

THE FINAL BATTLE - WHERE?

Revelation 16:16 Zechariah 12:2-3; 14:2-5

Introduction: The Bible speaks of a battle in Israel at the end of time that will draw armies from all the nations of the world to a place called Armageddon which is by interpretation "hill of Megiddo." There is a flat plain area that is some 15 miles wide and about 36 miles long in the area that runs from Megiddo to Jerusalem. It is this plain that the Bible speaks of all the armies of the world gathering to do war with Israel at the end of time.

There have been many opinions about the prophecy of the coming battle and it is said that some merchants in the Megiddo area have built hotels overlooking the battle area for tourists. It is also said that governments have taken steps to have emergency plans if and when this great battle takes place.

Will such a battle take place? Will armies from all the nations of the world gather at this place? The Bible says so.

I. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SUCH A WORLD-WIDE BATTLE TAKES PLACE?

1. Man's imaginations have created many theories of what will happen and how the world will end. It is said that the world will be destroyed by atomic bombs or perhaps asteroids from outer space and then ecologists say the nature will run wild and bring utter chaos.
2. According to the Bible, it will be God who destroys the world, not man, not asteroids, and a battle at Armageddon will not be the cause of world destruction.
 - God will bring judgment upon this world because every nation has persecuted Israel through the centuries.
 - Also the sinfulness and ungodliness of the world will contribute to why God will destroy the world.
3. Armageddon will be the "gathering place" of all the armies of the world nations.

II. HISTORY REVEALS THAT "MEGIDDO" HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE FOR BATTLES

1. Megiddo ("gathering of troops") overlooks the Jezreel Valley or also known as the Plain of Esdraelon. It is a doorway from the sea into the land of Israel and is on a major trade route.
2. For centuries battles have been fought there:
 - Deborah and her aid, Barak, defeated the Canaanites there.
 - Gideon defeated the Midianites there.
 - King Saul was killed in battle there.
 - King Solomon captured it and kept some of his chariots there.
 - Napoleon said that that area was the greatest natural battlefield in all the world.
3. Megiddo is but the starting place for the final battle, the battle of Armageddon.
 - The battle of all battles will encompass the entire land of Israel.
 - **Revelation 14:20** describes a part of the battle where a river of blood will flow up to the horses' bridles, which is about 4 1/2 feet and run for some 200 miles.

III. WHAT WILL START THIS GREAT FINAL BATTLE?

1. There will be a world-wide leader who will have brought peace to the world, especially Israel.
 - However after 3 1/2 years of peace with Israel, he will break the treaty and declare that he is god and everyone must worship him as such or die.
2. There will be a war in heaven at the same time and Satan will be removed from Heaven and he will indwell the world-wide leader and turn unleash his wrath toward God upon the Jewish people through this world-wide leader whom he has indwelt.
3. All nations will gather together with over 200 million soldiers coming from just one Eastern power source, alone, and begin to march upon Israel. Armies from the Southern hemisphere, Northern hemisphere, and Western hemisphere will join the Eastern hemisphere army and gather on the great plain outside Megiddo.
4. "Something" will cause the armies to unite to fight against God and not only against Israel.
 - God will have destroyed 50% of the world's population by this time through various judgments.

IV. WHAT WILL BRING THE BATTLES TO AN END?

1. God will step in and destroy all the armies gathered on the plains of Jezreel (Esdraelon or Megiddo).
 - Millions of soldiers will die.
 - Blood will indeed be very deep across that land.
2. Jesus will return with His Bride, the Church and set up His rule upon earth.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible says all this is going to happen. So, what is God's Child to do now?
 - Realize that time is getting shorter and shorter till all this happens.
 - Make sure that you know for certain that you belong to God's Family.
 - Belonging to God's Family happens only one way and that is through each person believing in Jesus Christ and entrusting his/her total existence to Him.
 - Be certain that everyone you know, love and care about, also knows Jesus personally, too.
2. Is all this really just science fiction? **NO!** It is from the Bible, God's Word.
 - Pause, take a look at what's going on around you right now. Listen!
 - He is coming! He is coming! He is coming!