



Armageddon! When and Where?

Revelation 16:16: (KJV) *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

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Armageddon! The very word sends shivers down the spine of millions. Armageddon! Of all the Biblical prophecies, this one is probably more recognized than any other, even by those who are not believers in the Bible. Armageddon! It captures the imagination. It has been the framework for blockbuster movies and descriptions of war and destruction. So *what* is it? *Where* is it? *When* is it? And how does it *really* work? Is it *really* as dire as we think? Is it WORSE?

The only place in the Bible where the term "Armageddon" appears:

Revelation 16:16: (KJV) *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.* (ASV) *And they gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-Magedon.*

What does the term Armageddon mean? It literally means 'Hill (or Mount) of Megiddo.' Har = Mount, Megiddo = Valley of Megiddo. Professor Strong says it was a place of crowds or rendezvous. It also means "destruction" in Hebrew. Putting it all together, it is a mountain and valley of destruction, a place of gathering where something is going to happen. Today this area is also known as the Jezreel Valley.

The geography is very interesting. In the ancient world, when people would travel between Asia and Africa or Europe and the southern part of the near east, they would come through the Jezreel Valley. Consequently it became a place where great battles were fought. We think that is one of the reasons why the Lord chose Armageddon to be this symbolic place. Geographically, it was a natural highway, far north of Jerusalem and not far from the Sea of Galilee. All of the ancient trade routes came through here, but it was also a strategic place for war.

What is the history of Megiddo? "More people have died on the battlefield of Megiddo than anywhere else on earth." Dr. Paul Mali, Professor Emeritus-Graduate School, University of Hartford; Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and others

Ancient Megiddo's gates and walls witnessed the armed struggles of Assyrians, Canaanites, Egyptians, Greeks, Israelites, Persians, Philistines, and Romans. Although Megiddo was not a fortress in the days of World War I, note that the critical battle enabling the British Field Marshal Edmund Allenby to wrest control of the Holy Land from the Turks occurred at Megiddo where he began his offensive against them on September 18, 1918. It had a reputation for being a place of great destruction. It is a logical place to stage a battle. Is the next battle described in Revelation literal or symbolic?

What kinds of things actually happened at Megiddo? Interesting note: Battles were won and lost with complete victories and complete defeats. There were no ties.

Gideon's victory, fighting with a mere 300 men: Judges 7:19-23: This was a thorough and complete victory for Gideon over the bondage of Midian. (Gideon pictures the Lord and the glorified church who release mankind from bondage.)

Saul's defeat and death: 1 Samuel 31:1-6: So Israel lost a battle here. It was a thorough and complete defeat for Saul, who was not a good king and had to be removed. How was this a victory for God? This defeat opened the way for the kingship of David, and David was very blessed of the Lord. We believe this pictured the loss of Satan to the kingship of the "Great David" - JESUS!

King Josiah slain by Pharaoh-Necho: 2 Chronicles 35:22-25: One of the most disastrous conflicts in the history of Israel!



Jezebel slain in the city of Jezreel in the same valley: 2 Kings 9:30-37: This describes the final end of the most despicable civil and false religious power structure in the history of Israel! Jezebel was a worshiper of Baal. King Ahab = civil power Jezebel = religious power of Israel We believe this is a picture of the end of an awful church-state system that will gain power in the last days.

What is the meaning of Armageddon prophetically? Will there be an actual "final battle" at the literal place of Armageddon? We think it is a metaphor for a battle that takes place around the world. It will be the triumph of righteousness over injustice. It will be a worldwide battle in which all of the things opposed to God's kingdom will fall. While a symbolic battle without a specific geographic location, nevertheless it includes an actual attack on natural Israel.

- We are not to expect a literal gathering to the Hill of Megiddo.
- It is a very complex period of time and although worldwide in scope, it focuses on Christendom and western and near-east civilization.
- It includes judgmental effects upon the civil powers, the political powers, the religious powers, the financial powers and the entire social structure of the earth.
- A good modern language synonym of what Armageddon means would be "Waterloo," meaning a final, total defeat.

What other Biblical phrases describe Armageddon? **Great tribulation:** Matthew 24:21: (KJV) *For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

A Time of Trouble: Daniel 12:1: (KJV) *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

The Day of Vengeance: Isaiah 63:4: (KJV) *For the **day of vengeance** is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.* Isaiah 34:8: (KJV) *For it is the day of the **LORD'S (JEHOVAH'S) vengeance**, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.*

Day cometh that shall burn as an oven: Malachi 4:1: (KJV) *For, behold, **the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven**; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

The Day of the LORD (JEHOVAH):

Joel 2:1,2: (KJV) *¹Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand; ²A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.* Amos 5:20: (KJV) *Shall not **the day of the LORD** be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?*

The earth shall tremble: Jeremiah 10:10: (KJV) *But the LORD (JEHOVAH) is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath **the earth shall tremble**, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

A controversy with the nations: Jeremiah 25:31-33: (KJV) *³¹A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath **a controversy with the nations**, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. ³²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. ³³And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.*

God's strange work: Isaiah 28:21: (KJV) *For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do his work, **His strange work**; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.*

What will survive Armageddon and what will be destroyed at Armageddon? Armageddon is a time when God is going to be for the people of this world. The wrath of God is against the



institutions that oppress and do not take care of the people. The balancing of the scales of justice will take place.

The earth is NOT DESTROYED: Ecclesiastic 1:4: (KJV) *One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.*

Two symbols used in conjunction with the event of Armageddon are "earthquake" and "fire." As a biblical symbol, earthquake pictures revolution. "Earth" is the stable society, but when it starts to shake, it becomes unstable. This is a social earthquake. Fire is often a biblical symbol of anarchy. The structures that have not been a blessing to mankind in general will be torn down. It is for the purpose of purifying, not just destroying. What should we do? Should we stockpile food and weapons? We are told to remain close to God.

Armageddon is to cleanse and restore so the people can be blessed and serve God:

Zephaniah 3:8,9 **Not all heathen destroyed:** Ezekiel 36:36 Zephaniah 3:8,9: God's purpose in having Christ come to earth was to die as a ransom for all; God wants to provide a blessing for all. We believe people will die during Armageddon, but we aren't to think that these casualties are gone forever. The Bible guarantees a hope for all to come back from the grave to reap the benefits of the permission of sin, to learn how to serve God in righteousness. The point is to reveal God to all mankind. We believe Armageddon is a piece of the process and not the end of the process. Isaiah 66:15-19 **All creation to be delivered:** Romans 8:20, 23: This releases mankind, all creation, from the bondage of sin and death, and the evil influences of Satan. They will have glorious liberty. Ezekiel 38 discusses Israel's part of the battle.

Revelation 16:16 (KJV): 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, (the only garment a Christian has is his garment of justification. Those that keep a close relationship with God will fair the best through all of this.) lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.* ¹⁶*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.* 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.* ¹⁸*And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.* ¹⁹*And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.* ²⁰*And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.* ²¹*And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

The gathering to Armageddon occurs after the sixth angel poured out his bowl (vial) on the great river Euphrates and before the seventh angel pours out his bowl (vial). Historically, Babylon was destroyed via the armies of Darius and Cyrus by stopping up the Euphrates. It dried up and the armies were able to climb through the portals where the river had run through into the city. In ancient Babylon, the Euphrates was a representation of the financial strength of that world empire at the time. When the water stops up, the money stops flowing.

We see this as a drying up of financial backings of organizations that are not in harmony with God. Financial collapse produces social upheaval. With social upheaval, the governments and churches will try to ban together to try to create some type of continuity because the people start getting revolution-minded.

Armageddon is a major part of the seventh plague. Its purpose is to destroy the social order, to take away those things that have been oppressing man - his greedy, sinful rule of himself.





The meaning of the symbols: (verse 13)

- *Dragon* = Civil power, civil government
- *Beast* = Papal system of rule
- *False Prophet* = Protestant organizations, World Council of Churches
- *Three frogs*, all croaking the same message: Follow us, we will take care of you; you just have to give up your rights and liberties.

Three entities that come together in an ecumenical movement in order to preserve their existence; a church-state union

If we begin to see these melding together, it should be a warning sign about the timing of Armageddon. We see from verse 12 that it comes from a worldwide financial collapse, so this is something that we can watch for in the very near future.

- *Great earthquake* = a social revolution - the rising up of the people
- *City* = Babylon the Great, Christendom
- *Into three parts* = the dissolution of the Church-State union, the union that came together doesn't last
- *Island, mountain* = all other kingdoms and political units of man
- *Great hail* = (water = truth) "hard water"/hail = hard truths
- *Weight of a talent* = the value of human life in God's sight - governments all through the ages have not valued human life, but God does! Consider 1 Kings 20:39

What is the Lord's Great Army? Joel 2:10-11: "The Lord's Great Army" is the term given to the sea of mankind that is fed up with all that has been going on with our corrupt governments, financial institutions, etc. This is part of the social revolution when the people rise up out of frustration. It is under the guidance and permission of God. This army will be very destructive but God will use them to accomplish His end.

How does Israel figure into Armageddon? Part of God's judgment is on false religious systems that do not represent Christ. But God's original promises go all the way back to the time of Abraham. Israel is the fleshly seed of Abraham. Therefore, they are the legitimate inheritors of many promises. As Armageddon starts to develop, Israel will continue to have God's blessing. The world will notice and will bring armies into Israel. There will be gathering of nations. Israel will be attacked but then God will fight for them.

The attack of Gog: Ezekiel 38:8-13 **The time of Jacob's Trouble:** Jeremiah 30:3-7

The gathering of all nations against Jerusalem: Zechariah 14:2,3: Armageddon is a complex development of world-wide proportions with so many elements to it. The Scriptures say that God will establish the core of His kingdom with Jesus as king in Israel, per the promises of old.

What happens after Armageddon is over? Armageddon isn't the end of the earth, it is the end of the world order as we know it. The earth lives through it, people live through it, and there are blessings. Revelation 21:1: *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.* Armageddon is the passing away of the old religious, government and civil orders. There will be a religion of truth and a government of righteousness. (Also note, there will be no more "sea," no more restless masses of people in this new arrangement.) Isaiah 60:1-5: Darkness and gross darkness are part of the Armageddon process (verse 2), but the results are in verse 3. We need to stay close to God and watch. We have discussed specific signs to watch for, like a church-state union out of a wide-scale financial crises. This is the answer to our prayers, *Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven*. As bleak and difficult as it looks, Armageddon's end result is not of destruction, but of cleansing. We give the example of a patient undergoing surgery for cancer. The process of removing the cancer is a painful one and recovery is difficult, but the end result is a healthy patient. Armageddon is an invasive surgery removing the effects of sin and death.

How should the average person prepare? There is a spiritual preparation. We have been praying for God's kingdom for thousands of years and now it is coming. Jesus died for everyone and the setting up of the kingdom will allow us to live life as God originally intended - blessings galore! Depend upon God for His guidance to you day by day.

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For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions, Think about it...!