

Messages from Revelation 13 of 16

Three Unclean Spirits

#0474

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 7, 1973

Many of you doubtless noted the date on the calendar. Some of you have been thinking of 32 years ago—Pearl Harbor. I was holding a series of meeting in a Louisiana city at the time. The subject which had been announced a week before for that Sunday night was, Is this Armageddon? Where does that word Armageddon come from? It comes from the Bible, in Revelation 16. Let's take a look at it.

Some people have been wondering whether this off and on war in the Middle East is Armageddon, or could lead to Armageddon. Remember that all that anyone knows about the future is what God has revealed because He's the only One that can really see the future.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” Revelation 16:13–14, 16.

Notice that the gathering for this battle is brought about by the direct working of evil spirits. In the 13th verse, these spirits are seen by the prophet to come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. The reason that they come out of the mouth of these is that they are in them. Their coming out shows what's inside. These three symbols—the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet—represent the three great divisions, or parts, that make up Babylon. So in Revelation 16:19, it says the great city was divided into three parts. This great city is called great Babylon in the third line of this 19th verse. So, Babylon is made up of three great divisions: The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. These represent the three great religious divisions of this world. This last war of Armageddon is brought about by wicked spirits coming out of, and working out of and through the great religions of the earth.

Now you'll notice in the 14th verse, these spirits work miracles, but they are called the spirits of devils. The fact that miracles are worked doesn't prove that the thing is of God. It may be of the Devil, according to this text. Many of the miracles that are being worked today by so-called faith healers, by so-called prophets, by those who claim to have the gifts of the spirit, many of them are the work of spiritualism—the spirits of devils working miracles. This will increase until finally, the

whole earth is ripe for a final effort in rebellion against God to rid the earth of those who keep God's commandments.

Now in Revelation 17, we're given a picture of this great woman, Babylon, this great city.

"...the woman which thou saw is that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth" Revelation 17:18.

In Bible prophecy, a woman represents a church. The 12th chapter of Revelation is God's picture of the true church which keeps His commandments. The 17th and 18th chapters give us God's picture of the fallen churches confederated in this great system which the book of Revelation presents as Babylon.

That name Babylon is very interesting; it means confusion. This is the condition of the world today politically, economically, and religiously. It's confusion. It's been getting more that way in the last year, hasn't it, friend? It will continue to get that way. Yet finally, there will be a patched up confederation in which all the world for a very brief time will be united against God and His commandments. This is what the book of Revelation foretells. This confederation is going to fight against God in the person of His saints.

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army" Revelation 19:19.

The One that sits on the horse is Jesus; proof? Verses 11–14 of the same chapter. So when Jesus comes to this world, He will find all the nations of the earth engaged in a confederated attempt to rebel against Him, and make this world the kingdom of the Devil. Speaking of the powers of the earth:

"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful" Revelation 17:13–14.

So you see here another picture of this final war in which the nations of the earth fight against Jesus, the Lamb.

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman..."

The church, the true church.

"...and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" Revelation 12:17.

The issue is over the keeping of God's commandments. These Ten Commandments, written by the finger of God on the tables of stone, are in the Ark in the Temple in Heaven. When God called Moses up into Mt. Sinai, when the children of Israel were taking that trip from Egypt to Canaan, He gave him these Ten Commandments which God Himself had copied from the great original in Heaven. And he had Moses build a sanctuary down here in this world, fashioned after the pattern of the heavenly temple. He had Moses build this tabernacle to represent the temple of God in Heaven. That's what Paul tells us in Hebrews 8 and 9. And in the Most Holy Place, the inner room of that sanctuary, he had Moses put these two tables of stone that God had written the Ten Commandments on in the Ark, that Holy Ark. The one here on earth was a copy of the one in Heaven. This law that God gave Moses was a copy of the one in Heaven.

We see this last Gospel message introduced in the setting of the opening of the Most Holy Place of the Temple in Heaven. And so it says:

“...the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the Ark of his testament...”
Revelation 11:19.

The controversy in this last generation is over the law of God. Soon all this world will be divided into just two classes—those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, as we studied last week in Revelation 14:12, and those who rebel against God. The Devil has many different ways that can be done, but they all constitute a part of fallen Babylon which is in rebellion against God.

The book of Revelation shows us how people reveal which side they're on. In wartime, the flag is in evidence. The flag stands for loyalty to the government, and there are two great flags introduced here in the book of Revelation. God's flag is introduced in the seventh chapter of Revelation, beginning with the first verse; it's called the seal or sign or mark of God. It shows His authority. It is said to be placed in the foreheads of the servants of God. How do you tell the servants of God? They have the *seal* of God in their foreheads. The forehead, of course, is the seat of intelligence. This is the seat of reason and judgment and conscience. And God is writing His law, the same law He wrote on the stones, and had Moses put in the Ark; He's writing in the minds and hearts of His children, His servants today.

Is this law written in your heart, my friend? Do you know what God said? Do you love it? I'll tell you this, if you know it, if you love it, then you'll do it. Right? If you don't know it, you can't do it. And if you don't love it, you won't do it. So day by day, our prayer should be, “Lord, write this law in my mind so I'll know it. Write it in my heart, so I'll do it.”

These are the servants of God, marked for Heaven. The prophet sees them triumphant standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. As Babylon on the Euphrates, that great city of antiquity, stands in all ages as a representative of the kingdom of rebellion against God, so Zion stands as the representation of the kingdom of God. Old Jerusalem was called Zion. There David established his throne. And here we

see in Heaven the New Jerusalem. And there on Mount Zion we see the people of God who have been marked in this world with God's seal in their forehead. We see them standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion.

Are you a citizen of Babylon or a citizen of Zion? Do you have that mark in your forehead? Do you know God's will, and do you love it? That's the issue.

In Revelation 13, we see that the beast power which heads up Babylon has his mark too. He seeks to enforce it with a terrible boycott and a death decree, as is evidenced in verses 15, 16, 17 of Revelation 13. Think what it will mean to live in this world when unless you accept the mark of rebellion, the false Sabbath, the day of apostasy, you cannot buy or sell. Yet God warns you that if you receive that false mark and join in rebellion against Him that then, you will drink of the wine of the wrath of God in the 7 last plagues.

This whole world is going so fast toward the final issue, the last battle, and the issue is over the law of God. God's flag, His true Sabbath, the seal of His law, is to be uplifted in the hearts and lives of His children. But all the world is joining and will join more and more in rebellion until finally there will be an attempt to kill all who will not join in this false worship. Think of it, a death decree against those who keep God's commandments.

Now, I want you to turn to Romans 6:16. Here is the text that I'd like to have you ponder over. How do you show whose servants you are? How do you show which side you're on? How do you manifest who your master is?

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
Romans 6:16.

That's it. I wonder, is there anybody here three-years-old that I could borrow for a couple of minutes? Maybe the mother and father should come along, that would be helpful. I've called a four-year-old who is standing right here. Her father is standing over by the piano. "Do you know that man over there?"

[A little girl says] Yeah.

Who is he?"

[The girl says] He's Daddy.

He's Daddy.

Now, suppose I should tell you to go over by the piano, but your daddy tells you to go over by the organ. Which are you going to do? Who will you listen to?

"I will go over to the organ."

Thank you very much; I want to thank you for coming up. You may go back.

Did she show which one she belonged to? How did she show it? By obedience. When God through His law tells you to keep these Ten Commandments, including the Fourth Commandment, and all the rest, and the religions of this world and nations of this world inspired by miracle-working spirits, commands you to keep the false day of worship and to break God's law, what do you show by your life? You show whose servants you are. And don't think this is just a matter of a day. This is a matter of loyalty.

Just as honoring the flag means nothing unless we keep the laws that the flag stands for, so resting on Saturday means nothing unless we honor all the Ten Commandments, is that correct? The Sabbath stands for loyalty to the whole law. It means children will obey their parents. It means husbands and wives will be true to each other and not break the Seventh Commandment. It means that the servants of God will not steal or lie or murder. It means they'll not worship images, seen or unseen. It means they will have no other gods before Jehovah. The issue is loyalty.

I want to read you now this Romans 6:16 which we've just read from the King James. I want to read it to you from one of the modern translations, listen:

"Don't you know that when you submit to someone as master, and obey him, you become his slave?"
Romans 6:16.

We can be servants of God or slaves of the Devil. All who receive the seal of God in their foreheads are willing servants. But those who receive the mark of the beast in the forehead or in their hand become the slaves of Satan.

Turn to John 8:34 for proof:

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever commits sin is..."

What?

"...the servant of sin" John 8:34.

We show by our acts whether we are servants of God or slaves of Satan. Which are you? Is this law written in your mind and heart? If it is, then it'll be lived out in the life.

Now, if in our efforts to enter into that experience, we sometimes stumble and fall, thank God we can ask God to forgive us and get up and go on. But if we love the ways of sin, I want to tell you something, no matter how good the environment is around us, we'll eventually do what is written in our minds and hearts.

Take a pig and clean him up. Turn him loose, and he will root his way under the fence and find what? You know what he'll find. He'll find a wallow, a muddy place, a dirty place, and he'll get down and root, and eat all kinds of detestable things, garbage and trash, and rattlesnake and all the rest. Why? Because *that's* his nature. He loves that. But if you would fall into that pig wallow, what would you do? Wouldn't you get out as fast as you could and go get a bath? Do you see what I'm talking about?

Isn't it a pity when people are so messed up and involved in the rubbish of this world that they love the music of the Devil? They love the literature of the Devil. They love the Devil's pictures, they love his TV programs, his radio broadcasts. They love his food. They love the way he dresses people. They love all the lustful, exciting pictures and music, and all the rest. Why? Because they are the slaves of the Devil. And if you're a slave of the Devil, if you love that sort of thing, I tell you there's good news—you can be made free. You can be delivered from that lustful, selfish, sin-worshiping life.

Notice John 8:34:

Whosoever commits sin is the servant of sin" John 8:34.

Now notice the 36th verse:

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be..."

What?

"...free indeed" John 8:36.

You can be made free. A slave can't free himself, but thank God, there is One that has died to make us free—that's Jesus Christ. And this is what He makes plain to us in the sanctuary service. All through the scenes of this great controversy that's now rushing toward its climax, the minds of the people of God will be directed more and more to this Temple in Heaven of which this is a tiny reflection and copy. There in the sanctuary above Christ is making plain the importance of this law and how to get our minds and hearts changed so that instead of being the slaves of sin, we are the servants of God.

This whole thing is based upon a simple and wonderful fact. We are changed by what we look at. In every waking moment, sensations are reaching us—impressions through the eye and through the ear, and through the other sense organs, but largely through the eye and ear. We have here in the human brain between 10 and 13 billion cells. Think of the potential here. Think of the opportunity to store up impressions.

And from those impressions, conclusions are formed. Certain thought patterns are established. We make decisions. All those are registered. In these 13

billion brain cells, eventually, the image of God will be reflected, or the image of Satan reproduced. Every human being here tonight has that potential. Yes, you do.

You will either be the slave of Satan or the servant of God. And the one you yield yourself to, this is the one whose image you will reflect. If you turn toward this world, if you listen to this world, if you follow this world, Satan will lead you to hell.

If you will turn to Jesus and His life, His beautiful example, His death on the cross, His resurrection, His ascension, His priestly work in the temple above, and if you will behold Him from Bethlehem to Calvary, and from Calvary to the heavenly temple, you will become like that which you behold. Believe me, this is Heaven's way of doing things. God has given us here in the brain the ability to reflect that which we see. Oh, I think this is wonderful, don't you?

I'm so glad that I can turn from the pigpen and start toward my Father's house. That's what the prodigal son did. Did he get home? Was he welcome? You too will be. You do not need to stay with the pigs. You don't have to go on that diet. You don't have to smell those smells. You don't have to come to the place where you finally like the hog swill. You can turn homeward. God wants to make you like Him. This is a miracle.

Back there in the ancient sanctuary, which was the Gospel in figure, when a man wanted to turn from sin, when he chose to get separated from the transgression of God's law, he came to this court. He brought his offering, a goat or bullock or lamb. Here by this altar, he confessed his sin on the head of that substitute. In this way he transferred the sin from himself to the substitute. But notice when he did that, in effect he said, "Here is something I want to get rid of." How in the world could he give it to the Substitute and still keep it? Let me just take out of my pocket this little notebook; I'll use it to represent sin. Here I come, I'm coming to the sanctuary now, I want to be delivered from my sins, so what am I to do? I'm to confess that sin, I'm to put it on the Substitute, but when I do, do you see I've given it up? Very simple, very important. There is no way to find forgiveness in the sanctuary of God while I still deliberately choose to keep on breaking God's law.

"Ah," but someone says, "I don't know whether I can hold out or not." That isn't the point at all, friend. You can't live tomorrow's life today. But this moment, you can choose to give up your sin, and put your choice this moment on the side of obedience instead of the side of rebellion. In fact, this moment is the only moment you *can* do it. You all see that you can't do it in the past; that's all gone. You can't tonight make a choice for yesterday. The future is just as impossible for you to handle tonight as the past has been. There is one moment that you can control. That's this moment. That's all.

This moment, you can choose to give up your sins and put it on the Lamb. You can confess your sin to Jesus, and say, "Lord, I give up this law-breaking. I give up this swearing. I give up liquor drinking. I give up this cigarette smoking. I give up this angry temper. I give up these lustful looks. I give up this folly. I give up the

worldliness in music, in reading, associations, in amusements. I give myself to Jesus.”

You can do that when? This moment. It’s the only moment you have. And when the next moment comes, *it* will be this moment. So I come and bring my sin to Jesus, and He takes it. I put it on His dear head, but then what happens? Then that Substitute must suffer the results of the sin that I have committed. And the Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). When I see that, I see that’s what sin is going to do to me if I keep it. Sin is going to kill me; sin is going to murder me if I keep it. But God doesn’t want me to keep it. He wants to save me. So He says, Come, bring me that sin, and I will suffer in your stead.

That’s why Jesus went to the cross. That’s why He died. He died to take my death so I wouldn’t have to die. But He died to take my sin which causes death. It isn’t merely to deliver us from the *results* of sin; it’s to deliver us from sin itself. Do you see? Otherwise, it would be just like a drug that would keep me from feeling pain, and yet the thing that causes the pain would keep on going. No, sin must be removed.

So as I put my sin on Jesus, and He dies in my stead, and I behold Him there dying for me, I say, “O Lord, sin must be terrible if it costs that much to redeem me,” and it is. But I also say, “Lord, Your love must be wonderful that you are willing to take my place.”

So at the cross, I learn two great lessons—how bad sin is, and how good God is. The more I see how bad sin is, the more I want to run from it. The more I see how good God is, the more I want to run to Him. Isn’t that enough to give us motivation to do anything? To flee from sin, to run to Jesus, and put our arms around Him as He puts His arms around us, this is the victory. This is the way of deliverance. This is why the remnant church, as they meet all the forces of earth at Armageddon, stand without losing a single one in their ranks. These are the servants of God that this law written, where? In their foreheads—their minds, their hearts. They know God’s will. They’ll not sin through ignorance. They love God’s will. They’ll not sin through presumption. Oh friends, I thank God that this is so. What do you say?

In this last hour, as the wicked spirits are marshaling the nations to this rebellion against God, God’s Spirit is gathering His children into the unity of faith to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

There is a marshaling of armies
By the spirits of the night;
The kings of the earth are gathering
Armageddon’s war to fight.
Yet beyond the blue pavilion
Of the heaven’s starry night
Our God is marching on.

There are weapons formed by demons,
Belching forth their bolts of pain;
Their faces grim with anguish,
Turn toward death mid heaps of slain.
Yet the unseen hosts of the heavens
Ring out love's triumphant strain,
Our God is marching on.

Then from out the mighty treasures
Of His heavenly arsenal,
The hail, each stone a talent
On His enemy shall fall;
And from hosts of shining angels
We shall hear the bugle call,
Our God is marching on.

Through the open scroll of heaven
That shall hold and roll aside,
We shall see the Man of sorrows
Who for love was crucified;
Mid the untold hosts of heaven,
King of kings and glorified,
Our God is marching on.

Angel notes shall pierce the thunder
Till the noise of earth is still;
There will be revealed to mortals
Heaven's high and holy will.
Who shall answer for the slain
Before the fiat, do not kill
When God comes marching on?

Oh, the fading of the earthly
Sensual devilish away,
Suddenly in heavenly glory
It shall shrivel and decay;
Oh, my soul there's but one question,
How to meet that glorious day
When God comes marching on.

Oh, now ere time is over
Turn to Him who died for thee,
Bid Him lift His hands in pleading,
That thy record may be free;
For the names retained in heaven
Shall of His bright kingdom be,
When God comes marching on.

Oh, I pray that every soul here tonight shall be a servant of God instead of a slave of the Devil. I pray that everyone shall be marked as a commandment keeper instead of marked as a commandment breaker. I pray that your loyalty to Heaven shall be so settled that nothing of this world or of hell can move you not one inch.

Remember whoever you yield yourself servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom you obey. Day by day, moment by moment, test, temptation come to develop in you a fixed character, one way or another—either to hate the pigpen and flee from it or to love the pigpen and wallow in it.

Oh friend, what a destiny the human soul has. Think not that life's decisions are trivial. Think not that it makes a little difference what music you listen to, what book you read, what TV program you see, what day you keep, what work you do, and how you spend your life. Think not that it makes no difference. It's making all the difference in the world—His servants you are to whom you will obey.

Set your face Zion-ward, not to Babylon. Listen to the message that's coming from the Most Holy Place instead of the miracle-working spirits of Babylon. Turn the eyes heavenward and behold your Great High Priest as He prays for you, as He lifts His wounded hands and takes your name upon His lips.

Oh friends, thank God, you and I have a choice. Thank God, we can decide which way we'll go; whose side we'll be on in earth's last war. We cannot be neutral. We can choose to go with God or go with Satan. Indecision soon becomes decision in the wrong direction. So now, tonight, this hour, this moment, choose for God. Don't let the mistakes of the past discourage you. Bring them to Jesus. Put them on the Lamb. Believe that He takes your sins and covers them with His precious blood. Don't let the future frighten you. He guarantees to see you through.

This moment is yours, this moment, only this moment is yours. Will you say, "Yes, Lord, I will"? And remember, if you say Yes to Jesus, you must say no to Satan; there's no way to do one without the other. If you say yes to the world, to Satan, then you turn your back on Christ, you crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame. Oh, no, you cannot afford to do that. Will you say yes to Jesus? If you will, friend, I want you just to raise your hand heavenward to let Jesus see it—lift it high. I want you to let the Savior know that it's all for Him. Ah, He appreciates it.

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