

The Sixth Angel Poured Out His Bowl and I Saw Three Evil Spirits That Looked Like Frogs

16: 12-16

DIG: What will the evils spirits do to gather men for the Campaign of Armageddon? How will the just purposes of the LORD and the evil purposes of Satan finally converge in this coming Campaign?

REFLECT: What are the frogs that are battling with you? How is the battle going? How is the book of Revelation making you feel? Why? What has surprised you about the Lord or about this book? How would you explain the necessity of these plagues to someone who does not believe in God?

The sixth and seventh bowl judgments are not in chronological order. They are like two bookends that describe the first and last stages of the Campaign of Armageddon. To see a summary of that Campaign, and where the Euphrates River drying up fits into that context see Ex - Stage One: The Gathering of the Armies of the Antichrist.

Like the other worldwide blackouts in the end times, we do not know how long they last. But eventually the fourth blackout subsides and the sixth angel will pour out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. The Euphrates has been an integral part of the world affairs since creation. It was one of four rivers that irrigated the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:14). It was supposed to have provided the northern and eastern boundaries of the land God promised to Abraham's descendants (Gen 15:18; Joshua 1:4). The Israelites simply called it the River or the Great River. The Greek name, Euphrates, meant sweet water. But near the end of the Great Tribulation, those waters, long embittered by judgment, will dry up.

And its water will dry up to prepare the way for the kings from the East (16:12). The great river Euphrates is one of the great rivers in the world. But because the plagues are accumulative, the Euphrates will still be filled with blood and dead fish. The three-and-a-half year drought of the first half of the Great Tribulation will surely decrease the flow of water even before the rivers of the world became blood from the third bowl of judgment (16:4). This drying-up process will be for the purpose of making it easier for the antichrist to assemble his forces and will start the Campaign of Armageddon. The action of the LORD in the TaNaKh is frequently associated with the drying up of waters, as seen in the Sea of Reeds (Exodus 14:21), the Jordan (Joshua 3:16), and several times in prophecy (Isaiah 11:15-16, 44:27 and 51:10; Jeremiah 51:36; Zechariah 10:11).³⁷¹

These are not **two hundred million** Chinese, but demons (see Da - **The Sixth Trumpet: The Four Angels Who Had Been Kept Ready, Were Released to Kill a Third of Mankind**). The **two hundred million (9:16)** and the **kings of the east** belong to two different judgments that must be kept distinct and cannot be combined. Everywhere else in the Bible, **the east** always refers to Mesopotamia (Assyria and Babylonia). Because the antichrist's capitol will be in Babylon (**17:18**), it attests to the fact that **the kings** who will be coming from **the east** are Mesopotamian **kings**. They had apparently been itching to move westward and join in the battle. Little did they know, that their eagerness to gather in the Valley of Jezreel with the antichrist will not be of their own choosing, but rather the result of demonic deception. The beast will give a decree. He will order his allies to gather their armies together. This final campaign against **Jesus** and the Jews is certainly the work of the counterfeit trinity. The summons will be reinforced by demonic activity to make sure that the nations will indeed cooperate in assembling their armies. These are the seven **kings** that have been kept under the authority of the antichrist since the middle of the Great Tribulation (see Dk - **Three Kings Killed and Seven Submit**).

Then they saw **three evil spirits**, the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, that looked like frogs. Frogs were unclean animals (**Leviticus 11:10 and 41**), but these were not literal frogs as in the plague in Egypt (see my commentary on **Exodus BI - Stretch Out Your Hand and Make Frogs Come Up on the Land of Egypt**). They came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet (**16:13**). John identified them as **spirits of demons performing miraculous signs**. That those **demons** will have such great powers of deception is not surprising. Jesus predicted that **false christ's and false prophets . . . will show signs and wonders, in order to lead astray, if possible, the elect** (**Mark 13:22; Second Thessalonians 2:9-10 NASB**). Certainly those **demons** will have great powers of deception. Therefore, they will have little difficulty in deceiving **the kings of the whole world**, and to **gather them for the battle** with **ADONAI, God of heaven's armies**, on that **great final day** of the Campaign of **Armageddon (16:14)**.³⁷² While **the LORD** is never the author of evil, **He** will allow wicked people to destroy themselves by their own evil acts (**Romans 1:20-32**).

Satan, knowing that the Second Coming of **Messiah** is near, will gather the military might of the world into the Valley of Jezreel to resist the coming of **the Son of Man** who will return to the Mount of Olives (**Zechariah 14:4**). Although the nations may be deceived in entering into the war in hope of gaining world political power, the satanic purpose is to combat **the armies of heaven** at the Second Coming (**19:14**).³⁷³

The train of thought is now interrupted by a parenthetical comment that contains a message of comfort and hope. **Jesus** will say: **Behold, I come like a thief!** He will come quickly and unexpectedly. Even though the hearts of all those on the earth at that time will be completely reprobate like Pharaoh of Egypt, **His** statement here will be *one last attempt* for any unbeliever to accept **Him** and escape the judgment to come, **not wanting anyone to perish (Second Peter 3:9a)**. **Yeshua** will say: **Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes** of righteousness **with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed (16:15)**. This is the third of seven blessings in the book of **Revelation (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14)**. That person will be completely **blameless (Hebrews 7:26)**. No one will be able to stand before **Messiah** at the great white throne judgment and when sentenced to an eternity in hell, shake a fist at **Him** and say, "You aren't fair, I never had a chance."

Then after **Yeshua** warns unbelievers to accept **His** last offer of grace before it is too late, **John** returns to the events of the sixth bowl judgment. **They gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Har Megiddo [Megiddo in Hebrew] (16:16)**. **Megiddo** was a strategic city located at the western end of the Valley of Jezreel, guarding the famous **Megiddo** Pass into Isra'el's largest valley (**Judges 5:19; 2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chron 35:22; Zech 12:11**). It guarded a major pass on the ancient *Via Maris* or *Way of the Sea*, connecting Egypt and Syria. One can see the entire Valley of Jezreel from the mountain upon which the city **Megiddo** once stood. It had seen many battles and much mourning. **Armageddon** is a combination of two Hebrew words that mean *the Mountain of Megiddo*. So what is known as the Valley of **Armageddon** is actually the biblical Valley of Jezreel. The term **Armageddon** is never applied to the valley itself, but only to the mountain at the western end. Here, in the large valley of Lower Galilee, the armies of the world will gather for the purpose of destroying all the Jews still living at that time.

It should be noted that the passage says nothing of a battle in this valley, for no fighting will take place there. The Valley of Jezreel, guarded by *the Mountain of Megiddo*, will merely serve as the gathering place for the armies of the antichrist. **Armageddon** will play the same role that England played in the closing stages of World War II. The allied forces gathered their armies together in England, but the battle took place on the beaches of Normandy, France. The armies of the antichrist will gather in the Valley of **Armageddon**, but the Campaign of **Armageddon** will actually start at Bozrah, continue up the Valley of Jehoshaphat and finish as **Jesus' feet stand on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:3-4a)**. This will cause the city of **Jerusalem** to split into three divisions (see **Ex - The Eight Stage Campaign of Armageddon: Stage 8 The Victory Ascent Upon the Mount of Olives**).

This passage is viewed from man's perspective, which is merely a military gathering called together by the antichrist. But the LORD's perspective is quite different. **ADONAI** will proclaim this among the nations: **Prepare for war! Stir up the warriors! Let all the fighting men approach and attack. Hammer your plow-blades into swords and your pruning-knives into spears. Let the weak say, "I am strong."** **Hurry, come, you surrounding nations, gather yourselves together! Bring your warriors down to the Valley of Jezreel (Joel 3:6-9 CJB).** **God** mocks them. The nations are mockingly encouraged to prepare for war. For those who are weak, let them think they are actually strong. Because while Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet gather the nations for the purpose of destroying the Jews, **ADONAI** has His own, very different, purpose for permitting the gathering to take place.

This taunting of the gathering of the nations is also portrayed in **Psalm 2:1-6 CJB**. **Why are the nations in an uproar, the peoples grumbling in vain? The earth's kings are taking positions, leaders conspiring together, against ADONAI and His anointed. They cry, "Let's break their fetters! Let's throw off their chains!" He who sits in heaven laughs; the Lord looks at them in derision. Then in His anger He rebukes them, terrifies them in his fury. "I myself have installed My king on Zion, My holy mountain."**

From **ADONAI's** viewpoint the gathering of the nations is presented as a gathering against **Himself** and His anointed **Messiah**. By seeking to destroy the Jews, the apple of His eye, Satan is also seeking to break **God's** control of the world. How foolish! Then **ADONAI** is pictured as sitting in the heavens laughing, because **He** will soon have the **Gentile nations** in confusion. It is **the LORD** who will set His own king on Zion, and Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet will not be able to stop it. Although the nations will assemble to kill all the Jews left in the world, they will inadvertently accomplish the very purpose of **God**. The gathering of the armies of the **Gentile nations** in the Valley of Jezreel will be the first stage of the Campaign of **Armageddon**.³⁷⁴