



# ARMAGEDDON

THE LAST BATTLE

## TRY JESUS COURSE BOOK 20

“THEN THEY GATHERED THE KINGS [OF THE WORLD] TOGETHER TO THE PLACE THAT IN THE HEBREW IS CALLED AMAGEDDON... FOR THE BATTLE OF THE GREAT DAY OF GOD ALMIGHTY” - Revelation 16:16,14

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## 20 – THE LAST BATTLE

An asteroid, "about the size of Texas", hurtling toward Earth. That's the story of the movie **ARMAGEDDON**. Bruce Willis stars as, apparently, the world's greatest oil rigger. He's enlisted to be shot into space, land on the big rock and blow it up with a thermonuclear weapon. The climax of the film rests on the shoulders of its hero, who has to make a choice between his life and the life of his future son-in-law in saving the planet.

The term "Armageddon" is usually associated with the end of the world. Some have thought that it's a political battle centring in Palestine, between Russia and America over Middle East oil. The end of the Cold War has put paid to that idea. Nevertheless, many people still think it will start there, with the destruction of the Dome of the Rock Mosque and a rebuilt Temple. What is Armageddon? When will it be? Why is the term usually associated with the end of the world?



## Armageddon

1. Where does the term Armageddon come from? Revelation 16:16 (page 875 in NIV Bible: International Bible Society, 00195)

Then they \_\_\_\_\_ together to the place that in Hebrew is called \_\_\_\_\_.

Armageddon is part of the seven last plagues (Revelation 15-16) and occurs during the sixth plague. The seventh plague symbolises God's judgment on Babylon (false religion). Armageddon is an allusion to Megiddo in the Old Testament, where some decisive battles were fought.

2. To what event does Armageddon refer? Revelation 16:12-16 (page 875)

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_, out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_ and out of the mouth of the \_\_\_\_\_. They are spirits of \_\_\_\_\_ performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole world, to gather them for \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God Almighty.

A recurring theme throughout Revelation is the war against God's people and their deliverance by the coming of Jesus. The term "**Armageddon**" is used to portray the final struggle between good and evil. The worldwide religious coalition (Babylon) will join forces with secular powers to oppress God's people. Out of the mouths of the unholy trinity come three evil spirits. Just as God has the **three angels' messages**, as a last warning for the world (Revelation 14:6-12), so the **devil has three evil spirits**, like frogs, with a counterfeit gospel to gather "the kings of the whole world" for this final battle. This is not a war with tanks and guns, but rather a battle for the mind through deception, economic boycott and persecution. Spiritualism and New Age mystic deceptions could be involved as well.

3. Who are Satan and his followers really making war against? Revelation 17:11-14 (page 876)

They will make war against the \_\_\_\_\_... and [his] faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

The 10 kings, or kingdoms, constitute the last phase of the beast's power - the eighth head that is a resurrected seventh head. They point to a **worldwide coalition** in the last days, united by the spirits of demons' deceptive false gospel, in their opposition to the Lamb (Jesus) and His people.

## The Dragon, the Beast and False Prophet

4. What is the dragon pictured as doing to the woman (the church) and her offspring? Revelation 12:17 (page 873)

Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make \_\_\_\_\_ against the rest of her offspring - those who \_\_\_\_\_ God's commandments and \_\_\_\_\_ to the testimony of Jesus.

"The rest of her offspring" indicate a **faithful remnant** who are loyal to God. **The devil's anger is vented on this faithful remnant. The "testimony of Jesus" is the message that comes from Jesus through His prophets.** It centres around the good news of salvation through faith in what Jesus has done for us. The world becomes divided into two groups - the saved and the lost - by which "gospel" people choose to follow. This choice is reflected in either obedience or disobedience to God.

**Revelation 13** enlarges on Satan's attempt to **make war** with God's faithful remnant. In **verses 1-10** the **sea beast** receives his power from the **dragon**. It has **seven heads** and **10 horns** like the dragon. These symbolise the nations used by Satan to persecute the people of God - such as **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, pagan Rome and medieval Rome**. It's portrayed as making "**war against the saints**" and receiving authority over the world. "All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world" (Revelation 13:1-10, page 873).

In **verses 11-18** we get the **clearest portrayal of the issues involved in the final crisis**. The "**false prophet**" is apostate religion. Here a lamb that speaks like a dragon - a professedly Christian power - legislates in favour of a subtle form of idolatry, using deception and economic sanctions to cause the world to conform. It finally condemns to death all nonconformists. This is the "great distress" Jesus spoke about in His last sermon (Matthew 24:21, page 701).

# True Versus False Worship

5. What is to be proclaimed to the entire world? Revelation 14:6 (page 874)

How do we know that the battle of Armageddon is not a political battle?

What will the inhabitants of the world be made to do?

Verse 12 \_\_\_\_\_

How does the antichrist cause all the world to worship the beast?

Verses 13, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

What will happen to those who refuse to follow a false system of worship?

Verses 15-17 \_\_\_\_\_

What do they receive on their right hand or forehead?

Verses 16, 17 \_\_\_\_\_

The question is: "*What is the mark of the beast?*"

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Sabbath, of all the commandments, tells us why we should worship and honour God. "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth."

# Insights From Ancient Conflicts

8. What ancient contest was performed on Mount Carmel (near Megiddo) between the prophets of Baal and Elijah the prophet, that gives us insight into the issues of the last conflict? 1 Kings 18:16-39 (page 254)

What did Elijah say Ahab had done?

Verse 18 \_\_\_\_\_

What challenge did Elijah present to the people of Israel?

Verse 21 \_\_\_\_\_

In his prayer to God, what did Elijah want to be made known?

Verse 36 \_\_\_\_\_

What fell and burned up the sacrifice etc?

Verse 38 \_\_\_\_\_

What did the people cry when they saw this?

Verse 39 \_\_\_\_\_

Baal (Hebrew = lord) was the chief national god of the Canaanites and was a form of nature worship. The Canaanites believed that Baal inhabited holy trees, springs, mountain tops, rocks etc. Asherah was the female counterpart of Baal. Ahab, king of Israel, married Jezebel and began to worship Baal. He set up a Baal altar in the temple of Baal he built in Samaria. He also made an Asherah pole. Ahab thus led the children of Israel away from true worship of the Creator into the worship of the things God had made (1 Kings 16:29-34, page 252).



**Revelation 13** alludes to this conflict when it mentions fire coming down from heaven. In the final conflict it's Satan who brings fire down to deceive the world into false worship. The final conflict is over loyalty and obedience to God in true worship of the Creator versus false worship of the creature.

9. Of what is the symbolism of frogs (Revelation 16:13) an allusion? Exodus 8:1-15 (page 45)

So Aaron [Moses' brother] stretched out his hand over the waters of EGYPT, and the \_\_\_\_\_ and covered the land. But the \_\_\_\_\_ did the same things by their secret arts; \_\_\_\_\_ come up on the land of Egypt. (Verses 6-7)

The symbolism of frogs reminds us of the **plagues of Egypt** at the time of the Exodus, when Moses led the people out of Egypt. There were 10 plagues, the last seven fell only on the Egyptians and not on the Israelites. The Egyptian magicians could duplicate the miracles of Moses up to and including the plague of frogs. After that they were powerless (Exodus 8:18). So here, the spirits of demons can go only so far in performing their miraculous signs to deceive people. They will not deceive God's people (Matthew 24:24, page 701).

# Power Base for Babylon

10. What does the river Euphrates symbolise in the New Testament? Revelation 17:1, 15 (page 875)

The WATERS you saw, where the prostitute sits, are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (verse 15)

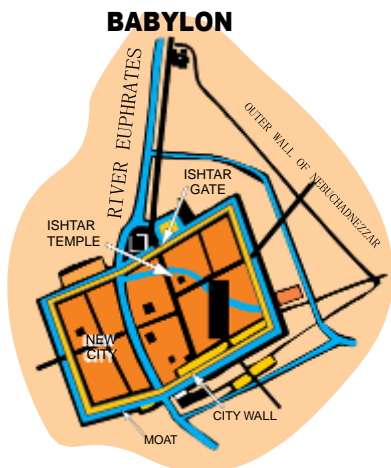
When Israel was true to God, she was likened to a pure woman. When she made alliances with other nations and worshipped their idols, she was said to be prostituting herself (Ezekiel 16:15; 23:7, pages 595, 602). Here the prostitute is spiritual Babylon, the final manifestation of the antichrist. It's religious apostasy. Just as the Pharisees of Jesus' day substituted the traditions of humans for the Word of God (Mark 7:6-9, page 712), and the church of the Middle Ages imposed a system of merit for salvation on the world, so in the last conflict Babylon will seek to impose a false gospel and worship on the world in opposition to true Christianity.

11. What does the drying up of the Euphrates River mean in the New Testament? Revelation 16:12; 17:1, 15-18 (page 875)

The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will \_\_\_\_\_. They will bring her to \_\_\_\_\_.

The ancient city of Babylon was built straddling the river Euphrates. Isaiah (700 BC) predicted that Cyrus, king of Persia, would come from the east against Babylon and the waters would be dried up (Isaiah 44:24-45:1, page 516). The prediction was fulfilled when the Persians and Medes besieged the city, diverted the river Euphrates and marched their soldiers under the wall while Balshazzar, the last king, was having a drunken feast (Daniel 5, page 629).

In the last-day setting, the moment of truth is the moment when millions and millions of people around the world suddenly see through the hypocrisy of their spiritual leaders and loathe these **false religious leaders** whom they've trusted. The immediate result will be the withdrawal, or drying up, of popular support for the end-time false religious system known as "Babylon".



12. How do the people of God overcome Satan? Revelation 12:10, 11 (page 873)

They overcame him \_\_\_\_\_ and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

These are the central verses of the book of Revelation. The good news is that Jesus has conquered the devil, sin and death on the cross, and that the weakest believer is now an overcomer. Christ's victory is ours when we accept Him as Saviour. Heaven is guaranteed to all who trust in Jesus.

# The Controversy Ended

13. The drying up of the river Euphrates prepares the way for the coming of the kings of the East. What event is this? Revelation 16:12 (page 875); Matthew 24:27-31; 25:31-34 (page 701) Revelation 6:12-17; 19:11-21 (pages 870, 877)

The “East” is symbolic of God’s intervention (see Ezekiel 43:4, page 619; Revelation 7:1-3). The “**kings from the East**” are in contrast to the “**kings of the whole world**”. This phrase represents Jesus coming with all His holy angels to deliver His people.

Let us summarise what we’ve discovered so far. Two great gospels will be brought to the attention of the world. Jesus’ gospel described in the three angels’ messages and a worldwide counterfeit gospel, proclaimed by the demonic trinity. The result is the polarisation of three worldwide confederacies. First, of God’s people – loosely organised but clearly understanding the issues. Second, a false Christianity and third, a secular, political confederacy. As the last two confederacies unite (Revelation 17), the people of the world are forced to decide which trinity they will follow, until the whole world is found on one side or the other.

As our time on earth draws to a close, the united confederacies seek to destroy God’s people. When Jesus’ intervention prevents this, they end up turning on each other, destroying the religious confederacy. Soon after, the Second Coming finishes the destruction of evil and rescues God’s people from the earth. (Jon Paulien, *The End of All Things*)

Those who have gained the victory over the beast and his image sing “the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb.” They testify: *“Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed”* (Revelation 15:2-4).

*“We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God”*

*“Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”*  
*“O king, live for ever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because*

*I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king.” The king was so overjoyed that he sent a special message to everybody in his kingdom, saying...*

I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures for ever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.

So Daniel prospered during the reigns of Darius and Cyrus. The book of Revelation uses this story, and others, to illustrate that the world's last crisis will be over loyalty to God in worship. Those who have accepted Jesus as Saviour will be loyal, even if it means death, and God will deliver them at Jesus' second coming.

**Would you, like Daniel, accept the challenge to be loyal to God no matter what the cost?**

Yes, I want to stand true to God and follow Him.

I would like to understand more about this subject.

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How would you describe what the issues are in the final crisis over the mark of the beast?

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