

Study Notes – Revelation 16

- ✚ In chapter 15 John saw the seven angels given golden bowls filled with God's wrath and those who had overcome the antichrist by refusing to worship him or take his mark. They were martyred, filling up God's cup of wrath up to the brim. God has shut Himself within the Temple to be alone, undisturbed during this worst of all judgements.
- ✚ Numerous times in the Old Testament, God dealt righteously with sin until the full measure of judgement was complete. Then there was the ultimate act of satisfying wrath when God's Son, Jesus, the One who knew no sin, became sin for us on the alter of the cross, which allowed us to become righteous before God.
 - The one who believes in Him is not condemned; but whoever does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not put his trust in the name of the one and only Ben-Elohim. John 3:18

Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Rev 16:1 ¹Then I heard a loud voice from the Temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath."

- ✓ loud voice from the Temple – God's shekinah glory has filled the Temple and no one can enter until the plagues are completed, so this voice is God.
 - This is why the last 3 ½ years is referred to as the Great Tribulation. It is also the last 3 ½ years of Daniel's 70th week called Jacob's Trouble. These Bowls will follow each other in rapid succession with unusual severity and great intensity.
- ✓ God's wrath – W.E. Vine describes wrath this way: "wrath" (not translated as anger), is to be distinguished from "orge", in this respect, that thumos indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation, while orge suggests a more settled or abiding condition of the mind, frequently with a view to take revenge. Orge is less sudden in its rise than *thumos*, but more lasting in its nature. Thumos expresses more than the inward feeling, orge the more active emotion. *Thumos* may issue revenge, though it doesn't necessarily include it. It is the characteristic that it quickly blazes up and quickly subsides, though that is not necessarily implied in each case.
 - As we enter these final judgements, the wrath of God has finally stewed to a point that it no longer orge. It has now become thumos, a boiling type of anger. The long suffering patience of the Lord has come to an end, replaced with a fury over the brazen sin and contemptuous rebellion of the Earth Dwellers.
 - And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,¹⁰ he shall also drink the wine of God's fury, poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone before the holy angels and before the Lamb. Revelation 14:9-10
 - "It is for a time, times, and a half. Then when the breaking of the power of the holy people comes to an end, all these things will be finished." Daniel 12:7

16.2 ² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and foul and painful boils came upon the people having the mark of the beast and worshiping his image.

- ✓ poured out - Therefore, wait for me, declares ADONAI, for the day when I rise up for plunder: for My decision is to assemble nations, to gather kingdoms, to pour out My fury upon them— all My burning anger. For in the fire of My wrath all the earth will be consumed. Zephaniah 3:8
- ✓ foul – (kakon): dangerous, pernicious, harmful, malignant.
- ✓ Painful – (pomeron): loathsome, painful, virulent, serious.
- ✓ Boils – (helkos): ulcer, a wound, abscess on their skin.
- ✓ God strikes them with dangerous and pernicious, painful and virulent – like ulcers or abscesses that do not heal. Job 2:7, Exo 9:8-11, Deut 28:27, 35

16.3 ³ Next the second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a corpse; and every living thing in the sea died.

- ✓ every living thing in the sea died – As in Egypt the animal life in the water dies.
 - This is what ADONAI says: 'By this you will know that I am ADONAI. Behold, I will strike the waters that are in the river with the staff that is in my hand, and they will be turned to blood. ¹⁸ The fish that are in the river will die, the river will become foul, and the Egyptians will hate to drink water from the Nile.' Exodus 7:17-18
 - When the fish that were in the river died, the river became so foul that the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. The blood was throughout all the land of Egypt. Exodus 7:21
- ✓ In Revelation 8:8 the 2nd trumpet judgement turned 1/3 of the sea to blood and 1/3 of the living creatures dead.

16.4 ⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

- ✓ rivers and the springs of water – This will cause unthinkable hardship and suffering, even the earth dwellers with the “mark” will not escape this wrath – no special favors or help from the antichrist's government.
- ✓ In Revelation 8:10 the 3rd trumpet judgement 1/3 of fresh water was tainted. This time, the remaining water becomes blood.

16.5-7 ⁵ Then I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You—the Holy One, who is and who was—because You have passed these judgments. ⁶ For they have poured out the blood of kedoshim and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink— they are deserving!" ⁷ Then I heard the altar saying, "Yes, ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot, true and righteous are Your judgments!"

- ✓ You have passed these judgments – **Sin has consequences.** The forgiveness of sin came at a severe price. All the judgements from the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls are appropriate punishment for sin.
- ✓ the blood of kedoshim and prophets – the godless have shed the blood of the Saints & Prophets throughout history.
 - for when Jezebel was cutting off the prophets of ADONAI, Obadiah took 100 prophets, hid them 50 to a cave, and provided them with bread and water. 1 Kings 18:4
 - “The Harlot Babylon”: And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the kedoshim and with the blood of the witnesses of Yeshua. When I saw her, I was totally astounded. Revelation 17:6

- ✓ the blood of kedoshim and prophets(continued):
 - They forsook the House of ADONAI, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherah poles and the idols. Wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for their guilt. ¹⁹ ADONAI sent prophets to them to bring them back to Him and although they admonished them, they would not listen. ²⁰ Then the Ruach Elohim came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the kohen. He stood above the people and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you transgress the mitzvot of ADONAI? You will not succeed. **Because you have forsaken ADONAI, He has also forsaken you.**" ²¹ But they conspired against him, and by order of the king, they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the House of ADONAI. 2 Chronicles 24:18-21
 - "Because of this, behold, I'm sending you prophets and wise men and Torah scholars. Some of them you will kill and execute at the stake, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. ³⁵ And so, upon you shall come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the Temple and the altar. ³⁶ Amen, I tell you, all these things will come upon this generation." Matthew 23:34-36
 - "For this reason also the wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and emissaries, and some of them they will kill and persecute, ⁵⁰ so that the blood of the prophets shed since the foundation of the world might be required from this generation— ⁵¹ from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the one who perished between the altar and the house of God. Yes, I tell you, it will be required from this generation.' ⁵² "Woe to you, Torah lawyers, for you have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter, and you stood in the way of those entering." ⁵³ When Yeshua left there, the Torah scholars and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to interrogate Him on many issues, ⁵⁴ plotting against Him to catch Him in His words. Luke 11:49-54
- ✓ Then I heard the altar saying - When the Lamb opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those slaughtered for the sake of the word of God and for the witness they had. Revelation 6:9
 - the blood of the martyred / sacrificed saints is considered as an "offering" before God as it accumulates at the base of the alter during this time of great persecution.
 - These are a separate group of people from the "Church Age Saints". They came to belief in Yeshua after the tribulation began and were murdered by the earth dwellers.

16.8-9 ⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was permitted to scorch people with fire. ⁹ People were scorched with fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God—the One who has power over these plagues. But they did not repent, to give Him glory.

- ✓ permitted to scorch people with fire – the earth dwellers, the ones with the mark, have received painful boils and oozing sores will suffer more from the scorching heat of the sun.
 - Therefore, a curse will devour the land. Those dwelling there are found guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the land will be burned up, so the people remaining are few. Isaiah 24:6
 - "For behold, the day is coming - it will burn like a furnace - when all the proud and every evildoer will become stubble. The day that is coming will set them ablaze" - says ADONAI-Tzva'ot - "leaving them neither root nor branch." Malachi 3:19
 - This plague will affect all of humanity including the Saints – who would not take the "mark".
 - They shall never again go hungry, nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not beat down on them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne shall shepherd them and guide them to springs of living water, and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:16-17

- ✓ they cursed the name of God – This is worldwide human blasphemy against God. The earth dwellers stony hearts are so set against God that all they can do is shake their fists at Him.
 - And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying in a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he shall also drink the wine of God's fury, poured full strength into the cup of His wrath. And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone before the holy angels and before the Lamb.
Revelation 14:9-10
 - The beast was given a mouth uttering great boasts and blasphemies. It was given authority to act for forty-two months. ⁶ Then he opened his mouth with blasphemies against God, to slander His name and His tabernacle—that is, those dwelling in heaven. ⁷ He was also permitted to make war against the kedoshim and overcome them, and he was given authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth shall worship him—everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the Book of Life of the Lamb who was slain. Revelation 13:5-8
- ✓ But they did not repent, to give Him glory – Giving God glory is the result of repentance!
- ✓ When those being tested have passed the point of return, God continues to test them to provide abundant witness of their unwillingness and inability to return (Romans 1:26,28). This is the purpose for this “hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth (Revelation 3:10). God is testing those who have already taken the mark and are beyond redemption (Revelation 14:9-10). Like Pharaoh their consistent response is not to change their mind, but to harden their heart (Exodus 8:15, 9:34-35). Each time they shake their fist and respond with blasphemy they unwittingly testify of the justice of God’s judgement. *Tony Garland - SpiritandTruth.org*
- ✓ Then he said: "Go your way, Daniel. For the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. ¹⁰ Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly. None of the wicked will understand, but the wise will understand. Daniel 12:9-10

16.10-11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in pain ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their boils. But they did not repent of their deeds.

- ✓ the throne of the beast – The beast’s throne was given to him by Satan. He is both a man, “the little horn” (Daniel 7:8), “the eighth head” (Revelation 17:11).
 - His throne is in a definite place: rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates River – Satan’s ancient capital in the land of “Shinar” where false religion began (Zech 5:5-10).
- ✓ plunged into darkness – Literal darkness as in the 9th Egyptian plague (Exo 10:21-22) and when God darkened Jerusalem when Yeshua died on the cross (Matt 27:45, Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44).
- ✓ gnawed their tongues in pain – This future worldwide darkness will be immobilizing and all they can feel is the pain and agony of their skin and the intense hatred of the One they know is judging them.
- ✓ But they did not repent of their deeds – Still the earth dwellers will not turn to God for help.

16.12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl over the great river Euphrates; and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

- ✓ Euphrates – the great river
 - Dried up bloody dirt. Rev 16:4, 12
 - A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became four riverheads. Genesis 2:10 And the fourth river is Euphrates. Genesis 2:14

- ✓ Euphrates – the great river (continued):
 - A Boundary of the “Promised Land”. On that day ADONAI cut a covenant with Abram, saying, "I give this land to your seed, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates River: (Genesis 15:18) Turn, journey on, and enter the hill country of the Amorites and all their neighbors, in the Arabah, the hill country, the lowland, the Negev, and by the seashore—the land of the Canaanites and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the Euphrates. (Deuteronomy 1:7) From the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory. (Joshua 1:4)
 - Babylon was overthrown when Cyrus diverted the Euphrates. Jer 50:38-46
- ✓ the kings from the east – Scripture doesn't tell us who they are.
 - From the rising of the sun (Anatole). The wise men came from the east, Mesopotamia. Matt 2:1

16.13-14 Then I saw - coming from the dragon's mouth and from the beast's mouth and from the false prophet's mouth - three unclean spirits like frogs.¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits performing miraculous signs, who go out to the kings of the whole world - to gather them for battle on the great Day of Elohei Tzva'ot.

- ✓ coming from the mouth – reflect what is in the hearts of this evil trinity. John 8:44, Dan 7:8, 11, 20, 25, 11:36, Rev 13:6, 11.
- ✓ like frogs – (batra chos): unclean and loathsome, associated metaphorically with serpents.
 - Serpent (ophis): the characteristic of the serpent as alluded to in scripture are mostly evil, treachery, venom, skulking, murderous proclivities. The living serpent symbolizes sin in its origin, hatefulness and deadly effect.
- ✓ demonic spirits – These evil spirits go out to recruit the kings of the nations for a special demonic mission. Through deceiving, convincing words and miracles any resistance is gone. The kings call their armies into action and march across the dried-up Euphrates River.
 - Their destination: Valley of Jezreel.
 - Their military mission: Destroy the Jews.
 - And war broke out in heaven, ...⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down—the ancient serpent, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. ...¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been thrown to the earth, he stalked the woman (Israel) who had given birth to the male child (Yeshua). ...¹⁷ So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring... Revelation 12:7-18
- ✓ the great Day of Elohei Tzva'ot – the 7th Trumpet (Rev 11:15) begins the Great Day of Adonai Tzva'ot.
 - Then the seventh angel trumpeted, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Anointed One. And He shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 11:15

16.15 "Behold, I am coming like a thief! How fortunate is the one who stays alert and keeps his clothes on, lest he walk around naked and they see his shamefulness."

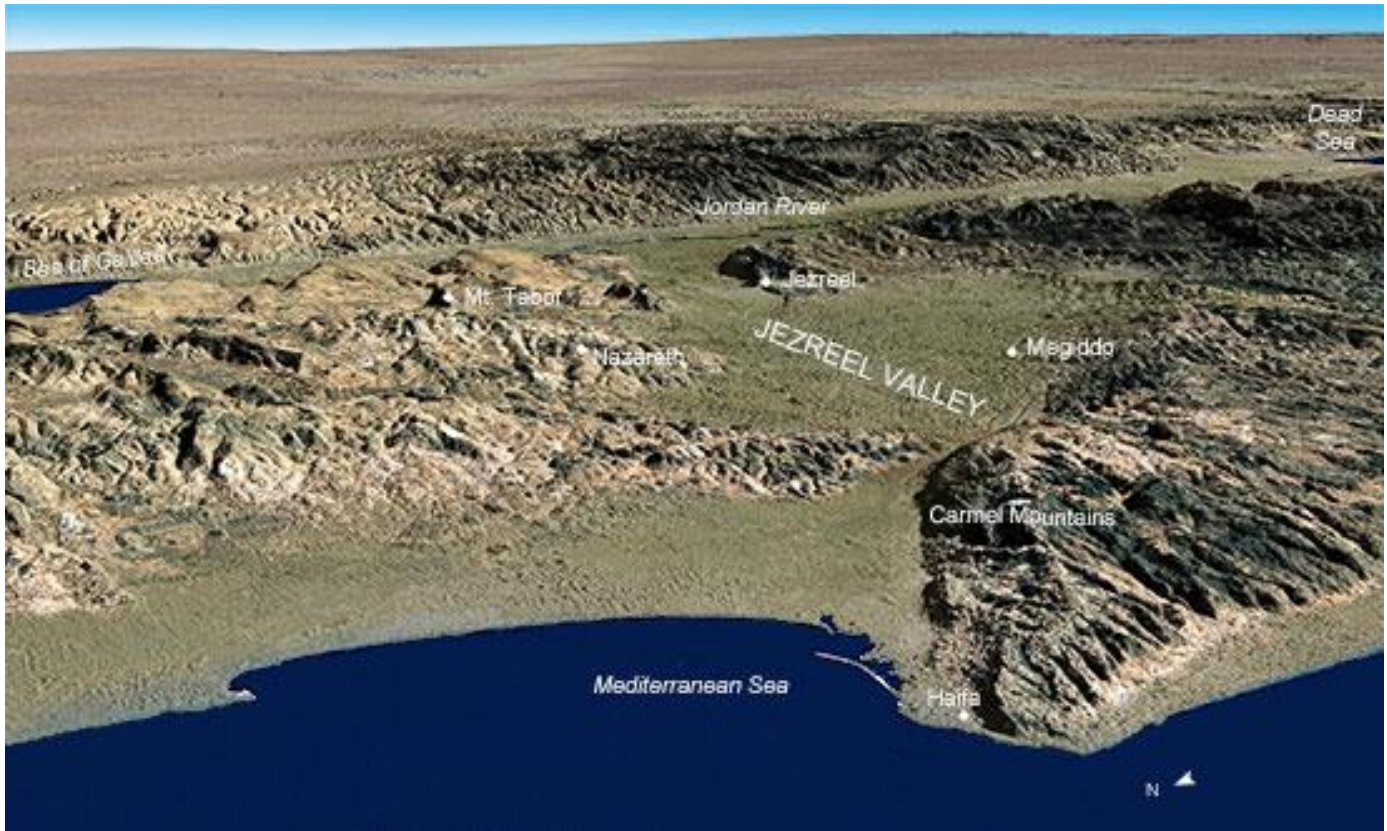
- ✓ How fortunate is the one who stays alert – Yeshua gives this warning and encouragement for believers.
- ✓ Naked – (gumnos): the carnal condition of an individual, carnal is having the nature of flesh. Rev 3:3, 1Thl 5:1-11, or church Rev 3:18

✚ There are several views on the context of this verse as to whom it refers to; The strongest is that it is addressed to believers in the Great Tribulation, but applicable to Church Age believers. If you are ready for His return, whether the Rapture or this second coming you may behave in ways that will be embarrassing when He does return. Mat 24:42-44, Luk 12:39, 1 Jhn 5:2,4, Titus 2:13, Mat 25:1-30, Eph 6:13

✚ **I am coming soon—hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.** Rev 3:11

16.16 ¹⁶ Then the spirits gathered the kings to the place called in Hebrew Har-Megiddo.

✓ Har-Megiddo – Har – Mount or Hill. Megiddo – place of troops or place of slaughter.



✚ **The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist** – when the sixth bowl is poured out, the Euphrates River is dried up and the kings of the earth are gathered to the valley of Jezreel (Rev 16:12-16, Joel 2)

- Jezreel Valley many call the Valley of Armageddon.
- A lowland corridor extending south eastward from the Bay of Acco (Haifa Bay) to the edge of the Jordan Valley at Beth-Shean, known today as Emek Yisreal. Approximately 14 miles wide by 67 miles long.
- The town of Jezreel divides it into two regions: west is the central plain of Megiddo. The hill of Megiddo overlooks the Jezreel Valley in Northern Israel.
- The Valley of Jezreel (God sows) is the breadbasket for Israel.
- The plain of Megiddo is not large enough to contain armies from all over the world, so this must be the assembly area for a much larger deployment that covers the 200 miles that extends to Petra.
- **The fist battle in history of military warfare* took place at Megiddo and this will be the last.** More than 200 battles have been fought here. * The Battle of Megiddo (fought 15th century BC) was fought between Egyptian forces under the command of Pharaoh Thutmose III and a large rebellious coalition of Canaanite vassal states led by the king of Kadesh.

16.17 ¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. A loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

- ✓ Then I saw another great and wonderful sign in heaven: seven angels who have seven plagues—the last ones, for with them God's wrath is finished. Revelation 15:1

16.18-19 ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and rumblings and clashes of thunder and a great earthquake—such as never happened since mankind has been on the earth, so mighty was the quake. ¹⁹ Then the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to force her to drink the cup of the wine of His furious wrath.

- ✓ the great city was split into three parts – The Great city is Jerusalem.
- ✓ the cities of the nations collapsed – all the cities of the earth will be destroyed, only Jerusalem will be spared.
- ✓ Babylon the great was remembered before God – Babylon will be destroyed and forever unfit for human habitation. Babylon's destruction is discussed in chapters 17 & 18.

16.20 ²⁰ Every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ Enormous hail - about a hundred pounds each - falls from heaven on the people. And the people cursed God because of the plague of hail - so extreme was that plague.

- ✓ from heaven on the people – The whole earth will be desolate with massive loss of life.
- ✓ And the people cursed God because of the plague of hail – the earth dwellers are being stoned for their blasphemy yet continue to curse God.

Resurrection and Judgment

"Now at the time of the end the king of the south will attack him, and the king of the north will storm out against him with chariots, horsemen and many ships. He will invade lands and pass through them like an overflowing river. ⁴¹ He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many will be overthrown, but these will escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the chief of the sons of Ammon. ⁴² He will extend his hand against other countries; the land of Egypt will not escape. ⁴³ He will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, as well as all of the riches of Egypt. The Libyans and the Cushites will also be under his feet. ⁴⁴ But reports from the east and north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. ⁴⁵ He will pitch his royal tents between the seas and the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will meet his doom with no one to help him.' Daniel 11:40 - 12:1

Jerusalem, a Cup of Reeling

¹ The burden of the word of ADONAI concerning Israel. A declaration of ADONAI, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: ² "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of reeling to all the surrounding peoples when they besiege Jerusalem as well as Judah. ³ Moreover, in that day I will make Jerusalem a massive stone for all the people. All who try to lift it will be cut to pieces. Nevertheless, all the nations of the earth will be gathered together against her. Zechariah 12:1-3

Final Cleansing from Sin

Then it will happen - it is a declaration of ADONAI - that in the entire land two-thirds will be cut off and die, but a third will be left in it. ⁹ This third I will bring through the fire. I will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them as gold is tested. They will call on My Name and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are My people,' and they will answer, 'ADONAI is my God.' Zechariah 13:8-9

For we know the One who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," and again, "ADONAI will judge His people."

³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:30-31

Instructions for Community Life

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to recognize those who work hard among you and are over you in the Lord and correct you, ¹³ and to esteem them beyond all measure in love because of their work. Keep shalom among yourselves. ¹⁴ We urge you, brothers and sisters, correct the unruly, comfort the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Messiah Yeshua. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit, ²⁰ do not despise prophetic messages, ²¹ but test all things, hold fast to what is good, ²² keep away from every kind of evil. ²³ Now may the God of shalom Himself make you completely holy; and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept complete, blameless at the coming of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. ²⁴ Faithful is the One who calls you—and He will make it happen! 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24