



**THE
GREAT TRUMPETS
AND THE
VIAL JUDGMENTS**

End of the Age Series
VOLUME VI

Gordon Lindsay

**The Great Trumpets and the Vial
Judgments**
End of the Age Series VOLUME VI *by*
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Published by CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS Dallas, Texas Litho U.S.A.
Printed 1974

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Introduction

The world is now experiencing the birth pangs of the most stupendous event of all history: Christ's triumphant establishment of a new world order under God.

What events can be expected to precede this? What are the signs of this event? The late Gordon Lindsay, one of Christendom's most devoted prophets of the future, describes in this book the many forerunners of the long- prophesied Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.

Taking up the picture after the rapture of the firstfruits (which occurs in secret), Lindsay traces the Biblical events through the Great Tribulation up to The Great Day of the Lord. These events include the darkening of the sun and moon, blood and fire hailing down upon the earth, falling stars smashing the earth, water turned to poison, demonic beasts loosed upon the earth, and many more such tragic occurrences. These things are a part of the vial judgments of God, prophesied by John in the Revelation.

It is the work and plan of God to redeem the world. But havoc and destruction will occur on an unprecedented scale as the old "fallen world" order gives birth to a new Kingdom in which Jesus Christ will rule as King of kings.

Bob Summers, Editor of Christ For The Nations.

Chapter I

The Coming of the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord

The event that towers above all others of history was the first advent of Christ on the earth. The next event comparable in importance will be the revelation of Jesus Christ in His glory:

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt. 24:29-31).

The rapture of the firstfruits will take place in secret, as far as the world is concerned. Christ at that time will not appear personally before the inhabitants of the world, as He will later as related in Revelation 1:7, “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him ...” Paul in II Thessalonians 1:7-10 describes His revelation in dramatic language:

“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

This appearance of Christ in His glory will inaugurate the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord, an event that follows the Great Tribulation, one to which the Old Testament referred so often. A passage in Zephaniah is typical of the many references to the Day of the Lord:

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung” (Zeph. 1:14-17).

The Great Day of the Lord is sometimes confused with the Great Tribulation. But a comparison of Scriptures makes it clear that the two are not the same. In the above Scripture quoted from Matthew, the darkening of

the sun and moon *follows* the Great Tribulation, but it *precedes*, or is before, the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come” (Acts 2:20).

The Darkening of the Sun and Moon

This violent darkening and disturbance of the celestial bodies will initiate the great trumpet and vial judgments spoken of in the book of Revelation. Now it is a well-known phenomenon that when the atmosphere is filled with smoke, the effect is to cause the moon to turn a blood-red. On the other hand, the great dispersion of the light of the sun may cause that orb to disappear from view altogether. This is a phenomenon well-known where there are great forest fires. When the earth undergoes this unprecedented shaking, it is quite possible that fissures in the earth will open up permitting vast quantities of smoke to issue forth into the atmosphere. This would readily produce the effect of a darkened sun and a blood-red moon.

Simultaneously with this effect upon the sun and the moon, a great star shower will occur. “The stars of heaven fell unto the earth” (Rev. 6:13). A startling and spectacular display of shooting stars fell on the night of November 12, 1833. It produced extreme dismay all over America. People rushed out into the streets to witness the awesome spectacle. The shower began around midnight and increased in intensity during the early hours, until a little before dawn the meteors were falling like snowflakes. The effect was to cause sinners to kneel in the streets and cry to God for mercy. Many thought the end of the world had come. Church bells tolled as people awaited the end.

But when morning came, all was serene. People went back to their regular activities, forgetting their vows made the night before while under the spell of the awesome sight. The lesson from this would seem to be that he who calls on God only from an emotion of fear is apt to turn to his old ways once the alarm is over.

There have been lesser star showers since — one as recent as 1966. Since the latter event was well-publicized in the newspapers, it caused no panic as it did in 1833. However, the star shower that will usher in the Day of the Lord will be of such magnitude as to inspire terror in the hearts of men everywhere. Indeed the effects which will be recognized as supernatural in origin will inspire fear not only among primitive peoples but

among the great of the earth. Kings and princes will realize at last that they have been deceived by the antichrist, and sensing that the day of grace is past, they will call for the rocks and mountains to fall upon them and hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. Alas, there is no place to hide.

Every man has his breaking point. This was vividly illustrated in the Nuremberg Trials in 1946. Tough, hard men, whose word meant life or death to those subject to their whims and whose commands hurled millions into battle to perish, sat before the bar of justice to face a stern court. There they cringed in fear in the same way as any petty criminal fighting for his life. Power makes men careless of the sufferings of their fellowmen. It is only when they are stripped of it that they are revealed for what they are—weak creatures begging for mercy which they refused to victims who sought their mercy.

It is this strange commotion in the heavens which will awaken men at last to the fact that there are supernatural operations which cannot be explained on the basis of natural laws. The learned sage supposed he had all the answers, but he will see his materialistic philosophies crumbling. Those things which men thought were superstitions held over from antiquity to be believed by the ignorant will then prove to be a grim reality. The revelation of divine power will confound and bewilder them utterly.

In Chapter 8 of Revelation it is said that there is silence in heaven for a brief space. The awful solemnity of the scene in which divine judgment is about to break upon the world will cause the inhabitants of heaven to become mute. They will know that at last mercy must step aside for judgment.

The Trumpet Judgments

Chapters 8 to 11 of Revelation concern the trumpet judgments. It is not the purpose of this volume to go into detail concerning these apocalyptic events. (They are dealt with more fully in our Revelation Series.)

Revelation 8:7 speaks of blood and fire and hail being cast upon the earth affecting a third part of the land area. Although the Book of Revelation abounds in symbols, we must accept literally prophecies that can be taken literally. There was a similar judgment that fell upon Egypt in the days of Pharaoh. There is no reason to believe that this judgment is not just as literal as the one in Egypt. The difference is only in scope:

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the

land of Egypt. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; for the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation" (Exod. 9:22-24).

The second trumpet judgment tells of a "great mountain burning with fire" falling into the sea, resulting in the destruction of one third of the maritime fleets. This would seem to refer to a gigantic meteorite falling into the sea.

The third trumpet implies that another celestial body will strike the inland and the rivers.

Falling meteorites are a subject that has attracted much attention, especially since astronauts have landed on the moon. Apparently there was a time when enormous meteorites from outer space struck the moon and presumably also the earth. One such meteorite fell near Winslow, Arizona, possibly during historic times. It produced a crater a mile across.

Another meteorite fell recently, geologically speaking, in Siberia in the year 1908. Late in June of that year a flaming horror passed over the northern wastes of that land, illuminating the heavens with a second sun. As it blazed its way into the denser atmosphere, it broke into fragments. The impact for 25 miles around blew the trees flat on the ground in an outward direction from the center of the explosion. A pillar of smoke arose that could be seen hundreds of miles away. An engineer stopped his train at a point some 500 miles distant, fearful lest his train be derailed. Had the meteor struck in Manhattan, it is likely that millions of lives would have been lost, for the impact was comparable to the explosive power of a great hydrogen bomb.

In the year 1937, an asteroid by the name of Hermes, measuring over a mile in diameter approached the earth. While astronomers were plotting its orbit, there was fear that it might strike the earth. However, it veered away and came no closer than half a million miles.

Had such a body struck one of the oceans at its speed of 20 or 30 miles a second, it would have generated a tidal wave that would have carried for thousands of miles, wiping out large cities situated on the coastland. The impact would probably have scuttled shipping thousands of miles distant, and the detonation would have destroyed marine life over a vast expanse. Hermes did not strike our planet because it was not God's time. But during the Great Day of the Lord, apparently such an event will take place.

The sounding of the fourth trumpet indicates further celestial disturbances. Phenomena will be occurring that defy explanation from the standpoint of natural laws. The antichrist will rage in fury, but he will be helpless. In a desperate attempt to frustrate God's plan, he will mobilize his armies in a warfare against heaven.

Chapter II

The Demons From the Bottomless Pit

Shortly after the beginning of the Great Day of the Lord, another angel will sound, and a star will fall from heaven. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. This place of imprisonment, we recall, held an archangel of Satan, who upon being permitted to escape his prison, took complete possession of the body of the antichrist.

The term “stars” on occasion may represent human beings (Rev. 1:16, 20), such as the guardians of the seven churches; or, they may represent good angels (Judges 5:20). Again, they may indicate wicked angels. A holy angel *descends* but never *falls* from heaven. Satan and his wicked angels were cast out of heaven (Rev. 12:7-12). Jesus said in Luke 10:18, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” In this case the star that falls from heaven will evidently be Lucifer. He will be given the key to the bottomless pit that contains a vast number of wicked demons (Luke 8:27-31).

These demons are referred to as locusts, but they will certainly not be ordinary locusts. These locusts will have a king over them; ordinary locusts have no king (Prov. 30:27). Nor do such come from the bottomless pit. We know that the pit is a place of fallen angels and demons (Luke 8:27-31). The description of the locusts shows that they are not ordinary locusts. They touch no green thing, the one thing that ordinary locusts have power to destroy.

These locusts will be intelligent and will have power to sting. For these reasons we conclude these creatures are not ordinary locusts but demons released from the pit.

Are There Such Things as Demons?

Before we proceed further, we must take note that some religious teachers do not believe that there are such things as demons. Such beliefs by them are considered superstition—that although Jesus spoke of demons and appeared to cast them out of people, He was merely accommodating Himself to the superstitions of that day. So they claim. We can only say that such statements are outright slander and an impudent challenge to the

veracity of Christ's words. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Luke 21:33).

If there are no demons, how can we account for young people's turning their backs on life and holing up in some filthy commune, giving themselves over to smoking pot, engaging in free love, and living like the lowest dregs of society?

If there are no demons, how can we account for young women of normal intelligence, withdrawing from society, placing their lives and their bodies at the command of a monster like Charles Manson who so dominated them that they willingly committed the most revolting crime of murder and afterwards showed no remorse over their deeds?

If there are no demons, why would a young woman who came from a good family declare war on society and engage in making bombs to blow up buildings? One such bomb, going off accidentally, blew up herself.

If there are no demons, what intelligence is it that speaks through the voice of the medium and reveals facts concerning events and circumstances of which the medium has no knowledge, and during which time the medium is unconscious? There is obviously another personality speaking through the medium, and it is a familiar spirit.

The evidence is overwhelming that demons exist, just as the Bible declares to be the case. Myriads of these demons are loose in the world; others are imprisoned in the bottomless pit. The part that is not fully clear is why some are free and others remain imprisoned. Evidently the situation is not static. The legion of demons in the demoniac besought Christ that He would not send them into the pit (Luke 8:31). They would not have made this request unless they had grounds to fear that this might take place. They spoke of a certain time being given to them before their future punishment (Matt. 8:29). Here was an implication that demons may be sent to the pit before the final imprisonment of Satan and his host at the end of the age.

As a matter of fact, at the sounding of the fifth trumpet a vast army of demons will be let loose upon the world as special punishment upon men for their wickedness. Although the main fulfillment of this prophecy will obviously occur during the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord, one cannot but wonder in the light of events whether a preliminary incursion of evil spirits from the dark regions is not already taking place. That vast numbers of youth—far beyond any event of the past—withdrawed from society and joined the hippie movement indicates that demons are at work on a mass

scale. Being unmotivated, aimless, and purposeless they are content to live in a sensuous world of pot, drugs, and free love. Does not all this hint that the demonic army has been augmented by a vast army of new recruits? If so, they are only the vanguard; the real effusion is yet to come.

These demons will have power to torment men, rather than to kill them outright. "And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months" (Rev. 9:5). Although there are certain classes of demons which can be classed as murder demons, as a whole these evil spirits oppress, depress, obsess, and possess. In fact, they are squatters whose purpose is to inhabit a human body, rather than to destroy it immediately, in which case they would be deprived of their borrowed habitation. This is evidently taught by Christ in Luke 11: 24-26:

"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

The Loosing of the Angels of Satan

The Sixth Trumpet indicates a further eruption of Satanic powers upon the earth. This trumpet judgment will be of such a scope that it will involve a destruction of one-third of the earth's population. It will be an unprecedented catastrophe. If there should be as many as six billion people on earth at that time, it would mean the death of two billion.

At the sounding of this trumpet, a voice will cry out from the heavenly altar calling for the loosing of the angels bound in the River Euphrates. These are clearly Satanic spirit-agents, else they would not be bound. An altar speaks of mercy; but in this case instead of calling for mercy, it will cry out for retribution because of the great crime against the altar. Divine retribution will reach the point of its greatest intensity.

What is meant by the term "bound in the great river Euphrates"? Obviously the actual waters of the Euphrates would have no effect on spirit-beings. Elsewhere in the Scripture we are told of angels' being imprisoned in "Tartarus," evidently a particular prison where angels are held in custody.

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Pet. 2:4).

Jude also says the same thing:

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" (Jude 6).

It is not clear whether the angels bound in "Euphrates" are the same as those in "Tartarus." But whether this is so or not, "Euphrates" is a prison-

house for fallen angels. The locality is significant. This region was the area where the first murder took place and where the apostasies both before and after the Flood occurred. It was beside this river that Adam and Eve fell and where Satan obtained his first triumph. It was in this land where great Babylon arose and set its foul demon-inspired religion, its system of wickedness, in operation.

So in this area will come forth the four infernal angels whose purpose it will be to spread death and destruction over the earth. In Revelation 9:15 we are told that these angels “were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.” Thus we see that nothing will happen by accident, but all will unfold in its time, according to the divine plan prepared from the beginning (Acts 15:18).

The number of horsemen that follow the leadership of these angels will be 200 million. They are, of course, spirit-horsemen. (There are not 200 million flesh-and-blood horses in the world.) Just as there were infernal locusts, so there will be infernal cavalry. People today claim that they have seen “flying saucer men.” And they regale anyone willing to listen to them with weird stories of rendezvous with these alleged creatures of the desert. (Flying saucers seem to favor the desert.) These people observe something, but it is clearly a case of delusion, a manifestation of sorcery. Nevertheless, the horsemen who come forth at the sounding of the sixth trumpet will come not to deceive, for the time of deception is over; they will come to destroy.

One might hope that these judgments should move men to repentance. But when people reach a certain state of hardness of heart, they become impervious to repentance. Thus we see that those who survive the plagues will show no remorse, but instead blaspheme the God of heaven.

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (Rev. 9:20-21).

Satan Cast Down to Earth

In our discussion of the eruption of demons from the pit and of fallen angels from “Euphrates” or “Tartarus,” we have thus far failed to note an event of equally ominous import. Even before the Great Tribulation began there was war in the heavenlies in which Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels; and the latter was cast down to earth.

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time” (Rev. 12:7-12).

There are, we know, several castings down of Satan. The first one was at the time of his original rebellion when he was cast out of heaven itself (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:16). At the beginning of the Millennium he will be cast into the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3). And at the end of the thousand years, the devil will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10).

By prophetic projection, Revelation 12:7-12 may refer to the original overthrow of Satan. However, since this passage is a prophecy, it must have primary reference to the future. Satan is cast out of the heavenlies which he has usurped and has occupied as a fortress during this entire age. The event will occur immediately after the catching up of the Manchild to heaven. Of this we are told that “the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

Before we note Satan’s final plans on earth, let us consider Michael’s role in this warfare. Daniel in his prophecies speaks of Michael’s coming to the rescue of the people of God at the time of the end:

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan. 12:1).

Michael seems particularly associated with the events of the end-time, including the resurrection of the dead. As a matter of fact, the next verse speaks of that event. The apostle Jude also refers to Michael in connection with the raising of the body of Moses (Jude 9).

We cannot at this point go into full detail of these events that concern the casting out of Satan (see Vol. 7 of the Revelation Series). It appears likely that the first-fruit saints have something to do with Satan’s defeat and ejection from the heavenlies, since as we are told, they overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (Rev. 12). This clearly is a reference not to angels but to redeemed human beings.

That Satan is now out of the heavenlies and on earth marks the hour when he will put forth his greatest effort to seduce or destroy the human

race. He will go forth and energize the antichrist whose rise to world power will inaugurate the horrors of the Great Tribulation. But this latter event will run its course, and the judgments of the Day of the Lord will begin. Yet for a brief space, Satan and his angels will still be at liberty. They will join forces with the demons and evil angels already active in a grand final attack against the forces of God. The combined fury of these spirit-agents of destruction will result in a time of horror unprecedented in the history of the world. It will be a destruction that will rival or exceed in scope that of the Flood.

The seventh trumpet will initiate and unfold the judgments of the seven vials. When they are finished, the judgments will be completed. Following that, the rewards will be given to the saints of God.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever ... And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth” (Rev. 11: 15, 18).

Chapter III

The Vial Judgments

As the seven vial judgments are being prepared to be poured out upon the earth, an angel with a sharp sickle will come forth to gather the grapes of the vintage to cast them into “the great winepress of the wrath of God” (Rev. 14:17-20). In the days of Assyria, God said, “O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger” (Isa. 10:5). But now the symbol is a *sickle*. Why? Is it not significant that Russia in these last years, being Communistic and atheistic, has as her symbol the sickle and hammer? God is using Russia as a weapon to punish the nations. The antichrist will reign in the fullness of his power only 42 months. But Communism has already held sway over one-third of the world for the greater part of this century. This evil system has been and will be a major element in producing turmoil on the earth right up to Armageddon.

In this connection we note Verse 20 of Chapter 14 that the “winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.” What does this mean? Sixteen hundred furlongs are about 200 miles. From the plains of Megiddo south along the lowlands of the coast and swinging inland to Jerusalem would form a battle line of roughly 200 miles: Joel gives us another picture of this great scene:

“Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:12-16).

The term “blood unto the horse bridles” in Verse 20 confuses some. It, of course, does not mean that actual human blood or animal blood will flow to that height. Actually, blood congeals in 15 minutes. Prophetically the term “blood” is used to indicate a deep-red color. The first plague that fell upon Egypt caused the river to turn to blood (Exod. 7:20). The second trumpet judgment caused a third part of the sea to turn to blood (Rev. 8:8).

Perhaps the blood of the slain will cause the waters of the battlefield to turn to blood-red.

But before we consider Armageddon, we must take notice of the vial plagues which complete the judgments on earth preparatory to the Lord's coming to earth.

The Temple in Heaven Closed

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (Rev. 15:8).

We note that just before the vial judgments are poured out, no one will be able to enter the temple of God in heaven. Why is this? The temple is the place where the High Priest makes intercession. But the hour that mercy can be extended is over. There is no halting the processes of retribution until the judgments are completed.

The smoke filled the temple. Isaiah saw a vision of God's glory and power in the day when this should take place. The seraphim said, "The whole earth is full of his glory." "And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke" (Isa. 6:1-4). Men have rejected God's mercy, and there remains nothing but judgment. Isaiah saw this in Verses 9-10:

"And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed" (Isa. 6:9-10).

The First Vial of God's Wrath is Poured Out

"And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image" (Rev. 16:2).

It will be noticed that these judgments are especially directed toward the antichrist and his kingdom. A grievous sore will come upon the followers of the antichrist. The cancerous sores will not appear to heal; in fact they will still be uncured during the pouring out of the fifth vial (Rev. 16:11). There appears to be a similarity between this judgment and the sixth plague that fell on Egypt (Exod. 9:9). Neither the magicians of Pharaoh's day were able, nor will the advanced medical science of this day be able to cure the plague.

The second vial will be poured out upon the sea, and it will become as blood. The trumpet judgments will affect one-third of the earth and sea. The vial judgments will be universal in scope. As death strikes the sea, all the

living creatures in it will die and rise to the surface. Could this indicate hydrogen bomb warfare at sea? America has a large fleet of nuclear submarines and likewise Russia. Since these boats can hide beneath the surface, the only way to eliminate them effectively would be through massive hydrogen bomb explosions. The terrific concussion they create would be able to crush surface ships or those undersea at great distances. In such a case, not only would all shipping be destroyed, but all life in the sea would be snuffed out. The combatants in the Great Day of the Lord apparently have been driven to utter desperation, and indeed their weapons, given time, would be capable of destroying all life upon the earth (Matt. 24:21-22).

The third vial will fall upon the rivers, turning them to blood, even like the sea. It corresponds to the judgment of the third trumpet, but it will involve a much wider scope. It will be divine retribution upon those of the Beast kingdom who had shed the blood of the saints:

“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shall be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments” (Rev. 16:4-7).

The judgments also will carry a thought of cleansing. The lakes and seas are filled with evil creatures. Witness the lampreys in the Great Lakes, destroying all edible fish.

The rivers will turn to blood. They who have rejected the waters of salvation will then have to drink blood.

The fourth vial will affect the light of the solar orb. In Eden, after God's creative work, the climate was perfect, the seasons tempered, and the weather was delicately balanced. But when sin came into the world, a curse came upon creation. Fierce storms, hurricanes, cyclones, and tornadoes cut destructive swathes across large areas. The psalmist referring to this catastrophe declared, “All the foundations of the earth are out of course” (Psa. 82:5). During the great shaking of the earth, God will restore the earth to its Edenic balance. The light of the sun will be restored to normal:

“Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound” (Isaiah 30:26).

But during this final period of judgment, the heat of the sun will be greatly increased. How is this? We may note that astronomers tell us about pulsating stars which increase their light and heat alternately during their

oscillation. Isaiah likewise alludes to this phenomenon that burns the skin of man:

“The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left” (Isa. 24:4-6).

O that these plagues would bring men to repentance!

But alas, we are informed that though men will be scorched with heat they will continue to blaspheme “the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory” (Rev. 16:9).

There is a doctrine of purgatory that holds forth hope that fire will purge men of evil. But the effect of this burning plague will only be to cause men to increase their blasphemies.

We have noted that many of the stars in the heavens are pulsating stars, which for a given period increase their heat and light. Then they contract and greatly diminish their light. We do not say that the sun during this period will become a pulsating star, but only that it acts in a similar way, because now after its excessive heat, the kingdom of the Beast is filled with darkness. For some reason the sun’s light is cut off and fails.

We are reminded of the darkness that came on Egypt during the time of the plagues. The fifth vial has its parallel in the plague that came on Egypt during the days of Moses:

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings” (Exod. 10: 21-23).

Chapter IV

Events Preceding Armageddon

The sixth vial will bring us close to Armageddon. We have noted that vast numbers of evil spirits will have been released from the pit and will have gone abroad over the earth under the orders of their master, Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet—a trinity of evil. Under their direction these spirits will go to the ends of the earth on their hellish mission. It will be the devil's last crusade to bring the nations to Armageddon in his final war against God;

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:13-14).

These spirits will be lying spirits, and they will be able to regiment and lead men into the most insane delusions. The nations will already be in a state of madness. It will be mass-paranoia. Demon-possessed men will dedicate themselves to an insane attempt to gain mastery over the earth. That is clearly the spirit of Communism.

Take the present case of North Vietnam. Had their leaders chosen to put forth the same effort to raise the living conditions of their people, how different things would be! Instead, driven by demon forces, they have sacrificed the manpower of their nation, which if calculated by the same proportion to the population of America, would have meant the loss of 7 million lives. This does not include the vast numbers of wounded, crippled, and mutilated. Have they learned their lesson? No! Driven by Satanic madness they will find no rest until they succeed in saddling godless Communism upon the peoples of the

South, unless prevented by sheer force. What a sacrifice to no purpose!

The Bible draws aside the veil of the nether world, showing the activities of these lying spirits who led King Ahab to his own destruction. Jezebel's false prophets encouraged him in his fatal adventure that led to his death. The true prophet Micaiah warned him that there were lying spirits that had deceived Ahab:

“And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the Lord said, Who shall

persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so" (I Kings 22:19-22).

History is replete with stories of those who went forth on bloody crusades, believing they were acting under the guidance of God, but instead were deceived by lying spirits. An example were the crusades of the Middle Ages. Under the urging of Peter the Hermit and Pope Urban II, the Rhineland peasants were persuaded to embark on a mad crusade to liberate the Holy Land. Following that, there were crusades over a period of two centuries. Men embarked on these wild adventures, which led to no worthwhile gain. Indeed, on a certain occasion, one Stephen of Cloyes promised to lead a band of children to the Holy Land. They were betrayed by heartless shipmasters and sold as slaves in Egypt. Another band of 20,000 started out, but most perished on their way.

Wars of aggression are largely brought about through the influence of demon forces. Certainly the two great wars of our time, World War I and World War II, were the result of the activities of Satanic forces, inciting ungodly men to unholy conquest.

Thus the nations will gather at Armageddon as the result of the influence of these lying, seducing spirits which come directly from Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet.

As Satan's time draws to a close and the apocalyptic judgments are falling successively upon the Beast kingdom, the legend of the antichrist's invincibility will fade. He will be found to have feet of clay. Indeed, the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's image will be of clay and iron. They will crumble and be swept away by the cyclonic forces of the Stone cut out without hands which destroys the Gentile image:

"And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as the iron is not mixed with clay" (Dan. 2:42-43).

At the end time the dual nature of the Gentile kingdom will show forth a definite rift. The great Russian colossus will finally go into action in a move toward the Holy Land. The tidings will reach the ears of the antichrist and infuriate him. America, the third great world force, cannot stand by but will be drawn into the vortex of great forces coming into collision.

Until this moment, no one dared challenge the antichrist. He will have power to call down fire from heaven, and he will not hesitate to use it if he deems it advantageous to his purpose.

The peoples of the earth have said to each other, "Who is able to make war with him?" The antichrist will seem to hold the balance of power as Europe's champion, able to keep the Communist empire at bay. But his excesses will alarm the world, and finally the Communist camp will clash with him. No nation will be able to remain neutral. They will all throw their lot either to one side or to the other. Thus the forces of the great coming conflict will have its showdown in the Holy Land. The cry to beat their plowshares into swords will go out to all nations. Joel records the call in Chapter 3:

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong" (Joel 3:9-10).

The seventh trumpet (that includes the seven vials) which will be fulfilled with the pouring out of the seventh vial, will then complete its sounding. "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets" (Rev. 10:7).

The seventh vial will initiate great terrestrial disturbances. There are thunders and lightnings. A great hail will fall from heaven, and upon wicked Babylon will be poured out the cup of God's wrath.

A most spectacular event at this moment will be the great earthquake, more severe than any in all history. Jerusalem will be affected by it and will be divided into three parts. The Scriptures have much to say about earthquakes. Christ mentioned that one of the signs of this age is that "There shall be ... earthquakes, in divers places" (Matt. 24:7).

The ravages of earthquakes have occurred down through the centuries. In 1906 the San Francisco earthquake occurred with a loss of 500 lives. In 1923 a third of Tokyo and Yokohama were destroyed. In India in 1935 an earthquake killed 50,000 people. In Chile in 1939 a disastrous earth tremor razed to 50,000 square miles and took the lives of 30,000 people. In the same year Turkey suffered a major earthquake that took over 100,000 lives. A severe quake almost destroyed Anchorage, Alaska, a few years ago. A few years back, 50,000 perished in Peru; and quite recently Los Angeles had a quake that destroyed half a billion dollars' worth of property.

The Earthquakes of Prophecy

To understand the significance and extent of this last great quake, let us note the seven earthquakes of prophecy:

Events Preceding Armageddon

1. First there was the earthquake of Uzziah's day (Amos 1:1).
- 2-3. There were earthquakes at the death and resurrection of Christ (Matt. 27:51-53; 28:2).
4. There will be an earthquake as the Day of the Lord begins (Rev. 6:12).
5. An earthquake will mark the beginning of the trumpet judgments (Rev. 8:5).
6. An earthquake will take place at the time of the judgment of the righteous dead (Rev. 11:18-19).

And then the final earthquake greater than all others will precede Christ's bodily return to earth.

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath" (Rev. 16:17-19).

This earthquake will cause the cities of the nations to fall. Many of us have seen photographs revealing the devastation caused by an earthquake. But apparently this gigantic earth tremor will shake the great cities of the earth to their foundations. It will divide Jerusalem into three parts, split the Mount of Olives as to cause a river of water to burst forth in two directions, one of which will flow toward the Dead Sea and purify its waters (Zech. 14:4-5).

The importance and extent of this earthquake is revealed in the number of times reference is made to it. It appears that God will destroy the old order so that He can make place for the new. The prophet Haggai refers to it:

"For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts" (Hag. 2:6-7).

Isaiah in his "little apocalypse" speaks of it:

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof ... And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth

shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again” (Isa. 24:1, 18-20).

The earthquake will be accompanied by devastating hail, some of the stones weighing over 100 pounds. No such hailstones have ever visited the earth previously.

Chapter V

Rosh Comes Down From The North

Just before the great earthquake occurs events will begin to move rapidly in eastern Europe. As we have seen, Russia and her satellites will have watched the activities of the antichrist warily. Not desiring to clash with this sinister figure, for a time they will hold their peace—but never for a moment will they trust the man. His covenant with Israel will be especially irking to them. Their fury will be doubly augmented when the antichrist breaks his covenant and takes over the Middle East—lock, stock, and barrel. Indeed the antichrist will boldly demand the worship of the people, being represented by an image in the temple, and by declaring himself the very God.

But Russia, the king of the north, will be mad with jealousy. She will move South, but not because she has a solicitude for the people of Israel—far from it. Indeed the Soviets have shown themselves bitter enemies of the Jews, and under guise of friendship with the Arabs they have delivered to them enormous amounts of military hardware. They had supposed in the previous war of 1967 the Arabs with their numerically superior forces would be able to crush Israel with their aid.

This complacent belief received a most unceremonious jolt. Russia's real purpose, of course, was to swallow up the Middle East, even as they had taken over the Iron Curtain countries. The antichrist's preempting of the Mideast as his poaching ground cannot but greatly infuriate Russia. She will bide her time for revenge. And the hour will come as has been graphically described in Ezekiel 38-39 that Russia and her confederate nations will move southward into a confrontation with the antichrist forces. This move will eventuate in the final showdown of the age—Armageddon. Daniel describes this confrontation as two great powers, the king of the north and the king of the south, coming against him:

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon ... But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make

away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him” (Dan. 11:40-41, 44-45).

Joel also speaks in Joel 2 of this invasion of the northern army and its ultimate destruction. Russia’s intense interest in the Mideast shows that the time of this great invasion from the north is nearing.

Elsewhere we have written of this invasion by Russia:

The Scriptures have much to say about the Great Day of the Lord and its climax at Armageddon. Joel speaks of God’s bringing all nations into the land of Israel, and there pleading with them. The site of God’s judgment is called the Valley of Jehoshaphat. It gets its name from the time of Jehoshaphat, when the armies of Ammon and Moab came against Jerusalem. Judah had no strength to meet these superior forces, but the king called his people together in prayer and fasting and besought the Lord to defend them from the invading hosts. And so it was while His people were praising the Lord, God sent ambushments among the enemy and they destroyed one another. Judah “looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped” (II Chron. 20:24). After the battle “the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel” (Verse 29). Thus it shall be again when God has completed His judgment on the nations which have come up against Jerusalem:

“Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down: for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel” (Joel 3:12-16).

As we have seen, Joel particularly refers to this host as “the northern army” (Joel 2:20). It is none other than the invasion by “Rosh,” or Soviet Russia. This invasion is particularly described in the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel. That these chapters refer to Russia has been taken for granted by prophetic writers centuries before the rise of Communism.

In studying Ezekiel 38 and 39, we see that this God-defying confederation will head up in “Gog, the chief prince of Meshech,” and the word “chief” is translated from the Hebrew word “Rosh.” This Bible name of that northern kingdom is a word similar to our present day Russia. Moreover, its alternative translation is “bear,” the well-known symbol of Russia.

The fact that the Soviet empire lies to the north of Israel is incontestable proof that she is indeed the Rosh of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

The Soviets and their satellites are the only northern confederacy that in the foreseeable future could threaten the Holy Land. As is well-known, the Communists are extremely hostile to Israel, and in fact have delivered vast quantities of war materials to the Arab states for the express purpose of aiding them in their avowed purpose of destroying Israel. Russia's recent interest in the Arab nations is of course motivated by her desire to get a foothold in the Mideast.

Some of the confederate nations listed in Ezekiel 38 also help to identify Russia. Gomer is identified by many prophetic writers as East Germany. Persia, being adjacent to Russia, must certainly fall into the Soviet orbit in the event of war. At the time this is written, Iran, which in the past has been deeply suspicious of Russia, has entered into certain economic agreements with the Soviets. There is little doubt that this nation will gradually fall into the Soviet orbit.

Ezekiel 36 speaks of the people of Israel's being restored to their land in the last days:

"And I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded ... For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land ... A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God ... And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it" (Ezek. 36:10, 24, 26-28, 34-36).

This restoration of Israel is further described in Ezekiel 37 in the vision of the valley of dry bones. The return of Israel to her land has largely been accomplished, and Rosh looks with greedy interest upon the prosperity of this little country. Strangely enough the Soviets had in 1947 taken the lead in the U.N. in advocating Israel's independence, hoping of course that she would become Communist and be a satellite of Russia. The Soviets failed to note in their calculations that nations do not willingly become Communist, but usually do so only at the point of a gun. Greatly disappointed because Israel stubbornly retained its democratic institutions, Russia changed her attitude and is now assisting the Arab nations. Under the guise of pandering

to Arab pride and aspirations, they have slowly infiltrated their economies with Soviet agents. These are preparatory steps to the hour when Russia will take over the Mideast by force.

Ezekiel 38:8-10 speaks of Russia's secret plan to invade Palestine and refers to it as an "evil thought."

"After many days thou shalt be visited; in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, *and thou shalt think an evil thought.*"

Russia will be delayed in her plans to take over the Mideast, because the antichrist with whom she is in league gets the jump on her and will seize control of the land of Israel. The antichrist will promise Israel her protection, implementing it with a seven-year covenant. Rosh, therefore, will postpone her plans for the time being. But as the days of the Great Tribulation come to a close, Russia will break with the antichrist. Daniel 11:40 records this break by declaring that the "king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships." Some claim that the king of the north is the antichrist himself invading Israel. But how could this be, when the antichrist will have control of Israel already? The antichrist killed the two witnesses on the streets of Jerusalem. In fact his desecrations in the temple of Jerusalem will usher in the Great Tribulation.

For several years Israel will have already been under the patronage of the antichrist. The apostate Jews will have been deceived by his pretensions and have accepted him as their messiah, thus fulfilling John 5:43, spoken by Christ when He said, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not; if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." Many Jews, nonetheless, will not accept the antichrist's claims, and this blasphemous tyrant in revenge will search them out and kill them without mercy. Some Jews remembering the warning of Jesus will flee to the mountains, where they will hide out from their enemy till the Tribulation is over (Matt. 24:15-22).

Rosh's "evil thought" against Israel will become her obsession. Apparently no longer will she be willing to concede control of the Holy Land to the antichrist; the Soviets will try to seize Palestine for themselves:

"And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwall'd villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates, To take a

spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land” (Ezek. 38:11-12).

And so putting these designs into action, her hordes will sweep southward. It is remarkable that Russia on one of her 1930 postage stamps inscribed the likeness of “four horsemen” riding south past the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, in a direct line for the Holy Land, anticipating as it were her future invasion spoken of by Ezekiel! Why Russia’s artist should have done this, we could not say. We doubt he got it from the Scriptures. God sometimes allows men and nations in unwitting ways to identify their evil roles in prophecy. Notice the words of Ezekiel 38:15-16 which are almost a perfect description of what the stamp portrays:

“And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.”

As is well-known, Russia has long looked with covetous gaze on the Mideast. In recent years she has kept the pot boiling steadily. Her intrigues led to the Six-Day War, the outcome of which was as unexpected to the Soviets as it was unpleasant.

Chapter VI

America And Armageddon

There is obviously one other great power in the earth that the antichrist will not have taken over, and that is the king of the south. At the time of the end the “king of the south” will “push at him.”

Who is this king of the south? What nation in the world today is out of the immediate orbit of the Beast power that has the strength and power to challenge the antichrist? There seems little doubt that this will be America. Some writers do not see America in the conflict at all, but Scriptures positively declare that the Lord will gather all nations to Armageddon to battle (Zech. 14:2). Again, Revelation 16:14 speaks of “the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Certainly it would be strange if the greatest power on earth today should be missing at the time of this final showdown.

The truth is that the rise of the antichrist and the coalition of the clay and the iron of the Beast power will pose the greatest threat that America has ever faced. Her two or three hundred million inhabitants will face a hostile world of several billion. It seems possible that in the years preceding the Great Tribulation the apparent benevolence of the antichrist will deceive American leaders. But those who know their Bibles and are aware of the prophecies will look upon the developments with extreme foreboding; and when the antichrist tears off his mask and shows his true colors, that his plan is to impose a godless atheistic dictatorship over the whole world, America will at last see that the hour of reckoning is at hand. The United States, no doubt, will stand as the chief enemy of the Beast kingdom and his plans for world dominion. The horrible persecutions of the Jews and the Christians will reveal that she will then have a foe who will be worse than Hitler.

It is true that America has a vast arsenal of atomic weapons, but they will be largely useless, just as they have been in Vietnam. Were America to use them, the antichrist would respond with terrible reprisals. The antichrist will have power to call down fire from heaven, and this probably means that he has power to launch a nuclear holocaust. For this reason we may

expect that war will be carried on with conventional weapons, until one of the combatants faces stalemate. Then in desperation such weapons may be used recklessly and with utter abandon.

Suppose on the first of April, 1945, Hitler had had access to an unlimited stockpile of A-bombs. No one doubts that he would have turned the world into smoking rubble. At Armageddon the nations will be in a desperate battle for survival. We can expect the fury of a nuclear exchange at such a time as one or both of the opposing camps feels its need to use them. But there is no such thing as a victor in nuclear warfare.

Now when the great rift comes between the two elements of the Beast power, and Russia moves down from the north, America may see a faint ray of hope. Apparently at this time she will move against the antichrist from the south. Obviously this would be the only direction she could approach the Holy Land.

We can imagine the desperate state of things in America. She too will have suffered from the terrible trumpet and vial judgments, although not as much as the Beast kingdom has. The trumpet judgments will have affected one-third of the earth, and the vial judgments we are told will be directed particularly against the Beast kingdom. America no doubt will expend much of her energies in building anti-missile systems and other defenses. As much as possible she will disperse her population.

The move of Russia, the king of the north, toward the Holy Land will no doubt occur suddenly. That is the way wars begin these days. No announcement of it, no declaration of war. The antichrist apparently will be taken by surprise but will quickly gather his forces for the confrontation. “... Therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many”

(Dan. 11:44).

So as these mighty combatants move toward collision, the U.S. (and probably Great Britain) will also be drawn inexorably into the conflict that will center at Armageddon. The U.S. will be committed to the protection of Israel, but while the Beast power will present a united front, there will be little she can do. The break between Rosh and the antichrist will be the signal for action. Although Russia will break with the antichrist, America will have no illusions as to the Soviet intentions. The Communists will not move into Israel to save her from the antichrist, but rather to swallow up

that little nation. The prophet Ezekiel foresaw certain maritime powers protesting Russia's move southward:

"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezek. 38:13).

Most prophetic writers see Tarshish and the "young lions thereof" as representing the English-speaking nations. The name Tarshish in the Scriptures refers to sea power in the west. The term "young lions" speaks of England's commonwealth of nations. As is well-known, American journalists bitterly assailed Russia for her treachery in conniving with Hitler. Yet when Hitler invaded Russia, America was ready to send billions of dollars of armaments to that country, ignoring the obvious fact that Russia after being saved would treacherously turn on her benefactors.

America will realize that both Russia and the antichrist are equally responsible for bringing the Great Tribulation upon the earth. Yet when the Soviets turn against the antichrist and move against him, America too will come against him from the south. Indeed the nations of the earth will all be gathered together in a mortal confrontation which will be the last battle of the age.

At this crucial point the Lord Himself will come forth to battle the nations and divine retribution will fall on the armies that have come up against Jerusalem. Ezekiel 39:17-20 speaks of God's call to the fowls of heaven to feast at the great supper of God:

"And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God" (Ezek. 39:17-20).

These words in Ezekiel are almost identical to those in Revelation 19:17-18 and evidently refer to the same thing, the great slaughter at Armageddon.

The Vision of George Washington

Elsewhere we have recorded the vision of George Washington which has special interest because it was published over a century ago, and events have faithfully followed the course of the vision—the War of 1812, the Civil War, and the reuniting of the nation. Of special interest is the part of the vision that is evidently a foreview of World War III. Here Washington

saw a *dark red light* moving toward America, resulting in a terrible destruction and devastation of the land. Already that red light has reached Cuba, only 90 miles from our shores. Other nations are tottering on the brink. This part of the vision is as follows:

“And again I heard the mysterious voice say, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ At this the dark, shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth and blew three blasts; and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa. Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene: From each of these countries arose thick, black clouds that were soon joined into one. And throughout this mass there gleamed a DARK RED LIGHT by which I saw hordes of armed men, who moved with the cloud, marching by land and sailing by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. And I dimly saw these vast armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns and cities that I had beheld springing up. As my ears listened to the thundering of the cannon, clashing of swords and shouts and cries of millions in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ When the voice had ceased the dark, shadowy angel placed his trumpet once more to his mouth and blew a long and fearful blast.

(Final Victory for America)

“Instantly a light as of a thousand suns shone down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment the angel upon whose head still shone the word “Union,” and who bore our national flag in one hand and a sword in the other, descended from heaven attended by legions of bright spirits. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who, I perceived, were well nigh overcome, but who, immediately taking courage again closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle. Again amid the fearful noise of the conflict I heard the mysterious voice saying ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious.

“Then once more I beheld villages, towns and cities springing up where they had been before, while the bright angel, planting the azure standard he had brought into the midst of them cried with a loud voice; ‘While the stars remain and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Republic last.’ And taking from his brow the crown on which was emblazoned the word ‘Union,’ he placed it upon the standard while the people, kneeling down, said ‘Amen.’

“The scene instantly began to fade and dissolve and I at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I at first beheld.

This also disappearing, I found myself once more gazing upon my mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice I had heard before said, ‘Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted: Three great perils will come upon the Republic.

The most fearful is the *third*, passing which the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for God, his land and union.’ With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein it had shown me the birth, progress and destiny of the United States.”

With the fall and destruction of the Beast power, the old age will end, and the new will begin. Satan and his hosts will be cast into the bottomless pit. But this is the subject of our next volume.