

REVELATION: Lesson 152
Chapter 17:17, God is in Control

19 March 2021

In Revelation 17:17, the Bible says that the kingdoms of this world who are going to join themselves to the Antichrist during the Tribulation will be used by God to fulfill His will. This is a common Bible theme: God's purposes are often fulfilled by those who hate Him, including the Devil himself. It may look like Satan is winning the battle, but all things are happening within the boundaries of God's declared will and purpose.

1 Samuel 16:14-16 An evil spirit from the LORD troubled King Saul, who rejected God and became filled with pride. That evil spirit was not free to carry out his own will. He had to obey God.

Job 1:6-12, 2:1-7 Although Satan hates God, he is still required to report to God (1:7). Satan could not do anything to Job without God's permission. God allowed Satan to destroy Job's household, his children, and his substance, but not Job himself (1:12).

- When God draws a line, Satan MUST not cross that line. It is comforting to know that Satan cannot go any further than God permits.

Psalms 78:42-51 This passage reveals that the ten plagues of Egypt were carried out by evil angels sent by God to do His bidding (vs 49).

- Each of those plagues mocked the perceived strengths of an Egyptian god.

Joshua 24:14-24 The Children of Israel brought Egyptian idols with them when they came out of Egypt. The "gods" that they worshiped were the very devils that God sent to teach His children a lesson. (1 Cor 10:19-20)

First Kings 22:1-23 God sent a lying spirit to deceive King Ahab and his prophets. They preferred lies, so God gave them what they wanted.

First Cor. 5:1-5 The born-again Christian who was guilty of fornication was to be delivered unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh (not the soul). When the flesh is destroyed, sin stops, and repentance follows.

- Satan is the rod that God often uses to chasten His children (Pr 3:12, Heb 12:6, Job 9:34)

Ezekiel 14:6-9 If you make yourself somebody's idol, God will deceive you and cause you to speak words that will deceive those who idolize your words.

- Those who believe the Bible will not be taken in by the deception.
- When the "hero" makes a fool of himself, some of his followers will have their eyes opened.

2 Thess. 2:7-12 God said there is a wicked Antichrist coming. No one can stop that. God will send strong delusion upon them that received not the love of the truth, and they will believe the Devil's lie and be damned.

Rev. 16:12-14 God will turn loose spirits of devils to gather the kings of the earth to Armageddon. Those devils will lie to those nations to convince them to go where God wants to meet them on the battlefield. God put it in their hearts to fulfill His will (**Rev 17:17**).