British Isles are marked for "fire" by Almighty God is solemnising. **Then they shall know that I am the LORD.**" This additional personal experience is to be understood perhaps in two ways. The people of Russia and of Europe will have had a traditional adherence to Christianity, but in these days of tribulation will suddenly be catapulted into a very different situation should it be as I strongly suspect that the church is taken as Christ returns "as a thief in the night" and also the wrath of God teaches these regions the reality of divine judgement never before experienced in this terrible way – by war that is pure fire of cleansing – cleansing of such a sort as will change the world. For the detail it is necessary to consult the Apocalypse.

THE RELEVANCE OF PAROUSIA OR RAPTURE

It is consequently of greater interest whether the Church will be withdrawn before this day which cannot occur before the end of the broken peace with Israel and that period is half way through the tribulation (cf Daniel 9.27) The "Hereafter of Revelation 4.1 *μετα ταυτα* presents THE CHURCH IN GLORY. The current rush to contrive a peace plan for the Mid-East gains its momentum from the imminent challenge of Iran and her nuclear capability. The Bible predicts the contrivance of a plan which wards off the evil day. It appears that between the failure of the plan and the war we are studying the Master visits our skies to call his people out in face of the wrath to come.

SEVEN YEAR CLEAR-UP EZEKIEL 39. 9-10

And those who dwell in the cities (Hebrew *r[not r]q-* because the enemy has come at a time of unwalled conurbations not in ancient but by our standards and era modern "cities" and towns) **of Israel will go out and remove or burn them** (Hebrew *r[b I* prefer the 2nd sense of "remove"[*r[b]* because the word "burn" [Hebrew *qvn]* follows. The first word for "burn" means "to consume" and the second "kindle" The stress is on the clearance and burning of battle dress and ordinance. **weapons, small body armour, "bow and arrow" and "rod of the hand" and "that which elevates or kills")and they will burn or dispose of them by burning through them for seven years** Here the "bow and arrow" are further described as a rod in the hand with something that kills that lifts up or shoots like an arrow. I may now by virtue of the greater imminence of the day prophesied – whilst "speaking as a man" suggest the ordinance involved includes guns and other assault weaponry of the modern arsenal. The high significance of "seven years" is that the effects of this assault will not last into the days of Messiah's kingdom when earth will be renewed for an era. **They will not take wood from the field nor hew timber from the forest because they will make fire with the weaponry and they will skin those who skinned them and pull to pieces those who pulled them to pieces** whispers the Lord Yahweh This expression assumes that in modern history of the end times Jewish people will have been stripped of their clothing & treated as beasts would treat their prey(cf holocaust). This latter day war is pay back time for Gentile nations. The blood of Jewish persons slaughtered in pogroms and the horrid inhumane and unpardonable treatment of years gone by comes to remembrance. cf Ezekiel 38 . Is Gomer Germany in pay back days?

INTERNATIONAL CEMETERY DURING MESSIAH'S REIGN-CF ALSO

And it will come to pass in that day that I will give to Gog a burial place in Israel. A Russian cemetery will be built to accommodate the soldiers who fall in the land. The valley of "passing along" or "overwhelming" or of "passers by" to the east of the sea (of Galilee). Scholars appear convinced this will be by the Dead Sea though east of Chinnereth is equally agreeable to scripture. And it will tie up or restrict (Hebrew SSj travellers)and they will bury there Gog and all his multitude and they will call the valley "Hamon Gog" or "humming gog" Testimony to the might of the army and fitting well the melancholy of the Galilean harp and the wind on its waves. For seven months the house of Israel (The name for the nation – for the LORD foreknew that modern settlers would call their nation "Israel") will be burying them to cleanse the land levitically (again the custom of burial and scrupulous attention to the detail of fallen bones will be employed. Today around Jerusalem this is the routine in place. And all the people of the land will bury them and it will be to them the occasion of great reputation on the day I gain myself honour whispers the Lord Yahweh. Though Israel was treated with contempt by other peoples she treats the dead with the full honour of Levitical burial of a righteous Jew.

DE-CONTAMINATION

And "men of continuance" will be selected or after Levitical custom separated to travel through the land burying those who remained passed over on the face of the earth. In order to purify (the earth) from the end of seven months they will continue their search. The implication seems to be that either the "Passover" or the "day of Atonement" interposed – depending on the precise dates for the war's end. Thereafter the process that would continue until Messiah's reign continued. The searchers will pass through out the land and a man who sees a bone or a skeleton shall place a "no trespass"(Hebrew *lxa* "reserve") notice there until those who are engaged in burying bury it in the valley of Hamon Gog. And also the famous name of the walled cemetery will be Hamonah (Hebrew "warm and sunny") and they will cleanse the land. There may be a local city but the text does not warrant this in and of itself. Dr. *Cohett* comments "A city will be built to commemorate Gog's overthrow". The Hebrew *ryl* I would simply translate as a "walled cemetery".

PENTECOSTAL RENEWAL OF ISRAEL 29

And I will not hide my face any longer (Hebrew *rts* meaning "veil my face" or hide one's person. We have to envisage the return of Christ as king as one interpretation of this passage) from them I who am pouring out My Spirit in profusion upon the house of Israel, murmurs the LORD in prophetic voice. Ezekiel finishes his two chapters on the 3rd world war in concert with chapter 37 with the rebirth of the nation and the end of the history of the wandering Jew. God's face is "hidden" no longer.

CHAPTER THREE

EXEGESIS OF JESUS' PREDICTED "TIME OF TROUBLE:"

The crisp but vital teaching of Christ leads us between two profound mystics –Ezekiel and John the Divine. These prophetic figures were given to understand the last things

in graphic detail by special revelation.

Matthew in his 24th chapter records a series of facts set forth by the Lord Himself which taken together deliver a clear picture of the tribulation Heptad.

- (i) This gospel of the kingdom will be heralded in all the world.
- (ii) When you see the abomination that desolates let Judeans flee
- (iii) Then will be great distress unequalled since creation & never again
- (iv) The sun will be darkened, the moon will not shine, stars will fall
- (v) All nations of the earth will mourn

Matthew then adds three parables of Jesus to enforce the message of the Lord. In the first of these “The parable of the Ten Virgins” He speaks of those unprepared for the Rapture that precedes the tribulation judgment and with the utmost solemnity the Lord calls for readiness on the part of His saints.

Matthew’s second parable is the parable of “The Talents”. The fearful “outside” judgment of the wicked servant goes further. It pictures the state of the religious adherent who was given one talent- and who does not enter the Lord’s happiness at the rapture and is not put in charge at the Lord’s return - but his sad fate is being left behind and outside. This “servant” according to Mark 13.34 had a gospel charge and the means to achieve it but not a saving view of Christ and was afraid to witness and on top of that he was lazy - even troublesome *οκνερος* like Polygnotos who wasted his time twisting a rope that an ass ate. This is a dire warning to those who make a pretence to Christianity even in religious duties but have no atoning concept of Christ nor any true colour as believers.

Matthew’s third parable is about the “Sheep and Goats” where our Lord represents nations as gathered before Him at His messianic return. From among the nations are those who acted against all conscience and were utterly careless of those (Many of them Jews) who lived faithful to the Lord amid great trouble in the era of the two witnesses. A long punishment is served upon those who neither heeded the testimony of Christ nor recognized the testimony of Christ in those who were hungry and thirsty, strangers, imprisoned ones and poor sick ones.

CHAPTER 4

CURTAIN UP ON THE LAST HEPTAD (PART 1)

APOCALYPTIC PHASES OF CONFLICT

We join the New Testament survey of the last Heptad in Chapter 8 which includes various phases of conflict leading up to Armageddon and we look at the 7 trumpets.

SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOUR (APOCALYPSE 8)

There was silence in heaven as if for half an hour. There were seven angels standing before God. This “stand” was a singular once- for- all end time ministry. The silence is a happening – a pause to mark the solemnity of war *εγενετο*. The trumpet *σαλπιξ* was used as a “war signal” – so we have divine messengers in a given order who received trumpets to sound in historical order. What else happened in that short space?

ANOTHER ANGEL

An eighth angel came voluntarily and took his place at the incense altar, holding a golden censer. Much incense was given him. Incense is burnt in honour of a person –

in this case the Lord – that he might present the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before God.

The angel took the censer-full of fire and tossed it upon the earth.

So for the THIRD of SEVEN occasions in all in this book we learn of voices and thunder and lightning and an earthquake or serious change on earth – i.e. “war-cries, aerial action and a shaking of the foundations on earth”.

TRUMPET ONE

“Pelting hail” *χαλαξα* – mingled with blood smote mankind. The sense is hostile. The hail from heaven is hostile to life on the earth where it falls. It is to destroy 33% of trees and green edible and other vegetation. In *Ezekiel 38.22* there is a significantly similar reference relating to God in protecting Israel during a tribulation war...

Reference to the 7th plague of Hail in *Exodus 9* is also interesting. This trumpet marks acute diminishing of man's food supply triggering famines.

TRUMPET TWO

The second angel sounded and a mountain was cast into the sea. 33% of the *κτισματα* or living ones with souls i.e. “men” died and 33% of the ships were destroyed. This is through the collapse of a great power. 33% of the sea – the Gentile factor – was involved in this war. 33% of the shipping was destroyed. We are being told of a conflict exceeding the two world wars in casualties. The cost in lives alone could be as great as 2 billion. In *Exodus 7.20* the plague of blood resulted in “fish” death but this is more than serious - a serious punctuation in heavens’ praise is understandable in view of this war.

TRUMPET THREE

The third angel sounded and a great star burning as a torch fell on 33% of the rivers and fountains or sources of water. The star was “wormwood” and 33% of the waters became “wormwood” or poisonous and many of mankind died from consuming the waters because they had become venomous. The poison or radiation seems to be distributed worldwide. Jeremiah predicted that Israel would eat “bitter food and poisoned water” *8.15* – scatter them and send the sword after them. The widespread impact on potable water could only give rise to disease and death. *Moderns automatically think of nuclear causes in such a connection – and who could avoid that awesome thought?*

TRUMPET FOUR

With the sounding of this trumpet 33% of sun moon & stars were struck by heaven sent calamity *πληγη* so that day and night lost 33% of their light. So the 7 X33% set of catastrophes took place. *Isaiah 13 9-10* exactly predicts such an event as a punishment on the “world for pride” in a day that God makes man scarce as gold. And in a time of earth shaking and heaven trembling occurrences.

THE EAGLE OF MID-HEAVEN (APOCALYPSE 8)

We have seen seven angels stand and heard four of them blow their trumpets so far. The next sight is of an “eagle” (*αετος 8.13*) – perhaps ‘darting’ would be the better

term. It is another sign of the times. This activity is neither in the heaven of the birds nor in the heaven of God but in the in between area – the heaven of the stars. It speaks of a high flying earthly power. This power is an “eagle power” noted for its power in the air. On current showing it is plainly **America**. This eagle has a message for mankind as well. It spells out three coming “woes” (9.11, 9.13 & 11.15). America even in the heptad retains biblical awareness and will participate in the war of *Revelation 9* in respect of abyss – oil or smoke. America’s withdrawal from the Euphrates war theatre is a type of “loosing” which can only create a power vacuum drawing in the eastern powers. A 2million man war force is reserved for an hour a day a month and a year to slay 33% of mankind (*which statistically on current showing would have reduced mankind from 7 billion to 4.6 billion*). Overall humanity might be expected to reduce by 50% by mid-tribulation period – giving some idea of the ferocity of these calamities It was an enlightened nation bible-wise and fully warrants the “eagle” designation for **“its long view” and “power” and “stellar” programme and war-involvement. Ezekiel 32. 7-8 speaks of the “snuffing out of Egypt” and covering of the stars which are penultimate events**

TRUMPET FIVE (APOCALYPSE 9)

This is not the angel of 20.1 – rather his adversary. He “had fallen” (*dramatic perfect – K.L.McKay Tyndale bulletin 1972”Syntax in exegesis*). The fallen angel makes a dramatic impact in the current war with far-reaching spiritual implications. He uses “the key of know-how. The key to earth's oil is to be in the hands of nation(s) under the tutelage of evil or fallen angelic power. “The shaft of the abyss”

[*φρεαρ της αβυσσου*] is a most apt ancient choice of words to express apparently endless “oil reserves”. *Aristotle & Aristophanes* use the word “Abyss” for “the unfathomed” or “immense wealth” Quotes 1-2 *Genesis 19.28 & Ex. 19.18* speak of *πιρρj* & *ιν* [Sodom’s “incense” and Sinai’s “fury”. Both are compared to smoke from a foundry – the Greek is *καμινος* Hebrew *נבל* . So iron & steel and oil and the arms supply industry are implicit in this prophetic statement. This first woe affects visibility and air quality seriously the sun is darkened-a massive tribulation environmental mutation has come about.

LOCUSTS (FIGHTER-PLANES)

An Exodus reference is implicit *Exodus 10.12ff (cf Joel)*. The locust is “feared in the east” – “They have military flight array” are “all prevailing” and “leave a trail of devastation” These came out of the smoke – they were produced and fuelled using metals and petro-chemicals – products of the oil industry. These “engines of war” had license & power like scorpions (cf most recent Roman arrow launching catapult-so named “SCORPION” and referred to in AD 80 by Plutarch. They acted on governmental instruction (*bed-chamber command*)

There was a “constant flowing & changing” – a fluid command structure *πεω* v4. They did not target grass plants trees or men– a manner of distinguishing them from an insect plague. The capacity to test by terrible trial is not to kill the unsealed but to deliver a painful blow to a pinpointed target – as a scorpion falls on a man. The locusts delivered excruciating blows acting under human government for 5 months.

THE SEARCH FOR DEATH IN MID TRIBULATION PERIOD

“Men will set their hearts on death and have a great desire for it *επιθυμω*. Quotes 5-7 help here *Job3.21, Jer.8.3 Hosea 10.8*. In Job “bitterness digs for death” as one digs for treasure – rejoicing exceedingly. Evil men choose death before life – says Jeremiah. In Hosea they call on the mountains & hills to fall on them”.

LOCUSTS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL (APOCALYPSE 8)

That these are "military hardware" is consolidated by their origin – which is oil well based. They are industrially produced. Insects have no such origin. Again locusts have "no king" but these are ruled by Apollyon – the god of war.

1 Like horses with armour-plate – battle ready

2 Heads “gold crowns” – they had proved victors before – proven overwhelming.

3 Faces – frontal view revealed masked men or in a cockpit.

4 Hair – they had covering – that might be understood as anti-radar cover or simple camouflage – even rotors above flying as hair.

5 Teeth – for they could devour with sharp shaped missiles .

6 Breastplates – metal or iron-cum-steel bodies.

7 Wings sounded – because engines were mounted there.

8 Voices.–as the sound of horses & chariots – battle velocity sound characterises their flight.

9 Tails – deadly weapons with forward thrust from the rear like the scorpion –some called “stingers” now exist the *κεντρα* (*plural*) are described as thorns left elsewhere – or spears from being thrust.

10 A King – Abaddon or Apollyon or extirpation or god of archery and darts of destruction. The "fallen star" (Satan or Apollyon) who has but a short time now turns industry to his death laden scheme.

TRUMPET SIX (APOCALYPSE 9.13)

The voice commands the 6th angel to “loose 4 angels bound in the sweet water river Euphrates. This event awaits **“an hour of a day in a month of a year ahead”**.”

I heard the number – it releases in battle 2 million campaigning chariot borne troops.

John heard the battle calculation. I saw the horses – these carriers had men positioned over them in military order; several to a carrier; in quiet composure and chosen ones.

The carriers are then described

Breastplates wheat coloured– and dark blue – and yellow – painted in battle colours.

Heads – as lions – making explosive noise.

Mouths – sending out fire and smoke – missile launching vehicles sending out missiles of fire, vapour rising weapons – literally “melt to ashes” and brimstone like poison.

Terrible sophisticated weapons not known to John are seen in open combat.

Their authority was in mouth and tail. They had tails like snakes which twisted around and spat death. Their license or orders were received in head & tail. Together with the locusts the horses were a second plague – together accounting for the death of 1.5-2 billion people. This is the greatest slaughter of history – possibly exceeding the death loss of Noah’s flood. It is a third world conflict and its rationale is Abaddon. In a world of human government God seeks one thing – repentance- but they did not repent

of their homicide or battle field slaying *φονος*; their poisons or drugs *φαρμακεια*;

their brothels *πορνεία* not *εταίρος* partner-concubinage) and their *κλεμματα* or fraud or stratagems of war. So men refused repent of their wrong-doing.

CHAPTER FIVE

THE STORY IS SOUR AND SICKENING (PART 2)

DELAY NO LONGER - SEVENTH TRUMPET (APOCALYPSE 10)

In this phase of judgment we look at the seven vials and 3 woes which follow a very profound “silence in heaven” and this takes us to a that time Jesus referred to as one “when He would scarcely find faith on earth”.

(i) THE SEVEN THUNDERS The message of the 7 Thunders is inscrutable. It was not to be written so it is not liable to interpretation (cf Daniel 12.4). It is sealed (aorist) is once for all. At this time the angel made lion-like exertions and shouted. The reference to John’s sickness resulting from swallowing the *βιβλαριδιον* (a small leather bound book - symbol of the modern bible which conveys the truths John was told) tells us that judgment was by no means over – it was but half through - its gigantic rigours were still ahead.. The further reference in 11.1 to 3 ½ years indicates the we are half way through the Heptad.

(ii) SECOND PART OF THE HEPTAD (APOCALYPSE 11) The chapter opens with the temple in place-it was built amid the halcyon peace of the first period of 3 ½ years of the heptad and is not to be confused with Ezekiel’s full blown temple”. John was being figuratively told of that the diaspora would continue into the last days and this message was also for them. John tells us the measure will be by a rule – 3.05 metres or 10 feet long. The rule (*καλαμος*) would show Jewish "Lictor authority" (*ραβδος*) would return in the form of a small temple but the temple area would be shared by Gentiles.

(iii) TWO WITNESSES Mysteriously at this moment in history two men from Israel’s past history appear in the land. Malachi tells us without a latter day Elijah Jewish hearts could not be turned to the future or past blessings. The two witnesses are signs of judgment “olive trees” and “menorahs of spiritual light” in a dark place – as was the original menorah in the holy place. They can command fire, drought and plagues on a par with those of Egypt. Their ministry is three and a half years duration becomes a hard core reminder that men cannot evade God’s judgment whilst they seek to wreak havoc even in the latter half of the tribulation saga. The great city (Jerusalem) would be as Sodom because fire would fall by their prayer upon the rebellious in it and like Egypt on account of the renewal of plagues against the godless within it.

(iv) THE BEAST FROM THE ABYSS

Satan inspires and controls the Antichrist and as in the Master's ministry Satan contested with Jesus at the temple so after millennia the contest is renewed A "beast" usually depicts “one above or below man”. This incarnation of evil has credentials from hell an unfathomed area and overcomes two majestic prophets of high moral stature. The fact is this is an all out struggle engaging Satan and centred in “the street of the great city ” where also our Lord has been crucified”. The plaza of their

death is in Jerusalem. The war that climaxes in Armageddon [Apocalypse 16.19] features Jerusalem as “the great city” Clearly the beast is antagonistic to the purpose of Yahweh for Jerusalem and the final setting for his defeat is this city like no other.

(v) TELEVISION RECORD

Nothing less than international **T.V.** networking will fit this prophecy – a worldwide day and night audience will be glued to this stunning scene over which the media of the era gloats only to be stunned by unparalleled proof of God’s power in their resurrection and ascension confirming to all the same authority as lay behind the rapture. Those who in the wake of “war” or struggle newly settle [*κατοικουντες*] the land under the beast will be “cheering” over the dead prophets – a very terrible insult. They will further act in respect of their victory by giving legacies and legal privilege to each other. Then Spirit of life from God entered into these two prophets and they stood on their feet. Typically world media who had been concentrating on this fascinating if gruesome occurrence were shocked. Fear gripped them. They saw both palpable evidence of God, of resurrection and of heaven at a stroke. Besides judgment fell– 7000 “names” or infamous ones died in a great earthquake and **a tenth of the city fell**. This was like Egypt under the Passover – as if the angel of death visited. **This is the second woe** and it rocked the Jerusalem beast.

(vi) THE BEAST'S COUNTER INFLUENCE – A SECULAR GODLESS PALESTINE

At this time there is continued Palestinian Jewish rivalry for possession of the Holy Land. The enterprise to circumvent Jewish covenant rights continues till the dawn of Christ’s glorious kingdom. Then all who remain shall worship Him. The two prophets were gone and they had “tested the genuineness” [*Βασανιζω*] of the “settler” or Arab claims being in themselves the Jewish claim of right.

TRUMPET SEVEN (APOCALYPSE 11.15)

The blast of this trumpet carries us forward toward the climax of tribulation and was accompanied by “great voices in heaven” saying, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our God and His Christ and He shall reign eternally”. The Church “in heaven” will rejoice in the millennial rule. The vision concludes with the “artillery of heaven” – “lightnings and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail” and the stage is set for the Lord’s coming to be once again at the centre of His people and to be the fear of His enemies. The “Long expected divine event” of Christ’s kingdom begins unfolding in earnest.

SEALS TRUMPETS AND BEYOND

Between the 7th seal and the 7th trumpet (Chapters 8 & 11) a period spanning TWO JUDGMENTS comes and goes. **The first is a 5-month long war resulting in the death of 1/3rd of those on earth.** Then in the second, the eastern peoples enter the later struggle that engulfs Jerusalem. Meantime an earthquake shakes Jerusalem – with 7000 resultant deaths. These judgements reflect the failure of nations to repent and Jerusalem’s failure to open their hearts to the message of the two prophets sent by God.

The third woe follows – an unprecedented earthquake which ends warring and heralds Christ’s coming. We have seen Jesus as High-priest in *Chapters 4-5*; as one whose wrath demands reverence in *Chapter 6* – especially *v16* – and in *Chapter 7* especially *v.17* as the compassionate Lord; thereafter as the Judge who moves towards speedy process *10.6 & 11.15-16*. In *Chapter 12.5* we view Jesus’ rule as immensely strong-
“He will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre”.

ISRAEL: THAT GREAT THE WOMAN (APOCALYPSE 12)

Further developments in the battle of Satan with Israel are now revealed.

The identification of the “woman” is as *Harry Ironside* said, “momentous”. She is Israel. From one of her daughters came the Christ child. The prophet *Isaiah (66.7)* tells how this nation gives birth before she travails to the Christ. The prophet then speaks of the travail when Israel brings forth a nation of heirs in a day. Astride the moon and radiant in the sun – this nation is resourced with the entire Old Testament and the New Testament glory beams upon her in the latter day. The twelve tribes are her “STEPHANOS” or distinction and honour because by miracle & through holocaust God preserved them all (*cf. chapter 7*) Just as Israel was cared for by God in 42 locations in the wilderness after the foiled pursuit of Pharaoh so Israel will be cared for by the Lord for 42 months during her time of great distress

(2)THE RED DRAGON

Another sign was seen in heaven – a fiery dragon with 7 heads and 10 horns. The image is identical with Daniel’s 4th beast as to its horns. It represents the last system of political power before Christ’s rule. Daniel does not refer to 7 heads. John says very clearly that the heads (or hill) had “diadems” – that is, represent successive historical empires climaxing in the beast.

THE DEVIL'S CAMPAIGN

(1)PERSECUTION

When *the dragon* perceived that he was cast down to the earth – or Israel – by Michael the prince who stands for Israel – he persecuted the woman who bore the “man-child” The people of Israel find **an eagle** to support their fledgling state Two wings of the great eagle were given the woman. Clearly this represents protection. It is hard to avoid the thought since the perilous days spoken of for Israel are up ahead – that this eagle represents the support of **America or Jewish America**. The nurturing of this nation for the **“time times and part of a time” or the 42 months or 3.5 years** from the presence of the serpent is linked to a special “place” This suggests to the modern mind an airlift and fundamentally terrible tribulation circumstances in Israel.

(2) PROPAGANDA

The serpent threw water from his mouth – or vomited after the woman that he might bear her away with the flood. This is the characteristic diabolus ploy – a spate of slander and venom against this ancient people of God. This does not succeed because the earth (America-in John’s time a desert) opened her mouth and swallowed the

slander. In other words the wider world and settlement in the land gave help to Israel and countered the surge of anti-Semitism released by Satan.

(3) THE DEVIL'S WORLD STRATAGEM AGAINST ISRAEL

The devil then moved away from Israel to war with the remainder of Jews world-wide who were living by the Law of Moses and also Christians – i.e. the Messianic Jews. This group of positive Christians is the hope of other Jews – and so Satan directs his main opposition at these positive and good people

THE BEAST OR LAST TERRIBLE EMPIRE (APOCALYPSE 13)

The concept of “the beast” comes from the Greek prose word *θηριον* which signifies a “brutal and cruel” fabulous monster of a hybrid empire like the sphinx or like a new Rome and new Babylon emerges from Mediterranean diplomatic manipulation. As viewed it was like a **panther** or leopard [*παρδαλις*] with a **bear's paws** and a **lion's mouth**. As a “panther” stalking or monitoring power displaying American features leopard-like it incorporates “black and white” so mingling racial characteristics drawn by immigration and slave trading from Europe. Incorporated in this monster are vestigial bear and lion-like post-rapture contributions from Russia and Britain.

A MORTAL WOUND OVERCOME

I saw one of the heads as if slain unto death a [*πληγη* “plague” cf v14] was healed. The whole earth as it looked back at the blow wondered. Hence emerged worship of the “dragon” who gave the beast authority – and they worshipped the beast, saying “who is like the beast”. The dragon's **GIFT (1)** of a mouth or WAR-MOUTH led to “blasphemous” utterance. Political “authority” **GIFT (2)** of only 3.5 was followed by **GIFT (3)** power to carry war to the saints (Messianic saints & Israel) and to obtain victory over them. The beast was given **GIFT (4)** authority over every tribe tongue and nation and the worship of all who “settle down on earth” whose names are not written in the book of the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

Then I saw another beast coming out of the earth. It did great signs –with fire from heaven it mimicked the Holy Spirit & prophets. It deceived those dwelling or settling on the earth through signs **GIFT (5)** given by Satan for it to do in the presence of the beast that had the stroke by the assassin's weapon and lived. The master stroke of Satan was to give **GIFT (6)** the beast the capacity to bring “life” or “spirit” into the image of the beast – so that like the Son of God its image revived. The final act of tyranny is **GIFT (7)** to make all – tiny children and great persons, immensely rich and beggarly poor, freemen and slaves to be given the mark on their right hand and on their forehead. He who has the *νοϋς* – the wisdom let him count the number of the beast – for it is the number of man, and his mark [*χξς*] or number is 666. Each must then have either the character or number of the name of the beast to buy or sell i.e. to live. – a mark such as is put on coins so that each is known to be a member of the kingdom of the beast. This is called *the numerical (& business) system of man*

GOSPEL IN THE AIR (APOCALYPSE 14) THREE ANGELS

John saw **another angel** “flying” or “rushing” in the meridian of heaven – right above at midday – with all the light – having the gospel for the dispensation or the age to proclaim as good news once for all to the settlers of earth – and every nation and

tribe and people and tongue. This messenger of the air waves is firmly lodged in the tribulation era – and the second half of that period – not in the last revival age of the church. It is quite thrilling to know that the world under judgment remains still God's world – a world that is offered mercy.

JUDGMENT IS SWIFT – THE LAST WARNING

He said in a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory, for the hour of His judgement is come – worship Him who made the heaven and earth and sea and fountains of water.”

HUMAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS DRUNKEN SPREE ENDS LIKE BABYLON'S LAST DAYS

Another **(second) angel** followed, saying “Babylon is fallen is fallen – the great city – for from the wine of her passion or principle of life she has made all the nations drunk”. We may consider that the land which was Babylon in Old and New Testament times is the Iraq of today. It has much oil wealth – but it would seem the bible is speaking of it as the initial seat of human government – WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRIDE AND POMP AND PROVISIONS – especially idolatry & living for the flesh- which percolated internationally by the idolatrous Zodiac and the ancient religion of Nimrod and Semiramis.

SODOM LIKE JUDGMENT PREDICTED

A **third angel** followed – saying with a great voice, if anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or his hand – he will drink the wine of the passion of God poured out – unadulterated in the cup of His wrath, and he will have been tested in fire and brimstone (*fire burns what corrupts and sulphur fumigates-so the process ends idolatry*) before the holy angels and the lamb. That this form of “trial” [*Βασανος* “a stone to test gold by touch”], hence testing the genuine by trial. The parallel is Sodom [*Genesis 19.5, 16, 24*] where it was either “hand of angels” or “fire and brimstone” – so here where angels have no brief to save judgment follows). The smoke of their touchstone trial will ascend eternally. Those who receive the mark of his name – worshippers of the beast & his image have no rest day or night. Here is the patience of the saints. Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. So *13.10 & 14.12* state “Here is the patience of saints”. The first picture is of poor imprisoned and executed martyrs – the second of the end of antichrist. The death of martyrs and their cry to God has in this intervention its answer.

AN ANGEL–HERALDS THE FINAL HARVESTING OF TARES

A **fourth angel** in this series of messages comes actually from the holiest in heaven – where Christ exercises power – in immediate response with a sharp sickle.

MASSIVE MID-EAST BLOOD SHED

Yet another **fifth angel** – from the incense altar who had power over fire shouted [*κραινυαζω* – calling cf “dogs baying” for judgement.]

Send your sharp sickle and harvest when ripe the grape cluster of the vine of the earth for her heavy bunches of grapes are being chewed up or are fermenting strongly

And the angel sent his sickle into the earth (*Israel*) and harvested the cluster of the earth and cast it into the great winepress of the passion & principle of God – and the press was trodden outside the city (*Jerusalem*) and the blood of the winepress came to as far as the bits of the horses mouths (*the phrase may mean when the horse is feeding – which represents a very terrible slaughter*) and to a distance of over 180 miles (*1,600 stadia*) – that is as far as the borders of Iraq Syria and **Egypt**. More about this intervention and associated events – **the great battle of Armageddon** – that marks the climax of the Tribulation as Ezekiel's war marks its inception can be found in *Apocalypse 16.16*.

CHAPTER 6 GOD IS STILL ON THE THRONE

DIVINELY DESIGNED PLAGUES FOR MERCILESS MEN (APOCALYPSE 15)

The sign we are about to encounter spelt the end of slavery to Satan. The 10 plagues delivered Israel from Egypt. These 7 deliver Israel from the power of the beast and his system.

“I saw another great and wonderful sign in the heaven – seven angels holding the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God was fulfilled.” The plagues themselves are described in Chapter 16 – but here they are clearly linked to God. The last days before the Lord comes to the earth will see sever judgements meted out.

MARTYRS COMMEND GOD'S METHODS 1-4

This “sea” is quite unlike that on earth. If it were simply crystal the victors would find it hard not to look at themselves – but that it is mingled with fire – it is a great reflector of Christ’s sacrificial work – and to those who crossed to eternity through His blood here is a vivid reminder that their transparent holiness, standing and eternal security came through His sacrificial work – hence the “harps of God” for the praise of Christ. The tabernacle had a “molten sea” – and Solomon’s temple added a sphinx emblazoned on it – suitable sign of “risen life”.

And I saw as if a sea of crystal mingled with fire. Those who conquered the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name, stood on the crystal sea, holding God’s harps. This connection links the harp with prophecy. David sang and his song was prophetic. This possibly explains why the earlier song of 14.3 was mysterious.

Here the conquerors sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. The song here is a victory song relating to the Lord’s defeat of the beast much in the way the Song of Moses rejoiced in the Lord’s defeat of Pharaoh. “Great and wonderful are your works, O Lord God the Almighty Victor”[*παντοκρατορ*] PANTOCRATOR

“Righteous and genuine are your paths, O king of saints”.

“Who should not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name, for YOU ALONE are HOLY, *v.4a*

“For all the nations will come and worship before you for you have made plain your judgements to amend wrong” *v.4b*.

This great statement acknowledges the victory of the death and resurrection of Christ and indeed His judgement.

This statement commends God's methods and systems which He has ordained.

This statement reminds us of His alone holiness.

This statement prophesies that the whole world will recognise God's righting of wrong.

APOCALYPSE "IMMEDIATE SEQUENCE" 5 15.5-17.18

(THE SEVEN VIALS – MYSTERY BABYLON) 5-8

The final deadly vials of divine wrath bring:

- (1) Land based sores (nuclear contamination?);
- (2) Sea or ocean corruption with death
- (3) River and reservoir ruin with further death
- (4) Solar flares with cancer bearing burs
- (5) Sores on the Beast's seat with nuclear or chemical poisoning
- (6) On the Euphrates boding the Armageddon
- (7) In the Air – highly suggestive of a Nuclear winter.

JUDGMENT WITHOUT DELAY 5-8 cf James 2.13

The temple of the tabernacle of witness in heaven was opened. For the first time since Calvary the absolute righteous rule of God will run world-wide – and evil will be summarily judged. **No longer will men say, "There is no God" with impunity or conviction – only in utter defiance.** The witness to His holy ways will become overwhelming.

THE SEVEN VIALS OR PLAGUES (GOD'S WRATH) APOCALYPSE 16

The scene of judgment starts with a great voice from the temple. This voice "exceeds" all other sounds in the universe and is the ultimate in command – its command is final and both the procedure and the timing are instant upon its summons. The "VIALS" can describe drinking cups or funerary urns – and they do indeed relate to the death of men and the votive offering of their lives.

This chapter seems neat enough but the subject of divine wrath is complex. In the chapter one of the 15 warnings of Christ occurs. It sits in between the sixth and seventh outpourings and it is specifically about watchfulness and holiness in the sense of moral purity – it reads "Behold I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed".

Each vial is in an angel's hand – and the outpourings are given a sequence. The bowls are poured on specific sites of a similar sort or on specific locations. These are "the land"; "the sea"; "the springs"; "the sun"; "the throne of the beast"; "the great river Euphrates" and finally the "air". Only one of these locations is not a recognisable geographic description, namely the throne or "seat" or "bishop's chair" or the beast. If it is related to "Satan's seat" in the last days of human government or the Pergamon throne we might instance Europe. If we factor in *Chapter 13* the scene of the beast's rise is the Mediterranean. This aside we have besides this specific judgment also worldwide outpouring. The fourth vial poured on the "sun" affects the earth in such a way as to affect the rays of the sun when they penetrate the atmosphere.

VIAL ONE

With this plague sores were inflicted on those who worshipped the beast. It resembled the 5th plague of Moses... The outpouring resulted in damaging and painful suppurating or weeping sores deepening in the bodies of those men who had the stamp or imprint [*Χαραγμα*] of the beast. The Greek word often relates to money in the secular context. The second reason why these people suffered is because they worshipped the image of the beast. In *Deuteronomy 28* the infliction of a sore that developed from the feet over the whole body was on account of disobedience of enlightened people. The stark alternative of the period was death or receiving the mark and false worship – *Apocalypse 13.15*. So the Lord directs His wrath first at the beast's authority and idolatry.

Though this judgment was terrible it may have held out time to recant to those who were pressed in conscience. When in modern times we strive for grace and political correctness of attitude to other religious groups we have to balance this with the Lord's deep disapproval of false worship. Tacit approval of worship of strange gods or syncretism or acceptance of other faiths within the ecumenical context cannot honour Yahweh. His stamp of approval in this is vital. David is adamant here, While others run after other gods, "I will not take their names on my lips" he says *Psalms 16.4*. "Open thou my lips and my mouth will declare your praise" *Psalms 51.15* "Because your love is better than life my lips will praise you as long as I live" *Psalms 63.3-4* "I will fulfil the vows my lips promised because when I was in trouble you heard my prayer" *Psalms 66.12, 14, 19* "My lips will shout for joy when I praise you on harp and lyre – I whom you have redeemed" *Psalms 71.22* "May my lips overflow with praise for you teach me your decrees" "May my prayer be like incense – keep watch over the door of my lips" *Psalms 141.2*.

These are the reasons for exclusiveness in giving Glory to God in Christ.

VIAL TWO

The second angel poured out his vial into the sea. The fact of "body sores" or "ulcers" universal is conceivable-nuclear exchanges would entail such effects in survivors. The fact of the sea becoming one great body of death with blood streams seems poetic – until we review *Exodus 7.17-21*. In the first plague the Nile water mingled with blood resulted from the death of everything in the Nile. All the fish and sea creatures will die under this wider judgment. The waters of the Nile in the first instance smelt foul. This judgment in Egypt related to infanticide-and its bearing on the sin of abortion – the modern equivalent – may be surmised. End of last millennium statistics show that 1 in 4 American pregnancies end in abortion. Illegitimacy birth rates vary from 20% in USA to 70% in some countries.

VIAL THREE

JUDGMENT DECREED – DIVINE WARNING

The third angel is described as "the angel of the waters". Water nymphs are known within Greek mythology. This is different. This angel has authority over earth's waters. The vial is poured over earth's springs and rivers. The angel said, "Lord, you are righteous, as Pantocrator for your past judgment and the instant judgment and the

future renewal. *Deut.32.4* “A faithful God and just is He – he does no wrong” (*Song of Moses*).

What Moses did was to let God – the “I am” be God. David also recognised his statutes as right-fully trustworthy – *Psal 19.137*

This judgment is decreed in *Isaiah 49 22-26* (especially 26) the divine decree involves ultimate retribution to those who oppose the Son. The reason for this judgment is given. The Beast and false prophet and dragon of this period had shed innocent blood – the blood of God’s holy saints and prophets and deserved to drink blood from the streams – which represented Gods word springing forth and streaming to them in earlier times. There is a voice from the altar of sacrifice. The decreed judgment [*κρίσεις*] is called “crisis” and we read in *Psalms 19.9* that such “crises” are essential to bring evil to book. We could understand that the 2004 attack on *Jelija* is an epic case of bringing judgment upon an inhumane and brutal group of men-slayers. If men are revolted by the death of innocents God hates and registers the death of innocents. Long ago Amos taught the destruction of Israel’s life of pleasure would be visited by invasion and famine as judgment for failure to give thanks for “being taken from the mouth of the lion” and being “snatched as a brand from the burning” – *Amos 3.13 & 4.13*. It is despising God’s provision for salvation that issues in judgment.

VIAL FOUR

There are no O.T. citations to help us understand this judgment. The preposition *εις* changes to *επι* this vial was poured “upwards” in the direction of or as far as the surface of the sun. The effect is to make the earth a cauldron. Men burned in fire – which now occurred and also lived as in a cauldron and blasphemed the name of God who had authority as far as these plagues – but they did not repent. This plague we may see hinted in global warming. This is a judgment which must befall a civilisation which trusts to mammon or science and in a literal sense it is a foretaste of the hell of being without God – where there is no slaking of spiritual thirst.

VIAL FIVE

The fifth angel poured his vial right on and as far as the throne of the beast. Darkness was the penultimate plague of Egypt. In *Exodus 10.21* disables rule. Yet Pharaoh will not allow freedom to the Jews as the beast of the latter days will not allow it to the godly of these last terrible times even under the most stringent test. Thus this is a judgment against rule which prohibits worship. The members of this last world power would rather bite their tongues express objection with their lips and like Pharaoh fail to repent.

VIAL SIX

The sixth angel poured out his vial again quite specifically on the great river Euphrates. Its water had been dried up... (In 9.16 we read that 200million troops were held back as early 21st century developments in this Iraq area appear critical to the last war – and now they are released with the resulting death of a third of mankind) The river is described as “great” and the wonder is that it is “a dried river bed”. Now both *Herodotus* and *Xenophon* attest this word *ξερως* indicates “a dry river bed”. Now this vial was poured on the river – so the judgment meant that the course of the river

through modern Iraq where it flows was interrupted or ended. This amazing act is described in more detail in *Isaiah 11.15*. An attack along the route of Ghengis Khan by the powers of the sunrise crossing this territory is made possible.

CONUNDRUM OF THE THREE FROGS

From the dragon the beast & false-prophet they proceed to call reinforcements. These frog-like spirits it would seem arise from the river just judged and are also so described because of their military colour. This appeal is in a global context. The earlier Iraq-Iranian conflict and the American involvement and phased withdrawal is preparatory of this ultimate scenario. The “frog like” hidden persuaders are preparing the day of divine judgment – and the Pantocrator [*Παντοκράτωρ*] “the one who is able to bring everything under **His victorious rule**” – will be glorified. These agents interact with the corrupt vestigial remains of the “free world” but are delighted both with its submission and weakness and optimistic of the overthrow of Israel. Christ by contrast is fully supportive of the righteous that the bible names “blessed” even in these penultimate days. The kings gathered together commence hostilities at the famous location of **Armageddon – the hill of Megiddo**. This is the subject of the monograph and the war of *Ezekiel 38-9* decreed in scripture and described above.

VIAL SEVEN

The seventh angel poured his vial “into the air”. This is the atmospheric –possibly linked to “the mist of Egypt” in particular for Egypt was called *AERIA* in ancient times. The deepening penetration of judgment involving Egypt is recorded in scripture [cf. *Ezekiel 29.11 & 32.5-7*].

Scripture reads “**It has taken place**” and a great earthquake – with no equal since man came on earth”. This end-time decree and will be epic, devastating and geo-physical).

THREE URBAN JUDGMENTS FOLLOWED

(a) The Great city – Jerusalem is three lots or three heritage parcels – today it is Jewish Arab and Christian. Gentile cities will fall – never to rise in the same manner – levelled by act of God. Babylon was remembered before God to receive the cup. God’s wrath is delayed so because Christ the judge knows what it is like to face the sinner’s death. From this we can begin to understand the wrath of the lamb. This earthquake ended the islands of the world in one swoop – “islands” are “floating land” in the Greek language - every island”. Mountains afterward were not discovered. Chains of hills were not found –many folds in the earth’s crust were gone. Landscape was altered for good. The quake was followed by hail which fell in lumps just short of 1 hundred weight. Massive atmospheric icing

THE PURPLE WOMAN MEDITERRANEAN WORLD MYSTERY (RELIGIOUS cf. 1Tim3.16) POWER

The seat of the woman’s power is Rome and also seven forms of western government under the last empire of human government pre-figured by Daniel. The ten horns are military powers that cede to the “last hour” Euro leadership. The word that characterizes government and diplomacy of the period is “mystery” or secrecy. The

final war in eclipsing the economy and pride of empire most emphatically marks the ruin of the final autocrat of the Euro Empire at its very seat and discomfits finally the military power of an empire that flourished in John's day and is described as drunken with persecution. In all through the first three centuries there were 10 major Roman persecutions and during the inquisition and related bloodletting many saints died. The last act of the ten horns of the beast from the sea is to turn absolutely secular and ruin the woman in economic and military terms. Eating her flesh and drinking her wine would tend to sharpen the symbolism of her religious descriptor. As an adulterer she cavorted with human rule rather than keeping faith with God and suffer for it.

IMMEDIATE SEQUENCE 6 18.1-24 (APOCALYPSE 18)

The woman (Babylon) was found "in the desert" (17.3) is dressed in the "purple of double-dyed" iniquity and commits adultery with kings in her association with the "seven heads (seven hills or chameleon like phases of her constitution.) and ten horns". The "beast" carries the woman around – and is representative of the 10 sectors of human rule in its final phase. Mourning over Babylon - that corrupt and seductive worldwide mercantile system stretches from America in the West to China in the east but pivots on Europe and Rome. Babylon is known by the music of the harp flute and trumpet, technicians, industrial milling sound, night-long illumination, marriages, great salespeople with 28 notable products. Ironically she falls by a "Great boulder throne into the sea". Her wine made men spiritually helpless and Jeremiah's ancient call to flee (Jer.50.29) will re-echoes again at the last as her 666 mark tightens like a noose on true spirituality. This man-centered system like Babel - proposed to deliver perennial prosperity collapses - stability associated with Rome and Europe ends in a fourfold judgment of death sorrow famine and **fire**. Merchants are distressed that their wares are unwanted. What Seiss describes as that bewitching attractiveness going along with a mercantile system- that meretricious allurements that gathers around it the homage of governments and kings - that human cupidity and basic greed and pride that has always been at enmity with the spirit of Christ must come to a sad end in the nemesis of world trade and business. It commutes to the short-lived empire of Antichrist - which "moment of time" vision of Satan in Luke 4.5 is hurriedly contrived and just as quickly crumbles. Christ the rock cut without hands ends the war Babylon,

CHAPTER SIX

THE LINES ARE OPEN TO GOD-ALL ALONG HE LOOKS FOR REPENTANCE AND SUPPORTS HIS COVENANT PEOPLE

There are 12 basic heavenly vistas in Revelation. These show Jesus at the nerve centre of God's purpose in the final clash of God's righteous will with Satan's final scheme. Believers benefit from divine revelation-from prophecy-from the door left open in heaven. Closed doors prevents prying eyes - but the door of the apocalypse opens to reveal **what believers need to know** in face of distinct future events.

PARENTHESIS (1) 4.1

In the light of the completed purpose of the church and the rapture we need to know Christ orders His church all the days and is sovereign at the rapture (*cf.* 3:20, 4:1-2) (*literal.Greek* "One placed Himself on a throne").

PARENTHESIS (2) CHAPTER 5

We need to know what emerges in heaven after the rapture. We need to know that the raptured church is glorious in praise. **We need to know** that there are 24 elders whose represent the saints of Israel and the church in the lamb's presence. **We need to know** that the incense of prayer is effective. We need to know the huge scale and patience of angelic work. **We need to know** Jesus is sovereign-taking the book and opening the seven seals.

PARENTHESIS (3) 7.13-14 Before we read of the most terrible traumas of earth in this segment ([7.1]7.9-15.4) we need to know how close to Jesus the church is and shall be [*ενωπιον* - *in close*] to the throne. We need to know that full surrender and commitment is called for. They are continuing to "give their all" [*λατρευουσιν* - *to expend massive resources - as when rich nobles on earth supported a war*] We need to know He will be our absolute comfort. The Greek is not *εκλειπω* but *εζαλειπω* meaning "to obliterate for ever."

PARENTHESIS (4) 8.1 As the second 3 1/2 year phase of tribulation begins Jesus (the "angel of the LORD") manifests Himself in the vision. His face PROSOPOS and form are truly human. His feet are as pillars of fire (cf. *Apocalypse 1.15*) as if they had burned in a furnace - speaking of Christ's suffering. He swore *εν* "in the circle of the eternal Godhead there would be "no delay" "no lifetimes left" for **Time is in His hand.**

PARENTHESIS (5) SILENCE IN HEAVEN (10.1)

We need to know of the solemnity and utter seriousness of God who will act in holiness at the right time and whose great love and patience gives way to judgment and wrath only after long forbearance and through intense pleading of saints. Such awe even in heaven accompanies the judgments now in train.

PARENTHESIS (6) 10-8-11

We need to know of the book & the Spirit of Prophecy. John took the *Βιβλαριδιον* that "opened itself". He uttered a bold request for revelation just as he retained a humble silence where there was no revelation. **We need to preach** judgment to come and grace for today. Jesus said "This gospel shall be proclaimed among all nations – then shall the purpose be fulfilled" *Matthew 24.14*

PARENTHESIS (7) 11.15-19

We need to know heaven has determined on Christ's millennial rule in Jerusalem and the blast of the seventh trumpet was accompanied by "great voices in heaven" saying, "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our God and His Christ and He shall reign eternally".

PARENTHESIS (8) 12.9-11

We need to know the Church in heaven in "soldiers' array" calls for victory and is on war alert to return with the victorious Lord. **We need to know** Michael the archangel stands for Israel and will overcome Satan. **We need to know** the effectiveness of those who resist to blood.

PARENTHESIS (9) 14.1

We need to know that no cruel empire shall stand with impunity in the last days—Christ is Victor! I saw and behold a lamb standing on Mount Zion, with Him 144,000.

PARENTHESIS (10) CHAPTER 14 We need to know that from the moment (*Greek $\alpha\rho\tau\iota$ "at this moment"*) believers and martyrs "die in the Lord" they rest.

PARENTHESIS (11) CHAPTER 15

We need to know that **destiny is settled in the Holy Place**. We need to know that **God cares to establish justice** so the angels *holding* the plagues judge the apostate. We need to know that **Israel is the apple of God's eye**.

PARENTHESIS (12) CHAPTERS 21-22

We need to know of a different heaven and earth- of the utter end of sorrow. We are challenged to believe "all things will be made new" – to understand the exclusion of the old serpent of sin and of the wicked from the inheritance of God in the second death prepared for spiritual beings (Matthew 25.41 & Matthew 10.28. **We need to know** the city God builds has eternal foundations. **We need to know** and uphold the integrity of the bible.

DEVOTIONAL POSTSCRIPT-THE HOLY WAR

Jesus said "My kingdom is not worldly - else would my servants fight!" (John 18.36). Our Lord did, however, say "I came not to send peace but a sword" (Matthew 10.34). There is a cleavage between people over serving Christ and a battle for the soul between the devil and the Spirit of God. This spiritual battle obliges the Christian to put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6.10-18) and to remember always that "we engage with strongholds of Satan not flesh and blood" (2 Cor 10.4, Eph. 6.12). This daily engagement enshrined in the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer calls for the anointed shield of faith (2 Samuel 1.21) daily trysting with the crucified Lord interceding at the mercy seat and daily enabled by the Holy Spirit

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