

Book of Revelation

24. The Battle of Armageddon



Revelation 9 & 16

Introduction

As we have studied the Book of Revelation we have learnt that God will judge the world in the near future. This judgment is described in John's visions as seven trumpets and seven bowls. Some believe these are referring to the same events, while others believe the bowl judgments follow the trumpet judgments. Obviously there is a strong link between the two, and we will see this now as we come to the Battle of Armageddon.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 9:13-19 and Revelation 16:12-16



What do you know about the River Euphrates? Where is it? Try and recall what you learnt in geography! Let's also see the significance of this river in the Word of God.
Genesis 2:8, 10, 14, Genesis 15:18, Deuteronomy 1:7-8

(The River Euphrates was one of the tributaries that flowed out of the Garden of Eden. Later God promised Abraham that He would give him the land as far north as this river, but the only time they have possessed it so far was during the reign of King David and King Solomon.)

However God will fulfill His promises and many believe that this will be during the millennium. The Euphrates today runs through Iraq and is 1800 miles long and from 1,000 feet to a mile wide. The river has been a barrier between east and west, but as the 6th angel pours out his bowl on the Euphrates it dries up preparing the way for the Kings of the East.)



Great armies from the East rise to attack the Antichrist and so he calls the rest of the world to gather for battle. How is the Antichrist able to entice the whole world for this final battle?
Revelation 16:13-14, 1 Kings 22:20-23

(The Antichrist and False Prophet are controlled by unclean or evil spirits and so they are able to lure the Kings of the whole world to join them.)



This will be a battle of unprecedented proportions – greater than any seen before, or ever will again. Why is God allowing this to happen? What is His purpose? Revelation 9:16, 18, Joel 2:2, 3:2, 12, Zechariah 12:2-3, 9

(This is the time when God will judge all nations that attack Jerusalem, regarding their treatment of His people Israel and their land.)

We see in Revelation 16:16 that this battle takes place in Armageddon. Some believe this is just symbolic but others say this is where the battle will take place. The word Armageddon is taken from

a Hebrew word 'Har-megiddo', which literally means 'Hill of Megiddo', and the word Megiddo means 'place of God'. It is found in northern Israel on the Plain of Jezreel just below Haifa.

The battle of Armageddon will no doubt be World War 3, but it will be more than that – it will be a battle between the powers of darkness and the hosts of Heaven. In Revelation 19:11-21 we see the climax of this battle from a heavenly viewpoint. Jesus leads the armies of heaven. This army is made up of God's children, those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb and who have overcome the enemy.



Although this war will take place on the earth, the ultimate victory is closely linked to the spiritual battle that is taking place. This is a time when God is preparing His people to 'fight' with Him. We need to learn to use the spiritual weapons we have been given!

What are these weapons? 2 Chronicles 20:22, Ephesians 6:17-18, Revelation 12:11



Share an experience you have had recently when you have had to use one of these weapons to overcome the enemy in your life.

Conclusion

As we look at the situation in the world it is not difficult to imagine the devastating results of a global war. The weapons man has developed have the potential to bring total destruction. However we need to know that God is in control and as God's people rise up and pray, He will fight the battle and be victorious. Just as it is described in Daniel 2, the Kingdoms of this world will be crushed and His Kingdom will fill the earth. We are on the winning side! Hallelujah!