

Bible Prophecy

Armageddon

What is Armageddon?

- The name comes from the Hebrew *Har-Meggedon*, meaning the “hill of Megiddo”.
 - Most believe that this refers to the area around the Valley of Jezreel and the Plain of Esdraelon in northern Israel.
 - This valley has been the site of many battles throughout history, including the defeat of the Canaanites by Deborah and Barak in Judges 4-5, Gideon’s defeat of the Mideonites in Judges 7, Saul’s death in I Samuel 31:8, and Josiah’s death while battling the Egyptians in II Kings 23:29-30.
- We use the term *Armageddon* to describe the final defeat of the Antichrist and the combined armies of the world at the close of the Tribulation.
- Though we often refer to it as the “Battle of Armageddon” it is better described as a military campaign.
 - The Greek word *polemos* used in Revelation 16:14 is often translated as “battle” but carries with it the idea of a war or campaign.
- The events of Armageddon are deeply rooted in the Tribulation. God is working through those seven years to have everything in place for the grand climax.
- There is some debate on timing of the events leading up to Christ’s victorious return. One example is the timing of the invasion by Gog and Magog Ezekiel 38-39. Some see this as part of the Armageddon Campaign while others see it as an earlier event.

The Eight Stages of Armageddon

- *Note - as found in the entry on Armageddon written by Thomas Ice in the Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy.*
- **Stage 1 – The Antichrist’s Armies Assemble**
 - The Euphrates River dries up to enable this – Revelation 16:12-16 (Sixth Vial)
- **Stage 2 – Babylon is Destroyed**
 - The Antichrist’s political and religious capital will fall – Revelation 17-18
- **Stage 3 – Jerusalem Falls**
 - The Antichrist captures and sacks Jerusalem – Zechariah 12:1-3, 14:1-2
 - Israel puts up a stiff resistance – Zechariah 12:4-9, Micah 4:11-5:1
- **Stage 4 – The Antichrist Moves South Against the Remnant**
 - Survivors from Israel have run for safety since the breaking of the treaty with Israel by the Antichrist – Daniel 9:27, Matthew 24:15-22, Revelation 12:6,14
 - This appears to be in the area around Bozrah and Petra - Isaiah 34:6, 63:1
- **Stage 5 – The Regeneration of the Nation Israel**

- Israel experiences a national revival, turning to Christ as their Messiah – Matthew 23:37-39, Zechariah 12:10, Hosea 5:15
- **Stage 6 – The Second Coming of Jesus Christ**
 - Christ returns with great glory in the skies accompanied by His saints – Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:11-16, Jude 14-15
 - Christ comes to the aid of the Remnant at Bozrah – Isaiah 34:1-7, 63:1-7, Habakkuk 3:3, Micah 2:12-13
- **Stage 7 – The Final Battle**
 - The Antichrist is slain – II Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:20
 - The Antichrist's forces are slain in the Valley of Jehoshaphat – Joel 3:12-13, Zechariah 14:12-15, Revelation 14:19-20
 - The battlefield appears to stretch the entire length of Israel. The 1,600 furlongs (Greek *stadion*, about 600 ft.) in Revelation 14:20 is about 180 miles.
- **Stage 8 – The Ascent to the Mount of Olives**
 - Christ will stand in victory on the Mount of Olives – Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:3-4