

# Armageddon

## Key verses

● “...which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

Rev.16:14-16

## What does 'Armageddon' mean?

Armageddon is the English form of the Hebrew word '**har-mageddon**' which is a combination of two words, 'har' and 'megiddow'.

The Hebrew word '**har**' means, '**a hill**'

The Hebrew word '**megiddow**' means, '**to gather**'

So a literal dictionary meaning for the word Armageddon is, '**the hill of Megiddow**' or '**the hill of gathering**'. The ancient city of Megiddow overlooks the Jezreel valley where many battles were fought in biblical times. God is using this city and the valley **as symbols** of the last great battle which will be fought in the Middle East.

'**A heap of sheaves in the valley for threshing**' is also a suggested meaning for the word Armageddon. This meaning is taking into account the agricultural nature of the Jezreel valley and the concept of gathering for threshing. **Threshing** or **burning sheaves** are two ways that Scripture symbolises God's punishments in the Armageddon period (Mic.4:12-13; Isa.27:12; Zech.12:6).

## Why the need for Armageddon?

For thousands of years people have ignored God's instructions on how we should live. These instructions were also revealed through God's Son and can be found in Matthew chapter 5 to chapter 7. Jesus calls these instructions, His "word" or "sayings", and they are all designed to make life better for us, and help us do as He would do under the differing circumstances of life.

● “**If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.**” John 14:23

Human beings have ignored Jesus' Word down through the ages, hence the immense amount of bloodshed and warfare which is still a fact of life in this century.

The prophet Isaiah put it this way:

● “**Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness...**” Isa.26:10

The Bible tells us that in the latter days the bulk of the military might of the world will be gathered to the Middle East **against the city of Jerusalem**, for the final battle; a battle where God will intervene with the power of **His recently returned Son and the forces of nature** (Zech.ch14; Joel ch3). You will note that it is man and his military might that initiates the battle of Armageddon and God who finally humbles His foes.

## 'Peace and safety!'

● “**For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them...**” 1 Thess.5:3

The above verse appears in Scripture in the context of, “...**the day of the Lord**”, when Jesus returns. It appears that just prior to the Armageddon period there will be a claim that “peace” has finally come. The world witnessed a similar claim just before the second world war when the British prime minister had been to meet Hitler, and said, “I believe it is peace for our time”. Within twelve months, war in Europe was a reality. **Real world peace will only be achieved on God's terms**, as we can see in the following verses from the prophet Isaiah:

● “**For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**” Isa.26:9

● “**The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.**” Isa.32:17

● “**He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**” Isa.2:4 Please read all of Isaiah ch2.

## 'Last days' prophecies

Although the word “Armageddon” is only mentioned once in the Bible, you will note that many Bible prophecies describe this last-days time period in graphic detail.

### Here are some Old Testament Prophecies:

Isaiah 26:19 to ch27:1; Jeremiah 25:30-33;  
Ezek.ch36-ch39; Joel ch3; Zechariah ch12-ch14; Malachi ch4

### Here are some New Testament Prophecies:

Matthew 24:15-31; Luke 17:26-37, ch21:25-36;  
2 Thess.1:7-10; Jude v14-15; Revelation 16:12-21, ch19:11-21

By combining all the information given in these prophecies we can build up our own personal vision of the Armageddon period, including Jesus' return, and the period of peace to follow. The Old Testament prophecies give us **general details of the last days** of human government, while the New Testament prophecies are more to do with warning us to be **ready for Jesus' return** and to be careful of our standing before God.

## Which nations will be involved?

We cannot tell exactly which nations will be involved at Armageddon, but we do know that they will be nations from the **whole habitable earth** (Rev.16:14). If you read carefully each Armageddon times prophecy you will notice that **God only names the nations that were enemies of Israel at the time the prophecy was given**. This makes sense seeing that there may be nations that did not exist in biblical times that may well be involved in this future time of conflict.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.