

Chapter Two

The Seven Plagues

The First Vial

Revelation 16 tells us of the seven plagues. I'll have to be brief in commenting on them as I want to devote most of this study to Mystery Babylon, as we find her described in Revelation, chapters 17 and 18.

The angels now have the seven vials of God's wrath and we read in **Revelation 16: 1-2**: *"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. 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."* The wrath, here, falls on those who follow the system designated by the number.

The Second and Third Vials

Going on in **Revelation 16:3-7**: *"And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. 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 shalt 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."* If these are all

yet future, we can go into any realm of speculation we want, as to what they mean. These obviously-cannot be taken literally, for the second vial would have killed all life in the sea and the third vial would have turned all the waters of the earth to blood. No, these are symbolic visions of great plagues or tribulations, which were to come upon the earth, sometime after John saw the visions and before the return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age.

The earth's history is just that — a history of wars, of destruction and of the violent deaths of millions upon millions of people in great and continuing calamities; brought upon the earth because men, so far, have refused God's rule over themselves and the earth. They have gone in the ways of Satan and man's own rebellion, bringing God's wrath or judgment upon themselves.

A Tragic and Violent History

Let's consider some of the earth's tragic and violent history from the first century until today:

- (1) The dispersion and killing of most of the Jews in old Jerusalem by the Romans.
- (2) The dispersion and killing of millions of the followers of Jesus by the Roman Empire.
- (3) The destruction of Imperial Rome by the Goths and the Vandals after Rome had deteriorated through internal decay.
- (4) The sack and pillage of most of southern Europe from the Black Sea and Caspian Sea to Gaul by Atilla the Hun

(this was such a scourge on what was then part of the new Christendom that Christian writers later referred to Atilla as "the sword of the Lord," and said he was a scourge sent from God for the blasphemy of the nations against God).

(5) The rise of the Holy Roman Empire ruled by a succession of Popes, which persecuted and put to death untold hundreds of thousands of professing Christians, who dared to have in possession, parts of the Bible and who refused to take part in the sacraments of the Roman priests.

(6) The drive of Genghis Khan and his mongol hordes from Asia to the very gates of Vienna and Berlin, burning to the ground every European city they conquered; raping the women, and enslaving all males above 10 years of age.

(7) How about the conquest of the old Greek Empire and most of the Mediterranean, by the Ottoman Empire which lasted 1,335 years, the exact time given in the book of Daniel, and which drove Christendom west and north?

(8) How about the so-called "Crusades" to recapture the Holy Land and the city of Jerusalem, which lasted almost two centuries and brought death to hundreds of thousands in southern Europe and in the land of Palestine; including tens of thousands of children who perished in what was known as the Children's Crusade?

(9) The Black Plague in Europe was less than five hundred years ago and it killed 25-33% of all the people who then lived in Europe, and unknown millions in Africa and Asia.

The Fourth and Fifth Vials

Revelation 16:8-11 tells of more plagues: *"And the fourth angel poured*

out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds."

Notice in the plague of the fifth vial that the wrath of God is poured out upon the seat of the beast. I believe it's possible that this indicates the destruction of Papal Rome's Holy Empire by the Napoleonic Wars. In these wars every Monarch of the Holy Roman Empire was deposed; Rome was occupied; the Pope taken captive; and the political power of the Pope over Europe, Mexico, and western America was ended. All this was accompanied with death and destruction so vast that it staggers the imagination to contemplate. Of course, the wars as such, brought no Christian revival to Europe, no repentance, no turning to God; just as we read that *"they repented not of their deeds."*

With such calamities and vast destruction upon the people of the earth during the past two thousand years, isn't it amazing that the majority of today's preachers reading these prophecies of great tribulation say, "All this will happen in a future seven year period of tribulation under a future 'AntiChrist,' which won't affect us believers as we'll all be gone to heaven in the 'rapture.'" This would be laughable if it were not preached by so many and believed by millions of professing Christians.

Revelation 16:6 says that some of these were punished because *"...they have shed the blood of saints and prophets."* In other words, those plagues are brought upon someone because they killed Christians. That is the same accusation made against Mystery Babylon, which is destroyed by the sixth and seventh vials of God's wrath. How could they shed the blood of saints and prophets, and how could Mystery Babylon shed the blood of saints and prophets, if the Christians are to be taken off the earth to be safe in heaven before these things come to pass? No, these things come to pass while the Christians are upon the earth, sometime after John wrote them down and before Christ returns in Revelation 19.

The Sixth Vial

We now learn of what will happen when the sixth angel pours out his vial in **Revelation 16:12-14**: *"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 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."*

Today, these verses are usually explained as being the preparation for the great battle, which the "futurists" say will be fought during the seven year reign of the antiChrist over in the Mid-East. I've heard them say that the drying up of the river Euphrates (which they always interpret as literal) is the actual drying up of

the river itself. This would allow the hordes of Chinese and other Asiatic armies to march directly against the Jews in Palestine, to fight the battle of Armageddon mentioned in Revelation 16:16. Many of them have maps in which they show the maneuvering of the armies of Russia and Egypt against the Jews, and they usually quote Ezekiel 38 and 39 as additional proof of the so-called Russian invasion of old Palestine. But remember that these visions are not actual or literal. They are symbolic and stand for something else than what the actual words describe, and they must be explained that way.

(Shortly after doing the radio broadcast on the drying up of the river Euphrates, I heard a nationwide radio preacher go into great detail as to how the Chinese, not having sufficient trucks and planes, would have to walk their soldiers across India and Afghanistan and so on, to this battle, and would not be able to get across the Euphrates unless it was dried up! He went on saying how tremendous it was that God's Word told of the drying up of the river for that purpose. Well, that radio preacher didn't tell how the Chinese were going to cross the Ganges in East India, or the Indus in West India, or the Tigris before they came to the Euphrates, or a hundred other rivers in between; but he was certainly happy that the Euphrates would be dried up so they could cross it!)

Invasion From The North

First of all, if this is taken at all literally (as the futurists do), we have a contradiction here between Revelation chapter 16, and Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. We just read here in verse 12 that the sixth vial was to prepare the way of the kings of the east. However, in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, the prophet makes it quite plain

that the attackers will come from the north!

Ezekiel 38:6 reads: *"...Gomer; and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north, quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee."* If you will look at the maps in the back of your Bible, they will show that the lands of Gomer.. and Togarmah are in southern and western Russia, and not in China or India towards the east. Again, we see in **Ezekiel 38:14-16**: *"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? 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..."* This is repeated in **Ezekiel 39:2**: *"...And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel..."*

The prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39 makes it plain beyond argument that the invading armies of Gog and Magog, coming against Israel, would come from the NORTH! And yet, men quote the invasion by Gog of Ezekiel chapter 38, and the way of the kings of the east of Revelation chapter 16, as being one and the same thing — the invasion of old Palestine — which, of course, they are not.

Jeremiah, also, gave many prophecies of the end-of-the-age battle against Israel by the enemies of God, some of which mention compass directions. **Jeremiah 4:6**: *"Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruc-*

tion." **Jeremiah 6:22-23**: *"Thus saith the Lord, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth. They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion."* This is the last great battle against the daughter of Zion, and Jeremiah wrote that they come from the NORTH!

Daniel gives a rather detailed vision of a battle fought by armies of what Daniel calls, *"the king of the north,"* which he repeats seven times in **Daniel 11**.

The first part of Joel 2 describes a great conquering force taking over the entire world. Verses 11 to 17 tell of them coming against God's people, Israel, and what Israel must do to be saved. Then we read the description of God saving Israel (here called Zion several times) in **Joel 2:18-20**: *"Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things."*

Here, in Joel, not only is the great army of the enemy of Israel called the *"northern army,"* but somewhat of a description is given of the land into which the army will be driven and destroyed in a short phrase: *"a land barren and deso-*

late." It, also, mentions two seas; not one as there is on the border of old Palestine, but two seas. One is the east sea and, of course, there is no east sea anywhere near old Palestine. You would have to go all the way across ancient Persia, India and southeast Asia to the Pacific to get to an east sea, all the while travelling through land that is not all barren and desolate. The other sea in these verses is called the *"utmost sea."* **Strong's Concordance** says that the Hebrew word there means *"the last sea"* or, specifically, *"the western sea."*

Evil From The East

Of course, there is one land fitting that description and many other descriptions of this land in the end of the age and that land is this North American continent. We have an eastern sea (the Atlantic), we have a western sea (the Pacific), and the Pacific was the last sea to be discovered by our race. In the northern part of this continent, between the Atlantic and Pacific is, perhaps, one of the most barren and desolate areas of all the earth — Northern Canada. An army driven there would certainly perish rather easily from cold and lack of food or supplies. But, whether you go along with me that North America is the abode of the house of Israel today, and the site of the last great battle, or not, you can see that the last great battle against Israel, according to the prophets, was to be fought by an army coming against Israel from the NORTH. However, in **Revelation 16:12**, something, whatever it is, comes from the EAST.

The *"drying up of the river Euphrates"* and the *"way of the kings of the east"* cannot be taken literally. They must be symbolic of something other than what is commonly taught by most ministers and evangelicals. The word translated here to mean *"way"* is the same

as the one we read in **Jude** where Jude wrote, *"They have gone in the WAY of Cain."* Jude didn't mean that people had gone in the route or roadways which Cain walked; but he meant that they had gone in the religious and philosophical errors of Cain, in Cain's manner, or in the mode of Cain. The *"way of the kings of the east"* is their religious, political, economic ways or customs — their method of doing things. This is the more correct interpretation of this passage in **Revelation 16:12** as we'll see by turning to other Bible passages to see the significance of the word *"east."*

The best place to start in any doctrine is in the book of Genesis, where every truth of God's word begins. **Genesis 4:16** tells us that Cain was driven *"from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the EAST of Eden."* Cain went east and left the presence of God.

In **Genesis 11** is the building of the tower of Babel, and we read in **verses 1 and 2:** *"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there."* The margin of most Bibles will tell you that that could have been translated *"as they journeyed TO the east."* In other words, they, like Cain, were going east.

Genesis 11:4 says: *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."* These people apparently were attempting to set up complete control over all the people, and they wanted to do this so they wouldn't be scattered or lose their power. However, God saw that with their power they would

do evil in the earth and He scattered them, stopping their building.

Genesis 11:9 tells us, *"Therefore is the name of it called Babel."* Almost every person who has ever attended a church has become familiar with that story. However, many do not know that the word Babel is actually the Hebrew word translated in all other places as **"Babylon."** This really was the first attempt to build something called Babylon — some sort of a government control apparatus in opposition to God — and it was by the same people who were moving east.

Some of you can, perhaps, see the comparison to what is known as the United Nations. It, too, is lodged in a tower, a rather tall tower located in New York — a city in the east of the United States — and on the bank of what, strangely enough, is called by the inhabitants — the East River. Perhaps not so strangely, it, too is attempting to build a world-control system in opposition to God Almighty. You can see why many Bible students call the UN. (United Nations) the modern Babel or Babylon. In this old account in **Genesis 11**, it says: *"God confounded their language that they may not understand one another's speech."* In the UN. building is proof of this diversity of languages, with almost as many tongues as there are nations represented. The U.N. is obviously anti-Christian and anti-Christ, allowing no mention of Jesus Christ in their deliberations.

Now don't get ahead of me by thinking that I have identified the UN. as Mystery Babylon; it is more complicated than that. Obviously, the UN. is part of Mystery Babylon, but only one of its more visible parts. Anyway, you can see a little of the significance of the direction here — east — in relation to those things in opposition to God.

In **Genesis 12** we read of God's call to Abraham, with **verse 3** telling us: *"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* In this call to Abraham is the beginning and the foundation of all subsequent Biblical history and prophecy. For, from Genesis 12 to the end of the book of Revelation, the entire word of God is about God's dealings with the descendants or the seed of Abraham — sometimes called the Israel people, God's chosen people, the Covenant people, and so on.

Abraham obeyed and left his father's house and journeyed to Canaan. On the way, he set up an altar to God as shown in **Genesis 12:8**: *"And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord."*

Now, I am one of those preachers who believe that every passage in the Bible is important. It is interesting, here, that Abraham, immediately after his call, built an altar between Bethel (which later would be the place where the Ark of the Covenant was placed when God brought Abraham's descendants out of Egypt) and Ai (which was the place of Israel's first defeat when they came into Canaan land)- Ai to the east, Bethel to the west.

If you read the account of that battle at Ai in Joshua 7 and 8, you will find that Israel was defeated because a man in Israel took a wedge of gold and a Babylonish garment and hid them under his tent. In Revelation chapter 18, as we read of Babylon, we find her merchandise is listed; and number one on that list is GOLD.

Here, in Genesis 12, immediately upon receiving God's special call to him and to his descendants, Abraham set up an altar and worshipped between Bethel (representing the Ark of God's Covenant) on the west and Ai (the place of Israel's defeat because of Babylon's gold) on the east; inserting, as it were, himself and God's Covenant between the danger from the EAST and Israel. Yes! Babylon, gold, and east are all descriptions of things in opposition to God's people and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (By the way, I have three cassettes of six Bible sermons titled *Should We Put Our Trust In Gold?* This is a 4 - 1/2 hour Bible study from Genesis to Revelation on the Scriptural use and misuse of gold. Listen to tape numbers **7418** thru **7420** in the taped sermon section of the Sheldon Emry Memorial Library.

Because of space, I'll have to be brief on some further references to "east" in the Bible. In Genesis 13 we see that Lot chose the "east country" and Abraham chose the west. In Genesis 29 Jacob took his wives, Leah and Rachel, from his grandfather's kindred in the east and took them west to become the mothers of the twelve sons who became the twelve tribes of Israel. In Judges 6, 7 and 8, the enemies of the children of Israel, whom Gideon fought to deliver Israel from captivity, are called several times-the "children of the east." In the book of Judges, Gideon fought these children of the east to release Israel; in Revelation, John sees a vision of something called "the way of the kings of the east" just before the battle of Armageddon, which destroys Israel's captor, Babylon, in the end of the age. Could they be connected? They are, very definitely; and you cannot understand one without the other!

In Job and in the Psalms, "east" or

"east winds" are mentioned several times, always with some reference to destruction or some evil. **Psalm 103:12** says, *"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."* By implication the Psalmist says that east and west are greatly separated. Rudyard Kipling wrote, "East is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet."

Today, any student of world history knows the differences between the ways of Western man and the ways of the mysterious Orient or the mysterious East. The world is divided, roughly, into two parts today: those under what is erroneously called Communism (or some form of it), or the nations of the East; and the other part of the world, which is often called the nations of the West, the Western nations, or the Christian West. The world is round and yet, ancient custom has given the nations and the people which follow Christ the descriptive title of "Western Nations"; while those which follow heathen religions are largely classified under the name "East" or "Eastern." Coincidence, or is it all recorded by the infinite hand of the Creator God who knows the end from the beginning?

In **Isaiah 2** we read of God forsaking the house of Israel in **verse 6**, *"...because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers."* Today, the Christian West, including America, is being overwhelmed by the religions of the East, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Animism (the worship of animals and trees), soothsaying or fortunetelling with cards, reading palms, and reading the stars (astrology). We even have classes on Hindu in our schools, and we see young Americans in our large cities going around in long robes

with Hindu turbans on their heads, chanting "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna." Even the religious pages in our newspapers have advertisements for services at temples of understanding or temples of Krishna. A thorough study of the so-called ecology movement in America with its concern for animals over the needs of the people will show you that it is founded on the Hindu religion of the reincarnation of man into any animal. All of this has its origin not in Christianity or in God's word or in the West, but in the EAST.

Isaiah also wrote in **Isaiah 2:6** that, *"...they please themselves in the children of strangers." We are "pleased"* to set over ourselves aliens and the heathen. We bow down to the U.N., which is made up of the Asiatics and colored of the world. Instead of honoring God, we honor the heathen. We integrate and intermarry to please the edicts of the Communists and of the heathen.

Where do these philosophies come from? The Bible says "...from the EAST. " Could it be that the "way of the kings of the east" is actually the mode, manner, customs, and religious philosophies of the Orient? Obviously it could. It is not a physical army made up of 200 million Chinese as the fundamentalists teach. It is an army of alien philosophers and religious teachers who have taken over most of the nations of the world, even invading the Christian West-the land of God's people, Israel-and have deceived us into following their heathen philosophies and their vain deceits. We have even fallen for their false ideology of government called Communism which is destructive of Western man and Western Nations.

Now the drying up of the river Euphrates would also have a meaning other than the physical drying up of water out of a river bed. From the Bible it seems

probable that the Garden of Eden was there in the Euphrates River valley of Mesopotamia or near there. It was there that the descendants of Adam settled. Later, Abraham was born and raised there; and from there he was called to leave and follow God. This same area is referred to by archaeologists and historians as the "fertile crescent" or "the cradle of civilization" or more specifically-- "Western Civilization." History and archaeology, also, show that the White race or Caucasian race (which are synonymous) originated in this area, and it was this race which was responsible for spreading Western Civilization to the Mediterranean, Europe, and finally North America. The river Euphrates is symbolic of our White, Western Civilization.

The drying up of the Euphrates symbolizes the drying up of the power of the Caucasian race, along with our Western Civilization or Christian customs, and ways of government, religion, and economics. This **"drying up"** or loss of our way of life has opened the way for the customs and methods of the people of the East to prevail in the Western Nations. We are under attack by the forces, the ideology, and the religious philosophies of the East which has taken over much of the world and has infiltrated our own Western Nations, all in preparation for the last battle, as described in God's Word.

Many people do realize that an ideology called "Communism" has engulfed all the nations of the East, of Asia, Eastern Europe and is taking over much of Africa, has infiltrated and surrounded the Arab nations, and has designated the Western Nations as their last battleground and conquest. However, this last battleground will be for their defeat and not victory, as is verified in the Word of God.

The culture or way of life of the East is entirely different from our Western

Civilization and originated in a different place and time. Our race is descended from Adam; the mongolian (Asiatic) races are descended from people who were on earth before Adam was formed from the dust of the ground. If you have wondered why there is this great difference between the White race and other races, you should listen to my cassette tape titled **The Two Creations (tape No 7228)**. It explains the creation of men on the earth in Genesis 1 before Adam and Eve and then the creation of Adam and Eve, the progenitors of the White race. Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, which was just west of the Euphrates River valley. As a result, after they were driven east out of Eden, they populated the Tigris and Euphrates valley, which became the cradle of Western or White Adamic Civilizations.

The Dragon, The Beast and The False Prophet

After John saw the sixth vial dry up the river Euphrates, **Revelation 16:13** goes on with this vision: *"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."* You'll notice that John did not say in verse 12 that the kings of the east attacked or made war in any manner we would call a military war. This is not a vision of the moving of great armies of soldiers or of air and naval attack; but an attack of ideas, philosophies, and words in opposition to the true religion — Western Christianity. They are the philosophies of Hinduism, Buddhism, Moslemism, Taoism, Judaism, ancestor and animal worship, worship of the sun and stars (astrology), occultism, devil worship, witchcraft, black magic and on and on. Here, in **verse 13**, they are called *"three unclean spirits like frogs"* and they come out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

These are ancient symbols and terms but can be explained, today, this way:

A. The dragon, since time immemorial, has been the symbol of China or the symbol of the mongols, the people of Asia. The dragon would represent this source of part of the unclean spirits.

B. The beast is the same beast described in Revelation chapter 17, upon which the woman (Mystery Babylon) is riding. It is there described as a *"scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."* The color *"scarlet"* is, of course, a clue to its present day identity — the color *"red"* of what we call World Communism. The Communists have always called themselves *"reds."* The scarlet-colored beast is undoubtedly World Communism, the blasphemer of Christendom.

C. The third source of unclean spirits is called *"the false prophet."* The word prophet, as used in the Bible, covers anyone who represents himself as teaching God's Word. A false prophet would be anyone who professes to teach God's word or Christianity, but teaches false doctrine.

These three sources of evil, falsehood, lying propaganda — these unclean spirits — cover all of those things which come to deceive the world. No matter who you are or from what part of the world you come, you would be affected by one or more of these three sources of unclean spirits.

As Western or White culture is dried up or destroyed, the *"way of the kings of the east"* — the customs, manners, and the religion of the race of the East — then flows into the White or Western nations. That which comes from the East is not armed men of war, but deceiving words and thoughts from the mouths of men; and all of this is a part of Mystery Babylon.

In **Revelation chapter 17**, after the angel calls Mystery Babylon the *"great whore that sitteth on many waters,"* verse 2 then says: *"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication."* To be drunk is to be both mentally and physically impaired. Even in medicine it does not necessarily mean the imbibing of alcohol, but the taking of anything which impairs the function of the mind and the body. Here the people of the earth are drunk with something coming from *"Mystery Babylon."*

In **Revelation chapter 18**, as the angel announces the destruction of *"Mystery Babylon,"* he says in verse 2: *"And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."* Verse 3 repeats that the nations had *"drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* Fornication is often used in the Old Testament to mean idol worship as well as illicit sexual acts. Therefore, false religion and illicit sex is a part of Mystery Babylon's deception. In verse 5, she is said to have sins and iniquities. Sin is transgression of God's law; so Mystery Babylon represents the violation of God's laws.

As her destruction is completed the people will see, according to verse 23, that "by her sorceries were all men deceived" The Greek word translated "sorceries" is "pharmaceia" or in modern English — drugs. In **verse 23** it would not be wrong to read, *"by her drugs were all nations deceived"*

Most of you know that a drugged condition of a person can be brought about by

a chemical substance or by mental control, such as hypnosis or powerful propaganda. Again the result is what the Scripture calls "drunken" or incapable of natural reason. The mind is affected and the person acts irrationally, even doing things which are harmful to himself, to his loved ones, or to his nation.

Kahlil Gibran — A False Prophet

And this brings us to Kahlil Gibran and his book "The Prophet," which is one example of thousands of books which have insinuated the religion of the East into our Western Civilization. I won't be able to go through the whole 100 or so pages; but, beginning in the Table of Contents, you will notice that the book is divided into 28 sections, dealing with 27 different subjects. the first one is on love, then marriage, children, giving, crime, laws, pain, friendship, good and evil, pleasure and so on, describing all his fascinating philosophy. I have met professing Christians who have told me they have patterned their life on the philosophies of Kahlil Gibran and The Prophet. As I comment on this, think of its effect on young people, as it is not written to affect older people. It is directed at the young, as shown by the pictures in the book.

The first subject is love:

*When love beckons to you, follow him,
Though his ways are hard and steep.
And when his wings enfold you yield to him,
Though his voice may shatter your
dreams as the north wind lays waste the
garden.
For even as love crowns you so shall he
crucify you. Even as he is for your growth
so is he for your pruning.*

In this passage he says, "fall in love, go, follow, yield, even though you might be

hurt." At the same time he connects that with crucifying you, with growing and pruning — only, of course, if you follow, if you go, if you yield to it. He continues on:

*He threshes you to make you naked.
He sifts you to free you from your husks.
He grinds you to whiteness.
He kneads you until you are pliant;
And then he assigns you to his sacred
fire, that you may become sacred bread
for God's sacred feast.*

On the opposite page, in this book, is a dreamlike drawing of a naked young man and a naked young girl, seemingly asleep on a cloudy background. What is the message planted in young immature minds? It is that young love — naked and physical—is of sacred fire and you become sacred bread for God's sacred feast. This is, of course, the philosophy and religion of the Hinduism of India and of Baal of Babylon. If our young people had been schooled in the law and the Prophets of the Bible, they would know that in Leviticus 18, the children of Israel were told by Moses that one of the sins of the Canaanites for which God was destroying them was nudity and illicit sex. There are twelve verses opposing nudity and twelve others against sex crimes. God says, ***"For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them, shall be cut off from among the people."*** In other words, they would be put to death. However, in the first 16 pages or so of Gibran's book, young people are told to follow love, to yield to it; it will make you naked and white and a sacred fire, and you will become God's sacred bread by doing that.

Young minds are captured by the smooth and seemingly beautiful flow of these ideas. This is from India, from the East, the unclean spirits from the mouth of the dragon of **Revelation 16:13**.

Gibran continues in this manner for more pages with the same theme — give yourself in love; it is for your perfection. The next section is on marriage as follows:

Ay, you shall be together even in silent memory of God.
But let there be spaces in your togetherness,
And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.
Fill each other's cup but drink not from one cup.
Give one another of your bread but eat not from the same loaf.

There is an obvious implication here: go ahead and have more than one lover; have more than one husband; go from one to another. This is the wisdom of Kahlil Gibran and The Prophet. Do you see where this is the basis for hippy free love, for the communes where they share partners, for the living together without marriage so you can leave one .and go to another? He brings God into it, also. Go ahead, fornicate and be adulterers, for God is silent on this, says Gibran. Gibran goes on:

Sing and dance together and be joyous,
but let each one of you be alone,
Give your hearts but not into each other's keeping. For only the hand of Life can contain your hearts.

On the opposite page there is a picture showing a naked young girl lying in the foreground, with one arm raised more or less in farewell, as a naked young man walks away with another naked girl in the background. This visually shows what the verses teach: leave one to take up with another, and it is all presented as if it is beautiful and good, even related to being close to God. Where have millions in Western Nations been indoctrinated with premarital sex with multiple sex part-

ners? It is in books such as this from the East. Of course, don't forget that this same anti-Christian, Eastern, religious philosophy is presented to our young people in magazines and movies, and to the older people in soap operas on television, corrupting and degrading Christian civilization with its damnable sins. That is the *"way of the kings of the east,"* the *"sorceries"* of Babylon, *"the wine of the wrath of the fornication of Mystery Babylon"* and we see its results in our nation and among our people.

The morality of the Christian Bible is entirely the opposite. God says of marriage in **Proverbs 5: 15-18:** *"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."* Kahlil Gibran says, "Fill each other's cup but-drink not from one cup," meaning — take other mates.

God says in **Proverbs 5:20:** *"...be not ravished with a strange woman, and embrace not the bosom of a stranger."* God says, *"Covet not thy neighbour's wife,"* in the tenth commandment. God says in **Proverbs 6:32-33:** *"Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."*

In **Proverbs 7:22-23** the Word of God describes a man who has intercourse with another man's wife: *"He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to*

the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life." In recent years doctors have finally begun to admit that when anyone has sexual intercourse with other than their legitimate mate, it is very destructive to their vital organs — especially their heart and, yes, to the liver — just as God wrote over 2,500 years ago.

America is drunk on the wine of the fornication of Mystery Babylon and she does not know the source of the spring from which she has become drunken. It is from the East, the "way of the kings of the east," promoted by the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. Revelation chapter 16 is not future; it is being fulfilled in our time and in our land.

The third subject is on raising children. Here you will see from where permissiveness and letting children do their own thing came. It originated from the EAST. It begins this way:

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
Speak to us of children.

And he said:

*Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's
longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they
belong not to you. You may give them
your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their
souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of
tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not
even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek
not to make them like you.*

What is the message from this Hindu from India? Children do not belong to par-

ents. Parents should strive to be like their children and not make their children like themselves. When this is followed by parents, their children will grow up following whatever is funnelled into their minds by the schools, the news media, T.V., the entertainment world, and so on. Christian parents then do not produce Christian children, which is, after all, the goal of every antiChrist in the world. How better to reduce the Christian population of the world than to convince Christian parents not to train nor discipline their children according to the Christian Bible and the Christian Faith.

This same deadly advice has been given to millions of Christian parents by the Jewish philosopher, Benjamin Spock. Don't spank your child; don't correct him; let him do his own thing; if you chastise him you might break his spirit; let him have his own person to reach his own potential; and on and on. Dear Abby and Ann Landers write the same bad advice which is read by millions. Let children choose their own life-styles. Children should be given information, but let them make up their own minds. Abby even tells parents that if their children take drugs, they are not to punish them, but join some sort of a parent's group and try to understand them!

The Christian Bible says in **Proverbs 13 :24**, *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."* **Proverbs 19:18** commands, *"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."* **Proverbs 23:14** says, *"Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."* God Almighty commands in **Deuteronomy 6:7** that parents are to teach God's laws, statutes, and judgments *"diligently unto thy children."* In **Deuteronomy 4:9** God says of His laws,

"teach them thy sons and thy sons' sons."

Kahlil Gibran, the Eastern philosopher, says, "Do not teach your children anything. Let them flyaway for they are their own person." Meanwhile, thousands of secret antiChrists in America parrot this same heathen and antiChrist philosophy, couching it in seemingly sweet and wise words, by which millions have been deceived. Our rulers urge mothers to work and to turn their children over to government-paid workers for indoctrination and training outside of the Christian home. The government even forbids that God's Word be taught in government schools or day-care centers. Ten million of our young people are on drugs; 8 million are alcoholics (some as young as 12 years of age); one million run away from home every year; millions of young girls become pregnant before marriage; and tens, perhaps hundreds, of thousands are living with boyfriends without marriage. Something is destroying Christian morality and with it Christian civilization in a deliberately planned way.

In the front of this book by Gibran is a little banner with tiny letters which says, "Books Are Weapons in the War of Ideas." Yes, they are weapons against Christianity.

Gibran's same evil philosophy is put forth in a section on teaching where he says, among other things: "No man can reveal to you aught but that which already lies half asleep in the dawning of your knowledge." In other words, search your mind for wisdom. The Bible says that wisdom is from above — from God. If any man seeks wisdom let him ask of God. Jeremiah wrote that man's heart or man's intellect is desperately wicked above all things. In the New Testament we are told to seek the mind of Christ. Gibran says, in effect, "seek your own mind."

He goes on of the teacher: "If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom, but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind." Again, what is it? Exaltation of man's mind over the wisdom of God, and of the parents, in the family and nation.

You have heard of transcendental meditation or self-meditation, self-realization societies or meetings, awareness groups, self-help groups, and sensitivity training sessions. In such groups and organizations anyone with problems such as prisoners, drug-pushers, divorcees, cripples, alcoholics and so on, are all urged to gather in a circle to express their feelings and emotions, to talk over their problems, to listen to each other, to give each other advice, even to shout at each other and accuse each other. All of this, somehow, is supposed to solve their problems and make them better persons. Of course, in each, they are guided by an instructor who is usually a secret practitioner of the religion of the East — Gibran's Hinduism, self-worship, the exaltation of man's mind instead of seeking the mind of God. It is anti -God and anti -Christianity instead of Christianity.

To prevent his readers from thinking of any source of knowledge from God Almighty outside of the person's own mind, Gibran concludes this section on teaching this way: "So must each one of you be alone in his knowledge of God and in his understanding of the earth." So you must understand God from your own mind and not impart it to others. What more devilish philosophy and vain deceit could be put in the minds of our young people than to convince them that they can know God only from their own mind? Add to that Gibran's previous phrase about the teacher not leading the student to the house of his wisdom, and you can see how this Hindu philosophy of not

going to the source of wisdom but, instead, going to your own mind, is, also, quite cleverly-concealed, today, in what is called Christian Evangelism.

Gibran says that the teacher does not send the student back to the source of wisdom but, instead, sends him to his own mind. The call of the modern evangelist is to LET Christ come into your heart and He will change your mind. The hearer is then led to believe that all he has to do is make a confession about Christ in front of some other people and, somehow, from that moment on, he can trust his own mind. He is not instructed that the source of wisdom is in God's law. He is not instructed that only in God's law can he find answers and guides for his life or that only in God's law will he find knowledge of the difference between right and wrong. In fact, many of the evangelists keep the new professing Christian away from God's law by, also, telling him that God's law has been put away by the same Christ who he has now confessed and who is supposed to direct him into correct thinking through his mind.

The Apostle Paul, who experienced a startling and miraculous conversion, wrote a whole section in his letter to the Romans on how God's law was the only thing that taught him right from wrong. In **Romans 2:23** he said that *"breaking the law dishonored God"* In **Romans 3:20** he said that *"by the law is the knowledge of sin."* In **Romans 3:31** he said that *"faith establishes God's law."* In **Romans 7:7** Paul, that genuinely converted Christian, wrote, *"I had not known sin, but by the law; for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet"* Christian Paul admitted that in his mind he didn't even know that lust was a sin until he read it in the law. In **Romans 7:12** he said that *"God's law is holy and just and*

good." In **Romans 7:14** he said that *"the law is spiritual"* Yet today, ministers tell their hearers that all they must do to become holy and just and good and spiritual is to come down to the altar. And then the ministers actually go out of their way to discourage that hearer from turning to the wisdom which Paul said was in God's law.

Quoting Gibran again about teachers: "If he is indeed wise he does not bid you enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your own mind." Paraphrasing that, he would say that if the evangelist is wise he will not bid you enter the Bible and read God's law, rather, he will lead you back to your own mind; and they do exactly that. The listener is led away from God's law right at the very time he is told he is now a Christian and can trust his own mind. No wonder so many professing Christians, who disobey much of God's law and accept that disobedience in others, don't even know what God's law teaches. Instead, they obey whatever doctrine it is the evangelist teaches, thinking that he must be right since, after all, he is the one preaching Christ.

As a final comment on this book by Gibran, I could have pointed out this devilish and anti Christ philosophy in a thousand different books, in thousands of movies, and millions of magazines, all of which are destroying the morality and strength of the Christian West, which comes only from God's wisdom in God's Word. Instead, we are being turned inward to our own minds to seek the solution to the problems of the individual and the nation, and the solutions are not there, only more problems. We have turned from seeking our instruction in God's Word and His law, and we are being deceived by the traditions, the teachings, or the "ways of the kings of the east." They

are the deceptions of Mystery, Babylon the Great.

Our people must turn to God and to His Word; and I believe that that day is soon coming. When it comes, there may be the greatest burning of books in all recorded history as God's people burn the books, the magazines, even the movies, of Mystery Babylon. Even **Revelation 18:8** implies this with the phrase, *"and she shall utterly be burned with fire."* Both Paul and Peter wrote of the day when the evil works of the wicked would be burned up, leaving nothing but ashes. May God speed the day!

As we go on with other phases of the deceptions and actions of Mystery Babylon, one will see they are actually warfare against Christendom. Not the warfare of some future antiChrist after the Christians are all gone, but a war against Christians going on today in our own time, if we would but look for it from the light of God's Word.

The Three Unclean Spirits

In **Revelation 16:14** God says that these three spirits of verse 13 are working miracles, and, apparently, their call is to the kings of the earth and to the people *"to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."* So, you dear Christian people, as much as you perhaps would like to do battle with the heathen religions, as much as you would like to fight Communism, as much as you would like to oppose the wolves in sheep's clothing who call themselves Christians in the churches today, it seems obvious here that three sources of evil spirits do their work with the express permission of God Almighty. God is allowing this. God is allowing all of these unclean spirits to gather all the people of the earth under their banner, because God is going to, once

and for all, destroy all these evil spirits, which are seducing and destroying the peoples of the earth. God tells us in His Bible of those who have no love of the truth in **2 Thessalonians 2:11**, *"And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."* Yes, these things are allowed by God Almighty.

Today, the three unclean spirits from the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet permeate the earth. It is a time of great deception. Jesus said it was a time when *"...there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall show great signs and wonders; inso-much that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect"*

Matthew 24:24.

Revelation 16:16 completes the train of thought of verse 14 in the following way: *"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."* HOWEVER, God in His mercy, right in the middle of this fabulous vision of our world today, inserts this in **verse 15**: *"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."*

Right there, many of you will breathe a sigh of relief and say that that is the "rapture"; that is when Jesus will come as a "thief in the night" and secretly and silently remove all the born again believers before the "battle of the great day of God Almighty." But that verse doesn't say that at all! It doesn't say one thing about taking anyone anywhere. That verse simply says that I (meaning Jesus) will come as a thief and goes on to say that "he that watcheth and keepeth his garments" will be blessed; and quite-obviously it implies that if he loses his garments, he will be naked and they (meaning someone) will

see his shame.

First I'll explain the meaning of the "garments." Much of the New Testament was written in the language of the people of that day, which was Aramaic, and like all languages they had phrases, sayings, witicisms, riddles, and so forth which were peculiar to that time and to that language. When used they must be understood in that way, otherwise they make no sense. Is Jesus saying that if we don't stand around and look up into the sky for his coming, that someone will steal our clothes and we'll have to stand around naked? Obviously not! However, a custom of that day, well-known to John and to the people of Christ's day, and shown to us in historical records, makes sense of all this. The custom used here involved the practice in the Roman army in which, if a man was found asleep on guard duty, he was not to be awakened. The sergeant of the guard, or whatever, would walk quietly up to him, take his sword and his shield, slip off his outer garment, and then awaken him to the accusation of sleeping while on guard duty. This was done so that the man, if he had just been called awake, could not make up excuses about his eyes being closed, having dust in his eyes, or whatever. If the officer had the soldier's sword and his clothes taken from him, the proof was positive and all could see that he had not been watching and was guilty of sleeping. The soldier was then forced to walk naked back to his barracks for trial and everyone saw his shame.

This is the symbolism used here by Jesus. He is issuing, of course, the same warning he gave in **Matthew 24:42-44**: *"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered*

his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." In Revelation 16:15, having read of the warning not to lose your garments, we find at the end of that same story in **Matthew 24** that Christ says of the servant who did not watch (**in verse 50-51**): *"The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Notice that this man was called a servant. He was not called an enemy of God or the enemy of Christ. He was supposedly in the service of the master but he shirked his duties, he betrayed his trust, he fell asleep on guard duty, and he lost something when the master returned.

Paul knew the truth that believers are to continue in true faith and doctrine in order to be accounted worthy to escape and to stand before the Son of man, and that they couldn't turn to false worship and false doctrines and still expect to be saved just because they had once professed to believe Jesus Christ was the Son of God.

Colossians 1:19-23 speaks of Christ and what He has done for you: *"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith*

grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister...." [Paul then goes on to speak of himself.] So Paul, writing later, came up with the same doctrine: Keep the faith; be not moved away from the hope of the gospel. By deduction we can say that if you turn to false doctrines not taught in the Bible, you can lose something. In Revelation 16:15 that something is called a garment.

Paul describes this garment we are to keep and wear in **Ephesians 6:13**, *"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"* Paul goes on in **verse 14**: *"Stand therefore, [and this word 'stand' means the same as 'watch'] having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..."* What is this garment we are to keep, and to watch that we do not lose? Why, the garment of the word of God; the garment of the gospel; the armour of the truth of God's word.

Revelation 16:13 and 14 is a warning of unclean spirits, which would work miracles in the whole earth, deceiving most of the people and kings of the earth, being allowed to do so by God. Here, right in the middle of it, He inserted a warning to believers not to be deceived by these spirits of devils, but to stay in His word in truth. Yes, be not caught naked; be not

turned to false doctrine; be not deceived by the unclean spirits; be not asleep; be watchful of the truth of God's Word.

In **Revelation 16:12-15**, we have seen that the work of the sixth vial was to release the spirits of devils, which would work miracles and gather the kings of the world to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. **Verse 16** continues the thought by telling us: *"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."* Now that gathering of all nations into one great world federation, which is in opposition to Christianity, is well along to completion. Over 60 different organizations, which control various parts of all nations, are in operation now in what is called the United Nations. No mention of Jesus Christ is allowed in the U.N. The most powerful nations in terms of influence and secret agents are Russia and China, which are declared enemies of Christianity. Ninety percent of the remainder of the nations in the U.N. are under the control of men and governments hostile to Jesus Christ and to the Christians.

Most men who know what the U.N. organization is, and what the aims of the world Communists are, see no way in which a great World War III can be avoided, except by an abject surrender by the Christian people of their sovereignty and their religion. In other words, the only thing which would stop the antiChristians from eventually-attacking Western Europe, America and the other Christian nations, would be our surrender and our acceptance of rule by Communists. The Communist goal is world rule. They have worked at it for years. They have stated they will make no compromise in their goals and they claim Marx and Lenin as their guides.

Karl Marx once wrote that the goal of

the Communists was to "enter into mens' minds and cast God down from His throne." The chairman of the American Communist Party stated some years ago: "The Christians are always singing about the blood. Let us give them enough of it. Let us cut their throats and drag them over their altar and let them drown in their own blood. I dream of the day when the last priest is strangled on the guts of the last preacher." That is quite a statement! Yet this man is an American citizen and still one of the highest officials in the U.S. Communist Party. Neither he nor any other member has ever repudiated that statement or indicated that that is not their final goal. The world is moving on to a violent confrontation between the forces of the anti Christians and the followers of Jesus Christ. Many professing Christians do not even know that we are under attack.

The Seventh Vial

Revelation 16:17 then gives us the vision of the seventh angel: *"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."* The pouring out of the seventh vial in the air is the end of the pouring out of God's wrath upon the earth. The work of the seventh vial, as we shall see, is the destruction of Mystery Babylon.

Earlier, we saw that Revelation 15:7 and 8 makes it quite plain that no man could enter into the temple of God until the work of the seventh vial was complete. Modern theologians have the Christians going to stand in the temple of God either upon their death or in the "rapture," before any of these wraths of God come upon the earth. Not so! None will stand in the temple of God until after all the events portrayed in Revelation chapters 16

through 18 are complete. (I have a pamphlet titled **Where Is Your Soul After Death?**, which will help explain the truth of what happens at death. Also, I have a booklet titled: **The Rich Man and Lazarus**, which is pertinent to this study, as the "rich man" is symbolic of Mystery, Babylon the Great. The Rich Man and Lazarus is not about men in heaven and hell as is taught. The word "heaven" is not even in this story or parable of Christ.)

The seventh vial is poured out in **Revelation 16:17** and then the following is related in **verse 18**: *"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"* Here it appears that the seventh vial is to be poured out upon Mystery Babylon. Remember, as we read these things, that all of Revelation is a series of visions given in symbols. If Mystery, Babylon the Great is not an actual woman (as she is not), if the beast is not an actual beast (which it is not), if these vials are not actually large golden containers poured out above the earth (which they are not), then why do we expect this earthquake to be a physical shaking of the earth? No, the earthquake spoken of here must be the earthquake spoken of by the prophets.

In **Isaiah 13:1** the prophet writes: *"The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see."* He speaks in **verse 9** of *"the day of the Lord"* and in **verse 13** of **chapter 13**, which is entirely about Babylon, God says, *"Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."* That is the symbolic earthquake that John saw in **Revelation 16:18**.

The book of Revelation is a series of visions given to John in which he saw, in symbolic vision, the fulfillment of the writings of the prophets. Modern churches do not teach enough out of the law and the Prophets. In fact, some of them tell people they are not necessary because "We are New Testament Christians and that is what we should read." Therefore, people do not understand the book of Revelation because they are strangers to the books of the prophets.

In **Isaiah 24:1** we read: *"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof."* After 16 verses of describing the earth as being in great and terrible tribulation, he says in **Isaiah 24:18-20**, *"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."* Yes, the windows of heaven are opened to do what? The answer is to pour out the vials of God's wrath. As well, what would you call "the earth moved exceedingly" if you wanted to use just one word? Earthquake, of course.

Going on in **Isaiah 24:20**, *"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."* Now some quote these verses to imply that this is the actual destruction of the planet earth, itself. No! He is talking about the world system, about what Isaiah calls Babylon, the ways of the transgressors, or the ungodly upon the earth. If you will read to the end of **Isaiah, chapter 24**, you will see that he foretells of the punishment of the kings of the earth and finally, in **verse 23**, *"...the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount*

Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously." That is what was shown to John in the visions of Revelation concerning the gathering of the kings of the earth to battle — a battle or a shaking, which will end in their destruction, followed by the establishment of Christ's kingdom upon the earth.

In **Jeremiah 25:33** it says that the *"...slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth"* In verse **35** he says, *"And the shepherds shall have no way to flee."* The ministers who have preached peace will suffer with the enemies of God's people and with the wicked kings of the earth.

In **Isaiah 13:14**, after we read that God would shake the heavens and the earth, God says, *"They shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land"* Today, most of the liberal and modernist churches actually teach that if we but learn to get along with all of the other races and integrate with them, if we just love everyone, and if we cease being so bigoted and narrow-minded, we will be able to develop a peaceful world. Nonsense! God's Word says that we will not have peace. Instead there will be a great battle at the end of this age, which will involve the entire world and will separate the people. The propaganda of peace and integration is not Scriptural, but is a deception. If Christians understood the Bible, they would not fall for the phony peace and love propaganda of the enemy; and much of that propaganda comes to us under the guise of Christian preaching!

That is what Paul meant in **1 Thessalonians 5:2-3** when he wrote, *"... that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sud-*

den destruction cometh upon them." God will punish the ministers for not warning the people of the battle.

At the time of preparing this study, I was preaching a series on Ezekiel chapter 13, which is a prophecy of this day of battle and destruction. The entire chapter is a rebuke to the ministers. In Ezekiel 13:5 God charges the ministers that they have not prepared His people to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. We find, in our time, that they have not done so. Many, instead of warning our people of impending war, are telling them that they will not see war, but instead, they will be whisked off to heaven some night in the twinkling of an eye. That is a false hope which prevents Christians from being prepared to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord.

The above-mentioned battle is described by all of the prophets, often with the word "shake" or "shaking," meaning literally "earth shaking," or as in Revelation 16:18 — an earthquake. The earth or worldly system, called Babylon by the prophets, is being shaken. Because of our ignorance of the Word of God, we do not recognize that it is God's hand doing the shaking.

Other prophecies of that "shaking" are given in **Ezekiel, chapter 38** (the invasion of Israel by Gog and Magog, which is Russia) where God calls it in verse **19**, *"a great shaking in the land of Israel"* In my book **The Bible Saws Russia Will Invade America**, I show that that invasion has already begun. It is not something future; it is already happening.

The entire chapter of Joel 3 is a description of the battle of the day of the Lord. **Joel 3:16** says, *"The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heav-*

ens and the earth shall shake." The prophet in **Haggai 2:6 and 7** says: *"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."*

In **Hebrews 12:25** it says: *"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven."* Here, the writer is reminding us of our Israel forefathers, who so disobeyed God in the wilderness after He spoke at Mount Sinai, that they perished in the wilderness and did not go into the promised land of Canaan. Going on in **verse 26**: *"Whose voice then shook the earth: [referring to the shaking at Mount Sinai] but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven."* (This is a quote from **Haggai 2:6**.) The heaven referred to here, as I have explained in other Bible studies, represents the organizations of rulership or governments upon the earth.

The writer goes on to explain the shaking and what will be accomplished by it in **verse 27-28**: *"And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear....."* It is the kingdom of Jesus Christ upon the earth which is to be left after the shaking is done.

That is what the whole Bible is about and what Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Israel people were promised. That is what Paul meant in **Romans 4:13** when he said that Abraham was to be *"heir of the world"* That is what Haggai meant when he followed the prophecy of the shaking of the heavens and the earth with these words in **Haggai 2:7**, *"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."* That is the time when every knee will bow and every tongue confess, when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. That is what the seventh angel announced in **Revelation 11:15**: *"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."* That is the stone of **Daniel 2**, *"...the stone cut out without hands which smote the image upon its feet and brake them in pieces."* The angel told the prophet in **Daniel 2:44**: *"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."*

So many of our people are convinced that they will be raptured before any of these great things happen, that they shut their eyes to the truth that this "shaking" is going on now and has been going on for some time. They will be here right on through Babylon's fall and the beginning of the kingdom. None of the passages already mentioned says anything about the believers being gone. In fact, **Hebrews 12:28** has an alternate rendering in the margin of most Bibles for the phrase, *"let us have grace,"* that would make the first half of that verse read, *"Wherefore, we receiving a kingdom*

which cannot be removed, let us hold fast...." Our rapture-minded Christians want to let go, to leave the earth. Yet God warns us to hold on. Jesus told us quite plainly in his parable about the tares and the wheat, that the tares would be removed first, not the wheat. After the tares are removed, *"Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father"*

Matthew 13:43

The shaking of the earth by God in order to destroy the anti-Christian, Babylonian system of world rule was clearly understood by the writer in Hebrews 12:25-29. That earthquake is the shaking and destruction of the wicked, and of course, it is not the removal of the Christians. To teach that the earthquake of Revelation 16:18 is an actual earth-

quake, or that no matter what it is Christians won't be here to witness it, hides the truth that it is happening now right before our eyes. It is God Almighty who is shaking up all of the world systems of government and who is shaking the power of the anti-Christ systems of Babylon which is now here. The writer, also, understood, in this passage, that that shaking would remove those things which can be shaken (those things not of God) so that the things which cannot be shaken (those things which are of God) shall remain. That is the opposite of the false doctrine of the rapture. This passage in Hebrews 12 is an excellent rebuke to those who teach that Revelation 16:18 speaks of a world-wide, literal earthquake.
