

ARMAGEDDON

Rev. 19:11-21

As the tribulation ends several major events are described. Revelation chapters seventeen and eighteen describe the destruction of the false religious system and its economic program that began to plague the world at the tower of Babel. Chapter nineteen describes the marriage of the Lamb (v.5-10) and the return of Christ and His destruction of the armies of the world and its false religious and political systems.

As the final judgments from God are poured out on the earth, the sixth vile involves the gathering together of the armies to Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16).

Armageddon is literally “the hill or city of Megiddo.” The scene of the final destruction of the armies of the earth is the battle plain of Esdraelon, which is located at Megiddo. It is famous for two great victories in the Bible. Barak defeated the Canaanites there, and it was there that Gideon won his great victory over the Midianites, It is also famous for two great disasters. It was there in a battle against the Philistines that King Saul and his son Jonathan, were killed. Several generations later, Josiah, king of Judah, was killed there by Jehu. In Revelation it depicts a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked.

Since Adam brought sin into the world in the garden of Eden a battle has been raging. Men have been fighting and killing each other. The history of mankind is marked with rebellion and bloodshed. Out of all the centuries of recorded world history, there have been less than 300 years of peace on earth.

But all of the wars and their bloodshed and loss of life cannot begin to match the terrible Battle of Armageddon which is to come.

I. THIS BATTLE WILL INVOLVE THE WHOLE WORLD.

Zechariah 14:1-3, “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.”

When we refer to the battle of Armageddon, we must think of a war rather than just one isolated battle. After the removal of the Christians from the earth at the rapture of the church, the head of the European federation of nations will form a peace pact or covenant with Israel. This federation is referred to in prophecy as a revival of the old Roman Empire. The peace pact will in effect give Israel a title to the land and will insure her dwelling there in safety. This pact will hold for approximately three and one half years during which time Israel will enjoy a false peace. This is Satan's imitation of Messiah's promised peace.

The alignment of the nations during the tribulation period will form four great world powers: (1) the ten kingdom federation of European nations under the Beast which is the fourth great world empire of Daniel's prophecy (a revived Roman Empire); (2) the northern federation of Russia and her allies which will include Iran, certain Arab states, Germany, and Turkey; (3) the kings of the East, the Asiatic peoples from beyond the Euphrates; and (4) the King of the South, a north African power or powers. A fifth power is added to these which will intervene to destroy these world powers. This is the Lord and the armies of heaven.

The apparent easy prey of Israel dwelling with her defenses down will be too much for the northern armies led by Russia, and they will invade the land as prophesied by Ezekiel in chapters 38 and 39 and Daniel in chapter 11. The European federation will move in to protect Israel, but God will intervene and destroy the northern armies. With the northern armies no longer a threat, the head of the European or Roman Empire seizes the opportunity to break his covenant with Israel and occupy the land. Also with this threat removed, a world government is formed with this man as the head. He then declares himself to be god and the time of great tribulation begins. This is the last three and one half years of Daniel's seventieth week. With the

invasion of the northern armies, the battle or campaign begins which will not end until Christ's final destruction of all the forces at Armageddon.

A. The kings of the south and north will move against the beast.

Daniel 11:40, “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

1. Jerusalem will be plundered.

Zechariah 12:2, “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah *and* against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.”

2. The northern armies will be destroyed by God, Himself.

Ezekiel 39:1-6, “Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that *is* with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and *to* the beasts of the field to be devoured. Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken *it*, saith the Lord GOD. And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.”

B. The armies of the Beast will move into Palestine and take over.

Daniel 11:41-43, “He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps.”

1. He will be challenged by the kings of the east.

Daniel 11:44, “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.”

2. He will move his headquarters to Jerusalem.

Daniel 11:45, “And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

C. The two remaining forces will then face each other.

The King of the South has been defeated by the armies of the beast. The northern confederacy has been defeated by the Lord. The Beast's system fails, and man will not be content to let someone else rule.

1. The kings of the east come with 200 million soldiers (Rev. 9:12-16).

2. The beast and the eastern armies prepare to fight each other.

II. THIS BATTLE WILL BE INTERRUPTED AND TERMINATED BY JESUS CHRIST.

Zechariah 14:3, “Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.”

A. He shall appear suddenly like a flash of lightning.

Matthew 24:29-30, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

B. He shall come slowly and visibly (Rev. 19:11-16).

C. He shall attract all the fighting to himself (Rev. 19:19).

- 1. They will have time to make agreements.*
- 2. They will join together to fight Christ.*

D. The Beast and False Prophet will be taken (Rev. 19:20).

E. The armies will be destroyed (Rev. 19:21).

- 1. They will kill each other.*

Zechariah 14:12-13, “And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour.”

- 2. They will fill the valley with blood* (Rev. 14:20).

- 3. They will give their flesh to the fowls* (Rev. 19:17-21).

F. The Devil will be bound for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).

The battle of Armageddon will open the way for the kingdom. The Lord Jesus will return from Heaven, destroy the armies and the instruments of war, and bring in an age of true peace on earth for 1,000 years.

Human government will not bring in a lasting peace. As born again believers, what are we to do in the meantime while we wait for the Lord’s return? We must understand our unique relationship to the world. We are in the world, but we are not of the world. We have been sent into the world. **John 17:14-18**, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

In order to accomplish what the Lord has sent us into the world to do we must submit ourselves, as much as possible, to the government and the laws of the land. We begin by praying for the leaders. **1 Timothy 2:1-6**, “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

We are not to fight against our government, but that does not mean we are passive. **1 Peter 2:13-17**, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

The “well doing” that will “put to silence the ignorance of foolish men” is to pray for them, obey the law, honor the officials and keep before us our main purpose of winning souls to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is coming again. We can be assured of this fact. He may come today for His own at the rapture. Are you prepared to meet Him? Are you doing all that you can do to help others be prepared for His coming?