Rumblings of Armageddon Part 1

By Charles Feinberg

Charles Feinberg:

This is a tape. In this series on prophesy. Rumblings of Armageddon. Message prepared by Dr. Charles L. Feinberg. The subject of our study for this tape is the rumblings of Armageddon. Actually the word Armageddon occurs as a proper noun only once in the Bible it's in Revelation Chapter 16. We're going to see during the course of our study, however, how often this concept this Final Great War. Does appear in the pages of Scripture. I'm reading from the Book of Revelation the 16th chapter. Verses 12 through 16. You will remember that chapter 15 of the revelation is the preparation for the pouring out of the last plagues, they are seven bowls. Not vials as though they were little containers but bowls because a great amount of the earth's surface is going to be involved. And there will be much much death much carnage much destruction.

So this last plague sevenfold plague is entrusted the Seven Bowls of the wrath of God unmixed with mercy. This sevenfold. Judgment I say is entrusted to seven angels. Revelation 16:1 indicates that. Now we come to the sixth of these bowl judgements. We read in the twelfth verse and the sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river the river Euphrates and the water thereof was dried up that the way might be made ready for the Kings that come from the sun rising. And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Three unclean spirits as it were frogs, for they are spirits of
demons working signs that means working miracles. There is such a thing friends as miracle working demon spirits in the world. The Bible says so which go forth. This is their purpose. They go forth unto the kings of the whole world to gather them together unto notice it not just a battle or a skirmish to gather them together unto the war. It's the war of Armageddon.

Unto the War of the great day of God the Almighty. Then parenthetically. Warning some. Who will be believers in that time on earth not the church but believers? Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is He that watches and keep his garments lest he walks naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har Mageddon. Mount of mageddon now. Armageddon is a word frequently on the lips of men even when the full meaning of it is not recognized. It has a way too of cropping up constantly in print. And in public utterances seems so easy. For folk to speak of. This could well be Armageddon just before us. However if one were to ask a layman, someone in the general public domain what is meant by Armageddon. They probably in general terms would be correct. They may not know the details but it's known generally that Armageddon relates to the last Great War of the Bible as we read the scriptures we'll find that that last war. Is characterized by three main features. First of all its extent. It will be universal in its extent.

I well remember that in World War II our then president President Roosevelt said this war should not be called a world war but a global war. And yet there were some nations that were not involved in it but this one will involve all the nations. Its extent. Of course we are now talking in scientific circles not only of global warfare but of intergalactic warfare. The matter of getting a platform in space from which to operate. And to cast down lethal. Judgment below. The first main feature of Armageddon then is its extent. Secondly its violence. Now there have. Been.
Great weapons that can deal death. On a large scale. Yet we are told now by scientists that. They have. A bomb.

That is more death dealing more devastating destructive than all the bombs that were hurled in World War II. It defies the imagination. It boggles the mind. The violence. Now if one were to see in scripture what God says about that time you need only read Revelation 14 where we read in Verse 18 through 20 and another angel came out from the altar? He that hath power over fire. And he called the great voice to him that had the sharp sickle saying send forth thy sharp sickle it's time for harvest and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth where her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel cast his sickle into the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth and cast it into the winepress. The great wine press of the wrath of God and the wine press was trodden without the city that's the city of Jerusalem. And there came out blood from the wine press even unto the bridles of the horses. As far as a thousand six hundred furlongs. Think of it. The wine press trodden outside the city. Blood comes from the wine press. Unto the bridles of the horses and you know as well as I do that the bridle. Of a horse. Is not just somewhere around. The legs of the horse it's not around the body but it is up at the very top of the horses in.

The Horse's Mouth. Think of it. The bridles of the horses and there will be blood from the wine press because the wine press is a figure for the treading out of human life and just as the grape juice comes out of the grapes. So blood comes out from man. That's the figure just as in Isaiah 63, even unto the bridles of the horses. How far. As far as a thousand six hundred furlongs and if you'll figure that scriptural description out it is as far as from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south. The land will know such violence that it will suffer in Armageddon a literal bloodbath. The two main features thus far are the extent of Armageddon and its violence. But it is also indicated. As characterized by Confederacies, alliances, groups. If you will study
the history of warfare I think you will. Find that this can be borne out. That in the past century and previous centuries wars were usually against a nation one nation against another. Two nations against another nation a third nation or the like.

But ever since World War One of course it went into World War II. What do we have? We have the eastern powers the central powers against the Western powers. World War II the Axis powers against the free countries. So it will be in that day Confederacies Confederacies as we're going to see in Europe. Yes Confederacies outside of Europe. Confederacies that will take in even the Far East. As I've indicated the word Armageddon is found in Revelation 16 12 to 16. The reference very clearly is to the mountain of Megiddo. Now the root of Megiddo from Gadd has the meaning of to cut in, to break in upon. To slaughter to cut off to annihilate. If you study the map of the Holy Land you'll find that the position of Megiddo is indeed unique. It's at the end of a spur that runs out from the ridge of Carmel into the plain and it's a conspicuous feature in the landscape. That plain is the plain of Esdraelon. This is Greek for the Hebrew.

It's a triangle. With sides of 20 miles by 15 by 15. Going from Haifa to the Jordan Valley striking down south eastward. The hills surrounding it. On every side are pierced by 5 passes with Jezreal guarding the eastern side and Megiddo the northern approach. It is an ideal battleground. Indeed the most famous in the world and we are reminded of the statement of the great military strategist Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte Napoleon the first on his return from the battle of Egypt the battle of the Nile. He stood over Israel. He stood over Esdraelon looking at that battlefield. And with his quick eye he evaluated it and made the statement which has been quoted often. What a magnificent battlefield upon which to maneuver all the armies of the nations of the earth. That doesn't mean all the peoples of the earth but the armies.
Think of the battles that have been fought there according to scripture. This is the place where Cicero fought against Barak, judges 5:19. This is where Gideon contended against the Midianites in judges 6:33. This is where Saul and his son Jonathan fought against the Philistines before they were driven back to their death on Mount Geboa, 1 Samuel 31. This is the place where King Josiah tragically went against Pharaoh Neho of Egypt. Second Kings 23:20. And Josiah was slain. Second Chronicles 35:20-27. It was on the western border of this area that Elijah contended with the profits of Bala, first Kings 18:39 here Ahiziah died after fleeing from Jehu Second Kings 9:27 it's been a scene of conflict from the time of the Assyrians to Napoleon. It was Bishop Horn who wisely said and knowingly indicated said he Jews and Gentiles and Saracens and Christian crusaders and anti-Christian Frenchmen Egyptians Persians [inaudible] Turks and Arabs warriors out of every nation which is under heaven have pitched their tents in the plain Esdraelon and have beheld the various banners of their nations wet with the dews of Tabor and Herman.

Megiddo then is the Bible's scene of the world's great battles. It will be the scene of the last war as well. The Bible's picture of the battles to be fought. In this Great War. That picture is not so simple as most assume. But. All of them together will make up that most significant war. Many know. That general Allenby was the one after World War at the end of World War One who took Jerusalem without a shot. And many know that King George the fifth knighted Allenby. It's not well known that when he was asked what title he would like to have. As Lord Allenby, he indicated being a close student of the word of God. And from all indication a humble believer and follower of the Lord Jesus said Allenby to King George the fifth. I should like to have the title of Lord Allenby of Megiddo. And such. It was. Now we should look first at the prophetic passages as we study this subject. It's a great mistake as I've already indicated to
suppose that Armageddon is only a battle. It is the war of Armageddon though it is mentioned only in Revelation 16. It does not mean that it is not indicated elsewhere in the Bible it is found in the psalms it's found in the prophets of the Old Testament, Psalm 2 among others speaks of it, where all the nations come in defiance against the Lord and against his Christ, which is Armageddon. Part of the war will be in the valley of Jehoshaphat. The final decision is to be made in Jerusalem as today. Where if the capital city fights then the war is still on. If the capital city is declared an open city the war is over the final decision has to be made. At Jerusalem. And so it will be. It's in the great prophecy of one of the so-called Minor Prophets. It's only minor in the amount of pages that his prophecy covers but it's the prophet Joel, great prophet Joel. In the last chapter of his prophecy. Hear It. For behold. In those days not our days but in those days and in that time not in Joel's time, when? When I shall bring back the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem and they'll be regathered to the land. I will gather all A L L means all I will gather all nations.

I will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat that's the most interesting name. It's the name of one of the kings of Judah one of the descendants of David. But Jehoshaphat means The Lord Judges just as we say that house there is a courthouse or that Hall is a Hall of Justice. God has an area of the world already named beforehand. The place of God's courtroom, the place where the Lord judges. Now why I will execute judgment upon them the nation there at that place for my people and for my heritage Israel whom they have scattered among the nations and they have parted my land they divided my land the Holy Land is God's land and the Lord has not forgotten. He never could forget. He never would forget that in 1947 it was the United Nations that divided his land. You wouldn't like somebody coming into your home and dividing the elements there or the property there or your possessions. God never indicated to the nations
that they should ever divide that land. They've cast lots for my people hath given a boy for a
harlot and sold a girl for wine that they may drink. The people of Israel have more than once
been made the butt.

Of all kinds of vile and ungodly action, destruction. Look at verse 14 of Joel three.
Multitudes, multitudes at the valley of decision for the day of the Lord is near. In the valley of
decision why folks say of course I've heard the evangelist speak of multitudes in the valley of
decision my dear friends. It's not multitudes deciding for Christ. Why would they be in a valley,
it's the same valley as mentioned in the second verse the valley of Jehoshaphat. Why are these
multitudes coming there? It's the day of the Lord the time of God's reckoning with the nations
and the sun and the moon are darkened. So you know this is not an evangelistic meeting and the
stars withdraw their shining. The Lord is going to roar from Zion that's where it's taking place.
Jehoshaphat is around Jerusalem. Utter his voice from Jerusalem and the heavens and the earth
shall shake. But the Lord will be a refuge unto his people and a stronghold to the children of
Israel. So shall you know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion my holy mountain. Then
shall Jerusalem be holy. There shall no strangers pass through her anymore. Even the conflict
around Jerusalem, friends, is going to be in two stages.

First of all there's going to be initial success for the enemy. Zechariah 14 1 and 2 we read
a day comes unto the Lord and thy spoil and it's a feminine suffix there in the original Hebrew
which means the city of Jerusalem thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee there is success.
First of all for the enemy. But ultimately as Zechariah 14 goes on there's going to be ultimate
victory for the forces of the Lord. How his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives
which is before Jerusalem on the East and that mount is going to be cleft asunder eastward and
westward latitudinally half of it. That mountain then will go to the north half of it to the south.
There should be a very great valley and they shall flee by the valley of my mountains as they fled before the earthquake in the days of Aziah the king and the Lord my God shall come. And he's so enamored of it. The great prophet Zechariah sees that vision given him of God and he says all thy turns to direct address. The Lord my God shall come all thy holy ones with thee. Now Jehoshaphat is the valley that separates the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem the Kridron runs between the two mountains and then notice the importance of Isaiah 63 for Armageddon, in conjunction with revelation 19 treading out the wine press of God's wrath. If you've ever been there to Petra. You'll know. That that is a naturally hewn out rock press. I've seen it a number of times. How vivid. How inescapable.

    So Isaiah asks, who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Basra. This one who speaks in righteousness mighty to save. Why is your garment besprinkled? As one who treads out the wine vat ah says I've trodden the nations in mine anger and in my wrath. There was no one with me therefore mine own arm brought me salvation. There's no one with him because they're the objects of his anger. Objects of his tremendous wrath. And then we've read in Revelation sixteen twelve we're on the prophetic passages now on the Armageddon War. The Euphrates that is the greatest river in that part of the world. Always referred to as [inaudible] the great river the river Euphrates Euphrates. From the Hebrew word like Ephraim Ephraim it means fruitful fruitful Euphrates is one of the great boundaries marking off the land promised to Abraham. I shall never forget a few years ago. When I was in the Nile Hilton in Egypt. In June I read the English translation of the news.

    They have an English newspaper that you get in that hotel each morning in the lobby. I could hardly credit my eyes. It was June 6 1973. And this is what the statement was. The Euphrates River was halted today for the first time in its history when the diversion canal was
blocked. The 300 billion dollar dam has been under construction for four years. One thousand Soviet engineers 11000 Syrians constructed it in Syria. Think of it. Now, that's not the fulfillment of Revelation 16 12 the Lord's going to do that so that all those great nations of the Far East can come. Their way will not be obstructed will not be impeded. There will be no delay to their crossing from east to west. And world politicians have long said if you think there's trouble. Just from Russia in Europe or Germany in Europe ah said just think when India and China and Japan and Indonesia, countries like that get together oh what a time it will be those nations of the East. Yes.

In an article in one of the important magazines. It drew a parallel of this damming up of the Euphrates River with a dam that was built called Lake Nasser in Egypt and it indicates it may never be full evaporation takes 50 percent more water from the lake than was estimated they've ruined the ecology of that country. Also the ground absorbs a large amount of water that lake is losing about one third of the water flowing into it. We don't know. Whether that's been taken into account when they have been now working on the Euphrates River. If they are judging from what happened at the Aswan High Dam they will be cautious. But here, here you have the Euphrates coming alive. One of the great boundaries marking off the land promised to Abraham in Genesis 15 18 lands in this area. I say have suddenly come into new life.

Now that river a natural barrier an impossible defense, impassable, will be dried up. So the kings of the Far East may take their place in the conflict and then in Ezekiel 38 and 39 we have Gog and Magog. And whatever else will be said about that passage. It certainly indicates from the far north from the far north from the far north and the power that's far north. And the dominating one. Hovering over where the Holy Land is Russia and Gomer, if you will read Genesis ten you will see that is the nations, refers to a nation in the northern part of Europe.
The war though it has a focal point at Armageddon is a worldwide scope in Armageddon. Now one of the sure signs of the nearest Armageddon is Israel's dwelling securely in the land. Well you say I don't think they're very secure. Of course not. But you see that term security is used in the Bible when the security can be only a fancied or imagined one. For instance haven't we been aware that there has been a united Security Council since 1945. May I ask you? Did it hinder a war in Korea? Did it hinder a war in Laos? Did it hinder a war in Vietnam? Has it hindered any war in the near east in the Middle East? Oh my friends it can be not only one that is real but it can be a fancied or imagined one. So one of the sure signs of the nearness of Armageddon is Israel thinking that for a while they have a respite, dwelling somewhat securely in the land. And Paul speaks of false security. First Thessalonians 5 2 and 3 when they say peace and safety.

Sudden destruction will come upon them. As travail upon a woman with child. The prelude to Armageddon is Israel's return to the land read Ezekiel 38 39 and they're going to return in unbelief. Ezekiel 37 12 and 13. How do you know they're in unbelief? Because that bunch of dried bones when brought together we read in verse 8 and there was no breath no spirit in them. So the condition of the return is in unbelief. That's implied in Zechariah 12 10 when they finally look upon him whom they had pierced. The time of the return comes close to the end of the time. Of the government. Of the sovereignty of gentile powers. And Daniel 12 7 puts it so clearly when they are in great distress these will happen breaking in pieces. The power of the Holy People Jeremiah 30 verses 5 to 7 says there's going to be a time of agony. None is like it. Daniel 12:1, time of trouble such as never was yes and never will be the like again.

[End Part 1]