

A Review of the Major Events in the Last Days

The Battle of Arman Part Three

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • FEBRUARY 23, 2020
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.

Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

hen they gathered the kings of the world together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."

- Revelation 16:16 ("Armageddon" is used only here in the NT and six times in the OT)

I. OVERVIEW OF THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON (VERY BIG PICTURE)

- 1. The word "Armageddon" comes from a Hebrew word 'Har-Magedone' (Har is "hill," Megiddo is a city 60 miles north of Jerusalem, ...one ending means "in front of." (ie., 'The Land in front of Megiddo' or "The Valley of Armageddon.")
- 2. Armageddon is the future battle in which God will intervene and destroy the armies of the Antichrist, as predicted in biblical prophecy. (Rev. 14, 16 and 20)
- 3. Armageddon will not be the 'end of the world,' Armageddon will actually save the world (as we know it). (Ps. 37:29; 96:10; Eccl. 1:4; Rev. 7:9)
- 4. Armageddon will take place at the very end of the 7 Year Tribulation (Matt. 24:21, 36; Rev. 16:16;)
- 5. Armageddon will literally encompass the entire earth—but will culminate in Israel. (Jer. 25:32-24; Ez. 39:17-20)
- 6. The biblical books of <u>Revelation</u> and <u>Daniel</u> provide most of the foundational truths that make up any study of the end times.
- 7. The key players in this time period are the Antichrist and Jesus Christ.
- 8. Jesus Christ will lead a heavenly army of angels to victory over God's enemies during this brief, but very intense, Battle of Armageddon. (Rev. 19:11-16 and Rev. 19-21)

II. THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON AND THE ANTICHRIST (DETAILED OUTLINE)

A. One must understand the Old Testament Prophecies of Armageddon.

"The Old Testament books of Daniel and Ezekiel provide key insights to understanding of end-time prophecies!"

1. Daniel 2

God's plan for the Gentile nations begins with King Nebuchadnezzar and follows the historical sequence of human governments from him, to a ten-nation confederacy during the end times, which occupies the area of the old Roman Empire. The Antichrist will gain control of these nations, and after guaranteeing Israel's peace and security, will break that treaty 3 ½ years later and launch an attack against Israel.

2. Daniel 9

God's plan of 490 years for Israel's redemption predicts to the very year, 30 AD, when the Messiah (ie., Jesus Christ) would enter Jerusalem on "Palm Sunday." This time period begins with the decree from Persia to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. This time period lasts for 483 years. Hence, there is one seven year-time-period left that is (for now) unaccounted for. At Calvary, when Christ was crucified, God stopped the prophetic clock with seven years to go. The clock will restart when the Antichrist makes his peace treaty with Israel.

NOTE: The NT teaches that following the rapture of the church, the first 3 ½ years are peaceful between the ten-nation coalition in Israel. Although, during this time, Israel will be under attack from "Rosh"—a nation that lies due north of Jerusalem. The Antichrist breaks the treaty after 3 ½ years and then all hell breaks loose with what is called the time of Great Tribulation.

3. Ezekiel 37

The Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones coming together is 'predictive' of the people of Israel coming together, again, as a nation. This happened May 14, 1948. (NOTE: Matthew 24:32-35 tells the parable of the fig tree—which represents Israel becoming a nation and this nation being the last generation.)

B. Four Insights to Understand about Armageddon.

1. The Gog and Magog Invasion into Palestine/Israel.

Cf., Ezekiel 38:1–4: Magog, Meshech and Tubal were all sons of Japheth—the son of Noah, who migrated to the area of modern-day Russia (Gen. 10:2-3). Magog means 'Chief Prince of Rosh' (a title to a nation.) 'Rosh(a)' is the old root word for Russia. Meshech means capital (ie., Moscow). "Gog" means "the leader/person of a nation." We are talking about Russia attacking Israel. [This land of "Rosh" lies north of Israel. (Ezekiel 38:2-3; Rev. 20)]

This will pave the way for the Antichrist to attack Israel at *The Battle of Armageddon*. (NOTE: It's two separate wars against Israel—Russia starts it and is destroyed, then Antichrist seeks to join in the battle, but God ends it.)

Cf., Ezekiel 38:14-16: This passage indicates that Russia will seek war against Israel during the first half of the Tribulation.

Cf., Ezekiel 38:5-6: These verses identify the rest of the participants of the Battle of Armageddon. *Persia* is a reference to modern-day Iran which changed its name in 1935. *Cush* describes present day Ethiopia and the black nations of Central Africa. *Put* is Libya, located in northern Africa. Gomer are the people who settled in Germany. *Beth Togarmah* is Asia Minor and Turkey (and possibly Russia, but Pastor Joe believes Russia and all of these nations, mentioned above, will be destroyed before Armageddon (Ez. 38-39)). Ezekiel 38-3 seems to eerily describe a nuclear holocaust that destroys all of these nations.

2. Nations that will be part of Armageddon

The Antichrist uses this move by Russia against Israel to set up the Abomination of Desolation (ie., A small statue, placed in the temple that declares the Antichrist to be God) and move his forces into Israel. The nations which comprise the land area of the old Roman Empire (cf., Daniel 2) include England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Greece, Macedonia, Belgium, and the Netherlands, among others. (Rev. 9 and 16; Daniel 11)

3. The Rise of the Antichrist

Cf., Daniel 11:36-45: During the second half of the tribulation, the Antichrist places a small statue—of himself—in the temple and compels Israel to worship Him. Revelation 16 describes the Antichrist harnessing the armies of the world to spread out along the entire length and breadth of Israel, with the greatest concentration poised for the fiercest and final battle on the plains of Armageddon. (cf., 1 & 2 John are critical books to grasp)

Insights about the Antichrist:

- A. He will be wanted—not rejected (Rev. 6:2; John 1:10)
- B. He will be appealing—not repulsive (2 Cor. 11:14-15; Isaiah 53:2)
- C. He will be Gentile—not Jewish (Daniel 8; Rev. 131ff. In both passages, the Antichrist rises from the 'great sea' which is always a reference to Gentiles.)
- D. Satan will possess the Antichrist and will give him his power (Rev. 13:2; John 17:21)
- E. The Antichrist will fake a resurrection (Rev. 13:13; Matt. 28:6)
- F. He will subdue the nations by deceit, force, and manipulation (Dan. 7:19-25; Rev. 17:12-13; Matt. 24:15-16)
- G. He will demand to be worshipped (Rev. 16:2; Matt. 28:9; Phil. 2:5-11)
- H. Ultimately, the Antichrist will be cast into The Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20ff)

4. The Climax of the Battle of Armageddon

Cf., Revelation 14:15-20; 16:16-21: Some feel these verses are poetic (ie., metaphorical) but Pastor Joe believes they are literal. Islands flee, mountains will not be found, the great cities of the world will be leveled via the earthquake; the earth is completely rearranged (which would be in keeping with 2 Peter 3:10). This would indicate a complete renovation of the earth.

<u>IMPORTANT</u>: Jesus Christ will lead a heavenly army of angels to victory over God's enemies during this brief battle. (Rev. 19:11-16 and Rev. 19-21)

C. The "two great statements" EVERYONE must face.

Revelation 16:17, NLT [During The 7 Year Tribulation] - ¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. And a mighty shout came from the throne in the Temple, saying, "<u>It is finished!</u>" ¹⁸ Then the thunder crashed and rolled, and lightning flashed. And a great earthquake struck—the worst since people were placed on the earth.

John 19:30, NLT [On the cross] - ³⁰ When Jesus had tasted [the drink], he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Every man, woman and student will put their faith in one of these "It is finished" statements. If you put your faith in the "It is finished" of Calvary, you will not hear the "it is finished" at the end of Armageddon. But, if you reject the "It is finished" of Calvary, you have chosen, for yourself, the "it is finished" of Armageddon—where God's wrath will be poured out on you.

Chart of the End Times



The Eternal State will be a time of unspeakable joy, reward and fellowship for the believer (cf., Rev. 21:1-8) and a time of judgment for the unbeliever (cf., Revelation 20:11-15). (NOTE: When a believer in Christ dies, their body goes into the grave and their soul goes immediately to be with God is Heaven (cf., 2 Cor. 5:8). At the rapture, the old body will be resurrected and "made perfect" and reunited with their soul in what the Bible and theologians call the glorified state. Cf., 1 Thess. 13-18 and 1 Cor. 15:42-49.)

11:40-45, Joel 3:9-17, and Rev. 16:14-16.)

Rev. 21:1; 3:12ff; and Jn. 14:1ff).

6:15-17, Isaiah 26:20-21.)

Thess. 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10.)

Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast.

The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." - Rev. 41, NAT