

Armageddon

1. Question #1 – Will There Be a battle of Armageddon?

Regarding biblical prophecy this is the most important question. Is this true? What does the Bible say?

(Rev 16:12-16) ¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; ¹⁴ for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ¹⁵ ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.") ¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

Revelation 19 shows us a snapshot of this battle.

(Rev. 19:11-20) ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. ¹³ He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. ¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. ¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." ¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

2. Question #2: WHERE will the battle of Armageddon be fought.

This is more of a question of interest and curiosity rather than essential.

Most evangelicals say this battle will occur in the Jezreel valley. Let's consider some clues we are given in the Bible.

- From the word "Har" which means mountain we can surmise that the battle will take place in a hilly region or adjacent to a mountain. The valley of Jezreel is surrounded by a number of mountain ranges and a number of battles have been fought there.
 - Barak fought the Canaanites, a people known for living in depravity (Judges 4:15)
 - Saul and his sons perished in battle (1 Samuel 31:8) against the Philistines, one of Israel's most known and infamous enemies
 - Pharaoh Necho of Egypt, of whom Israel has had a tumultuous history, killed Josiah, one of the few good kings of Judah who turned the nation back to God (2 Chronicles 35:22).
 - Due to Israel's history in the valley of Jezreel this is where most assume the location will be.
- Megiddo is mentioned twelve times in the Old Testament, ten times in reference to the ancient city of Megiddo and twice with reference to "the plain of Megiddo", which most likely simply means "the plain next to the city".

However: The clearest parallel to the battle of Armageddon found in the bible is in 2 Kings 19 where the Angel of the Lord kills Sennacherib's army of 185,000 during the reign of Hezekiah, not in Jezreel.

When Sennacherib's 185,000 are slain by the Angel of Jehovah, that is a shadow of the final Har-Magedon. When God grants a little handful of Maccabees a glorious victory over an enemy which far outnumbers it, that is a type of Har-Magedon. But the real, the great, the final Har Magedon coincides with the time of Satan's little season. Then the world, under the leadership of Satan, anti-Christian government, and anti-Christian religion – the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet – is gathered against the Church for the final battle, and the need is greatest; when God's children, oppressed on every side, cry for help; then suddenly, Christ will appear on the clouds of glory to deliver his people; that is Har-Magedon. [William Hendriksen, More Than Conquerors, p. 163.]

Here are some reasons to consider that perhaps the Battle of Armageddon could be somewhere else rather than in the valley of Jezreel beside Megiddo.

- Megiddo is a tell, not a mountain.
- Consider Zechariah's picture of this great battle.
 - ***⁹ "And in that day I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. ¹⁰ "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and***

they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. ¹¹ "In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zech. 12:9-11)

- This scripture seems to say that it will be “like” in the plain (not mountain) of Megiddo.
- This is a bit more complicated.
 - John (who is writing in Greek to Greek readers) tells us that “Har-Megedon” is a Hebrew term. This phrase “in the Hebrew” was included to inform John’s Greek speaking audience so that they would better understand. (John also uses this technique when he mentions Golgatha (John 19:13), Calvary (John 19:17), Bethsaida (John 5:2), and when Mary calls Jesus “Rabboni (John 20:16).”
 - Why? Because of the transliterations from one language to another. Har-Mageddon is John transliterating a Hebrew word into a Greek word and we have it now transliterate/translated into English.

In the Greek Har-Magedon looks like: Ἄρμαγεδών. ‘(H) A(a) ρ(r) μ(m) α (a) γ(g) ε(e) δ(d) ώ(o) ν(n). You will note that the absence of “h” in the Greek is where we get the word Armageddon in the KJV.

John says that his word is the Hebrew is Har-Magedon that means it has been transliterated into Greek and it is 2 words that are hyphenated.

Har (which means Mount of ...) and magedon ... but what is magedon? Historically this question has been answered “Megiddo”, let me show you why I think that is wrong.

- In the English when you hear ‘magedon’ it sounds a lot like Megiddo which is a valley not a mountain.
- In Zechariah text, it is crystal clear that this final conflict occurs at Jerusalem, not Megiddo and Megiddo is referenced only as a comparison of the awful sorrow and mourning that is coming.

Again, I believe the key to understanding this is remembering what John tells us—this word comes from the Hebrew.

- a. **ט ג נ (M-mem; G-gimel; D-daleth)** the confusion comes because the Hebrew (unlike the Greek and English) and another kind of “g” and it is the letter **ג (G-‘ayin)—this “g” is a hard “g”** the sound is in the back of the throat.

- b. Gomorrah, Gaza, are just two familiar names in the OT that begin with the 'ayin not the gimel.
- c. In the Hebrew, the vowels are not provided, only the consonants ... the vowels were understood by those who spoke the language. If this word is **ט ג מ**—then it would be **Megid** so possibly mean Megiddo. But if it is **ט ע מ** the word would be **Mo'ed**—which is a word that means “assembly.”
- d. So, John is referring to either: **Mount of Megiddo** or **Mount of Assembly**.

(Isa. 14:13)"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north."

(Psa. 48:1-2) Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, In the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion in the far north, The city of the great King.

(Zec 14:4-5) In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

I believe John is speaking about a climactic battle in Jerusalem. Why? Because Jerusalem is a mountain—Mount Zion.

The record is that Satan has wanted to be God and take what rightly belongs to God... this battle of which John and Zechariah speak of will be Satan's one last effort to defeat Jesus and put his throne where Jesus promises He will rule... it is a battle for all the supernatural and earthly marbles—Megiddo doesn't fit that profile Jerusalem does.