

# The King Is Coming - 7

## The Battle of Armageddon

**Introduction** - We now come to the final group of lessons in the series "The King Is Coming." The focus of this series has been rightly on the **Lord Jesus Christ**. Everything concerning history, that which is known and that which will be, centers on the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Lord returns, He will do so, not as the Lamb, but as the Lion. Consider the following introductory verses:

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

**Revelation 19:19** *"19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army."*

There is coming a terrible time, but a needful time to culminate all of History since the creation of man and the subsequent fall of man. God's plan is coming to a close. Since sin entered into this world, warfare has taken place. There are only **two sides to this great warfare**. God has freely offered Salvation to man and has extended His arm of grace and mercy **for thousands of years**. And yet, in all of this, many of Adam's race are still in rebellion against God.

When we come to the study of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is a final battle that will take place that will conclude one dispensation and move us into another, referred to as the **Millennial reign of Christ**. It is hard to imagine the world being under the rulership of the Lord Jesus Christ and true justice and peace existing. Let us read the Bible and see what God reveals in His Word concerning this event. The first truth I want us to understand is **part of the purpose of this coming battle**.

**What is the purpose of this battle?** The Bible tells us in **Revelation 19:15** one of His purposes for coming.

*"15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."*

God deals with the nations in judgment because of their:

**Persecution of Israel (Joel 3:2)**

**Persistence in sinfulness (Revelation 19:15)**

**Perpetual godlessness (Revelation 16:9)**

"Christ is coming to make war, to smite the nations with a sword, and to rule with a rod of iron. In order to do these things, it is necessary that He tread *"the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."* (Robertson)

## What is the Battle of Armageddon? The battle of Armageddon will be the last world war.

Notice what the Bible says again in **verse 19** of Revelation, *“19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.”*

“The Battle of Armageddon is truly direct warfare of hell against heaven, ... remember that Satan gave his power unto the Antichrist and the false prophet, and now we find that the Beast and the prophet are doing the foolish thing, trying to fight against heaven itself.” (Robertson)



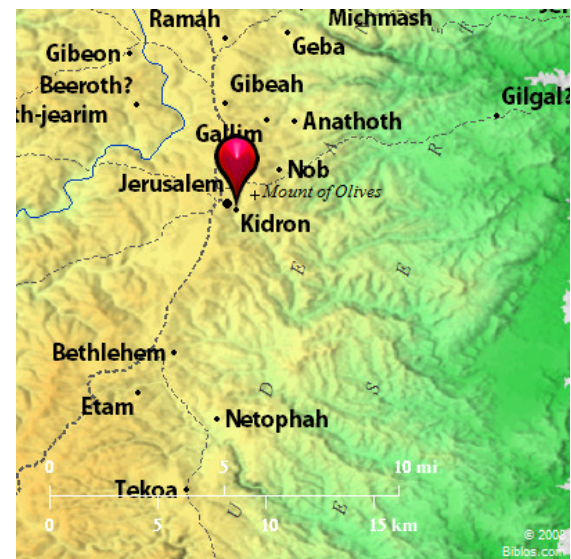
Megiddo was at the crossroads of several ancient invasion and trade routes (indicated in red) in ancient Israel. Megiddo overlooks the Plain of Esdraelon, which Bible prophecy indicates will be the gathering place of massive armies just before Christ's second coming. Those armies will fight the returning Jesus Christ near Jerusalem.



**Jezreel Valley**

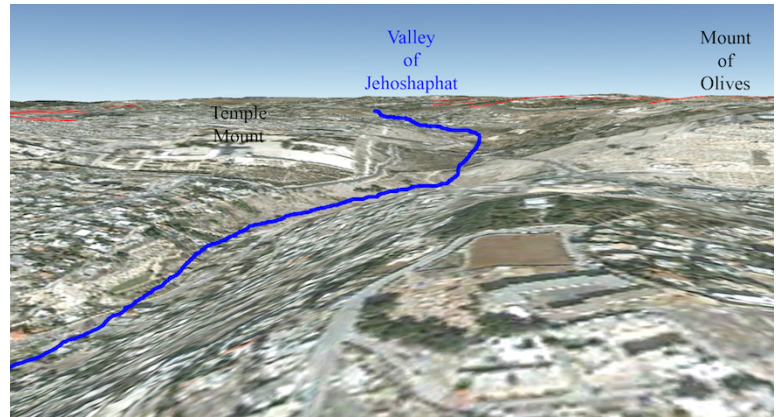
**Where will this battle be fought?** According to the Scriptures, this battle will be fought in the **ancient hill and valley of Megiddo**, west of Jordan, in **the plain of Jezreel**. Many battles have been fought in this area:

- Joshua's conquest of the promised land lists Megiddo (**Joshua 12:21**)
- Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites (**Judges 4-5**)
- Gideon defeated the Midianites (**Judges 7**)
- Saul was slain by the Philistines (**1 Samuel 3:18**)
- Ahaziah was slain by Jehu (**2 Kings 9:27**)
- Josiah was slain by the Egyptians (**2 Kings 23:29-30, 2 Chronicles 35:22**)



However, with that being said, I want you to understand when we put the entire picture of prophecy together, this campaign will involve the whole region of Palestine (approx. 9000 square miles).

**Joel 3:2** speaks of the Valley of Jehoshaphat, an **extended area east of Jerusalem**. **Ezekiel 39:1** speaks of the valley of passengers, which may be the same area. **Isaiah 63** speaks of the Lord coming from Edom in the south. Jerusalem is seen as the center of the conflict in **Zechariah 12:2, 11, and Zechariah 14:2**.



**Who will be involved?** There will be four great world powers for sure:

1. The Ten-Kingdom Federation under the Beast.
2. The Northern Federation – Russia and her allies.
3. The king of the East- the Asiatic peoples that are from beyond the river.
4. The king of the South, a North African power- perhaps Libya.

Another power must be added because of its ever-active participation: the power of the Lord and His armies from Heaven. Ultimately, when they come against Israel and her people, they unite and go against the army of God and against Israel. We know enough to know that this final battle will be against all the evil forces on earth stacked against the Lord and Israel.

**When will this battle be fought?**

This final battle will happen at the close of the tribulation period. Often, this is thought of **as one final battle**. However, there will be much unrest during the last 3.5 years of the tribulation. This battle **will culminate that terrible period** referred to as the Great Tribulation. The battle is referred to in several passages. One such is **Joel 3**.

**There are, in fact, seven different theories on how this campaign will take place.**

**What will be the result of this terrible uprising?** First of all, there will be:

## **The Doom of the Beast and the False Prophet**

**Revelation 19:20** *“20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”*

When the Lord Jesus Christ wars against the Beast and His army, **there will be no**



**delay** in His victory. **Verse 21** tells us of this instant defeat of the enemy's armies.

**Revelation 19:21** *"21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."*

The Bible tells us that the Beast and the False Prophet *"These both were **cast alive** into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."* The word used by the Word of God, "alive," means existence in body. It is not just a state of **conscious existence** but **existence in a body**. You will remember the words of the Lord in **Revelation 1:18**, *"18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, **I am alive** for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."* The doom of the Devil is given in **Revelation 20:10** *"10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, **where the beast and the false prophet are**, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."* You will notice again that when Satan is cast into this lake of fire, the Beast and False Prophet are still there.

"The subject of hell is one to solemnize all our hearts. The Scriptures indicate that the Beast and the False Prophet are tormented day and night forever and ever." (Robertson)

## The Sad Supper

Notice what we find in **verse 17**.

**Revelation 19:17** *"17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to **all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven**, Come and gather yourselves together unto **the supper of the great God**;"*

**Revelation 19:21** *"21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and **all the fowls were filled with their flesh**."*

In the first part of **Revelation 19**, we have a **glad supper**, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. But here we have the Sad Supper, the Supper of the Great God.

Every person has a choice as to what they will do with Christ. There is a generation that will go through the tribulation; there is a generation who will be deceived and follow the Antichrist and the False Prophet. The time to repent —turn from sin and to the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation is now! For the one who is a child of God, it is surely a sobering reminder of the need to preach the Gospel to every creature. For the one who is not saved, it is a warning of what is to come.