

The Revelation

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Revelation 16:13-21

Vss. 13-16

- The dragon and the beast and the false prophet are found to have unclean spirits like frogs coming from their mouths. What is shaping up is a 3-on-3 match: the dragon vs. God, the beast vs. Christ, and the false prophet vs. the Holy Spirit.
- Frogs are always tied to plagues (Ex. 8:5-11). Frogs are unclean (Lev. 11:10). And frogs croak endlessly, saying nothing.
- The dragon is identified as Satan in 12:9. The beast comes in Ch. 13 and is known to be Rome. This is the first mention of the "false prophet" but he and the second beast of 13:11ff are both described as performing signs and wonders for the beast, (19:20), so most commentators see the false prophet and the second beast as one and the same. Thus, like the second beast, we are to understand the false prophet as the whole of the Roman political/military system that is seeking to grin the church of Jesus into submission or dust.
- Therefore, we can understand that out of the mouth of evil comes words like plagues, unclean words, futile/empty words. They come as 3 unclean spirits/breaths from the embodiment of evil.
- The demon voices seek to call the nations of the world to war, unwittingly playing into the judgement of the Lord on "the great day of God."
- Jesus returning like a thief is a common NT theme, as is the call to stay awake and be ready!
- The plain of Megiddo is the plain from Egypt to Damascus and has been the site of countless battles over the centuries. Here the evil spirits will gather the kings and the armies of the world for battle yes, but more for judgement.

Vss. 17-21

- The seventh bowl of wrath is poured out on the air, polluting the air. Creation itself is a war with all mankind.
- “It is done!” – the last judgement, the last plague, the last chance for people to turn to God.
- Lightening, thunder, and the greatest earthquake breaks Rome into 3 parts and destroys all the world’s cities. All the islands and mountains disappeared.
- Rome/Babylon was remembered to God and received an extra dose of wrath.
- Hailstones as heavy and large as a talent (about 100 lbs.) came down with devastating effect.
- But the result here was again the same – people blasphemed God; they did not repent. For all His power God is unable to overcome a human heart once it is locked against Him.