

Chapter 19

*"It Goes from
Bad to Worse"*

Let's see how the Antichrist, the Jews, and the rest of the world are intertwined in the second half of the Tribulation. During the first half, the Jews will think they are finally safe from persecution or attack from the Arab/Muslim world. They will celebrate and claim they are finally at peace and living in security thanks to their new found political savior. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the evangelism of the 144,000, and the two witnesses, the eyes of the Jews will be opened to seeing Jesus as the Messiah and that their current savior (the Antichrist) is a false Messiah. [Daniel 7:25 \(NIV\)](#) "He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time (1 year), times (2 years) and half a time (1/2 year)." [Daniel 11:36-38 \(NKJV\)](#) "³⁶The king (Antichrist) will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. ³⁷He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. ³⁸Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors, he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts." He will demand that he be worshipped as God above all Gods (the abomination of desolation). However, the Jews have been waiting and looking for thousands of years for signs of the return of their Messiah, and this guy isn't Him. They will not comply with this leader's demand.

Coupled with the abomination of desolation, as explained earlier, the second half of the Tribulation begins with the Dragon (Satan) being expelled from God's presence. [Revelation 12:9 and 13](#) "⁹And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." and "¹³When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child." This is known as the time of Jacob's Troubles or Great Tribulation. [Jeremiah 30:7](#) "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it." The Antichrist will begin implementing his plan to eradicate the Jews that will make Hitler's final solution look like child's play. God has promised to provide and protect the Jews by His own hand. [Revelation 12:14-17](#) "¹⁴And to the woman (Israel) were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. ¹⁵And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. ¹⁶And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth. ¹⁷And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." He will send them into the desert, like He did with Moses, and assign the Angel Michael to personally protect them. [Daniel 12:1](#) "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Some suggest they will go to Petra in Jordan, where God will supernaturally supply food and water for the final 3 1/2 years, like He did in Moses' era. [Jeremiah 30:7](#) ends with, "he shall be saved out of it." The promise of protection is also found in [Joel 2:32](#) "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call." In some translations there is a place called Bozrah, which is located in ancient Edom, but it is now in ruins; this is also suggested as the resting place of the Jews. [Micah 2:12-13](#) "¹²I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude

of men. ¹³ The breaker is come up before them: they have broken up, and have passed through the gate, and are gone out by it: and their king shall pass before them, and the LORD on the head of them.” There is light at the end of the tunnel. [Matthew 10:22](#) “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he (any surviving believer, Jew or Gentile) that endureth to the end shall be saved.” [Luke 21:12-19 \(NIV\)](#) “¹² But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵ For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ Stand firm, and you will win life.”

We have looked extensively at the Antichrist's hatred of the Jews. As the Antichrist turns on the Jews, he also begins to kill those gentiles who refuse to take the Mark of the Beast, mostly because of their new-found commitment to Christ. Remember that the second purpose of the Tribulation is to bring the Gentile nations into judgment, so there must be some, probably many who accept the mark. [Isaiah 2:17](#) “The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low. The LORD alone will be exalted in that day.” As the Antichrist tightens his grasp on other countries, they start to refuse to cooperate, particularly as God's judgments ratchet up and the Antichrist's abilities appear to decline. The Antichrist will then enlist the help of the Dragon (Satan) and the False Prophet by calling for three evil spirits from the lake of fire. [Revelation 16:13-14](#) “¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.” Add to that the final seven bowls of judgment, and the devastation and destruction will suddenly be so great such that the world has never seen. [Revelation 15:6-8](#) “⁶ And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. ⁷ And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. ⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.”

As we wrap up the final moments of the bloodiest part of the Tribulation, the end of chapter 14 talks about reaping the harvest and the grapes of wrath. [Revelation 14:17-20](#) “¹⁷ And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, “Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. ¹⁹ And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles (4-5 feet), by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs (6 miles).” It is impossible to conceive how many people will need to die to fill this amount, but when we detail Armageddon, it will soon become clear. First, we will examine the name, which is only found in one verse in the entire Bible. [Revelation 16:16](#) “And He gathered them together into a place in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.” The area of “Megiddo” is in northern Israel. 78 miles north of Jerusalem. Armageddon is perhaps the most familiar battle that has never been fought, but it is also the most misunderstood too. The battle is not a single conflict but is rather has several stages.

Remember, when we looked at the second purpose of the Tribulation, we learned that the Antichrist's time to rule is limited. [Daniel 11:35](#) “And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to

purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” This means the Antichrist’s efforts will be effective, but short lived. Earlier we looked at [2 Thessalonians 2:4 \(NIV\)](#) “He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” In his delusion of grandeur, the Antichrist will claim that he is God and demand the world worship him. However, not all of the world will comply. They will also not repent of their sinful ways. [Revelation 9:20-21](#) “²⁰ And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: ²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” The Kings of the North and the Kings of the South will join forces and move against the Antichrist. [Daniel 11:40-43 \(NKJV\)](#) “⁴⁰ At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. ⁴¹ He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. ⁴² He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³ He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.” The Bible does not clearly say who these two kings are, but, remember that all directions are in relationship to Israel. It does not say the far north, so it is probably not Russia, though it may be Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, or what is left of them after the [Ezekiel 38 and 39](#) war. The Kings of the South are mostly agreed by prophecy teachers as Egypt and possibly parts of Africa.

While the Antichrist is deals with these two, he hears about another flank being attacked by the Kings of the East. [Daniel 11:44 \(NKJV\)](#) “But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to destroy and annihilate many.” Most prophecy teachers believe this king is China, at least if not by herself alone, then as the head of a coalition. Since China’s population is currently estimated at over a billion people, they have the numbers to reach a two hundred million army. [Revelation 9:16](#) “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.” Their uniforms are described in detail and they match the Chinese color scheme of their army. [Revelation 9:17](#) “And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.” God prepares a highway by having the great river Euphrates dry up for this army to have access. [Revelation 16:12](#) “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.”

Just before the Antichrist is about to launch his counterstrike, his time is up. The last of the seven bowls are poured out, and God announces “it is done.” [Revelation 16:17-21](#) “¹⁷ And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done.” ¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. ¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.” Again, God uses earthquakes and hail stones that weigh 75 pounds as the instruments of His punishment. As the text says, God will remember Babylon specifically. However, before Babylon is dealt with, John’s narrative of events in the Tribulation is put on pause. He says his spirit was taken to the desert where he saw a woman in

scarlet, sitting on a scarlet beast drunk on the blood of the saints. [Revelation 17:1-6](#) “¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, “Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” ³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” Prophecy scholars teach the rest of the chapter basically explains that the woman is representative of a religious system that led people away from the Gospel of Christ, which ultimately leads them to perdition or the bottomless pit.

Babylon is then brought to account for her part in the conspiracy to overthrow God from His earthly throne of being Sovereign Lord. [Revelation 18:1-3](#) “¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with His glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.” John is told that God’s people are called out of Babylon before she faces severe punishment in [Revelation 18:8](#) “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.” Those who enjoyed living a life of luxury in Babylon, will turn away from her on a dime. [Revelation 18:9-10](#) “⁹ The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’” The final verses portray the absolute destruction of Babylon so that they will be the ones remembered no more, not Israel. [Revelation 18:21](#) “And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.” If the woman in chapter 17 is a religious system, Babylon represents a political or governmental system. According to a commentary on www.Bible.org, Babylon was a code for the early church to identify Rome so they wouldn’t get caught speaking negatively about their oppressors and then subjected to severe punishment. Remember Rome was occupying the land of Israel and a good portion of the known world when John was on the Isle of Patmos when he wrote the [Book of Revelation](#). It would stand to reason that Babylon could be a yet to be assembled government formation could be the Revived Roman Empire. The beginning of chapter 19 John is still in the spirit and hears the angels of heaven praising God for His victory over corrupted Babylon. [Revelation 19:1-2](#) “¹ And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: ² For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.”