

**PLEASE NOTE** - The references below are taken from the 86-19 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Revelation 13:6-8) . . . 7 It was permitted to wage war with the holy ones and conquer them, and it was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. 8 And all those who dwell on the earth will worship it. From the founding of the world, not one of their names has been written in the scroll of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

\*\*\* it-1 p. 270 Beasts, Symbolic \*\*\*

This beast's seven heads (bearing ten horns) distinguish it from the one-headed beasts of Daniel's vision. Seven (and ten) are commonly acknowledged as Biblical symbols of completeness. (See NUMBER, NUMERAL.) This is corroborated by the extent of this beast's domain, for it exercises authority, not over one nation or a group of nations, but "over every tribe and people and tongue and nation." (Re 13:7, 8; compare 16:13, 14.) Noting these factors, The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible comments: "The first of these beasts [of Re 13] combines in itself the joint characteristics of the four beasts of Daniel's vision . . . Accordingly, this first beast represents the combined forces of all political rule opposed to God in the world."—Edited by G. Buttrick, 1962, Vol. 1, p. 369.

\*\*\* w12 6/15 p. 15 par. 6 Jehovah Reveals What "Must Shortly Take Place" \*\*\*

6 Shortly after the start of the Lord's day, the seventh head launched an attack on God's people—the remaining ones of Christ's brothers on earth. (Matt. 25:40) Jesus indicated that during his presence, a remnant of the seed would be active on earth. (Matt. 24:45-47; Gal. 3:26-29) The Anglo-American World Power waged war with those holy ones. (Rev. 13:3, 7) During World War I, it oppressed God's people, banned some

of their publications, and threw representatives of the faithful slave class into prison. The seventh head of the wild beast as much as killed the preaching work for a period of time.

\*\*\* it-2 p. 251 Life \*\*\*

"The Lamb's scroll." "The scroll of life of the Lamb" is a separate scroll, apparently containing only the names of those with whom the Lamb, Jesus Christ, shares his Kingdom rule, including those still on earth who are in line to receive heavenly life. (Re 13:8; compare Re 14:1, 4.) Those enrolled in "the Lamb's scroll" are spoken of as entering the holy city, New Jerusalem, thus becoming part of the heavenly Messianic Kingdom. (Re 21:2, 22-27) Their names are written both in "the Lamb's scroll" and in the other scroll, God's "book of life."—Php 4:3; Re 3:5.

(Revelation 14:13) 13 And I heard a voice out of heaven say, "Write: Happy are the dead who die in union with the Lord from this time onward. Yes, says the spirit, let them rest from their labors, for the things they did go right with them."

\*\*\* re chap. 30 p. 211 pars. 19-20 "Babylon the Great Has Fallen!" \*\*\*

19 Yes, "endurance for the holy ones" means their worshipping Jehovah in exclusive devotion through Jesus Christ. Their message is not popular. It leads to opposition, persecution, even martyrdom. But they are strengthened by what John next reports: "And I heard a voice out of heaven say: 'Write: Happy are the dead who die in union with the Lord from this time onward. Yes, says the spirit, let them rest from their labors, for the things they did go right with them.'"—Revelation 14:13.

20 This promise harmonizes well with Paul's prophecy concerning Jesus' presence: "Those who are dead in union with Christ will rise first. Afterward we the living who are surviving [those

of the anointed ones who survive into the Lord's day] will, together with them, be caught away in clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) After Satan's ouster from heaven, those who were dead in union with Christ rose first. (Compare Revelation 6:9-11.)

Afterward, those of the anointed ones who die during the Lord's day are promised a special privilege. Their resurrection to spirit life in heaven is instantaneous, "in the twinkling of an eye."

(1 Corinthians 15:52) How marvelous this is! And their works of righteousness continue right on in the heavenly realm.

(Revelation 15:8) 8 And the sanctuary became filled with smoke because of the glory of God and because of his power, and no one was able to enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

\*\*\* re chap. 31 pp. 219-220 pars. 17-18 Jehovah's Works—Great and Wonderful \*\*\*

17 Finally, completing this part of the vision, John tells us: "And the sanctuary became filled with smoke because of the glory of God and because of his power, and no one was able to enter into the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished." (Revelation 15:8) There were occasions in Israel's history when a cloud covered the literal sanctuary, and this manifestation of Jehovah's glory prevented the priests from entering there. (1 Kings 8:10, 11; 2 Chronicles 5:13, 14; compare Isaiah 6:4, 5.) These were times when Jehovah was actively involved with developments on earth.

18 Jehovah is also deeply interested in things happening on earth now. He wants the seven angels to complete their assignment. It is a climactic time of judgment, as described at Psalm 11:4-6: "Jehovah is in his holy temple. Jehovah—in the heavens is his throne. His own eyes behold, his own beaming eyes examine the sons of men. Jehovah himself examines the righteous one as well as the wicked one, and anyone loving violence His soul certainly hates. He will rain

down upon the wicked ones traps, fire and sulphur and a scorching wind, as the portion of their cup." Until these seven plagues are poured out upon the wicked ones, the seven angels will not return to Jehovah's lofty presence.

(Revelation 16:5, 6) 5 I heard the angel over the waters say: "You, the One who is and who was, the loyal One, are righteous, for you have issued these judgments, 6 because they poured out the blood of holy ones and of prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; they deserve it."

\*\*\* cl chap. 28 pp. 286-287 pars. 18-19 "You Alone Are Loyal" \*\*\*

18 God's punishment of the wicked is in itself an act of loyalty. How? One indication is found in the book of Revelation in the commands that Jehovah issues to seven angels: "Go and pour out the seven bowls of the anger of God into the earth." When the third angel pours his bowl "into the rivers and the fountains of the waters," they become blood. Then the angel says to Jehovah: "You, the One who is and who was, the loyal One, are righteous, because you have rendered these decisions, because they poured out the blood of holy ones and of prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."—Revelation 16:1-6.

19 Note that in the midst of delivering that message of judgment, the angel refers to Jehovah as "the loyal One." Why? Because by destroying the wicked, Jehovah is displaying loyalty to his servants, many of whom have been persecuted to the point of death.

(Revelation 16:15) 15 “Look! I am coming as a thief. Happy is the one who stays awake and keeps his outer garments, so that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness.”

\*\*\* w05 2/15 p. 18 par. 4 Safeguarding Our Christian Identity \*\*\*

The Bible likens our clear identification as Christians to outer garments, worn for all to see. Regarding our times, Jesus warned: “Look! I am coming as a thief. Happy is the one that stays awake and keeps his outer garments, that he may not walk naked and people look upon his shamefulness.” (Revelation 16:15) We do not want to shed our Christian qualities and standards of conduct and allow Satan’s world to mold us. If that was to happen, we would lose these “outer garments.” Such a situation would be regrettable and shameful.

\*\*\* w05 2/15 Safeguarding Our Christian Identity \*\*\*

These words may allude to the duties of the officer of the temple mount in Jerusalem. During the night watches, he went through the temple to see whether its Levite guards were awake or asleep at their posts. Any guard found sleeping was struck with a stick, and his outer garments might be burned as shameful punishment.

(Revelation 16:16) 16 And they gathered them together to the place that is called in Hebrew Armageddon.

\*\*\* w19 September pp. 8-9 Armageddon Is Good News! \*\*\*

## WHAT IS ARMAGEDDON?

3 Read Revelation 16:14, 16. The word “Armageddon” appears just once in the Scriptures, and it comes from a Hebrew term that means “Mountain of Megiddo.” (Rev. 16:16; fn.) Megiddo was a city in ancient Israel. (Josh. 17:11) But Arma-

geddon does not refer to any literal place on earth. Strictly speaking, it refers to the situation to which “the kings of the entire inhabited earth” are gathered in opposition to Jehovah. (Rev. 16:14) However, in this article, we will also use the term “Armageddon” to refer to the war that immediately follows the gathering of the kings of the earth. How do we know that Armageddon refers to a symbolic place? First, there is no literal mountain of Megiddo. Second, the area around Megiddo is far too small to hold “the kings of the entire inhabited earth” and their armies and war machines. Third, as we will see later in this article, the war of Armageddon will begin when the world’s “kings” attack God’s people, who are scattered throughout the earth.

4 Why did Jehovah connect the final great war with Megiddo? Megiddo and the nearby Jezreel Valley were the sites of many battles. On occasion, Jehovah directly intervened in those battles. For example, “by the waters of Megiddo,” God helped Israelite Judge Barak defeat a Canaanite army led by a chief named Sisera. Barak and the prophetess Deborah thanked Jehovah for their miraculous victory. They sang: “From heaven the stars fought . . . against Sisera. The torrent of Kishon washed them away.”—Judg. 5:19-21.

5 Barak and Deborah ended their song with the words: “So let all your enemies perish, O Jehovah, but let those who love you be like the sun rising in its glory.” (Judg. 5:31) At Armageddon, God’s enemies will likewise perish, while those who love God will be saved. But there is one important difference between the two conflicts. At Armageddon, God’s people will not fight. They will not even be armed! Their “strength will be in keeping calm and showing trust” in Jehovah and his heavenly armies.—Isa. 30:15; Rev. 19:11-15.