

**THE BATTLE OF
ARMAGEDDON
&
THE SEVENTH
CENSER-ANGEL
REVELATION 16:12-21**

INTRODUCTION

FIRST VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Seals 1-5 (6:1-11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Seal (6:12-17)
(End of this World) (NO Battle Scene)

The Interlude: Comfort and
and Protection of the Church (7:1-17)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Seal (8:1-5)
(Introduces the Second Vision)

SECOND VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Trumpets 1-5 (8:6 – 9:12)
Scene 5 (Fifth Trumpet-Angel)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21)
(The Great Battle)

The Interlude: The Church in Mission and
God's Protection (10:1-11:14)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
(End of this Age)

The Interregnum
(Chapters 12-14)

THIRD VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Bowls 1-5 (15:1 – 16:11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)
(The Battle of Armageddon)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)
(End of this Age)

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL



+ **“And the sixth poured out...great river Euphrates...way of the kings who are [coming] from the rising of the sun might be made ready.”**

Here, like in the Sixth Trumpet Judgment, we are given a picture of the final battle between God’s Kingdom and the kingdom of the beast (Satan’s kingdom). *“The devil’s war against the church continues throughout the entire NT era (as portrayed in 12:13-17), but it culminates in one last and greatest battle before the End at Christ’s return”* (Brighton, Revelation, CPH, p. 416).

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ ...great river Euphrates...way of the kings who are [coming] from the rising of the sun might be made ready.”

The Euphrates River is mentioned again (9:14) because it played a significant role in the history of the Israelites and the other nations of the Fertile Crescent.

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

Likewise, kings from the east are mentioned because most of Israel's enemies came from the east.



THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

These historically significant things are used to symbolize the last great battle to take place between Satan and the Church. The fact that the water of the Euphrates is “dried up” to allow the kings from the east to enter the battlefield calls to mind the parting of the Red Sea (Ex. 14:21-31) and the waters of the Jordan River (Jos. 3:9-17). In those instances, it was God who parted those waters to allow His people to cross on dry land once to escape the pursuit of their Egyptian enemies and again to allow them to enter the Promised Land to conquer their enemies.

The drying up of the Euphrates symbolizes the fact that God will allow His enemies, under the control of the beast (Satan), to enter the battlefield for one final conflict with His Church. The kings from the east represent all those who worship the beast and its image and, thus, pledge their allegiance to the Dragon, i.e., all unbelievers.

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ *“...out from the mouth of the dragon, beast, and false prophet...”*

This is the same unholy trinity we witnessed in chapters 12-13; however, the third person in this unholy trinity is given a new name/title, i.e., the false prophet. Previously, we were introduced to the dragon, the beast from the sea, and the beast from the earth. Here, we have the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. The false prophet is the same figure as the beast from the earth. This is the person of the unholy trinity which mocks the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit always prophecies about, and points people to, Jesus. The beast from the earth prophecies about, and leads people to, the first beast, (i.e., the second person of the unholy trinity), which mocks the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ.

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ *“...three unclean spirits like frogs...spirits of demons...gather them together...”*

There will be a very small remnant of God’s people left on earth. The vast majority of people living on earth at that time will have fallen prey to Satan’s influence during his “little season” and will have forsaken God and become His enemies. This is what is meant by the demons “performing signs.” The signs they will perform are **spiritual in nature**, the greatest of which are those that twist, distort, and replace true Christian doctrine and practice into false doctrine and practice. Please keep in mind that the purpose of the unholy trinity is to replace Christ’s Church with a **false** Church, to deceive people into believing that they belong to Christ’s Church, even though they clearly do not (cf. Matt. 7:13-23; 24:23-28).

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ *“for that war of the great day of
God, the Almighty”*

This is the “Great Day of God” because it is the Day when God will finally bring an eternal end to the assault on His kingdom. This is the Day of Reckoning, the Day on which Satan and all his followers will receive their eternal judgment and no longer be able to do any harm against God’s people.

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ *“for that war of the great day of
God, the Almighty”*



THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ ***“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and guards his garments...”***

Christ speaks one final warning to all before this final battle takes place; once He arrives to vanquish Satan, that will bring an end to the Age of Grace. It's time for judgment, only!

It is especially a plea to His Bride, His Church, to remain awake and not grow weary, lest they fall prey to Satan's lies and find themselves on the wrong side of the battlefield on the Last Day. This is not a new message, indeed, throughout Holy Scripture, God's people are exhorted to remain steadfast in His Word.

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ ***“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and guards his garments...”***

To **“stay awake”** is to remain steadfast in His Word in the midst of living in this dead and dying world with all of its temptations to lure us away from the truth. It is to **“keep our garments on,”** that is, to remain clothed in the righteousness and holiness of Christ in which we were robed at the baptismal font.

How do we do that?

THE SIXTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ ***“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and guards his garments...”***

By living a life of daily repentance, continuously recognizing and confessing our sinfulness and trusting in our Lord Jesus who paid the price for us in full, and by continuing to come to the place where He meets us and serves us with His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Those who **“endure to the End,”** that is: those who remain steadfast in God’s Word are truly blessed and have nothing to fear on the Last Day.

“ARMAGEDDON”

Armageddon literally means, “mountain of Megiddo.”

Megiddo, an ancient city located in Israel’s Jezreel Valley, is one of history’s most famous battlefields, with records of battles taking place there as far back as 1468 B.C. Megiddo is mentioned in Scripture several times (e.g. Jdg 4:14-24; 2 Ki 23:29-30; 2 Ki 9:23-29; Zech 12:11, et. al.).



“ARMAGEDDON”

However, this is the first time “mountain of Megiddo” is mentioned, which is a bit odd, since Megiddo is famous, not for its mountains, but for its vast expanse of flat land.

There are mountains surrounding that region, but the battles have always been fought in the huge valley of Megiddo.



“ARMAGEDDON”

Thus, when you put the two together (Megiddo and Mountain), you have the image of a significant battle taking place (Megiddo symbolizing the battle and mountain symbolizing the significance of the battle).



“ARMAGEDDON”

Whatever the case, we know with absolute certainty, regardless of what today’s dispensationalists and so-called “prophecy experts” claim, Armageddon does not refer to a specific geographical location in which the final battle between the kingdoms of Satan (the military forces of all apostate nations) and Christ will take place.



Jezreel and its Valley

Mt. Carmel

Sea of Galilee

Mt. Tabor

Jordan R.

Megiddo

Jezreel

Mt. Gilboa



20 miles

30 miles

“ARMAGEDDON”

Dr. Brighton summarizes, *“Thus Armageddon is used here not as the designation of a particular geographic place, but as a terrifying metaphor of a war that will cover the expanse of the entire earth, since the whole human race will be caught up in it (see 20:9). And the enemy’s intent in this last battle before the End will be the destruction of the people of God, the church of Jesus Christ (20:9; cf. Ezek. 38:7-16). But the enemy shall not prevail (Rev. 16:19; 20:9-10), and the kingdom shall belong to the Lord forever and ever (Obad. 21; 1 Chr. 29:11) (Brighton, Revelation, CPH, p. 423).*

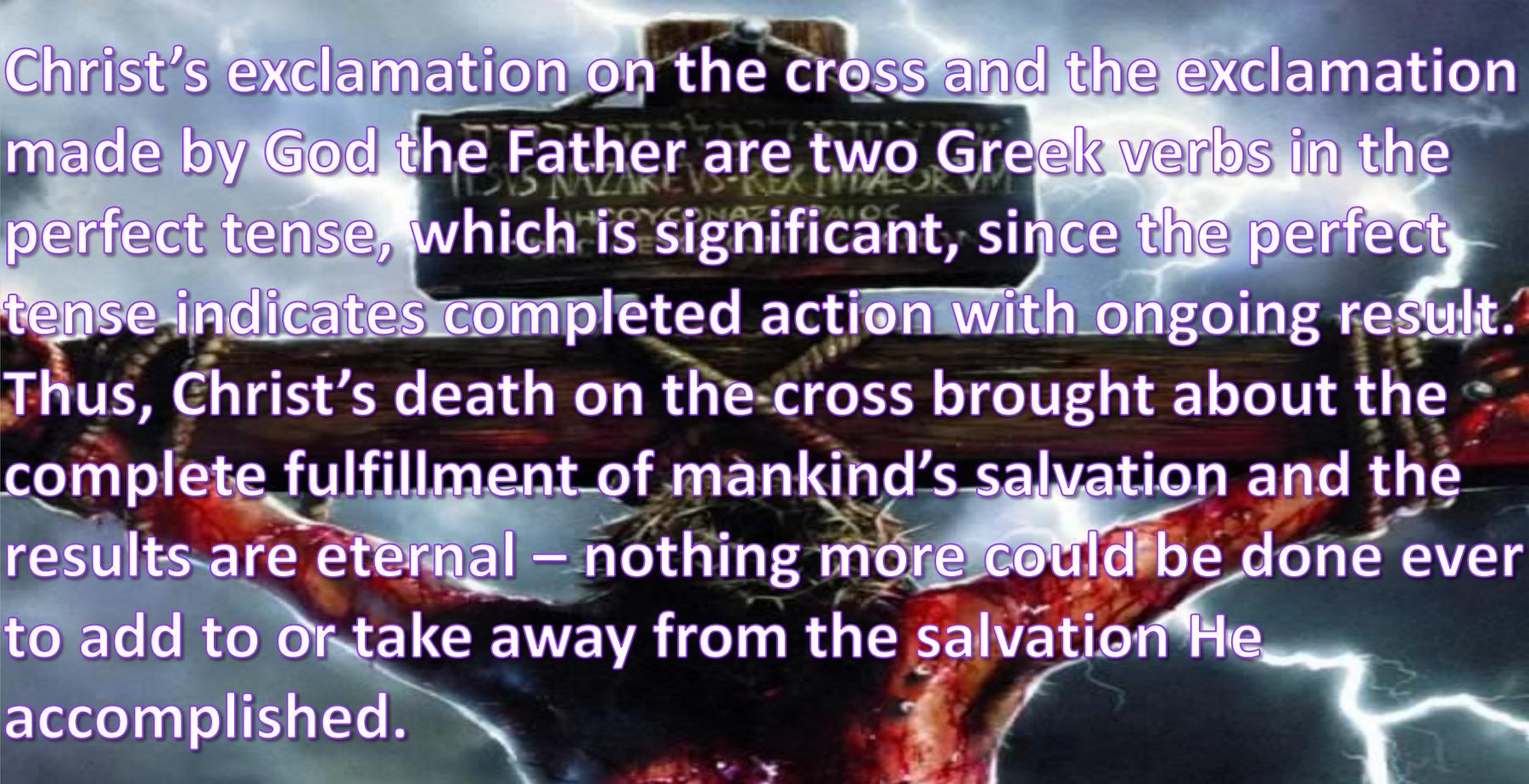
THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ “And the seventh poured...upon the air...great voice... ‘It is completed.’”

The loud voice is the voice of God the Father, who exclaims that the End is here, for all things have been done. This is reminiscent of Christ’s exclamation on the cross: **“It is finished!”** Everything necessary to bring about the salvation of mankind was now fully and completely accomplished with His death on the cross. Here, God’s exclamation refers to the sure and certain fact that everything that needed to happen has been completely accomplished and the End can now come.

THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ “And the seventh poured...upon the air...great voice... ‘It is completed.’”

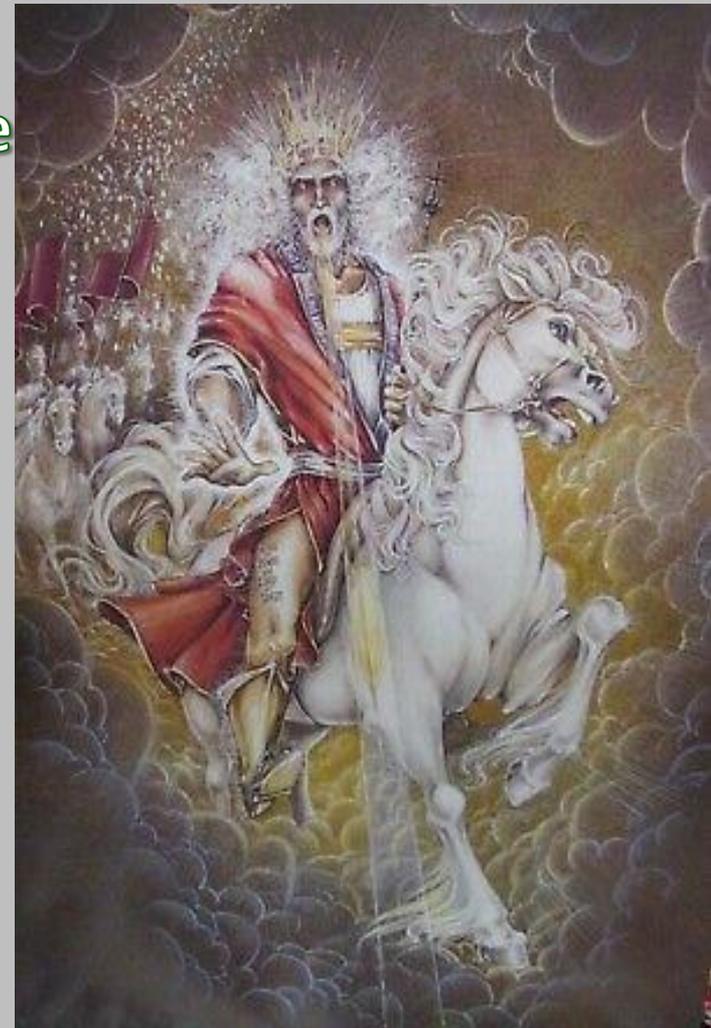
A dramatic scene of a crucifixion. The cross is made of dark wood and is set against a dark, stormy sky with bright lightning bolts. In the foreground, a stone tablet with inscriptions is visible, partially obscuring the cross. The text is overlaid on the image in a purple, glowing font.

Christ's exclamation on the cross and the exclamation made by God the Father are two Greek verbs in the perfect tense, which is significant, since the perfect tense indicates completed action with ongoing result. Thus, Christ's death on the cross brought about the complete fulfillment of mankind's salvation and the results are eternal – nothing more could be done ever to add to or take away from the salvation He accomplished.

THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

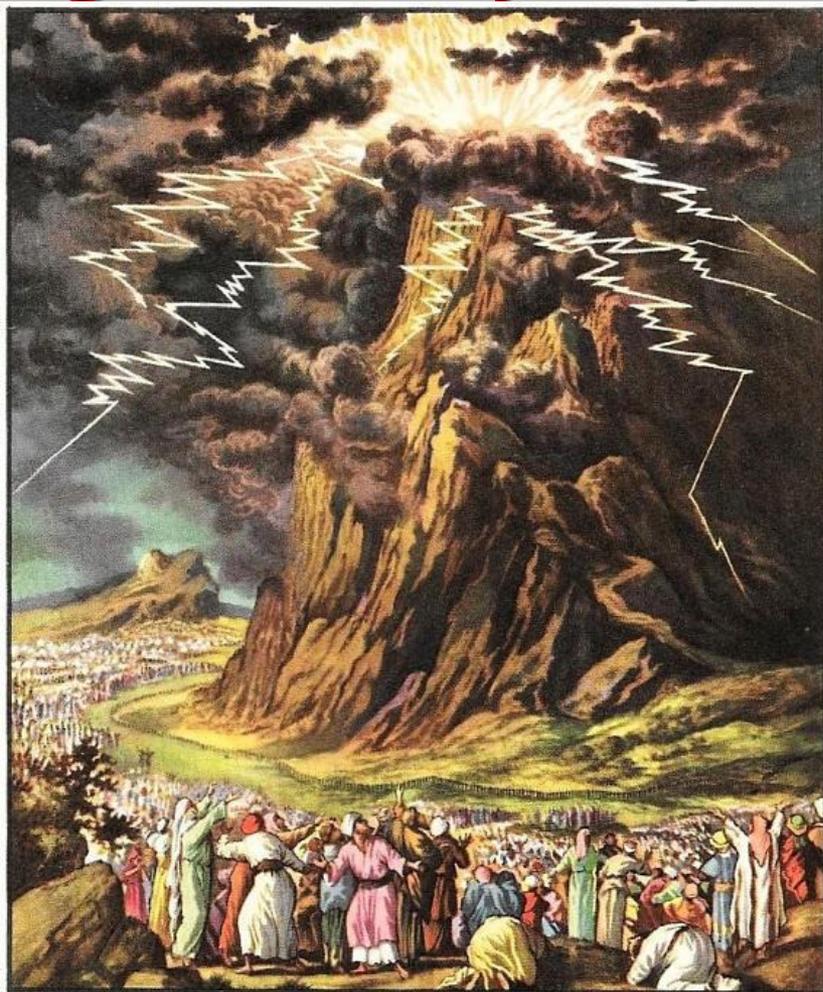
+ “And the seventh poured...upon the air...great voice... ‘It is completed.’”

Likewise, nothing more could be done ever to add to or take away from all of the events that were to take place before the End would come. God has done everything necessary. He has provided every warning needed. He has issued every call to repentance necessary. Nothing has been left undone. It is time!!! Our Lord’s Second Advent is NOW!



THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

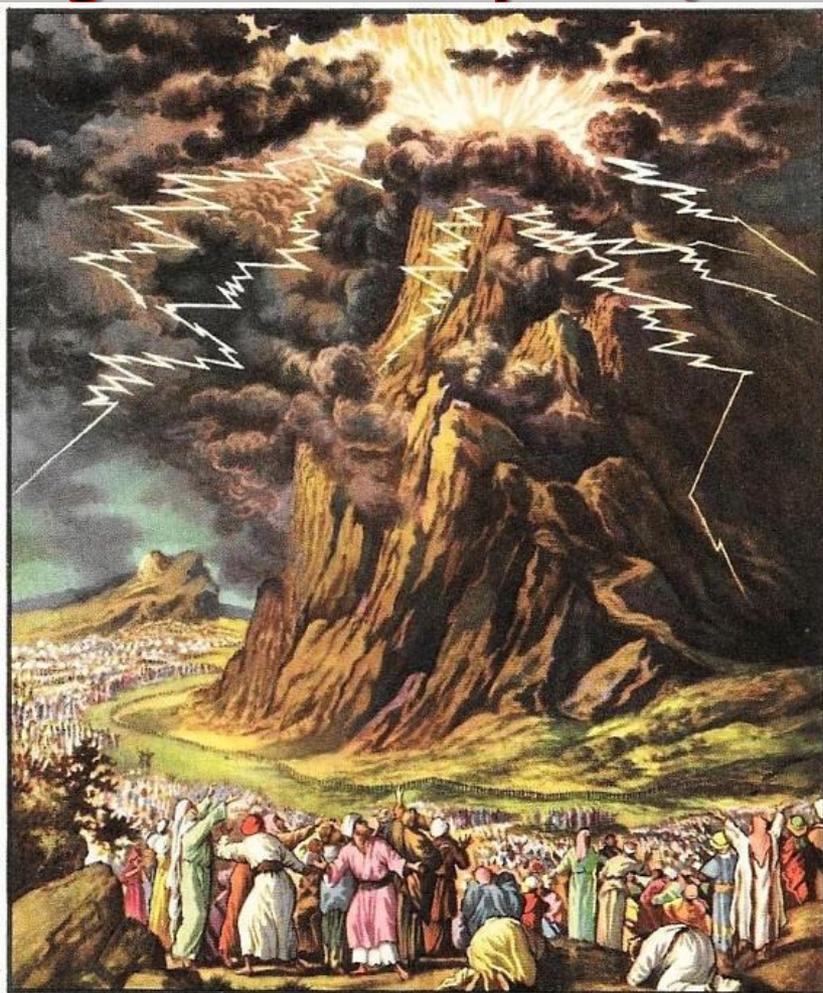
+ “Flashes of lightning, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake, etc.”



The first thing that comes to mind here is the scene at Mt. Sinai when God appeared before the Israelites to give them His Commandments (Ex. 19:16-18). The Israelites were scared to death and asked Moses to go speak to God on their behalf. That imagery is used here to describe the appearance of God in Christ on the Last Day.

THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ “Flashes of lightning, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake, etc.”



Like the Israelites, most people will be absolutely terrified on Judgment Day! However, unlike that day at Mt. Sinai, the physical phenomena mentioned here will be much more severe in scope, encompassing the whole earth.

THE SEVENTH CENSER-ANGEL

+ “They cursed God for the plague of hail”

The hail here is reminiscent of the sixth plague of Egypt (Ex. 9:13-35). However, here the hail is huge and falls upon the whole earth. Amazingly, even at the End, even after those marked by the image of the beast realize that Christ is Lord of all, they still curse God. They know that Judgment has come upon them and rather than apologizing to God for their stubborn refusal to repent and trust in Christ (not that that would do them any good at this point), they continue to blaspheme and curse His Name, showing their utter hatred and contempt for Him and indicating their faithful allegiance to Satan.

WRAPPING IT TOGETHER!!!

We have completed the three cycles of seven judgments. In the first two cycles (seals and trumpets), there was an interlude before the final judgment. In the last cycle (censers), there was no interlude.

Chapter 16 ends with the seventh bowl being poured out and Judgment Day. Next week we will begin Chapter 17, so we might expect to see another cycle of seven. Instead, we are shown in more explicit detail how the devil and his kingdom shall be judged in the End.

We have seen this judgment expressed already, but chapters 17 and 18 hone in on the judgment of God's enemies to emphasize the glorious truth that He will avenge His saints, as promised! Thus, in these "Judgment Scenes," we see the judgment of the Prostitute (Harlot) of Babylon, the two beasts, and the dragon, along with all the wicked who belong to the devil's kingdom. God is a God of Justice – too often, people think of Him as the "smiley face in the sky." He is love, but He is also perfectly just, and He will judge and punish His (and your) enemies.