

Armageddon!

Texts: Joel 3:9-14
Zechariah 14:1-5
Revelation 16:12-16

Armageddon is made up of two words in Hebrew: “Har” (mountain) and “Megiddo” (a city in the northern part of ancient Israel). It would be referred to today as a “tel” which is an elevation that comes from building one civilization upon another. The city of Megiddo overlooks a beautiful, large valley known as the Plain of Esdraelon, which is the Koine Greek rendering of Jezreel. It’s the most fertile farmland in the country, today specializing in wheat, cotton, and sunflowers. The Valley of Jehoshaphat is also part of the territory included in the battle. The campaign of Armageddon will encompass over 20,000 square miles from Megiddo in the north to Edom and Bozrah in the south. That will span 200 miles from north to south and 100 miles from east to west. Megiddo is the starting point, but geographically, this final battle will take in virtually much of Israel, ending finally in Jerusalem (Revelation 14:20).

It is here that the final worldwide battle will be fought when the nations gather here to face a devastating defeat by the return of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ in glory. Napoleon Bonaparte stood on this piece of land and said, "All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain." It has been a place where many a battle has already been fought. It is where King Saul and his sons were killed. In 1945 after Japan surrendered, General Douglas MacArthur said, “We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at the door.” In 1971, then Governor Ronald Reagan said, “For the first time ever, everything is in place for the battle of Armageddon and the second coming of Christ.” In 1983 President Reagan said again, “You know, I turn back to your ancient prophecies in the Old Testament and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if we’re the generation that is going to see it come about. I don’t know if you’ve noted any of those prophecies lately, but, believe me, they certainly describe the times.” Billy Graham said, “There’s no doubt that global events are preparing the way for the final great war of history – the great Armageddon!”

In the Bible this event is called:

1. The day of the LORD’S vengeance -- Isaiah 34:8.
2. The great winepress of the wrath of God – Revelation 14:19
3. The great and the terrible day of the LORD – Joel 2:31
4. The harvest -- Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:15, 16
5. The day...that shall burn as an oven – Malachi 4:1
6. The battle of that great day of God Almighty – Revelation 16:14

Armageddon is the culmination of the battle of the ages. To understand this battle, let us turn to Revelation 12, for it is here we will find the reasons for Armageddon.

I. THE MARSHALING OF THE TROOPS.

West meets East.

A. From the West: Revelation 13:1-10; Daniel 2:40-43; Daniel 7:23, 24
This is the western confederation under Antichrist.

B. From the East: Revelation 16:12; Revelation 9:13-18
The Kings of the East make their move.

II. THE SATANIC STRATEGIC COMMAND

A. The Unholy Trinity; Revelation 16:13, 14

1. The Dragon: Satan
2. The Beast: Antichrist
3. The False Prophet: the Evangel of Evil

B. Controlling by Commerce

Revelation 13:16-18.

Why the number "666?" Dr. Henry Morris said, "Adam, the first man was created on the sixth day, while Jesus, the second man, was raised from the dead on Sunday, the 'eighth day' of the week (the second first day of the week). It is interesting to me that the number of the name Jesus in Greek is 888, and each of His eight names in the New Testament (Lord, Jesus, Christ, Lord Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, Lord Christ, and Lord Jesus Christ) all have numerical values that are multiples of eight." Dr. M. R. DeHaan said, "Seven is the number of divine perfection, and 666 is one number short of seven. This man of sin will reach the highest peak of power and wisdom, but he will merely be a man." Satan's masterpiece is doomed to eternal failure!

C. Controlling by Religion

Revelation 17:4-7

D. Deceiving by Signs and Wonders.

Revelation 13:1-5; 17:8; 13:11-14. The Antichrist first comes out of the sea (earth's population) then from the bottomless pit. Miracles are done by the False Prophet as well to attempt to validate authenticity.

III. GOD'S SUPER BOWL

The book of Revelation categorizes three devastating judgments. Seven seals, seven trumpets and finally seven vials or bowls. When God unleashes his final bowls of judgment, there will be no competition.

Revelation 16:15-18

Zechariah 14:4, "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which *is* before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

Revelation 16:19-21

Revelation 19: 11-16
Revelation 6:15-17

Conclusion/Resolution

A. The “Done” of Redemption

John 19:30: “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

B. The “Done” of Retribution

Revelation 16:17: “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.**”

C. The “Done” of Restoration

Revelation 21:5-7: “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, **It is done.** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

-Pastor Pope-