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.

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.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS

The Devil’s Trinity

When the river was dried up, John saw three unclean spirits like frogs. They were working in the river all the time, but he couldn’t see them until the river was dried up. I want to say again, it takes a heap of preaching and teaching to dry up that river where people can see that there are evil spirits working in the depths of false religion. I am talking about religion, Protestantism, that is acclaimed highly today in the minds of men, but when we get the river dried up, we see the devil is down in there working to deceive, to hinder men and women from actually finding the truth of God’s Word.

In Revelation 11:8, we found that Babylon is spiritually called Egypt because she has God’s people bound there who need to be turned loose and come back to the Church of God where they can truly build the temple of which the Bible speaks. John saw these three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, paganism, out of the mouth of the beast, Roman Catholicism, and out of the mouth of the false prophet, Protestantism. Protestantism, in Revelation 13, is spoken of as the second beast that looked like a lamb but spake like the dragon. The two horns are symbols of England and Germany where Protestantism had its beginning. Even though this thing looked like a lamb, it spake like the dragon, and when the river was dried up, a devilish spirit came out of it just the same as the beast, Roman Catholicism.

These three frogs with unclean spirits coming out of their mouths are a picture of the devil’s trinity. Just as there is a Trinity in the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—here we have the devil’s trinity opposing God’s Trinity.

This is upsetting to millennialist people, but Armageddon is a spiritual conflict which has been going on ever since the Garden of Eden. We are down to some of the heated stages of it where the devil is really stirred, when he knows his time is really short. Whether or not you believe time is short, the devil believes it. Revelation 20 says that he is going out to gather all the forces he can against the people of God, the true kingdom of God. That devil is as much against truth today as he ever was. He didn’t get converted; he is just working in such deceptive ways that the average person can’t see any devil in it, but it is there.

“Well,” someone may question, “Why did he say these unclean spirits were like frogs?” A frog is used, first of all, as a symbol of repulsiveness. When we get to this frog stage, we are getting to the most repulsive part of false religion. This era of time of these frogs brings us into the most reckless, anti-Christian and blasphemous manifestation of the dragon, beast, and false prophet that man has ever seen. My friend, these religions are impregnated to the full with the spirit of the devil, and are acting in the deepest degree possible against the kingdom of God.

John said that he saw three unclean spirits like frogs. Verse 14 said they were spirits of devils. Now this is a pretty hard statement in the beginning, to say that it is the spirits of devils coming out of the mouths of these false religions, but this is what the Bible says. I know we are in a time when any religion is good to a certain degree, but John said that out of the mouths of these three systems of religion, he saw the spirits of devils coming out. The best he knew how to describe them was to say they were like frogs.
Every one of us know that frogs have respect to one of the plagues of Egypt. One of the plagues that God poured out on Pharaoh when he would not let His people go was the plague of frogs. The frogs are used as a point of comparison, bringing up the uncleanness and the loathsomeness of these religions.

**Our All-Wise Creator**

Let us read Exodus 8:1-4: "And the Lord spake unto Moses; Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go, that they may serve me. And if thou refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all thy borders with frogs: And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed, and into the house of thy servants, and upon thy people, and into thine ovens, and into thy kneadingtroughs: And the frogs shall come up both on thee, and upon thy people, and upon all thy servants."

Well, Pharaoh didn't move, so when Aaron raised his rod over the streams, rivers, and ponds, the frogs came in great abundance just as Moses had said. In verse 8, Pharaoh entreated that the frogs be taken away. He was willing for them to be in the river, just so they weren't everywhere else.

God could have plagued them with lions or bears; all the animals are at His control. Why did He choose to use frogs? Why did John say these devilish spirits looked like frogs? First of all, God sent frogs because among the Egyptians a frog was a sacred, sacred animal. In fact, one of their goddesses, Heka, was frogheaded. The statue was made of a woman with a frog's head.

So when God poured the frogs loose upon them, this made a greater strain and a greater trial for the Egyptians. Why? There were frogs everywhere, but they couldn't kill them because they were sacred. They couldn't move or walk without "Croak" coming up between their toes. They were obliged to respect creatures they hated.

It is a picture of many people in the realms of false religion today: they hate what is going on, but they are afraid to say anything against it. So God used frogs for a reason. My friend, even though they were sacred animals, they became a great pest to them. They were sick of them, yet they couldn't kill a one of them. Now that is the beginning of why God sent frogs. God knows what He is doing. He could not have sent anything that would have troubled them any worse than frogs.

The frogs took away their rest, took away their food, their health was being wrecked, yet they were so bound with an old idea that they were sacred that they couldn't even strike at them. Brother, they were a pestilence, and false religion is the worst pestilence we have in America. False religion is doing more damage than the saloons and the nightclubs, but people are so bound with these frog spirits that they feel it is sacred and can't say anything against it or do anything about it.

We have great reason to stand in awe before God. He can use the smallest parts of creation against us and kill us. We kind of forget that He is the Creator, and that the whole force of all creation and anything you can see and cannot see is under His control. He can take the smallest things and put us completely out of business.

In all these plagues, God was trying to teach something to Israel, and He is trying to teach something to us. At God's Word, a river that flows through Egypt, the Nile, which had produced creatures that could be caught to nourish people, would change quickly and start putting out creatures that would hurt and destroy.

**Destructive, Deceptive Spirits**

History lets us know that their ovens were not like ours. They dug a hole in the ground and lined it with mortar. They put sticks down in it, got a hot fire going, and then set a pitcher with the dough over that to bake the bread. When they would even go to put the sticks in, the thing would get so full of frogs that they couldn't even light a fire. They would set the pitcher down to get some sticks, and when they would look, the pitcher was full of frogs. They would dump that out and go over to the kneading trough to get some dough, and it was full of frogs.

You may say, "I am glad that I didn't live back there." Well, friend, if you can understand and really get the picture, there are worse things going on than that right among us. John said he saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They are the spirits of devils. Now, get what the frogs are in our day—they are slippery, slimy, loathsome spirits, spirits of devils that have gone to the whole world. The eighth chapter of Exodus said they covered the whole land. These three unclean spirits like frogs, spirits of devils, are going forth to the whole world.

Friend, we are plagued today with worse than frogs, but we don't see it. Consider that terrible pestilence and then look what has happened to us. Everybody seemingly hates the terrible conditions. Just as the literal frogs covered the whole land, even so these unclean spirits like frogs today have been loosed out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, the false prophet. They have gone out to the whole world. Just exactly as there were frogs back then, my friend, there are spirits today.

Let's update Exodus 8:3, "And the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into thine house, and into thy bedchamber, and upon thy bed . . . ." These spirits try to come into our homes, and when they come in, they spoil the peace, the harmony, and the preciousness of
that home. Friend, we are not dealing with people today who are a little harder-headed; we are dealing with spirits.

These spirits are out to destroy and deceive, and they are against the kingdom of God. They are against you living as God said for you to live. They are against your keeping a godly standard in your home as God said to keep it. These spirits, just like the frogs, would like to come into your home. Brother, when they come in, you have trouble. I repeat, they will spoil the peace and preciousness that belong there.

My friend, unless we hold on to God and to the standard of God's Word, our homes will be wrecked just as the homes around us—there won't be a bit of difference between our homes and the world's homes. These spirits take away parental authority and cause the children to be disobedient to parents to a greater extent than they should be. These spirits sow a spirit of lawlessness and rebellion.

These spirits desire to get into your bedroom and into your bed. These frog spirits would like to get right in the bed with you. They will spoil the right relationship between you and your wife. The devil is against you and your wife being able to have the right relationship and being a helpmeet and companion to each other. Brother, he knows that if these frogs can get between you and your wife in bed, he will cool off your desire for any relationship with each other. Then it's no time until he can get your affections turned some other way, and the first thing you know, a home is crumbling and breaking under the power of this devilish thing.

Be On Guard

I want to tell you something, it takes effort to be a Christian, it takes effort to be a husband and a wife, and it takes effort to be a father and a mother. The devil is knocking on everybody's door. Any-one who doesn't have the goods, or is not up to power, the devil is working to make inroads into that home. My friend, he wants to spoil that home.

A man can put up with a lot of problems on the job if he has a home to go to when the day is over. But when the devil strikes at the home and it brings pressure, bickering, arguing, fussing, and division, that man will break if he doesn't get help. Why? He has problems at the factory and he knows when he starts home, he is going to have problems when he gets there. These spirits are against you and me living as people are supposed to live in the kingdom of God. It is pitiful to see the ruination these spirits have brought on the home and family. Around A.D. 1880, when the sixth seal was first poured out on the spiritual river Euphrates, Babylon began to get her first cup. Brother, these unclean spirits began their work right there. They worked on the people of God right at that age, and when we get to the place of pouring out the vials upon them, any weak place there is in the church, these spirits are going to strike and move in. Why? They are against this message. They want it to beédifled; they want the message brought down.

These spirits have gone forth to the whole world. These unclean spirits like frogs have come up in the supermarkets through pornography. They have raised up in the bookstores and the drugstores. There is hardly anywhere you can go that you cannot see the work of an unclean spirit, my friend, trying to entice our youth to carry on illicit sex, any kind of sex. They do anything to get your mind thinking on the flesh and sex. They are all over the land, and in too big an area they are not even cried out against. It is such a deceptive work that is being carried on so freely, and we are going down the fastest that any nation has ever gone down.

These spirits have shown up in the schools, teaching sex education to little minds that are not old enough to handle it. More of them have shown up in the schools with teachers who have lustful minds, having sex with the students. These frog spirits have shown up in the churches. More and more room is being made for the flesh, while the leadership of God's Holy Spirit is being crowded clear out of the picture. Unclean spirits are pushing the subject of abortion, legalized murder. I hope you can picture these unclean spirits like frogs: unclean, corrupt, loathsome, slippery, and slimy.

A Great Avenue

What about the television? It has piped more of these unclean spirits into people's homes than any one thing. I would like to use some quotes from a paper by Oswald Smith, pastor of the People's Church in Toronto, Canada: "It seems to me that television is the greatest menace of our modern times, and how Christians are going to be able to make use of it I do not know. Anyone who has seen it must be convinced of its danger. Television could be used for good. It has tremendous possibility, but I am afraid it is being used for evil almost exclusively, and it is doing more harm than Hollywood to demonize the youth of our nation. It has been proven that the eye gate is much stronger than the ear gate. While there be good programs on television, there will be so many of the other kind that it is going to be most difficult to put on the one and blot out the other."

"I shall never forget how shocked I was when I visited homes where television had been installed. They told me about the lovely church services that could be seen, the concerts and other programs that could be turned on. But no sooner were the parents out of the room than the children, boys and girls in their teens and younger ones still, hurried to the television set. When some of us returned to the room, we found
They stretched on the floor, fascinated by what they were seeing. And what was it they were looking at? a bloody wrestling match, two men tearing each other to pieces trying to pluck out each other's eyes. As the children watched and listened to the groans and cries of the wrestlers, they could hardly control themselves.

"In another home at another time, it was a nightclub showing women, for the most part undressed, drinking, smoking, going through sensual dances, every action plainly visible and every entreescenerevolting and demoralizing. Yes, they could have turned on another program, they could have looked at something else, but they turned on that in which they were most interested and the scenes that most fascinated them.

"For generations we refused to take our children to the nightclubs, the theaters, the wrestling matches, and boxing bouts. Now these very scenes are brought right in our homes and displayed before the children's eyes. It cost nothing to see them, except the loss of moral standards. In their early life, they can become acquainted with sin in its vilest form. No longer will the parents be able to protect them from the awful things that go on in the world.

"If you want to know how serious it is, read Reader's Digest. The other day a Salvation Army officer warned parents to turn off their televisions between the hours of 4 and 7. These hours, which are devoted to shows for children, are filled with the most brutal crimes imaginable. And it is these scenes that inspire our teenagers to go out in gangs and commit violence. A polluted diet of crime, violence, brutality, and sadism--sponsored by the cigarette companies, the breweries and distilleries--is now the daily menu of millions of boys and girls.

"The theater with all of its filth, that we Christians wouldn't think of patronizing, is now brought into our living room. Television may well be the final step in the complete collapse of the moral and spiritual life of our nation. And you are supporting this?

"When you wouldn't let them make an inroad one way, they made it another way. I don't think television can be controlled; if it is in the home, it will be used. Children have been known to use knives on their parents, when the parents have insisted in turning it off. Your son will see what he wants to see, in spite of what you do. I've never had a set in my home [I'm still quoting. Thank God, I can say the same], and if my children were still with me, I would never dream of having one. I think that is the only safe policy.

"These are the last days, and we are going to the bottom. Soon we'll be on the lowest rung of the ladder and then judgment will fall. Alcoholism has doubled since television began. They picture liquor ads. Robbery with violence is increasing by leaps and bounds. Thirty killings a day have been shown on television in one city. In another city, forty-eight killings in one day were on the shows, according to Reader's Digest. What kind of a harvest can we expect? I do not know the answer, but I'm afraid, very much afraid.

"I've always looked upon the movie world as the most demoralizing agency in existence. It alone has been responsible for the teenage gangs of today and the terrible things that children are doing in this generation. But now something much more dangerous is upon us. The atom bomb is bad, the hydrogen bomb is frightful, but television is going to be worse than either and far more destructive. It will completely wreck the rising generation, and before long, it will turn the United States and Canada into a Sodom and Gomorrah, infinitely worse than the Sodom and Gomorrah of the Old Testament.

"People sometimes say, "Brother Wilson, you know you're not educated; you don't know too much." Well, here is a man who has more education than half a dozen people put together. He sees the picture. How blind can we get, saints? Second Corinthians 4:4 tells us that the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not. When God sends forth admonition to you, good, sound admonition, and you rise up in unbelief, just expect the god of this world to go to work on your mind and blind you so that you can freely say, "It doesn't bother me; I don't see anything wrong." You might be blind.

Lying Signs and Wonders

Let's read Revelation 16:14-15: "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. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed are he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments . . . ." Brother, I want to tell you something: true and pure religion is the greatest blessing that ever touched the soul of man, but false religion is a curse. You would be better off if you had none whatsoever than to be tied up in some of these false religions. All they do is torment you instead of bringing you peace and rest.

We see these spirits coming out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They come out of the mouth of religionists, crying, "Peace, peace," where there is no peace; crying, "Salvation," where there is no salvation. Paul warned us that this falling away would come when men would quit preaching the Gospel and start using just good words and fair speeches (Romans 16:18). We are there. These unclean spirits are working right in the realms of religion. They are just speaking good words, words that people want to hear, words that won't stir anybody. Fair speeches are taking the place of fire-and-brimstone preaching.

These unclean spirits in religion advocate free thought. We are in-
structed in Isaiah 55:7 to forsake our thoughts. Verse 9 says, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Our thoughts will not get us to Heaven. Our thoughts will not give us a life of holiness. We have to forsake our thoughts and come to God's thoughts.

These unclean spirits with leading eyes and polished, bloated skin fill every corner of the land. And what are they filling it for? To gather them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. These doctrines that are coming out of the mouth are changing men's minds about truth. Men who once stood gallantly for truth have been so worked upon by these unclean spirits and these false doctrines coming out of their mouths until they have changed their positions on different stands for truth. Many no longer feel it necessary to take a definite stand on the vital truths of God's Word.

Right Always Conquers

Revelation 16:14 says that these spirits "go forth unto . . . the whole world, to gather them to the battle." What are they battling against? Truth, righteousness, and holiness, the things that make up the Kingdom of God. Armageddon is something that many people are looking for in the thought of a literal warfare heretofore somewhere beyond the Second Coming of Christ, but Armageddon has been going on ever since the Garden of Eden. Armageddon is a spiritual conflict. We read in Revelation 16:16, "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Literally Armageddon, or the hill of Megiddo, was located on the southern slopes of Mount Carmel. That was the place of many conflicts between good and evil in the Old Testament. It was a place of showdown between God and false gods. Armageddon was a place where right overcame wrong, time and time again. In other words, it was a battleground where good and evil met for a final showdown.

This is exactly the picture John was giving us. These unclean spirits have gone out to get everybody they can. They are not trying to gather you to some geographical location. They are trying to move you so that your life and the influence of your life are against God, God's way, and God's church. While those spirits are doing that, we can read in Revelation 18:4 where the Holy Spirit is speaking to God's people who are in those places. He is gathering them out of those places to a place where their lives and influences go out for God and right and truth.

Let's consider Barak's victory over the Canaanites. It was fought here at the hill of Megiddo, or Armageddon. Let's read Judges 4:19: "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord . . . And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin, king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor; the captain of whose host was Sisera, which dwelt in Harosheth of the Gentiles. And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

"And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time (God didn't have a man, and a woman was leading and judging God's people, . . . . And she sent and called Barak and said unto him, Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor? . . . . and I will deliver him [Sisera] into thine hand. And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go. And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh."

God helped them to overcome all the host of Sisera, but Sisera, the captain, jumped off his chariot and
fled away on foot into a friendly camp to the tent of Jael, the wife of a Kenite. We read in verses 19-21: "And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk, and gave him drink, and covered him . . . Then Jael Heber's wife took a nail of the tent, and took an hammer in her hand, and went softly unto him, and smote the nail into his temples, and fastened it into the ground . . . ."

This was Deborah, a woman, who led this great victory. Now, according to the Revelation, we have another woman who has been in the wilderness, but thank God, she has come out. By the strength of God and through the strategy of God, if we will listen to Him, the church will be able to take these things and with the hammer of truth nail them down to the earth.

When these unclean spirits come knocking on your tent door, they are going to say just as Sisera did: "Give me something to drink, hide me, cover me. If anybody says I am in your life, tell them 'No'; lie about it." Now, friend, you have to make up your mind, because they are going to be around to your house. We are in a battle, and we have the devil on the run. Every time you run him out of one place, he is going to try to get in somewhere else. He is going to try to get into our hearts and lives.

When the unclean spirit, the enemy of God, comes around, what are you going to do? Feed him? Lie for him? Kill him? If you will listen to God, you will take the hammer of truth and nail him to the ground. The devil can't get in or work in your life unless you give place to him. If you are a Christian, you are fortified by real salvation, and the devil can't get into your tent unless you let him in.

I want to repeat, your home is a place, your bedroom is a place, your dinner table is a place, and the church is a place. Many people give vent to these spirits right while they are sitting under the message of the Word of God. There is only one way to treat those spirits: they must be nailed to the ground. In other words, you must prove them to be earthly, sensual, and devilish, and have nothing to do with them.

The Showdown

Armageddon is not a material battle; Armageddon is the final struggle of right or wrong principles. It is only through the mind that God can reach your heart, and it is only through the mind that the devil can reach your heart. Many a battle is fought right in the mind as the devil tries to take over your heart and life. Armageddon is a spiritual conflict because both sides are being gathered by spirits: three unclean spirits are going out to gather a people to stand against God's way; the Holy Spirit has gone out to gather a people to stand for God on Mount Zion. Mount Zion is no geographical location, but a high spiritual position.

We also know Armageddon is a spiritual warfare because the armor is spiritual. I don't know what to think of these preachers who think that Paul had a people get the armor on in A.D. 60, and they say that the battle has not started yet. They say that he must have been a fool to have peoplesitting around for years with the armor on, and the battle wasn't going to start until after the Second Coming of Christ. No, they were in the heat of the battle. That's why he told them to get the armor on right then. Every part of the armor of God is a spiritual armor. It is not your armor; it is God's armor. Thank God, we can wear the same armor that protected Christ when He walked here on the earth.

Someone may ask, "How do you think the battle is going to come out?" Revelation 20 gives us a picture of the dragon, through the help of the false prophet and the beast, gathering a people together to surround the camp of the saints and cut us off from the world. As soon as they surround us, fire will come down from Heaven and bring the end.

Second Peter 3:9-10 tells of Christ's Second Coming: "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

Friend, we are coming to a final showdown. You know what God is saying to us: be a Christian or be a sinner. That is exactly what He said in Revelation 3:15. ". . . I would thou wert cold or hot." The plagues therefore are falling because God wants His people turned loose to serve Him.

Armageddon is a spiritual battle just as it was in the literal, a place where a showdown came. We can picture in our minds old Elijah, who met the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the groves. It was one preacher standing against 850, but before the day was over, He let the world see who was God's people and who wasn't. Now this is exactly where we are being brought to; we are being brought to a place of showdown. The devil gets mad. He would rather go along like people have gone along for years—covered up, with nobody seeing what is going on inside—but God is turning the thing inside out. Friend, it is time for the Church of God to rise up. By that I mean more than just changing your mind. Rise up and make the commitment to God that is needed. God will give you the grace you need to stand and start bringing the atmosphere and standard of your home back to this standard. Serve notice on the devil. He may have been a boader for a while, but he is going to have to take up his board somewhere else. God will give you strength.

John saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth
of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. They are spirits of devils, unclean, anti-holiness spirits. They are against truth, against right, against purity, and against cleanness.

How do you stand today? Do you need to do as Pharaoh, and have somebody pray with you so that the Lord will take the frogs away? The Lord will rid you of these spirits so that you can enjoy peace and satisfaction and be able to live a life free from pestilence. God will set you free. God will take them out of your life and put them back in Babylon where they belong.

Message from the 12-15-85 issue of The Gospel Trumpeter