

## **Armageddon (Rev 16:14-16)**

### **Intro**

“US adviser warns of Armageddon”. Friday August 16, 2002, The Guardian. Article by Julian Borger in Washington and Richard Norton-Taylor,

“One of the Republican party's most respected foreign policy gurus yesterday appealed for President Bush to halt his plans to invade Iraq, warning of "an Armageddon in the Middle East". The outspoken remarks from Brent Scowcroft, who advised a string of Republican presidents, including Mr Bush's father, represented an embarrassment for the administration on a day it was attempting to rally British public support for an eventual war.”

The week previous John Major warned that the present troubles could bring us to Armageddon.

Now there is talk of either Israel or the USA bombing Iran. Again, in this context, people speak of Armageddon.

In the U.S. it is a topic of current affairs journalists now.

*“What may be potentially the greatest U.S.-born political threat to peace is not terrorist sleeper cells or even the deployment of more U.S. troops to the Middle East. Instead, it's the prolific spread of a brand of fundamentalist Christian “End Times” pseudotheology linked to massive support—military and financial—for the state of Israel. The threat goes by the name Christian Zionism.*

*“According to expert observers and critics, the movement is harnessing incredible religious, political and financial power, thanks largely to highly visible and well-funded preachers, their churches and congregations’ financial commitment. And the implications of Christian Zionism’s belief system-cum-political agenda are frightening.”*

Pat Morrison, [http://www.wrmea.com/archives/April\\_2007/0704058.html](http://www.wrmea.com/archives/April_2007/0704058.html)

Speaking of Armageddon. Interview of USA foreign policy expert Joel C. Rosenberg, in May 2007. [http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the\\_daily\\_dish/2007/05/dobson\\_armagedd.html](http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2007/05/dobson_armagedd.html)

*“...And given the events going on in our world today, people at the Pentagon, people at the CIA, people at the White House are asking to sit down and talk about these issues, to understand the Biblical perspective, because it is uncanny what is happening out there and it deserves some study.”*

In the U.S. Commentators are claiming there are Christians who have moved from forecasting Armageddon to trying to bring it about. They claim such "believers" have become dominant among Republican leaders in Congress from Texas and Oklahoma. They provide moral cover for the Israeli Lobby, which otherwise has lost much of its idealistic support.

According to this group of Christians, Israeli government policies must never be criticized because Israel is doing God's will. But they do criticize any Israeli government which tries to bring peace.

Christians of this type believe that the end of the world will come sooner with their help. They believe that they then will go straight to Heaven without the pain of dying, while the rest of the human race, including Jews who don't convert, will soon be wiped out with great suffering. In their passion for the return of Christ, these people forsake the most fundamental Christian principles of humanity towards human beings and even Christians in the Middle East.

## **What is Armageddon?**

Some Christians will stress that the Bible says that Armageddon is a place, not an event. It is a gathering place. This is pedantic as though they are technically correct, Armageddon has come to be the name of a battle campaign, an event. The end of history as we know it, and the beginning of the new age with Jesus at the head.

“The battle of the great day of God Almighty” (Rev 16:14).

Really it is more than a battle, it is a campaign! The Greek word for battle in Rev 16:14 signifies a war or campaign, not just a battle.

### **1) Location. A place called Armageddon (Rev 16:16)**

The Bible mentions the word *Armageddon* in only one verse: “And He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon” (Revelation 16:16).

Though the New Testament was written in Greek, this is not a Greek word. It comes from two Hebrew words - “*har*” and “*megiddo*.” The word “*har*” means a mountain or hill range, and sometimes used to refer to hill country.

*Megiddo*, or Megiddon, was one of the royal cities of the Canaanites until Joshua captured it.

The hill of Megiddo is west of the Jordan river, ten miles south of Nazareth and 15 miles from the coast. It is in the plain on which many battles in Israel's history have been fought.

- Judges 4&5 - Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites.
- Judges 7 – Gideon defeated the Midianites.
- 1 Sam 31:8 – Saul died there in a battle with the Philistines.
- 2 Kings 9:27 – Ahaziah killed there by Jehu.
- 2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chron 35:22 – Josiah killed there in the invasion by the Egyptians.

### **Other places of battle** (because a battle is not a campaign):

- Joel 3:2,13 – the valley of Jehosaphat, mentioned in Ez 39:11 as the valley of passengers. A main route into Jerusalem.
- Isaiah 34 & 63 – on the route from Edom, south of Jerusalem.
- Zech 12:2-11; 14:2 – Jerusalem

The campaign stretches from the north, below Nazareth, through Jerusalem, extending out to the valley of Jehosaphat on the east and to Edom on the south. In Ez 38:9,16 it says the invaders will “cover the land”.

*8 After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety.*

*9 You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.*

*10 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme.*

*11 You will say, I will invade a land of unvalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people— all of them living without walls and without gates and bars.*

*16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O*

*Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.*

Rev 14:20 speaks of their defeat and slaughter.

## **2) Participants**

There seems to be four great world powers involved:-

- The ten kingdom federation as mentioned last week in the dreams of Neb and Daniel. The leader is known as the “Beast”.
- The northern federation of Russia and her allies.
- The kings of the east, the Asiatic people from beyond the Euphrates.
- The kings of the south, African.

Zech 12:2,3; 14:2,3; Ps 2:2; Isa 34:2; Rev 16:14; 17:14; 19:11,14,15,19,21.

Gog – identification has been debated down the centuries.

## **3) Reasons**

There is an awful period before the end called the Tribulation (some think it lasts 7 years, some think it last only the second half of the seven years). It is described in Daniel 9:26,27 as a period during which a covenant is made with Israel for a seven year period.

*25 Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens', and sixty-two 'sevens'. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.*

*26 After the sixty-two 'sevens', the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.*

*27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*

This will restore Israel to a state of security and will be guaranteed by the Roman powers. This is illustrated by John's revelation (Rev 6:2) as a rider going out to conquer, bringing peace. This peace will last 3 ½ years after which the covenant will be broken by the Roman powers and is followed by a period of another 3 ½ years (Matt 24:21) which is awful due to increased satanic activity (Rev 12:9) as Satan goes to attack (Rev 12:12) Israel and the saints (Rev 12:17)

So much for the above reasons. The real reason is that God deals in judgement with the nations is because of:

- Their persecution of Israel. Joel 3:2 *I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgement against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.*
- Their sinfulness. Rev 19:15 *Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron sceptre. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.*
- Their refusal to repent. Rev 16:9 *They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.*