

Eschatology

The Campaign of Armageddon

The “kings of the earth and of the whole world” are to be gathered together through the activity of the unholy trinity from hell to what is called “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:14). This gathering of the nations of the earth is in a place called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). There, God deals in judgment with the nations and the unholy trinity because of their persecution of Israel (Joel 3:2), their sinfulness (Rev. 19:15) and because of their godlessness (Rev. 16:9).

The Location

The battlefield in which the armies of the earth will gather will be in the hills of Megiddo (Rev. 16:16). This site has been used all throughout Israel’s history for important battles. However, the campaign of Armageddon is not isolated to Mt. Megiddo. There are several other locations involved in this campaign:

- I. Joel 3 and Ezekiel 39 speak of events taking place in “the valley of Jehoshaphat”, which is east of Jerusalem.
- II. Isaiah 34 and 63 picture the Lord coming from Edom, south of Jerusalem when He returns from the judgment.
- III. Jerusalem will be the center of the conflict (Zech. 12 & 14).

Stringing this all together we see that the campaign itself will cover a land area of about 140 miles. This is the entire land of Palestine.

The Timing

Ezekiel 38 & 39 details a coalition with the armies of the northern king (Russia) and her allies that come up against Israel to challenge the authority of the Antichrist’s kingdom. There are several considerations that place this invasion, and beginning of Armageddon, at the 3½-year mark of the tribulation period:

1. The invasion takes place at a time when Israel is dwelling in their own land (Ezek. 38:8).
2. The invasion takes place when Israel is dwelling in peace in the land (Ezek. 38:11). This is confirmed in Daniel 9:27 with the “firm covenant” by the “prince that shall come”.
3. The invasion of Palestine from the north by the King of the North (Dan. 11:40) causes the beast to move into Palestine, which causes the breaking of the covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27; Matt 24:15).
4. Rev. 13:7 pictures the beast as having a world-wide power, this is at the mid-point of the tribulation period.

The Participants

- Ezekiel 38:1- 39:24 details an invasion on Israel / Palestine from the King of the North and her allies. Because of the covenant made between the beast and Israel (Dan. 9:27), an attack on Israel is an attack on the beast. There is general agreement that the King of the North is Russia and her allies are Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Germany and Turkey. This attack is to challenge the uprising power of the beast and to take spoil from the land. This is the beginning of Armageddon’s Campaign.
- Daniel 11:40-45 describes the beast and his armies defending Israel as her protector from the Invasion of the northern confederacy. This passage also shows that the King of the South is joined by the northern alliance, who attacks the “Willful King” by a great force over land and sea (11:40). Jerusalem is destroyed as a result of this attack (Zech. 12:2), and, in turn the armies of the north are destroyed (Ezek. 39; Zech. 12:4). The full armies of the beast move into Palestine (Dan. 11:41) and conquer all of that territory (11: 41-42).
- As the King of the South is being destroyed by the armies of the Beast, Edom, Moab and Ammon alone escape the battle. Ezekiel 39:11-3 details that it will be the Lord Himself who will destroy the Kings of the North in the mountains of Israel. The slaughter will be so bad that it will take seven months to bury the dead bodies (Ezek. 39:12).

- Revelation 16:12 reveals that the drying up of the Euphrates river will make way for the kings of the east to challenge the authority of the beast. It cannot be biblically determined as to who these nations will be. But their coming brings us to the final stage of the campaign of Armageddon. They are brought toward the plain of Esdraelon for the purpose of meeting the armies of the beast in conflict.

- With the King of the South defeated by the armies of the beast and the northern confederacy defeated by the Lord upon the mountains of Israel, we find two opposing forces drawn up in battle array: the armies of the Beast and the armies of the Kings of the East. Before this battle can take place there is a sign in heaven, the sign of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:30). The appearing of this sign causes the Beast and the King of the East to join forces to battle against the Lord Himself (Rev. 19:19). It is at this point that the armies of the Beast and east are destroyed by the Lord (Rev. 19:21). Revelation 14:14-20 describes the Lords battle.

To recap the campaign of Armageddon we observe a number of events:

1. The armies of the northern confederacy are smitten by the Lord.
2. The armies of the beast and the east are slain by the Lord.
3. The beast and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).
4. Unbelievers have been purged out of Israel (Rev. 19:21).
5. Believers have been purged as the result of these invasions (Zech 13:9).
6. Satan is bound (Rev. 20:1-3).

Thus the Lord Jesus destroys every hostile force that would challenge His right to rule as Messiah over the earth. It would do well for the unrepentant to heed the admonition of the Psalmist in 2:12...

Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry,
and you perish in the way,
for His wrath may soon be kindled.
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him.