

# The History and Significance of Premillennialism

## Lesson #11 The Battle of Armageddon<sup>0657</sup>

### I. Introduction

The battle of Armageddon is much more complex than is commonly assumed by many Christians. It is a campaign of battles covering approximately the whole 3 ½ years of the second half of the tribulation. It is true that at Christ's return this battle will resolve the whole world wide strife that has carried on preceding this.

"It has been held commonly that the battle of Armageddon is an isolated event transpiring just prior to the second advent of Christ to the earth. The extent of this great movement in which God deals with "the kings of the earth and of the whole world" (Rev. 16:14) will not be seen unless it is realized that the "battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14) is not an isolated battle, but rather a campaign that extends over the last half of the tribulation period. The Greek word *polemos*, translated "battle" in Revelation 16:14, signifies a war or campaign, while *mache* signifies a battle, and sometimes even single combat. This distinction is observed by Trench,<sup>1</sup> and is followed by Thayer<sup>2</sup> and Vincent.<sup>3</sup> The use of the word *polemos* (campaign) in Revelation 16:14 would signify that the events that culminate at the gathering at Armageddon at the second advent are viewed by God as one connected campaign."

Dwight Pentecost; *Things to Come*; p. 340

### II. The Greek Language Basis of This Concept of an Extended Military Campaign

**Rev 16:13-16 Armageddon** <sup>13</sup>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; <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>("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.") <sup>16</sup>And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon. NASU **Note: Armageddon's description continues through Rev 19:21**

**Greek Interlinear:** **the war** πολεμον *polemon* (Str. 4171) 18x; meaning war. Sometimes it is translated as battle, but the word μαχη *mache* (Str. 3163) 4x; meaning a fight, a battle, a conflict.

**KJV** translates this phrase as **the battle**; **NIV** translates this phrase as **the battle**  
**ESV** translates this phrase as **for battle**; **ASV** translates this phrase as **the war** along with the NASU.

Why does this difference matter so much? In order to accommodate Ezekiel's prophecy of an extensive set of Kingdoms and battles by armies on the earth performed over many months and even years leading up to a final defeat by the Christ and His army of saints and angels that finish off the various armies of the earth at a place called "Harmageddon" (αρμαγεδδον) meaning the hill or mountain of Megiddo.

**Note: Breathing marks** <https://greekforall.com/learn-biblical-greek-grammar/biblical-greek-alphabet/>

"If a word in Greek starts with a vowel, diphthong or a letter ρ it must have a *breathing mark* written above it. It is placed above the vowels and "rho" [ρ], and above the second letter in the diphthongs.

Greek has two breathing marks. It can be either **rough** or **smooth**.

*The rough breathing mark* ( <sup>ˆ</sup> ) indicates that the first sound will have an initial "h" sound.

*The smooth breathing mark* ( <sup>ˊ</sup> ) indicates that this initial "h" sound is absent.

**For example:**

ἔν	[hén]	one
ἐν	[en]	in
ἡμέρα	[heméra]	day
ἕξ	[héks]	six
ἀνὴρ	[anér]	man, husband

Initial ρ and υ always have the rough breathing mark. If a word has two ρρ letters in it, the first one has a *smooth* and the second a *rough* breathing mark, respectively. The breathing mark above ρ is silent.

**For example:** ὕδωρ [húdor] *water*  
ῥῆμα [réma] *word*  
ἐρρώμενος [erroménos] *strong, vigorous*

It is true that in a technical sense Armageddon is a single, final battle between Christ and the remaining world powers at the very end of the tribulation. But it must be understood that this single final battle is the direct culmination of at least 3 ½ years of military campaigns that proceed it (Ezek 38-39) and provide the military and spiritual context to the meaning and conclusion of the matter by Jesus, the Christ, being crowned as earthly ruler to sit on David's throne, the King of all.

“The word *Armageddon* appears only once in the [Greek New Testament](#), in [Revelation 16:16](#). The word is transliterated to Greek from [Hebrew](#) *har mageddô* (הַר מַגִּידוֹ), *har* ([Strong](#) H2022) meaning "a mountain or range of hills (sometimes used figuratively): - hill (country), mount (-ain), X promotion." This is a shortened form of *harar* ([Strong](#) H2042) "to loom up; a mountain; -hill, mount". *Megiddo* ([Strong](#) מִגִּדּוֹ H4023) /meg-id-do/' "Megiddon or Megiddo, a place of crowds."<sup>[6]</sup> The name refers to a fortification made by [King Ahab](#) (869–850 BC) that dominated the [Plain of Jezreel](#).<sup>[7]</sup> **Wikipedia**; “*Armageddon*”

### III. The Invasion of the Northern Confederacy and Allies

A. Apparently is that during the end part of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist is at peace with Israel, a northern confederacy of Gentile nations, rises against Israel and thus against the policies of Rome under the rule of Antichrist, begins an extended campaign to destroy Israel, killing them all, and recovering the land occupied by Israel with some agreement with and support of a Confederation of allies. These kings of the northern confederation represent:

B. The Northern Confederacy; (Ezek 38:2-6)

Gog, king of the land of Magog is the prince of:

1. Rosh – Russia - ruled by the man Gog
2. Meshech – modern day region of Moscow
3. Tubal – modern day region of Tobolsk the earliest province of Asiatic Russia.
4. Magog - Scythians of Armenia (Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 327)
5. Persia - First nation federated with Russia. Modern Iran (Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 328)
6. Ethiopia - 9x referring to the area in Africa; 11x refers to the land of Cush a portion of Arabia. (Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 329)
7. Put - Probably Libya in north Africa on the Mediterranean. (Things to Come by Pentecost; p. 329)

These kingdoms will be defeated by the Roman empire in accordance with God's sovereign purpose and God and his princes will die in the land of Israel.

C. Kings of the East, in the lands beyond the Euphrates. Not specifically identified as to kings or nations, just those who are to the east of the Euphrates river.

D. There will also be a confederation of kings from the south that will be opposed to Rome and Israel will be the focus of this campaign being led by Russia.

Here is the result of this attack on God's chosen people, Israel, by the Northern Confederation and their allies in the middle of the Tribulation.

**Ezek 38:14-23** "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, thus says the Lord God, on that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it? <sup>15</sup>You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army; <sup>16</sup>and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog." <sup>17</sup>Thus says the Lord God,

*"Are you the one of whom I spoke in former days through My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them?" <sup>18</sup>It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord God, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. <sup>19</sup>In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. <sup>20</sup>The fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse and every wall will fall to the ground. <sup>21</sup>I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares the Lord God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. <sup>22</sup>With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone. <sup>23</sup>I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am the Lord."*

**Ezek 39:1-8** *And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal; <sup>2</sup>and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and bring you against the mountains of Israel. <sup>3</sup>I will strike your bow from your left hand and dash down your arrows from your right hand. <sup>4</sup>You will fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops and the peoples who are with you; I will give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. <sup>5</sup>You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken," declares the Lord God. <sup>6</sup>And I will send fire upon Magog and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the Lord. <sup>7</sup>My holy name I will make known in the midst of My people Israel; and I will not let My holy name be profaned anymore. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. <sup>8</sup>Behold, it is coming and it shall be done," declares the Lord God. "That is the day of which I have spoken."*

All of this is God's sovereign plan and purpose. After this northern confederation and its allies are defeated by God, utilizing Rome under the rule of Antichrist will bring about a final battle by all the nations and kings against God, which battle is called Armageddon. Here is God's purpose in allowing this attack led by the Northern Confederacy and its allies and their subsequent defeat:

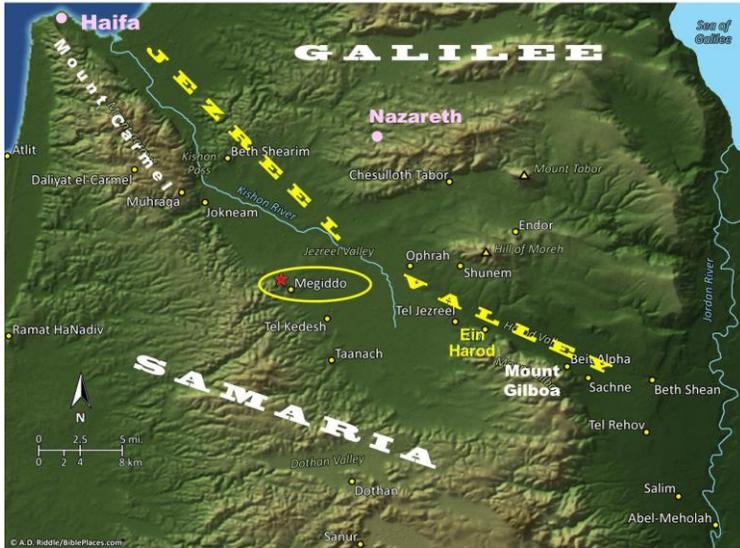
**Ezek 39:25-29** ***Israel Restored** Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. <sup>26</sup>They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. <sup>27</sup>When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. <sup>28</sup>Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. <sup>29</sup>I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord God.*

Here is great mercy by God toward His people and a warning to the Gentile nations, and yet they will ignore this great mercy by God!

#### **IV. The Final Battle Against the Kings of the Earth Led by Rome, Under Antichrist's Rule**

The Invasion by the LORD and His Armies – Armageddon occurs with Christ's return to the earth in power and glory with His heavenly armies. It is a single battle, not a campaign as the previous conflicts have been.

In this battle, all of the kings of the earth and their armies are assembled at a single place to defeat the coming Christ who will ruin all of their various rulings. This place is called Armageddon, a valley of Jezreel overlooked by the town (fortress) of Megiddo. Christ must be stopped! This is laughable!!



**Notice:** The town of Megiddo;  
 The Jezreel Valley;  
 Nazareth in Galilee;  
 Tel Jezreel;  
 The Sea of Galilee;  
 The Jordan River;  
 The Mediterranean Sea;

## V. Sequence of Events Surrounding the Actual Battle of Armageddon:

### 1. Armageddon takes pace immediately after the Tribulation.

**Matt 24:29-31** *"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>30</sup>And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. <sup>31</sup>And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.*

### 2. Heaven will open and Christ will appear on a white horse.

**Rev 19:11-19** *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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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." <sup>19</sup>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.*

### 3. Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives.

**Zech 14:3-5** *Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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!*

#### **4. The Beast (Antichrist) and his armies will confront Christ.**

**Rev 19:19-21** *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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

#### **5. Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years.**

**Rev 20:1-3** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup>And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup>and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

### **VI. Conclusion:**

**Titus 2:11-15** *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, <sup>12</sup>instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup>looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, <sup>14</sup>who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds. <sup>15</sup>These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*

This faith in the doctrine of God's faithfulness to even Israel and the certainty of Christ's dominion and rule over this very earth is **an essential part of our faith that we must not disregard!**

### **Important Quotes**

The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age is the prominent chiliasm, or millenarianism, that is the belief of a visible reign of Christ in glory on earth with the risen saints for a thousand years, before the general resurrection and judgment. It was indeed not the doctrine of the church embodied in any creed or form of devotion, but a widely current opinion of distinguished teachers.

**Philip Schaff**; *History of the Christian Church, II*, 614 - found in *Pentecost's Things to Come*; p 374.

re. the doctrine of God's sovereignty - This refutes the wicked charge that this teaching is a horrible misrepresentation of God and dangerous to expound to His people. Can a doctrine be horrible and dangerous that gives God His true place, maintains His rights, magnifies His grace, attributes all glory to Him, and removes every ground of boasting from the creature? Can a doctrine be horrible and dangerous which affords the saints a sense of security in danger, that supplies them comfort in sorrow, that begets patience within them in adversity, that evokes from them praise at all times? Can a doctrine be horrible and dangerous which assures us of the certain triumph of good over evil, and which provides a sure resting-place for our hearts, and that places the perfections of the Sovereign Himself? No, a thousand times no! Instead of being "horrible and dangerous" this doctrine of the sovereignty of God is glorious and edifying, and a due comprehension of it will but serve to make us exclaim with Moses, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" Ex 15:11

**A. W. Pink**; from *The Sovereignty of God*; p. 256