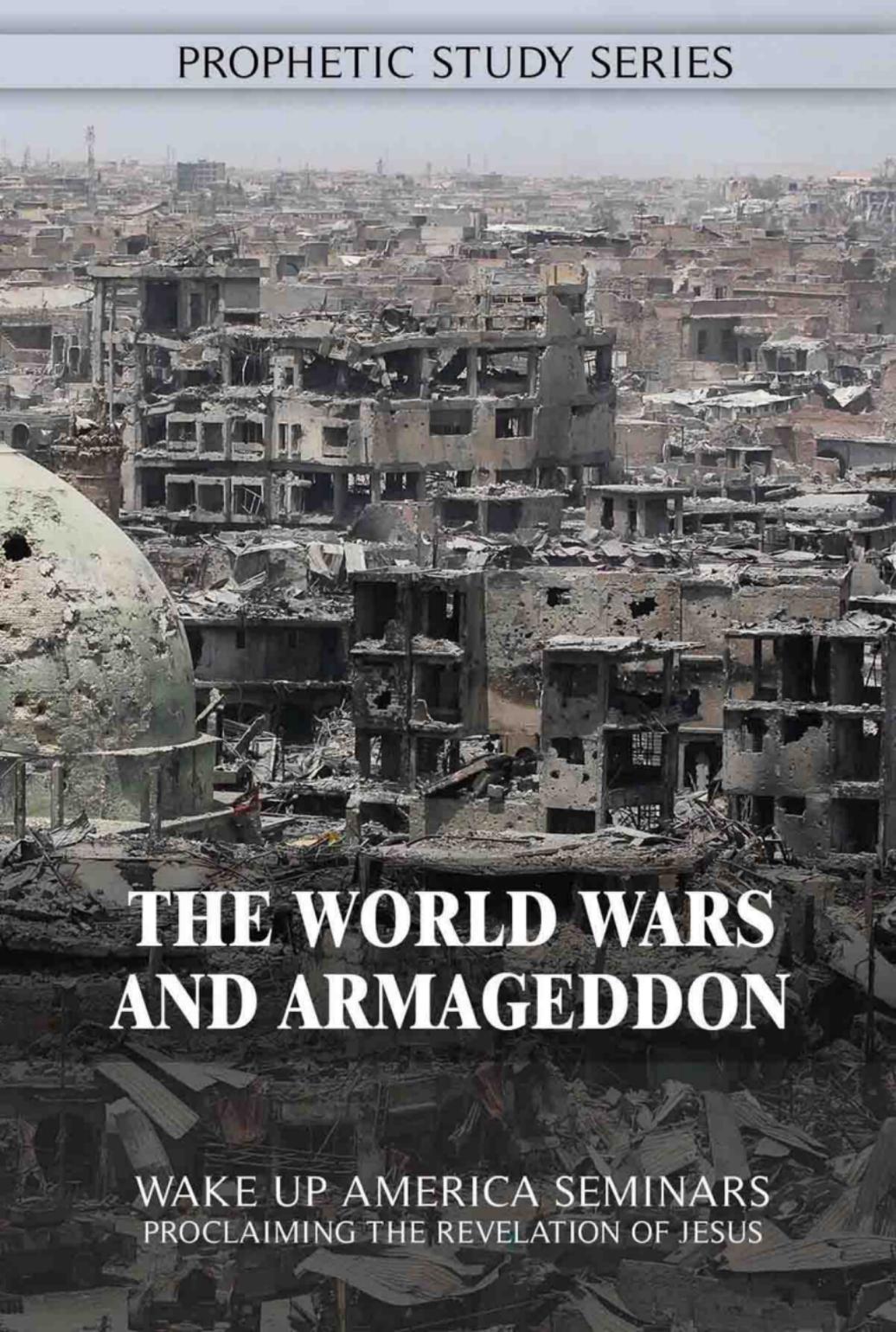


PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

An aerial photograph of a city that has been almost completely destroyed. The foreground and middle ground are filled with the skeletal remains of multi-story buildings, with only concrete frames and some charred debris left standing. A large, white, dome-shaped structure is partially visible on the left side. The background shows a vast expanse of rubble stretching towards a hazy horizon. The overall tone is somber and desolate.

**THE WORLD WARS  
AND ARMAGEDDON**

WAKE UP AMERICA SEMINARS  
PROCLAIMING THE REVELATION OF JESUS

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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning.

There are ten questions in this booklet which I hope you will answer. The author's answers are listed at the end. May God bless you as you study this fascinating topic!

Larry Wilson

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# The World Wars and Armageddon

Very soon, the entire world will have a rude awakening which causes great anguish and sorrow before Jesus returns. I believe the Bible predicts the coming of five world wars. Four of these wars will occur before Jesus returns. The final world war will occur at the end of the 1,000 years when the devil and the wicked attempt to destroy the holy city, New Jerusalem.

Earth's inhabitants have already experienced two world wars. Naturally, the next world war would be called, "World War III (WW III)," even though biblically speaking, the next world war will be the *first* of five world wars yet to come. This booklet briefly describes my understanding of each of these wars.

1. WW III is inevitable. Political, financial, ethnic, and religious tensions have created numerous "hot spots" around the world. Within all nations, there is a rising fear of aggression. Many nations have increased spending for military expansion and improved weapons. Many war experts agree with my anticipation that WW III will include a nuclear exchange as never seen before. Experts maintain it is possible for over 10 million people to perish in a single day if warring nations launch nuclear mis-

siles at each other's largest cities. Nuclear bombs today are much more powerful than the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan during World War II. Delivery systems are also much faster and more accurate. Therefore, when WW III happens, it is reasonable to expect showers of atomic bombs raining down on large cities. The amount of death and destruction will be catastrophic.

2. WW IV will begin during WW III. I understand from the Bible that God will suddenly step into WW III with an overwhelming show of divine wrath. He will cause so much destruction and death that the losses incurred during WW III will be minuscule by comparison. He will humble the arrogant and terrify the proud. A period of great tribulation will follow His judgments. The entire world will awaken to the fact that the Almighty has taken action on this troubled planet. World leaders will quickly devise a foolish plan to appease God's wrath so His judgments will end. *Man's solution will produce WW IV.* Unlike WW III, this war will not be nation against nation. Instead, WW IV will be a religious conflict about how God is to be worshiped. The conflict will separate brothers, sisters, spouses, families, and societies within each nation. Everyone will

have to make a choice between obeying God and suffering persecution, or obeying the laws of man and suffering the loss of eternal life. Revelation 13 indicates God's people will be punished, persecuted, killed, and conquered. Evil will triumph until Jesus begins to destroy Satan's kingdom during the seven last plagues.

3. WW V will begin about two and a half years into WW IV. Interestingly, a world war will begin within another world war due to a startling development few people anticipate. God will release the Anti-christ (the devil masquerading as almighty God) and millions of his angels from the spirit realm so they can appear physically on Earth. According to Revelation 9, the devil and his angels will descend from the sky with a great show of power. Their arrival will change everything on Earth because the devil and his angels will be much larger and stronger than mankind. For five months, the devil and his angels will teleport themselves around the world displaying supernatural power before billions of people. Satan himself will perform all kinds of counterfeit signs and wonders. His powerful and miraculous deceptions will convince billions of wicked people that his lies are true. They will claim a new era has begun, "God now lives

among men!” When the five months expire, God will allow the devil to declare sovereign authority over Earth. After the devil asserts himself as “king of kings (head of state) and lord of lords (head of religion),” he will *demand* all of the world’s religions and governments be abolished because there is no room for political or religious diversity when “God lives among men.”

After declaring sovereign authority over the world, the devil will divide the world into ten sectors and appoint ten “puppet kings” as task masters. These kings will be charged with “building” the kingdom of God (which will be a big lie). Forced labor will follow; slaves are mentioned three times in the book of Revelation. The devil will divide mankind into groups of 1,000 for logistical purposes of management and rations. This was often done in Bible times.<sup>1</sup> Each group of 1,000 will have a captain appointed by one of the ten kings. After the people have been corralled into groups, the devil will “clean house.” To eliminate those who are opposed or even hesitant about his authority, he will offer to spare the lives of the *first* 666 people in each group who pledge, without reservation, to obey and worship him as God. The remaining 333 will be

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<sup>1</sup> See Exodus 18:24-26, Numbers 31:48-54, Deuteronomy 1:15, 1 Samuel 22:7, 1 Chronicles 27:1, Matthew 14 and 15

killed. The first 666 volunteers will receive a tattoo or branding on the right hand showing the number “666.” The devil will tell this group the brand means they are special to God! No one will be able to buy or sell without having the mark of the beast. The devil’s scheme to eliminate his opposition by killing one third of mankind will ignite WW V.

4. The Bible calls WW VI, “Armageddon.” During the last ten days of Earth’s history, when the sign of an approaching Jesus is first seen in the sky, the ten kings and their armies will unite with the devil in an all-out effort to save themselves from destruction. They will do everything possible to destroy Jesus and His holy angels when they come within range. The ten kings and their generals will use whatever weapons are available in this foolish effort.

Armageddon will be a short battle. After everyone on Earth realizes that human and satanic forces cannot harm Jesus or His approaching army, Jesus will speak from His glorious and exalted position in the sky. The devil, along with his evil angels, and the ten kings and their armies will be thrown into a huge lake of fire. Jesus will kill the rest of the wicked by a command. This amazing power is represented in Revelation. **“Coming out of his**

**mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”**<sup>1</sup> It is fascinating to understand that the same mouth which commands the wicked to die at the Second Coming will call the dead in Christ to life! **“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil [those who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus<sup>2</sup>] will rise to be condemned.”**<sup>3</sup>

Contrary to what most people anticipate, the Bible teaches the war called “Armageddon” will *not* be fought between nations. This war will be fought between Jesus and the devil.

5. Finally, WW VII will occur at the end of the 1,000 years, and will be the *last* war to be fought throughout eternity. After the holy city descends from heaven, the wicked will be resurrected to face their Creator and see the crushing reality of

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1 Revelation 19:15-16

2 See Revelation 1:7

3 John 5:28-29

what they chose to forfeit. Additionally, Jesus will inform each wicked person of the amount of time he must suffer in hell to provide restitution for the suffering imposed on others while on Earth. The devil will prey on their bitterness, self-loathing, hopelessness, and natural rebellion against God to lead the condemned in an attack on the holy city, New Jerusalem.

As the horde of wicked people reach the gates of New Jerusalem, Jesus will speak from His great white throne and fire will fall from Heaven. This fire will eventually reduce the wicked to ashes<sup>1</sup> and purify Earth of sin's curse. After the fires of hell burn out (wicked people along with the devil and his demons will burn for as long as needed for restitution), Jesus will create a new heaven and a new Earth. The meek will inherit the new Earth and live happily ever after.

Of course, these wars are scary and gloomy. However, remember God is careful, deliberate, and purposeful in all He does. He will accomplish many wonderful objectives with these wars that will be studied for eternity.

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Question #1: WW IV will be a \_\_\_\_\_  
conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> Malachi 4:1-3

### **WW III – The Perfect Storm**

When several factors come together just right, a “perfect storm” can occur. Perfect storms can be very destructive. For example, meteorologists call U.S. hurricanes Harvey (2017, 69 fatalities, \$125 billion in damage) and Maria (2017, 3,057 fatalities, \$91 billion in damage) perfect storms because the specific conditions needed to fuel these storms came together and produced catastrophic results. In like manner, a storm is brewing and when political tensions become unbearable, a perfect storm will occur with horrific results.

Nations are spending more on weapons than ever before. Currently, it is believed that the USA is spending \$693 billion, China – \$180 billion, Russia – \$75 billion, and Saudi Arabia – \$56 billion. New weapons of mass destruction are being secretly created, stored, and positioned every day. A nuclear exchange is coming. It is only a matter of time. The simple push of a button could cause life on Earth to change forever.

This is how I visualize this coming war:

When the first nuclear bomb explodes, within minutes, many nations will join the war because of alliances. For example, if one NATO nation is attacked, all other 27 NATO members have agreed to go to war. Article 5 of the NATO Treaty has one long sentence:

“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”

I do not know what will trigger WW III, who will start it, or who will be first to use weapons of mass destruction; but I do know the first nation to use nuclear bombs will likely receive a stunning response. When it comes to the nature of nuclear war, an enemy has to be annihilated before it can annihilate you. Nuclear war is an all-out type of war and once it starts, nothing can stop it.

Unfortunately, this scenario could get worse. Suppose several nations are caught up in a horrific nuclear exchange, with atomic and hydrogen bombs, causing unimaginable destruction. Suppose millions of people are vaporized and millions more badly burned with radiation because bombs keep coming! Given this “perfect

storm” scenario, what would the world, especially the survivors want first and foremost? Long ago, the apostle Paul predicted a time would come when the whole world would be caught up in a cry for “peace and safety:”

**“While people are saying [Greek: *lego*: asking, calling, crying out], ‘Peace and safety,’ destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they [mankind] will not escape.”<sup>1</sup>**

To appreciate the solemnity of Paul’s words, you need to know that “sudden destruction” is an expression used in Bible times for God’s wrath. A good example of this is found in the book of Job.<sup>2</sup> Here is a simple illustration that puts Paul’s prediction in perspective:

Suppose two teenage brothers are in a room fighting. They are bouncing all around the room, yelling, and knocking over furniture. One brother has a bloody nose, the other brother has a black eye and, suddenly, without notice Dad comes bursting through the door with a baseball bat. Dad is angry. Dad is very large and not concerned about who started the fight. Suddenly, the wounded brothers look at each other and realize they have a problem. Life could end any moment for both of them because a more powerful threat just entered the room. (I’m exaggerating, but you get the point.)

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1 1 Thessalonians 5:3, insertions mine

2 See Job 1:13-19, Jeremiah 4:20 and Proverbs 24:21-22.

Paul indicates the nations of Earth will be clobbering each other “to death.” People will be crying for “peace and safety,” and suddenly, God will release His wrath with overwhelming destruction. The book of Revelation explains it this way: A day will come when God’s patience with mankind will end and Jesus will say six profoundly important words, “**There will be no more delay.**”<sup>1</sup> These words will release four angels who have been waiting to hurt the Earth.<sup>2</sup> Their ability to harm this planet will make man’s atomic bombs seem like firecrackers. Each angel will deliver a sudden calamity from which Earth will never recover.

When Jesus utters those six words, the Bible teaches corporate intercession for the world ends. After waiting 6,000 years, God’s patience with this planet is *forever* terminated. He will punish each nation and ultimately destroy them in a process that will last 1,335 days. However, according to His great mercy, the door to salvation for individuals will remain open for 1,260 days. God’s wrath will cause WW IV to occur.

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Question 2: Jesus will soon release \_\_\_\_\_  
angels waiting to harm Earth.

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1 Revelation 10:6

2 Revelation 7:1-4

## WW IV – War over Worship

Before we can discuss WW IV, please consider the “sudden destruction” delivered by the four angels when Jesus says, **“There will be no more delay.”**

**Trumpet #1.** I would not be surprised if the whole world hears a loud and ominous sound that seems to have no origin when the angels sound their trumpets. After the first angel sounds his trumpet, he will send a huge meteoric firestorm to Earth. Billions of white-hot sulfur stones will rain down from the sky and they will set fire to *notably wicked places* all over the Earth. God destroyed the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah this way, and the Bible says those cities serve as an example of what is coming upon the ungodly!<sup>1</sup>

When many of the survivors realize that *notably wicked places* were targets of destruction, this will have a profound impact on their thinking. They will rightly conclude this was no random event; instead, it was a deliberate act of God. Indeed, His judgments indicate that He has reached the limits of His patience with Earth’s decadence and violence. People around the world will rightfully conclude that God is angry and realize He has deliberately destroyed places known for sinful conduct!

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 19:24; 2 Peter 2:6

The destruction caused by the first angel's judgment will be mind-boggling. The Bible says one third of the Earth will be destroyed by fire.<sup>1</sup> One-third of Earth's land mass is an area about 31 million square miles or the size of Russia, China, the United States, and Antarctica combined. Imagine the physical consequences to this planet, its air quality, and climate when 31 million square miles are reduced to charcoal. Imagine the destruction caused by hurricane-force winds which fuel fires of all sizes and an atmosphere filled with smoke and soot. Violent weather will follow; floods and tornados will be unleashed. Survivors will fear for their lives!

**Trumpet #2.** A few days after the first angel destroys one third of Earth and millions of people, a second angel will sound his trumpet. The Bible does not say this, but, I believe God's servants, the 144,000 prophets, will announce each judgment shortly before it occurs so people will know who speaks for God. The second judgment will be a civilization-threatening asteroid impact. A giant asteroid, perhaps two or three miles in diameter, traveling several thousand miles per second will smash into an ocean.<sup>2</sup> This impact could produce a tidal wave that will rise several thousand feet high. Imagine a circular wall of water almost a mile high radiating outward in all directions

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 8:7

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 8:8-9

from the impact zone. Minutes after the impact, this wall of water will destroy thousands of coastal cities located around the perimeter of the ocean.

Seaports and vacation cities known for decadent and immoral behavior will be washed away with overwhelming loss of life. There will be no time or way to escape. Even people who do not live close to an ocean will be frightened and distressed, because other oceans will violently slosh back and forth with deadly results.<sup>1</sup> Ships will not be able to travel; international trade will stop; man will be powerless to react. Many survivors will notice God has cleansed Earth of notably wicked places with fire and water! They will fear for their lives and wonder what God will do next.

**Trumpet #3.** After God's 144,000 servants announce the third plague, a third angel will sound his trumpet. This judgment will come in the form of a great star, but this giant asteroid will be directed at a wicked continent. Millions of people who live at ground zero will instantly perish. People living far from the impact zone will also perish because ground waves, caused by the impact, will fracture Earth's strata hundreds of miles in every direction. Sewage, deadly bacteria, and toxic chemicals buried within the Earth will seep into underground aquifers. Underground rivers will carry poisoned wa-

<sup>1</sup> Luke 21:25

ter away from the impact zone. Millions more who survived the initial impact will die from drinking the contaminated water. Many people will curse God and others will acknowledge, "If we do not repent and change our behavior, He will inevitably kill us all!"

**Trumpet #4.** A few days after the third plague, the 144,000 will announce a fourth judgment. The fourth angel will sound his trumpet and a deep rumbling will begin within the Earth. This sound, along with a terrible trembling, will crescendo into a deafening roar. Hundreds of powerful volcanoes will erupt simultaneously. Currently, there are over 1,500 known active volcanoes on Earth. Volcanoes will bury millions of people with lava, ash, and rocks, but the worst is yet to come. The jet stream high above the Earth will receive and distribute megatons of volcanic ejecta. Heavy, dark clouds of ash and soot will encircle the middle third of Earth. This region is where most of Earth's inhabitants live and most food crops are grown. Millions of people will die from respiratory failure. Crops will fail because sunlight cannot penetrate the airborne soot. Nuclear winter will set in and global famine will follow.

## **Two Billion Dead People**

God does not trifle with mankind. He sees and knows everything about the ways of mankind and He is

justifiably angry. His reaction to man's wickedness will be overwhelming. Living as we do in the pignen of sin's curse, most of us give little thought to God's perspective. We have very little concern about God's intimate knowledge of every person. This will change when indescribable death and destruction occurs. God's judgments will terrify everyone and inflict a fatal blow on this planet. Our feeble efforts to protect the planet from ozone or climate change will seem foolish. World War III will be forgotten.

The Father has a plan. For 6,000 years, He has patiently waited because His ability to restrain Himself is as great as His love and kindness! Of course, when His wrath breaks out, one of the most difficult facts the 144,000 will have to declare is that "God is love."

Survivors will be left in a miserable state of tribulation after the first four trumpets occur. According to Revelation 6:8, 25 percent of Earth's population will perish during these four judgments. Currently, Earth's population is nearly eight billion people and most everyone is unaware that two billion people are about to die! Read Revelation 8 for the details of this story.

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Question #3: In the second trumpet, a giant asteroid impacts \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Global Reaction to God's Wrath**

WW III will be “snuffed out” by God’s wrath. A new war over worship will begin. Consider this prediction describing how worship becomes so inflammatory that it causes a global war: **“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast – all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”**<sup>1</sup>

The devastation caused by the first four judgments will cause the world’s religious and political leaders to hurriedly assemble and discuss God’s wrath. When national infrastructures are in ruins and two billion people are dead not including the people destroyed by man during the nuclear exchange, world leaders will be dumbfounded. In their fear, they will forget WW III due to the unparalleled global death, destruction, and upheaval, because a larger problem exists. Fearing that more divine wrath is imminent, they will assemble and have a discussion that is presently impossible.

For example, survivors will ask their clergy “Which god is angry? Is it the Muslim god, Allah; the Jewish god, Jehovah; the Christian God called, the Father; the Hindu god of destruction, Shiva; or some other god?” Of course, no one will be able to definitively answer the question. However, this unanswered question

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:8

will produce another question: “Does mankind worship one God having different titles or many different gods?” Often, this question is inflammatory because Jews and Christians worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. However, Muslims worship the God of Abraham, Ishmael, and Mohammed. If Jews, Muslims, and Christians worship the *same* God, why is God’s will different for each religious system? To make matters more complicated, the Old Testament exalts the Jewish God, the Koran exalts the Islamic God, and the New Testament exalts Jesus’ teachings. Which holy book speaks the truth about God’s will?

Catholics and Protestants will also have conflict. Both religious systems claim to worship Jesus, but they are far apart on His teachings and the process of salvation. For example, Catholics believe church sacraments are necessary for salvation while Protestants disagree. Catholics believe a pope or priest has the authority to forgive sins while Protestants disagree. Most Protestants believe that salvation comes through faith alone while Catholics disagree. To make matters worse, the gods of the Muslims, Jews, and Hindus do not have a son called “Jesus” and these religious systems are strenuously opposed to the Christian position that Jesus is the Son of God, a member of deity.

World leaders will also discuss another controversial topic. Even though world leaders will agree there is *one* angry God, they will not be able to agree on His identity or how He is to be worshiped. For example, Catholic traditions do not agree with Protestant traditions, and Islamic traditions do not agree with Hindu or Jewish traditions. How does a religiously and politically diverse world worship and appease one God, whoever He is?

Unable to find and agree on a solution to these questions, religious and political leaders will settle on a confusing compromise. Given the dire extremity and the compelling belief more judgments are imminent, the leaders will create and widely disseminate three *convenient lies*. They will not create these lies in a deliberate effort to mislead people. Instead, they will *fabricate* these three concepts to justify their solution to save mankind from God's future wrath. Later, the 144,000 will expose the three falsities as lies.

.....  
Question #4: After the four trumpets, \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ leaders discuss God's wrath.  
.....

### **The First Lie**

The first lie will be *“Everyone worships the same God, even though we worship Him in different ways and*

*call Him by different names and titles.*” At first, many people will accept this lie because the death and destruction that has upended the whole world must be the result of one God. Since it is politically and religiously inflammatory to declare any person’s god a false god, this lie will be a convenient way to get around the question of which god is angry. Furthermore, the survivors will be so traumatized by God’s wrath that most will simply follow their religious leaders. Most clergy will be forced to support this lie out of necessity. There will be many questions which they cannot answer, so they “will go along, to get along.”

### **The Second Lie**

Religious leaders will say words having this effect, *“God’s wrath has fallen on notably wicked places in every nation. God did this because He is offended with man’s idolatry and decadent behavior. Therefore, the world has to change if it wants God’s blessings and favor restored. We can appease God’s wrath and once again find favor in His sight if we genuinely and humbly repent. We must forsake all behaviors that are evil in his sight and worship our Creator, giving Him the respect He is due. The bottom line is that we cannot continue doing acts which are offensive to God and expect to survive.”* According to the Bible, this asser-

tion will be partially true and partially false. It is true that God will still pardon and save any person who genuinely repents of his sins, make wrongs right, and lives by faith. We should worship our Creator and give the Almighty due respect, but it is not true that God's wrath can be appeased, avoided, or cancelled. The religious leaders of the world will not know they are lying and neither will most of the survivors!

If the religious leaders of the world properly understood God's Word, especially the books of Daniel and Revelation, they would know God's plans. He has revealed His plans for the final generation if people would take the time to study and understand His Word. The religious leaders should know that no amount of prayers, mourning, fasting, repentance, or reformation will alter God's plans. When God's wrath begins, there will be no turning back. The curse of sin will have reached maturity. God is anxious to end the drama with sin which has plagued this planet for 6,000 years. The end of Earth as we know it has arrived. The war over worship will separate the sheep and the goats.

### **A Seven-Headed Beast Is Created**

Because of their consuming panic and fear, world leaders will quickly create and empower a crisis government that will be *given* authority over ev-

ery nation without firing a single bullet. The Bible says, “**And it** [the crisis government represented in Revelation 13 as a seven-headed beast] **was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.**”<sup>1</sup> The stated objective of this beast of a government will be to appease God through behavior modification. Religious leaders will determine what modifications are needed in each nation and political leaders will transform their directives into the law of the land. Law enforcement personnel will ensure “sin less” laws are obeyed and administer harsh penalties for rebellion and disobedience. Church and state will work seamlessly together to modify man’s behavior to quickly appease God’s wrath! What starts as a seemingly good idea will soon become a nightmare.

The crisis government will have seven leaders. Each of the world’s seven religious systems will have a person or a committee directing the activities of the crisis government. This beast of a government, called “Babylon” in the book of Revelation, needs seven heads because the world is comprised of seven religious systems: Jews, Catholics, Muslims, Protestants, Eastern Mystics (Hindus and Buddhists), Atheists (a faith-based religious system which *believes* there is no God), and Heathens (an inclusive term used by Chris-

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:7, insertion and italics mine

tians to describe mythological and/or tribal religions). Of course, there are variations within each system.

### **The Third Lie**

A third lie will be necessary to convince people to comply with the coercive demands of the crisis government. This lie will be especially blasphemous in God's sight, but world leaders will believe it is necessary to keep people from rebelling. World leaders will realize some people are going to become very angry with any behavior modification. They know nothing offends human nature faster than having external foreign and offensive religious ideas imposed by force. Therefore, to offset whatever rebellion is anticipated, a third lie will be needed.

In countries where Christianity is dominant, Catholic priests and Protestant pastors will say something like this: "The Bible teaches in Romans 13 that God has appointed political authorities for the sake of order and the well-being of society. The Bible also teaches in Ephesians 4 that God has established spiritual leaders. Every religious system on Earth has spiritual leaders. *Therefore, the religious and political leaders of the world, your divinely appointed leaders, have agreed on a solution that will please God and will appease His wrath.* We have created a global

religious authority which will direct each nation because the entire world is in need of reform. Experts from each of the world's seven religious systems will guide this global authority. There will be global unity as we go forward. The political leaders of each nation have promised that all necessary reforms for behavior modification will be promptly carried out. Do not shelter rebellion in your hearts and humble yourselves before God with repentance and reformation. We need the favor and blessings of almighty God.”

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Question #5: The crisis government will have \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.

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## **Martial Law**

When destruction caused by the first trumpets occurs, most, if not all, of the world's political leaders will have to declare martial law. Martial law is used in crises because many issues require instant decisions. Hundreds of gridlocked legislators cannot meet, deliberate, and make prompt decisions because the situation is fluid. Martial law is important in this story because the political leaders of the world would not be able to single-handedly surrender their respective nations to the authority of the crisis government (the seven-headed beast) without force of law. However, with martial

law in place, political leaders can quickly do as they think best without seeking the consent or undergoing the deliberation process normally used by legislators.

The crisis government will ignore and set aside freedoms and inalienable rights guaranteed by charters and constitutions so political leaders can govern without delay or impediment. Dire circumstances and fear of more judgments to come will cause them to surrender to the directives of the seven-headed crisis government. This is how the seven-headed beast will be created and spring to life. The seven-headed beast that comes up out of the sea in Revelation 13:1 will be man's response to God's wrath. Through martial law, this beast of a government will be given (gifted with) authority over **“every tribe, people, language and nation.”**<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, history proves that church/state governments are tyrannical forms of government.

### **The 144,000's First Message**

The war over worship will sharply escalate once the seven-headed beast and the 144,000 confront each other. Consider the world's situation when God's prophets appear. The world's infrastructures will have largely been destroyed by the first four trumpets. Two billion people are dead or dying. Survivors are trembling, anticipating more judgments. A seven-headed beast of a

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 13:7

government has roared to life attempting to appease God so His wrath will end. Everyone faces the enforcement of harsh behavior modification laws. In countries where Islam is dominant, laws regarding mandatory worship services on *Friday* will be imposed. In Israel, laws regarding mandatory worship services on *Saturday* will be imposed. Countries where Catholics and Protestants are dominant, will see laws regarding the sacredness of *Sunday*. The worship of God will become a focal point within every nation. Businesses will be forced to close and sports activities will be cancelled on holy days to appease God's wrath. Gambling, alcohol, homosexuality, prostitution, premarital sex, and other behaviors deemed inappropriate will be outlawed. The penalty for disobedience will be swift and severe. Added to this will be the hardship of primitive survival. There will be very little electricity, gasoline, communication and transportation. A global economy will be nonexistent. This will be the environment facing God's servants when the seven-headed beast comes to life.

The 144,000 will deliver four messages during the Great Tribulation. Their first message will be a simple, nonnegotiable demand coming straight from God's throne. It will be offensive and inflammatory for almost everyone on Earth, especially Babylon's leaders. The first message is so unusual that if it were given before

the first four trumpets, most of the world's population would not pay attention. However, within the context of the first four trumpets, everyone will recognize the simplicity and power of the first message: **“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”**<sup>1</sup>

The phrase, “Fear God,” uses the Greek word, *phobeo*. Our English equivalent is “phobia,” which indicates fearfulness or a state of remaining afraid. The 144,000 will begin their ministry declaring the survivors should be afraid of God at a time when most people surely will! However, the 144,000 will call on people to *properly* fear God by recognizing His sovereign authority. Jesus said, **“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority [to resurrect you and] to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.”**<sup>2</sup>

God's laws are higher than man's laws. We fear God and honor Him when we put His requirements on a higher plane. For example, **“The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name [of Jesus],’ he said.**

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1 Revelation 14:7

2 Luke 12:5, insertion mine

**‘Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.’ Peter and the other apostles replied: ‘We must obey God rather than human beings!’<sup>1</sup>**

There is no higher authority than God. When there is a conflict between God’s laws and man’s laws, we demonstrate we properly fear God by obeying His laws. This is why the Bible says, **“The *fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge* [properly fearing God is the very first thing every person should learn], *but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*”<sup>2</sup>**

The first message given by the 144,000 prophets will insult and infuriate Babylon’s leaders because the seven-headed beast will establish laws regarding worship which are contrary to God’s laws. Each person will be caught between two widely divergent authorities. If a person believes the 144,000 and obeys the laws of God, the seven-headed beast will harshly persecute him. If he chooses to believe Babylon’s lies and obeys the laws of the seven-headed beast, he will forfeit eternal life and be destroyed at the Second Coming. This sharp polarity will separate families and societies. The war over worship will be brutal and three groups of people will emerge.

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 5:27-29, insertion mine

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 1:7, insertion and italics mine

The first group will be religious people who embrace or acquiesce to the leadership of the seven-headed beast. These people will refuse to accept the messages given by the 144,000. Even though it is irrational to think *one* God could be appeased with conflicting laws mandating worship on separate days in different countries, several billion people will obey the laws of the seven-headed beast to simply avoid persecution. God will give the people of Earth two and one half years to sort out the issue over worship and to settle into a decision before the Antichrist is released. During this two and one half years, the 144,000 will plainly and powerfully present God's will to everyone. The Holy Spirit will penetrate every heart, doing everything possible to win hearts over to God's truth, but a majority of people will refuse to budge. Even though they claim to be religious, their actions will show that they do not know God or love His truth. Remember, when Jesus was on Earth, religious people who claimed to know God persecuted Him.

A second group will form consisting of people who embrace the testimony of Jesus. On many occasions, Jesus himself will speak through the mouths of the 144,000. The 144,000 will bravely and openly oppose the laws and lies of the crisis government without regard for personal safety. The 144,000 and their follow-

ers will have to be people of faith because worshiping God as God demands will bring persecution. Because they *properly* fear God, the saints would rather be persecuted and punished than to dishonor their Creator!

Finally, there will be a third group consisting of people who oppose the laws of the seven-headed beast as well as the laws of God. Most of the people in this group will not be religious. They will have no interest in behavior modification or appeasing an imaginary god. For the sake of discussion, I call these three groups the religious wicked, the saints, and the non-religious wicked.

.....  
 Question #6: The seven-headed beast will establish laws regarding \_\_\_\_\_.  
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### **Give Him Glory!**

No adult likes to be told to change his behavior or be severely punished. Human nature tends to recoil against threats, especially when it comes to religion. Currently, the United States and many other democracies uphold the principle that each person should be able to freely worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Therefore, in many countries it will be aggravating and maddening when freedom to worship is subjected to laws created by the seven-headed beast.

The 144,000 will respond to Babylon's threat of persecution with, "**And give Him glory.**" This second component of their first message means, everyone must acknowledge that God's authority is higher than man's laws. *When we put faith in God and do what is right and honorable in His sight without regard for the consequences, this gives glory to our Creator!* In God's sight, there is no greater form of worship than humble obedience which stems from love and faith. In fact, the Greek word for worship, *proskuneo*, means to kiss the hand or feet of a superior as a gesture of humble and eager obedience. Obeying the laws of the seven-headed beast will not give God glory. In fact, the Bible indicates that obeying the laws of the seven-headed beast will mean the opposite.

**"The dragon [the devil] gave the [seven-headed] beast his power and his throne and great authority. . . The whole world was filled with wonder [by the authority and power given to the seven-headed beast and its three lies] and followed the [leadership of the seven-headed] beast. People [obeyed the laws created by the seven-headed beast without realizing at first, that they actually] worshiped [obeyed] the dragon [the devil] because he had given [enormous] authority to the beast, and they also worshiped [obeyed] the [seven-headed] beast and**

asked, **‘Who is like [comparable to] the beast? Who can wage war against it [and expect to win]?’**<sup>1</sup>

The 144,000’s first message includes a third important component: **“The hour of his judgment has come.”** This phrase means “Judgment Day” has begun. God has begun to judge the living. Since God has placed mankind in a situation where there are only two options (obey the laws of the beast or the laws of God), the sheep and the goats will separate themselves by their own free will. Jesus will save all who are willing to live by faith and obey Him. He will give everyone the courage and strength to do His will *if* they will worship Him as sovereign God. This will take much courage and faith because the devil, working through the seven-headed beast, will fiercely persecute all who worship Jesus. Many people think they are good people and salvation comes through human goodness, but the Bible teaches that people, good and bad, are saved and transformed through faith in God alone! **“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.”**<sup>2</sup>

Finally, the 144,000 will declare a fourth component of their first message: **“Worship him who made the**

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1 Revelation 13:2-4, insertions mine

2 Hebrews 11:31

**heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”<sup>1</sup>**

This component contains a nonnegotiable demand creating a global uproar because over 70% of the world’s population is not Christian. The 144,000 will declare Jesus Christ is the God who sent the first four trumpet judgments. Jesus is the Creator who made the heavens, Earth, sea, and springs of water! Since most of the world does not recognize Jesus as almighty God or the Creator, this message will inflame and distress many people. Nevertheless, the 144,000 will boldly declare to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people that Jesus is ruling from Heaven’s throne as almighty God. The Father commands everyone to worship Jesus because He is a God like Himself. Jesus is the Creator of mankind. **“He [Jesus Christ] was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. . . Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”<sup>2</sup>**

Imagine the anger and hostility that Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Atheists, and others will have when they hear the first message. When the 144,000 proclaim

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 14:7

<sup>2</sup> John 1:10; 1:3; Colossians 1:16, insertion mine

within these religious systems, “Fear Jesus Christ, give glory to Him by obeying Him, He is the Judge of mankind and the Creator of everything that exists,” this demand will be contrary to what these religious systems believe about God! *The revelation of Jesus Christ* as a member of deity, as almighty God, the sovereign Creator of Earth who has just destroyed the heavens, Earth, sea, and springs of water will be difficult to accept.

The 144,000’s first message will be so inflammatory that if angels did not specifically protect the 144,000, they would be killed within a few hours. The revelation of Jesus Christ as almighty God will challenge the religious beliefs of billions of people around the world. This first message will demand survivors embrace a new God; a God previously scorned or unknown. Billions of people will be faced with a very difficult choice. Will they go along with the seven-headed beast and its lies or will they embrace the truth spoken by God’s prophets? It is so hard to admit that a lifelong religion is a false religion. Over 95% of the world’s population die within the religious system into which they were born. Religious change is very difficult.

Because Catholics and Protestants already believe in Jesus Christ, their confrontation with worshipping the

Creator will be just as inflammatory. The 144,000 will declare that according to the Creator's fourth commandment, the seventh day of the week, Saturday, is His Sabbath. Jesus requires all mankind to acknowledge His holy day by resting from work on Saturday. Catholics and Protestants will experience the same anger that Hindus, Muslims, and Jews experience when the 144,000 tell them that they must worship Jesus Christ on His holy Sabbath day! Human nature regarding God's commandments is the same regardless of religion. **"The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so."**<sup>1</sup>

### **Worship the Creator**

Each Christian should know the Father requires all created beings to worship Jesus Christ just as they worship the Father.<sup>2</sup> Jesus is a member of deity. He is a self-existing coeternal God; an equal of the Father in every way.<sup>3</sup> Many people think of Jesus as just a man. While Jesus is not a man, He did come and live in the form of a man. Jesus is deity as the Father is deity, they have different roles. The Father is invisible and no one has ever seen Him.<sup>4</sup> The Holy Spirit is also invisible which means Jesus is the only visible member of the Godhead.

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1 Romans 8:7

2 John 5:22-23

3 John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-6

4 John 1:18; 6:46; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 6:15-16

Because Jesus is the only visible agent of the Godhead and also a God, the Father requires everyone to worship the Creator as they would worship Him because Jesus and the Father are each members of deity.

The seven religious systems of the world will be shocked and infuriated with the testimony of the 144,000. The coming revelation of Jesus Christ as almighty God, the Creator of heaven and Earth, the very God who sent the first four trumpets, the unknown God whom the seven-headed beast says it is trying to appease, will be a very difficult truth for billions of people to accept! I hope you can see how World War IV will unfold. This war will affect every person.

### **WW V – The Antichrist Appears**

I believe the fifth trumpet will occur about 2½ years after the fourth trumpet. When the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, Jesus will release the Antichrist from the spirit realm.<sup>1</sup> This may seem shocking, but Jesus has a reason for obscuring when the Antichrist will appear. He wants to surprise the people who rejected the 144,000's testimony. In fact, He wants the Antichrist's appearance to serve as a powerful delusion because they willingly and knowingly refused to accept the plainest evidences of truth! Paul wrote: "**They [the wicked] perish because they refused to love the**

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 1:1-11

**truth** [presented by the 144,000 for 2½ years] **and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion** [the devil masquerading as almighty God] **so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**"<sup>1</sup>

At first, it may seem inconsistent a God of love would send a powerful delusion so wicked people will believe the lie, but once you understand the circumstances, it makes perfect sense! Consider the story of Noah. If God had wanted to save the world in Noah's day, He could have left the door to the ark open for a few hours after it began to rain. As it was, the door closed before the rain began because (a) God had warned the people through Noah for 120 years, (b) He had sent the animals into the ark, and (c) salvation always requires faith in God and a love for His truth!

During the Great Tribulation, God will reveal His truth to everyone through His servants, the 144,000. A great rebellion will occur because a majority of the people will not submit to Jesus' demands. When Jesus sees that extended mercy has no redeeming effect after 2½ years of effort by the Holy Spirit and the 144,000, He will release the Antichrist. If people will not submit to a God of love, they will have to submit to the laws of the devil.

<sup>1</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, insertions and italics mine

The appearing of the devil will change a few hearts. Jesus knows a few wicked people will repent of their rebellion and be saved *after* they see the devil's disgusting and outrageous behavior. Man's inhumanity to man is nothing compared to the torture which the devil and his demons will inflict on mankind.

Paul wrote: **“Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day [the Second Coming] will not come until [a] *the rebellion occurs* and [b] *the man of lawlessness is revealed*, the man doomed to destruction . . . proclaiming himself to be God. . . . And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.”**<sup>1</sup> The rebellion Paul writes about occurs after the 144,000 have proclaimed God's will to the world. However, most of the world will rebel. When extended mercy has no redeeming effect, Jesus releases the Antichrist.

We may not be aware, but angels from heaven and the abyss are all around us.<sup>2</sup> We do not see them, because God keeps them invisible.<sup>3</sup> Most Christians do not anticipate seeing the devil in the form of a glorious man. However, 'supernatural' will become the norm when God allows the Antichrist to appear. The following texts establish the fact that individuals did see angels:

1 2 Thessalonians 2:3-6, insertions mine and italics

2 God used "the Abyss" to describe the spirit realm to John.

3 Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8

1. Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, saw an angel.<sup>1</sup>
2. Abraham saw three angels in the form of three men.<sup>2</sup>
3. Jacob saw an angel in the form of a man.<sup>3</sup>
4. Moses saw an angel.<sup>4</sup>
5. Balaam and Balaam's donkey saw an angel.<sup>5</sup>
6. Gideon saw an angel.<sup>6</sup>
7. Elijah saw an angel.<sup>7</sup>
8. Araunah, his four sons, and King David saw an angel.<sup>8</sup>
9. Daniel saw an angel.<sup>9</sup>
10. Zechariah, a priest, saw an angel.<sup>10</sup>
11. Peter saw an angel.<sup>11</sup>
12. John saw an angel.<sup>12</sup>
13. The whole camp of Israel saw and heard an angel!<sup>13</sup>

### **The Whole World Will See the Angel King From the Abyss!**

When the fifth trumpet sounds, the whole world will see the angel king from the Abyss. He is the Antichrist,

1 Genesis 16

2 Genesis 18

3 Genesis 32

4 Exodus 3

5 Numbers 22

6 Judges 6

7 2 Kings 1

8 1 Chronicles 21

9 Daniel 9

10 Luke 1

11 Acts 12

12 Revelation 19

13 Judges 2

he will claim to be God, and he will turn the world upside down. He will oppose and abolish the religions and governments of the world. He will destroy cities and make the world a wilderness. The book of Revelation describes the devil as the beast from the Abyss!<sup>1</sup> You need to know this because when he appears, he will catch the wicked by surprise. Thoughtfully consider the angel's testimony to John:

“[John,] **The beast, which you saw** [earlier in Chapter 12, John saw Satan represented as a great red dragon. He also saw a war in Heaven between Michael and this great red dragon. Afterwards the beast was thrown out of Heaven and cast into the Earth. The angel, in this verse, is referring John back to the great red dragon saying, it], **once was** [visible] **now is not** [visible, because it was cast into the Abyss – the spirit realm], **and yet** [it, the great red dragon] **will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction.** [However, before the beast is destroyed,] **The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world** [that is, wicked people] **will be astonished** [surprised, overwhelmed] **when they** [actually] **see the beast** [because it will be the great red dragon in the form of a glorious man. The wicked

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 17:8

will be caught off guard], **because it** [the beast] **once was** [visible], **now is not** [visible], **and yet will come** [out of the Abyss – the spirit realm and be plainly visible!].”<sup>1</sup>

The wicked will be astonished when they literally see the devil. His incredible glory and endless miracles, signs, and wonders will convince the wicked that God lives among men. Paul warned, “**The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie** [that he is God], **and** [he will use] **all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.**”<sup>2</sup>

Very few people anticipate seeing a demon from the Abyss. For centuries, people have argued over the identity of the Antichrist without suspecting he would be far superior to human beings. When God wants people to see, He opens their eyes. When the time is right, the whole world will see the angel king

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1 Revelation 17:8, insertions mine

2 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, insertions and italics mine

from the Abyss!<sup>1</sup> Ages ago, God set the date when the Antichrist would appear.

### **God Has Set the Hour, Day, Month, and Year**

Consider the timing of the sixth trumpet: **“The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice . . . It said . . . ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ And the four [devil’s] angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.”**<sup>2</sup> There is an ominous parallel in this verse with Revelation 7:1-4. The four angels in Revelation 7 are the Lord’s angels. When they are released, they will kill 25% of mankind. If the population of the world is eight billion at that time, the number killed by the first four trumpets would be two billion people. The four angels in Revelation 9:15 are the devil’s angels. When they are released, they will kill one third of mankind. If the population of the world is six billion people, they will kill two billion people. The effect is twofold. First, the Lord and the devil will kill the same number of people, but for different reasons. Second, before the seventh trumpet sounds, the population of the world will be half of what it was at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 9:11

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 9:13-15, insertion mine

God has set the date for the sixth trumpet by His sovereign authority,<sup>1</sup> so He has also established a date for the beginning of the fifth trumpet (five months long).<sup>2</sup> God has not revealed the hour, day, month, and year when the Antichrist will appear, but I believe the 144,000 will announce his appearance so saints will be prepared.

To appreciate the properties of WW V, remember that despite the fact the devil will use his deceptions throughout the world during the fifth trumpet, many people will refuse to worship him as almighty God. This group will mostly consist of the non-religious wicked. The devil and his forces will eliminate this group with WW V.

When the sixth trumpet sounds, the devil will suddenly cease his deception as a wonderful and gracious God. Overnight, he will morph into a cruel dictator because Jesus will give him permission to kill one third of mankind. The devil will give orders and anyone refusing to obey will be subject to death. The devil will abolish religions and governments of the world to establish himself as the undisputed “King of kings and Lord of lords.” He will reorganize the world and a great war will ensue between the religious wicked group (those who believe the devil is almighty God) and the non-religious group (those refusing to obey the Antichrist).

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 1:7

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 9:10

Some people cannot accept the idea that Jesus would give the devil permission to kill one third of mankind. Killing people is not out of character for God. Revelation 20:7-10 states that at the end of the thousand years, God will kill the wicked by sending fire from heaven. Also, Revelation 19:15-21 reveals that at the Second Coming, Jesus will kill His enemies with a command, represented by a sharp sword, which comes out of His mouth. Remember, Jesus is the same God who killed one fourth of Earth's population with the first four trumpets. Our Creator also killed everyone outside the ark in Noah's flood; all of the firstborn in Egypt who did not have blood on the doorposts; and 185,000 soldiers in one night! (Isaiah 37:36) If you understand that at the time of the sixth trumpet, the world will be *almost* divided into three distinct groups of people: The saints and two groups of enemies against Jesus – the religious wicked and the non-religious wicked. Whether the devil kills the enemies of Jesus or Jesus Himself kills His enemies, there is little difference.

Most of the non-religious wicked will resist the devil's efforts to establish his throne and a worldwide church-state government (theocracy). This will lead to a worldwide civil war, brothers fighting against brothers in every nation. John saw the battle: **“The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like**

**this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.**<sup>1</sup>

John used metaphors to describe this vision. In John's day, when armies from different cities and tribal nations assembled together against a common foe, the soldiers did not know each other. Therefore, they wore bright colors so in the fog of battle, they could quickly distinguish between friend and foe. The same idea applies here. The devil's military will not be a standing army in uniform, since there is no money or time to equip an army of 200 million troops. The Antichrist's armies will largely consist of civilians who rallied and joined the devil to obtain rations and survive only to discover at the end of the battle, the devil lied. His promises will not be fulfilled so he will justifiably earn the title "false prophet."

John also saw very strange but powerful horses in his vision. God used visual metaphors so that we

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 9:17-19

can understand this battle will be incredibly brutal (even nuclear). The human race will use all weapons ever created to leave cities in ruins. The world will be turned into a wilderness. No wonder Isaiah wrote, **“Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities?”**<sup>1</sup> The Man of Lawlessness and his demons will rejoice when men and women tear the world and each other apart using demon-inspired hatred and cruelty.

**The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.”**<sup>2</sup> These final two sentences of the sixth trumpet reveal the failure, foolishness, and stupidity of those who have pledged allegiance to the seven-headed beast. Nothing stops a sinner from sinning if he is not transformed from within. A sinner has to be born again to receive a new heart and mind. Persecution and punishment only drives a rebellious sinner to find some way around the rules or whatever obstacle he faces. From God’s point of view, the last two sentences of Revela-

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 14:16-17

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 9:20-21

tion 9:21 are profound. When you consider the impact of the first four trumpets, the work and ministry of the 144,000 for 1,260 days, the tenacious effort of the Holy Spirit to convict every heart, the testimony of Jesus, the enlightenment of the world with respect to God's generous offer to seal and save every repentant sinner, and, on top of all this, the brutality and atrocities committed by the Antichrist, it boggles the mind that there will be no change in the behavior of many wicked people.

By the end of WW V, the non-religious wicked will have been killed or converted. A few saints will be alive, but most of the survivors will be those who have put their faith in the father of lies. Jesus will have done everything possible to save each sinner. Each person will have made a decision. When Jesus sees that extended mercy has no further redeeming effect, He will close the door to salvation with this benediction: **“Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”**<sup>1</sup> Following this benediction, the seven last plagues (seven bowls) will begin.

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Question #7: The angel king from the Abyss is the \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 22:11

## WW VI – Armageddon

Before discussing this battle, one profound point must be explained. During the fifth bowl (or, KJV, fifth vial), Jesus will reveal to the wicked the God they obey is actually the devil. Jesus will strip the devil of his power and deceptions so the wicked can see his true identity. Jesus first does this by destroying the devil's government by blinding all of his associates and employees. **“The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.”**<sup>1</sup> In case you are wondering what actually happens, Zechariah explains: **“This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem [His people]: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths.”**<sup>2</sup>

The devil's authority and great power will vanish. The wicked will be dumbfounded when they learn their great miracle-working leader is the Antichrist, the great red dragon, the Man of Lawlessness, and the angel king

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 16:10-11

<sup>2</sup> Zechariah 14:12, insertion mine

from the Abyss. This will be a great day of horror for the wicked. They will realize that they are doomed for destruction. This development occurs during the fifth bowl because the battle of Armageddon will consist of informed and willing people deliberately joining forces with the devil and his angels to destroy Jesus at the Second Coming. This is the end result of sin.

The Bible indicates the battle of Armageddon will occur during the seventh bowl which I believe are the final ten days of Earth's history. The word, Armageddon, comes from two Greek words joined together (concatenated), "*har megiddon*" and are transliterated into the English word "Armageddon." The two Greek words actually mean "Mount Megiddo" or the "mountain of Megiddo."

When John received the vision for the book of Revelation, the ancient city of Megiddo, located about 19 miles from modern Haifa in northern Israel today, was well known for its ruins. For centuries, the city had been a landmark in Israel. At one time, Megiddo was a proud and prosperous city sitting securely on a mountain top. Because of its location, its natural defense enabled it to endure for centuries. However in 586 B.C., God sent King Nebuchadnezzar to reduce it to ruins and it was never rebuilt. It was common knowledge among the

Jews in John's day that Pharaoh Neco's forces killed King Josiah in a battle near Mount Megiddo. The Lord told Josiah to avoid war with Pharaoh, but Josiah disobeyed. He went out to fight a battle that should not have been fought and it cost him his life.<sup>1</sup>

The battle of Armageddon is not concerned with a physical location in the Middle East as many people suspect nor will it be some kind of mystic or spiritual battle. World War VI is called "Mount Meggido" (Armageddon) because God wants us to learn three lessons from the ruins of "Mount Meggido."

First, Armageddon will be a battle that should not be fought! Earthly kings and their armies will knowingly join forces with the devil and his demons to foolishly make war against the King of Kings and they will suffer the same fate as Josiah. Second, the battle of Armageddon will leave the whole world in ruin the same way that Nebuchadnezzar's armies left Mount Meggido in total ruin. Third, when Armageddon ends, life on Earth ends. Earth will remain desolate for one thousand years in the same way that Mount Meggido remained desolate for centuries! The prophet Zephaniah wrote about the great Day of the Lord saying, **"Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy**

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Chronicles 35

**the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.”<sup>1</sup>** When Jesus returns, the wicked are either thrown into a lake of fire or they drop dead when Jesus commands them to die.<sup>2</sup>

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Question #8: The battle of Armageddon will occur during the \_\_\_\_\_ bowl.  
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### **The Creator Has a Purpose for Armageddon**

If you think it farfetched that men would try to kill God, remember Jesus on the cross. If you think it farfetched that angels would war against God, consider the war in heaven between Lucifer and Michael.<sup>3</sup> These wars reveal that when the sinful nature is confronted with God’s sovereign authority and will, the sinful nature would rather try to kill God than obey and humbly worship Him! This is what the curse of sin does to every sinner and why the Great Tribulation includes a world war over worship!

Armageddon will be an interesting war between the Creator and those He created; the very people who borrow life from Him! When we consider this will be a battle to destroy Jesus, his sacrifice on the cross, and God’s gracious efforts to save sinners, Armageddon re-

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1 Zephaniah 1:18  
2 Revelation 19:19-21  
3 Revelation 12:7-9

veals why God has to completely eliminate his created beings who refuse to submit to the Holy Spirit and all vestiges of sin. The curse of sin is a predatory virus from which there is no recovery except by total destruction.

If a person exercises his free will and refuses to listen to the Holy Spirit, refuses to be born again, and refuses to worship his Creator on His holy day, Jesus must protect the universe from defiant and rebellious people by destroying them. Earth's history proves there is everlasting enmity between the children of the woman and the serpent.<sup>1</sup> When sinners are allowed to live, they always prey on the weak or the righteous which appear weak in sinners' eyes. The children of the serpent have persecuted the sons of God ever since Cain killed Abel. The enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman has been endless for six thousand years. This is why the seventh millennium will be a Sabbath millennium of rest for the saints!

.....  
 Question #9: Armageddon will be a war between the Creator and \_\_\_\_\_ .  
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### **WW VII – The Holy City Siege**

The last “war of wars” will be fought at the end of the thousand years. Billions of people (everyone who ever

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 3:15

lived), billions of angels (all who have been created), the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will be present. The booklet website [wake-up.org/studies](http://wake-up.org/studies) and the footnots provide support for the following sequence of events leading to the final world war and the end of the thousand years. God's judicial process is comprehensive and it takes detailed study to synthesize all its parts.

1. When a person dies, he ceases to exist. His body returns to dust and his breath (the power of life) returns to God who gave it. All that ultimately remains of a dead person is a recording in heaven. He does not go to heaven or hell at death. He simply ceases to exist.
2. Prior to the Second Coming, Jesus will judge the dead by examining the recording of each life. Jesus determines who will enter heaven and who will not.
3. During the Great Tribulation, Jesus will test the living to see who will choose to enter heaven and who will not.
4. At the Second Coming, all of the wicked who are alive will be slain.<sup>1</sup> Also, the righteous dead and the righteous living will meet the Lord in the air and go to heaven.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:21

<sup>2</sup> 1 Thessalonians 4:17

5. No one is alive on Earth during the 1,000 years. The Earth is desolate. The devil and his angels are returned to the Abyss. Their physical bodies (given at the fifth trumpet) are destroyed in a lake of fire at the Second Coming. During the one thousand years, the devil and his angels cannot travel. They are bound to a desolate and destroyed Earth to contemplate their past, present, and future. There is no one for them to tempt.
6. All of the wicked (like Cain) who will not be permitted to enter heaven are not disturbed at the Second Coming. Additionally, the wicked slain at the Second Coming will join Cain in the grave during the 1,000 years.
7. During the 1,000 years, the saints will sit in judgment, reigning with Jesus as judges to determine the amount of suffering that each wicked person must repay in Hell. The wicked must suffer according to the amount of suffering they caused in this life (restitution).
8. At the end of the 1,000 years, Jesus, the saints, and the holy angels will descend in the Holy City, New Jerusalem, with the Father and the Holy Spirit to Earth.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 21:2

9. All the wicked dead (including Cain) will be resurrected meet their Creator and face judgment. Jesus will reveal to each wicked person why He could not save them. He will show each wicked person the recording He used to judge their life record which reveals all all motives, words, and thoughts.<sup>1</sup> There will be no wiggle room for the wicked.
10. Jesus will then reveal the amount of restitution and the amount of suffering, determined by the saints during the thousand years. Many of the saints were victims of the wicked.
11. When the wicked receive their sentences, they will be filled with great fear. The devil and his demons will spring into action. They will foment a great rebellion against Jesus. A massive throng of billions will march against the Holy City in an effort to avoid their execution. Jesus will call fire down from heaven and then, hell begins.<sup>2</sup>
12. Some wicked people will be annihilated very quickly. Others will suffer for a period of time depending on how much restitution is needed for causing others to suffer.
13. After the wicked are turned into ashes, Earth will be purified of sin and sin's curse. Jesus will cre-

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 20:12

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 20:9

ate a new heaven and a new Earth. The meek will inherit the Earth forever more.

The final war is succinctly described by John: **“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – and to gather them for battle. *In number they are like the sand on the seashore.* They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”**<sup>1</sup>

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Question #10: Armageddon will be fought at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_.

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### Answers to Questions:

- |                        |               |                     |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. religious           | 5. seven      | 9. those He created |
| 2. four                | 6. worship    | 10. millennium      |
| 3. an ocean            | 7. Antichrist |                     |
| 4. religious/political | 8. seventh    |                     |

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 20:7-10, italics mine

## **For Related Study Topics:**

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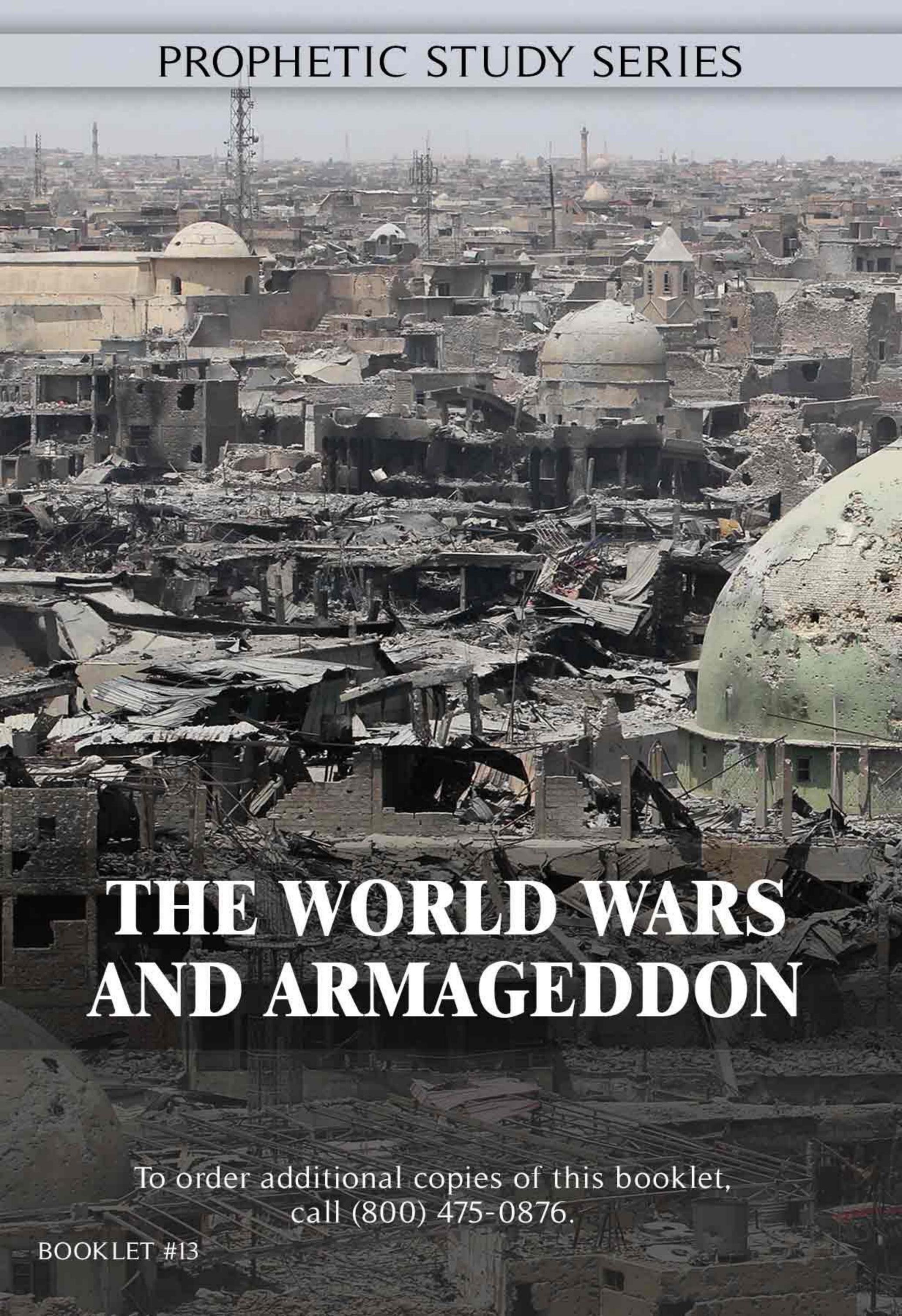
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An aerial photograph of a city in a state of complete ruin. The landscape is a vast expanse of rubble, with twisted metal and charred remains scattered across the ground. Several large, domed structures, likely mosques or churches, are visible, some partially destroyed and others still standing amidst the wreckage. In the background, a dense urban area is visible, with many buildings reduced to skeletal remains. The sky is overcast, adding to the somber and desolate atmosphere of the scene.

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