

# Armageddon

*By Conrad Barnett*

THE Bible speaks of Armageddon as a great battle, which takes place at the very end of our present grace dispensation. The place of the battle will be in the giant valley located north of the ancient city of Megiddo. Megiddo is considered to be one of the oldest cities in the world and was strategically located as a pivotal point of travel for centuries.

OLD Testament prophets and New Testament writers give us special insight about Armageddon. They tell us who the principal parties involved will be, how the battle ends, who will be the victorious parties, and who will be the losers.

ARMAGEDDON is important. It brings an end to all war on earth in which natural armies are engaged. It signals the beginning of a New World order with Jesus Christ as King.

FOR years the term Armageddon has captured the attention of many people. Politicians and military leaders speak of it often. It is preached about in pulpits and talked about by men in the streets. It is discussed in seminaries and in Bible classes. It is a subject which merits our attention.

THE battle will last one day according to prophets Ezekiel and Zephaniah. (Ezek. 39:8; Zeph. 14:7) The conclusion of the battle will bring about eternal change for the universe and for the human family in particular.

THE eye of the military storm will be centered around Megiddo and throughout the giant breadbasket of Israel. The Valley of Jehoshaphat and the Valley of Jezreel are among other names identifying this valley. Jesus passed through it many times as He went to and from Jerusalem. Standing at the present location of ancient Megiddo one can see a faint impression of Nazareth to the north. Nazareth is where Jesus grew up. The Bible describes the Battle of Armageddon as extending throughout the country of Israel and the combatants coming from various parts of the world.

ARMAGEDDON is the final contest between good and evil. Its principal personalities include Jesus Christ, the Holy Angels, Saints of God coming with Christ, the natural armies of the world, the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet and Satan. There is no historical example to describe this battle of battles.

ARMAGEDDON starts as this dispensation of grace is coming to a close. The Devil, seeing he has a limited time to deceive people and knowing that he was defeated at Calvary, mounts a last ditch effort to battle for the world and the minds of the human family. He has been angered by the fact that millions of Christians have escaped the Great Tribulation by being raptured (taken out of the earth and out of his reach) and by the fact that he is evicted from heaven forever. (Rev. 12) He knows he is soon to be placed into an abyss for 1000 years and then later ordered to the Lake of Fire, as a place of eternal punishment. The strategy leading to the battle of Armageddon is easy to follow in the scriptures.

APPEARING on the world scene prior to Armageddon is the presence of a strongman identified in the Bible as the "Anti-Christ." Starting out as "the little horn" in Daniel, he soon gathers political strength. First, he "plucks" three nations by "the roots", and then seven other nations located within the Old Roman Empire consequently become his political base. At Armageddon he has successfully mobilized not only the ten nations but

influences other armies of the world to join him at Armageddon. His target is national Israel and the forces of the good and godly that are left on earth.

TOTAL world domination is not reachable for the Anti-Christ. Hitler and others have tried it but have met powerful resistance. Edom and Moab will escape out of his hand and will become a place of refuge for the Jews. Speaking blasphemous words against the Most High God, the Anti-Christ has schemed and engineered all types of devices to subdue the forces of right. He has instituted the dreadful **“Mark of the Beast”** as a tool to make people submit to him. That **“Mark”** which is the number of a man simply means that people can neither buy nor sell unless they take that **“Mark”**. What do people do when they are hungry and cannot buy or sell without the **“Mark”**? Spiritual doom is the result of taking this **“Mark”**. It pays to be ready to meet Christ in the Rapture before any of this turmoil happens.

A False Prophet will be part of the administration of the world system during the Tribulation and leading up to Armageddon. Satan very cunningly creates his own Trinitarian system. He places himself as the supreme leader, the False Prophet as the head of his religious system and the Anti-Christ as his principal political leader. He skillfully ensnares the unsuspecting and leads them further into corruption and spiritual doom.

ARMAGEDDON is special. It is divinely appointed that only one day be allowed for the slaughter of millions, but people will be engaged for seven months in burying the dead.

SATAN, using the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet and the armies of the world as contestants will prosecute this battle. Millions will be parties to this combat, when soldier turns on soldier and death and destruction is the result. They will come from the East, the North, and South to engage themselves in this awesome confrontation. It is interesting to note that Bible information relative to the west is limited as it pertains to Armageddon.

ARMAGEDDON is a prophetic promise and politics and social structures within the governments of our present world system seem to be positioning themselves for this last military showdown on earth. It is promised in scripture and, no doubt, coming soon.

WHEN the mountains and valleys of Israel are soaking up the blood of millions and when emotional tensions are at their highest level ever, something greater than gunpowder decides the victory in this battle. It will be wonderful and it will be great.

THE skies from the eastern direction will suddenly become ablaze with the glory of God. Jesus Christ, Himself, will appear not as one beaten down by his enemies and with blood running down His arms and feet from the crucifixion. He comes as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. His first order is to stop the fighting and declare a New World order.

COMING in the clouds of heaven with Jesus Christ will be His Holy Angels and the Saints of God in raptured glory and in immortalized bodies. Christ and the armies of heaven conclude the battle, as He orders a stop to all military forces left standing. Only one-sixth of the total battle number will survive. He immediately orders the Anti-Christ and False Prophet to Hell and sends Satan to the Abyss for 1000 years. The Holy Angels will move quickly throughout the earth to cleanse the earth of rebellion and sin. The earth will enjoy 1000 years of peace and blessing led by Christ, Himself. “The meek shall inherit the earth”, Jesus said, and this will be a Millennium of peace and blessing in which the world will be filled with good. The Holy Angels and Jesus will be a welcome

change as the earth is restored to Garden of Eden status and without the hindrance of Satan.

ARMAGEDDON brings a successful conclusion to the misery of sin and Satan. Good and evil have met each other in a different way and good is the eternal winner.

BEFORE long the world will move into its closing chapter. It starts with Christ coming for His Saints (the Rapture). Then, the seven years Tribulation starts. The Tribulation is described as a time of sorrows like the human family has never experienced before and never will again.

THE Tribulation stops when Jesus returns with His Saints. At the Rapture He comes for His Saints. Armageddon is the last day of the Tribulation period and the beginning of the New World Order with Christ, as our King. Be a part of Christ's Kingdom. It is eternal! You can be.

Scripture references: Ezekiel 38, 39; Daniel 2:44; Revelations 11, 12, 20:17-10, 14:14-20; Ephesians 1:10; Zechariah 14; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 21:24; Isaiah 63:1-7, 9:67.

