The Battle of Armageddon

Re 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Re 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Re 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The field of battle--a place called Armageddon; that is, say some, the mount of Megiddo, near to which, by a stream issuing thence,

Barak overcame Sisera, and all the kings in alliance with him, Jg 5:19.

And in the valley of Megiddo Josiah was slain. This place had been famous for two events of a very different nature, the former very happy for the church of God, the latter very unhappy; but it shall now be the field of the last battle in which the church shall be engaged, and she shall be victorious. This battle required time to prepare for it, and therefore the further account of it is suspended till we come to the nineteenth chapter, Re 19:19,20.

The total number of soldiers to be at the Battle of Armageddon may come from at least the following two sources:

a. 200 million from Asia ([Rev. 9:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+9%3A16));

b. 200 million from Antichrist's western forces.

Ten percent of the U.S. population served in the armed forces during World War II. Ten percent of the present-day 4 billion world population would be 400 million in the armed forces at Armageddon. The result: 400 million casualties!

 This area was the scene of many decisive battles in the history of Israel. Since Mt. Megiddo commands the Jezreel Valley and the plain of Esdraelon, Armageddon represents this entire strategic valley area in North Israel. It is the gateway through the mountains from the North to Jerusalem.

Here Gideon defeated Midian ([Judges 6:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A33)). Here Saul died in battle fighting the Philistines; Saul and Jonathan died on Mt. Gilboa which is in the eastern portion of Megiddo's Jezreel Valley ([1 Samuel 31:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+31%3A1); [2 Samuel 1:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+1%3A6), [21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+1%3A21)). And here Josiah was slain fighting against Pharoah-Necho ([2 Kings 23:29-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+23%3A29-30)).

Summary of Events

The River Euphrates in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq dries up.

Armies from the Orient march toward the Middle East.

Satan incites the world's armies to fight in the Mideast.

They all meet in Megiddo (northern Israel), and war spreads down to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and Red Sea.

The entire world is aflame with nuclear bombardments and supernatural catastrophes.

Christ comes to end all world conflicts with His millennial kingdom.

**(A)—Geography**

Armageddon! It describes anyone's worst fear of the end of the world. It will be the final suicidal battle of a world struggle, centered in the Middle East. It culminates a whole series of tribulational events on a divine doomsday calendar.

"Armageddon" actually means the Mount of Megiddo ([Rev. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A16)). It refers to the Valley of Jezreel or Valley of Esdraelon, which lies in northern Palestine from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean. The valley is about 14 x 20 miles. It is shaped like a rough triangle, which separates the mountains of Carmel from those of Galilee.

Megiddo experienced almost continuous warfare from 4,000 BC to 400 BC. Excavations have uncovered 20 cities, built on top of each other, as fierce warfare left entire cities in ruins.

**(B)—Extent**

The apostle John sees the Armageddon battle lines as stretching for "200 miles" ([Rev. 14:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A9-10)). The only possible span in Palestine is the entire Jordan River Valley, from the southern end of the Sea of Galilee, through the Dead Sea and the dried-up riverbed called "Wadi al Arabah," to the Gulf of Eilat (Aqaba).

Therefore, aside from Megiddo, three other major regions will be engulfed in war: Jerusalem, Dead Sea, and Aqaba.

As Armageddon begins, the greatest period of Jewish revival and conversion starts. Through unprecedented trials and sufferings, the Jews finally see the hand of God and will acknowledge the Messiah Jesus. [Zech. 13:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+13%3A8-9) predicted 1/3 of the Jews turning to Christ.

But Armageddon will not be limited to the land of Israel or the Middle East. As the East and West meet for battle, the greatest shock wave ever to hit the earth will occur. Entire islands and mountains will be blown away ([Rev. 16:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A20)), all cities will collapse ([Rev. 16:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A19)), and incredible weapons are unleashed ([Rev. 16:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A21)).

**(C)—Eastern Armies**

First, the Oriental armies—200 million strong ([Rev. 9:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+9%3A16))—will march into the Middle East. The signal for such a march may be found in Iraq, which controls most of the River Euphrates ([Rev. 16:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A12)).

Second, Satan gathers the world's armies to counter this mobilization of eastern armies. And they all meet at Megiddo. Why in Israel? Perhaps because of the Israeli-Arab conflict, which may drastically cut off the supply of oil to the world. Perhaps it will be the wealth in Israel's Dead Sea.

**(D)—Jerusalem**

The prophets repeatedly reported Jerusalem's involvement in the final war.

Zechariah described the city as surrounded by enemies, with all the peoples of the world against it ([Zech. 12:2-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+12%3A2-10); [Zech. 14:2, 3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14%3A2-3)). The city is like a trembling cup in the hands of a shaking person.

The prophet Joel saw the "Valley of Jehoshaphat" (near Jerusalem) as the site where the Messiah would finally destroy the world's armies ([Joel 3:9-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Joel+3%3A9-14)).

The war clouds extend south through the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba and the beautiful Israeli port of Eilat.

**(E)—Christ's Coming**

As the Battle of Armageddon reaches its climax, when it seems mankind is about to become extinct, Jesus Christ comes ([Rev. 19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19)). The armies on earth turn their weapons against Christ. But it will be useless, for out of His mouth will come "a sharp sword" ([Rev. 19:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A15)), which destroys all opposing forces. It is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Thus, a word from Christ's mouth eliminates all earthly dominions. He will come as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Armageddon's Entrance From All Sides**

Megiddo is located about halfway between Mt. Carmel on the west and Mt. Gilboa on the east in the triangular plain of Esdraelon. Jesus often viewed this plain as He looked across the valley from Nazareth on the north to Megiddo on the south. The size of the plain is about 15 x 15 x 20, miles.

The plain has access on the west to the Mediterranean Sea at the port of Haifa. It also has access to the Jordan Valley through the Valley of Jezreel on the east. The Pass of Megiddo gives access to the south via the Way of the Sea and across the Carmel range. To the north, the ancient route ran northeast from the plain to the Sea of Galilee and then into Syria and Mesopotamia.

Therefore, Armageddon can be entered from all the points of the compass!

**Boundaries Of Armageddon**

The battlefield stretches from Megiddo on the north ([Zech. 12:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+12%3A11); [Rev. 16:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A16)) to Edom on the south ([Isaiah 34:5-6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+34%3A5-6); [Isaiah 63:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+63%3A1)), a distance of approximately 200 miles. It reaches from the Mediterranean sea on the west to the hills of Moab on the east, a distance of almost 100 miles.

It includes the valleys of Jehoshaphat ([Joel 3:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Joel+3%3A2)) and the plains of Esdraelon. And the center of the entire area is the city of Jerusalem ([Zech. 14:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Zec+14%3A1-2)).

The kings with their armies come from the north and the south, from the east and from the west. There is an invasion from hell beneath. And entering the scene at the last moment is an invasion from outer space.

—Herman A. Hoyt

**Climactic Spot Of Armageddon**

Another spot of the Battle of Armageddon pinpointed by the prophet Jeremiah ([Jeremiah 7:31-33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+7%3A31-33), cf. [Jeremiah 19:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+19%3A6)) is Tophet.

Tophet is probably the point—south of Jerusalem—where the valleys of Tyropoeon, of Hinnon, and of Kidron meet. The Talmud places the mouth of hell here. The Arabs also call this lower end of Hinnon "the Valley of Hell." In Jesus' day, the city garbage dump was located here. The fighting in AD 70 ended here. As many as 600,000 bodies of Jews were carried through the Dung Gate to be buried in Tophet.

Tophet may mark the spot where the Battle of Armageddon comes to its climax in the second coming of Christ with His saints.

**Cockpit Of The World**

Belgium is called "the cockpit of Europe" because it has been the site of more European battles than any other country—such as the battles of Oudernarde, Ramillies, Fontenoy, Fleurus, Jemmapes, Ligny, Waterloo, etc.

The plain of Megiddo was also the scene of many decisive battles in Israel's history. Here Gideon defeated Midian ([Judges 6:33](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+6%3A33)). Here Saul died on Mount Gilboa ([1 Samuel 31:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+31%3A1)). Here Josiah was slain against Pharoah-Necho ([2 Kings 23:29-30](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ki+23%3A29-30)).

Here also, battles have occurred between Egyptians and Assyrians, between Babylonians and Greeks, between Seleucids and Ptolemies, between Romans and Arabs, between Crusaders and Turks.

Napoleon called this area "the world's greatest natural battlefield" because of the ideal terrain for the world's armies to maneuver.

**"Greatest Natural Battlefield"**

The mountain of Megiddo is east of Mt. Carmel in the northern part of Israel. From this site, a vast plain stretches from the Mediterranean Sea eastward across the northern part of Israel. Perhaps the low mountains around here were witnesses of more bloody fights than any other spot on earth!

**Marathon, Tours, Armageddon**

The ancient Battle of Marathon decided that the civilization of Europe should be Greek and not Persian. Long afterwards, at the Battle of Tours, Europe was saved from the encroachments of the Muslims. At the final Battle of Armageddon, the forces of the Antichrist and of the whole world will be stopped by the King of Kings and Lord of Lords from heaven.

**Napoleon's Russian Campaign**

One of the most interesting and significant objects in the world is a simple shaft of granite which stands near the highway at Wilna, on the western boundary of Russia. It bears two inscriptions in the Russian language. On the side that faces westward are these words:

"Napoleon Bonaparte passed this way in 1812 with 410,000 men."

On the side facing eastward is this:

"Napoleon Bonaparte passed this way in 1812 with 9,000 men."

At the end of the Battle of Armageddon, however, there would be no survivors among Antichrist's and the world's armies.

**Pres. Reagan Believes In Armageddon**

In one of the most peculiar twists of the 1984 presidential campaign, St. John's apocalyptic vision of the "End Times" emerged as a political issue. During the final presidential debate, Panelist Marvin Kalb of NBC asked Ronald Reagan, "Do you feel that we are now heading, perhaps, for some kind of nuclear Armageddon?"

While Nancy Reagan gasped, "Oh, no!" to companions, the President answered that, yes, he had chatted with people about "the biblical prophecies of what would portend the coming of Armageddon, and a number of theologians have believed that this was true, that the prophecies are coming together that portend that."

But he added soothingly, "No one knows that these prophecies mean that Armageddon is a thousand years away or the day after tomorrow. So I have never seriously warned and said we must plan according to Armageddon."

Accordingly, more than 100 religious figures, many from the antinuclear left held a Washington press conference to declare it "profoundly disturbing" that high political leaders "might identify with extremists who believe that nuclear war is inevitable and imminent." They also attacked the religious right for supposedly believing "that reconciliation with America's adversaries is ultimately futile."

—Time

**The Doomsday Clock**

The so-called Doomsday Clock first appeared on the cover of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist in 1947, and was set at 11:53 p.m. The clock, created by the magazine's board of directors, represents the threat of nuclear annihilation, with midnight as the time of destruction.

In 1953, just after the United States tested the hydrogen bomb, it was set at 11:58 p.m., the closest to midnight ever.

In 1991, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, it was moved back to 11:43 p.m., the farthest from midnight the clock has ever been.

However, in 1995, the clock was shifted forward to [11:47](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+11%3A47), reflecting the instability of the post-cold-war world.

**Valley Of Jehoshaphat**

The prophet Joel pinpointed the "Valley of Jehoshaphat" as one area of the end-time battle. No one really knows where this valley is located. But since the 4th century A.D., it has been identified with the Valley of Kidron, which ran down, the eastern side of Jerusalem.

In the Kidron Valley, just below the sealed eastern gate of Jerusalem, several tombs can be seen. This spot has been the favorite burial ground of Jews for thousands of years, for they believe that the trumpets of universal resurrection and final judgment would be sounded from here. This is the most sacred burial spot for Jews.

**Epigram On Armageddon**

Definition of Armageddon: "when right will be all that's left."

**Life Of The Antichrist**

Briefly sketched, the following are the salient points in the life history of the future Antichrist:

1. Inconspicuous beginning—[Daniel 7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8), [24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24); [Rev. 6:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+6%3A1-2).
2. Makes treaty with Jews for Seven Years—[Isaiah 28:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+28%3A15), [18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+28%3A18); [Daniel 9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27).
3. Overcomes some resistance in uniting Europe—[Daniel 7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A20), [24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A24).
4. Becomes head of 10-nation European Confederacy—[Rev. 13:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A1); [Rev. 17:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A12-13).
5. Attacked by Kings of the South and the North, and is killed—[Daniel 11:40-43](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A40-43).
6. His deadly head wound is healed—[Rev. 13:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A1), [12-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A12-14).
7. He becomes world ruler—[Rev. 13:7b](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A7); [Rev. 17:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A9), [11-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A11-14), [17, 18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A17-18); [Rev. 18:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+18%3A2), [10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+18%3A10), [16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+18%3A16).
8. Breaks Jewish treaty and stops temple sacrifices—[Daniel 9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27).
9. Kills the Two Witnesses—[Rev. 11:3-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A3-7).
10. Usurps divine worship—[2 Thes. 2:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A4); [Matthew 24:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A15).
11. Persecuted the Jews—[Daniel 7:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A21-22); [Jeremiah 30:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+30%3A7).
12. Kills the 144,000 Evangelists—[Rev. 14:1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A1-5).
13. Destroys the World Church—[Rev. 17:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A16-17).
14. Defeated at Armageddon by Christ—[Rev. 17:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A14); [Rev. 19:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A19).
15. Cast alive into the Lake of Fire—[Rev. 19:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A20); [Rev. 20:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A10).

**Is Antichrist Present Now?**

1. A citizen of a country on top of the old Roman Empire (Europe).
2. Possibly Jewish ([Daniel 11:37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A37) "the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women").
3. Start small and insignificant ("little horn").
4. A godless person with semblance of religiosity.
5. Extremely manipulative and cunning, with great skills in concealing true motives.
6. If Rapture is soon, surely at least age 20 (as Europe would most likely not accept a teenager).

**Character Of The Antichrist**

The personal character of the Antichrist may be described as follows:

1. High intelligence—[Rev. 13:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A18); [Daniel 7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8).
2. Great speaking ability—[Daniel 7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8); [Rev. 13:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A5).
3. Crafty political talents—[Daniel 9:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A27); [Rev. 17:12-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A12-13), [17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A17).
4. Strong physical appearance—[Daniel 7:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A20).
5. Military genius—[Rev. 13:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A4); [Rev. 17:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+17%3A14); [Rev. 19:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A19).
6. Morally, the worse personage
7. Materialistic—[Daniel 11:38](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A38)
8. Blasphemer—[Rev. 13:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A6)
9. Against the Law—[2 Thes. 2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A8)
10. Selfish ambition—[Daniel 11:36-37](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A36-37); [2 Thes. 2:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A4).
11. Tries to change prophecy and history—[Daniel 7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25)
12. Substitutes self for God—[Daniel 11:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A36); [2 Thes. 2:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A4).

**Antichrist's Other Names**

1. The Wicked One ([Psalm 10:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+10%3A2-4))
2. The Assyrian ([Isaiah 10:5-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Isa+10%3A5-12))
3. Little Horn ([Daniel 7:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A8))
4. King of Fierce Countenance ([Daniel 8:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A23))
5. Prince that shall come ([Daniel 9:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A26))
6. Vile Person ([Daniel 11:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A21))
7. Willful King ([Daniel 11:36](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A36))
8. Abomination of Desolation ([Matthew 24:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A15))
9. False Christ ([Matthew 24:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+24%3A23))
10. Son of Perdition ([2 Thes. 2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A3))
11. Man of Sin ([2 Thes. 2:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A3))
12. Man of Lawlessness ([2 Thes. 2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Th+2%3A8))
13. Angel of the Bottomless Pit ([Rev. 9:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+9%3A11))
14. Beast Out of the Sea ([Rev. 11:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A7); [Rev. 13:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+13%3A1-10))