
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What is the Battle of Armageddon?**

The Battle of Armageddon is actually mentioned seven different times in the Book of Revelation:

- 1) Revelation 7:1-8
- 2) Revelation 9:13-21
- 3) Revelation 11:7-13
- 4) Revelation 14:19-20
- 5) Revelation 16:12-21
- 6) Revelation 19:17-21
- 7) Revelation 20:7-10

This repetition is called "*recapitulation*." Recapitulation means the same story is repeated over and over from different viewpoints. Think about a car wreck at an intersection with several people standing around watching. Each witness sees the wreck, but each one notices some detail the others did not notice. When the testimony of all the witnesses is collected, the investigating officer has a pretty good idea of what happened. The same thing is true here in the Book of Revelation. It tells the same story about the Battle of Armageddon seven times from different viewpoints and each time the reader learns a little bit more about this prophetic event.

The Battle of Armageddon is the story about the end of the world.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

⁷ ... the Lord Jesus [will be] revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Here is the end of the world. The passage says the Lord Jesus comes in "*flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God.*" This passage is discussing the Battle of Armageddon—the final battle when the Lord returns and when the world ends.

According to Revelation 20:7-10 this epic battle will occur at the end of the thousand year reign of Christ—which is the gospel age. The gospel age began:

- After the Lord was crucified, resurrected, and ascended back into heaven.
- He was received by God the Father—"*crowned with glory and honor*" (Hebrews 2:7).
- He was then enthroned at the right hand of God (Hebrews 1:3) and began His reign as "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" (Revelation 19:16).

When the time of the world approaches, fewer and fewer people will be willing to hear the gospel message. False teachers will be teaching lots of false doctrines (Matthew 24:11).

- False teachers will teach false doctrines about how to be saved. People will think they are saved—but they will actually be lost (Matthew 7:23).

- False teachers will teach there will be many churches that are acceptable when the Bible teaches there is only one (Matthew 16:18).
- False teachers will teach there will be many ways to worship God, but there is only one way to worship (John 4:24).

A great persecution will arise against the few believers who will be left on the earth. Satan will be allowed to successfully deceive all the nations into joining together to persecute the true church that is left on the earth. This confederation of all the nations are called "Gog and Magog." Here's the prophecy:

Revelation 20:7-10

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to **gather them together to battle**, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.

⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Notice: All the nations (Gog and Magog) are gathered together. They surround the small number of faithful churches which are still left—still preaching the message of repentance and the truth of the gospel—and just as all these nations are about to wipe the

church off the face of the earth, the Lord returns, fights with them and destroys all the nations, saves His people, and destroys the earth (2 Peter 3:10-13).

This is the Battle of Armageddon. Take time to read the other accounts about this battle for viewpoints from different angles. This Battle and the end of the world is the reason people should obey the gospel of Jesus Christ—in order to be ready when that day comes (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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