

16:14, 16, refers to the unifying of religionists of all kinds, world-wide, against Bible truth. God's destruction of the wicked is also world-wide. It is not limited to some small battle area in Palestine.

The battle of Armageddon, in which the wicked are destroyed, is described in Revelation 1:7; 6:14-17; 14:19, 20; 16:17-21; 17:14 and 19:11-21. The wicked are about to destroy God's people when the Lord returns and the wicked are instead, destroyed in what is called ARMAGEDDON. At the close of the 1000 years (see Lesson 7) the wicked still have the same bitter hatred of God and His people and the same desire to destroy them. So they surround the Holy City to capture it. At that point, the final portion of Armageddon takes place as the wicked are destroyed by fire, Revelation 20:9.

COMING AS A THIEF

The warning here is that unless we daily seek the Lord and keep our relationship with Him at top priority we could end up surprised and lost in that great day.

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS

SINCE THE PLAGUES CONVERT NO ONE, WHY DOES GOD SEND THEM?

The plagues will make very clear where every person stands by his own free choice. The sin problem will not be settled in God's universe until it becomes totally clear to all that Satan's charges against God are false, and that HIS plan for people brings only heartache, tragedy and woe. Further, it must become clear that every person on earth really decides his own destiny by his own choice. Those who are lost would never choose to change no matter what God did to influence them, Isaiah 3:10, 11.

The plagues, which would wake up a sincere, but misguided person, only confirm the wicked in their rebellion. During the seventh plague they are still blaspheming God, Revelation 16:21. Thus they reveal the spirit of rebellion which fully controls their lives. Sin cannot safely be destroyed until angels, men and the inhabitants of unfallen worlds* all see clearly that Satan is an incurable rebel and deceiver, I Corinthians 4:9; that God is loving, just and caring, and that all rewards or punishments are given based on people's own choices, Isaiah 3:10, 11.

The final events of earth prove that the saints would rather die than deny faith in Jesus, and that the wicked would, if permitted, kill God's people because of their rebellion and hatred of God. Thus, it will be demonstrated what the universe would be like if Satan were in control. At long last, all beings will be totally clear in regards to God's marvellous plan for people and His justice in dealing with those who rebel against Him. Finally, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess, including Satan and his angels, that God has been just and kind, and that every lost human being and angel is lost because he wilfully chose a life-style of rebellion even after fully understanding the folly of sin and disobedience. Then, and only then, can sin and sinner safely be destroyed. See Romans 14:11 and Philippians 2:10, 11.

* For Scripture regarding other worlds see: Hebrews 1:2; Isaiah 40:22; 45:18.

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THE SIXTH PLAGUE - ARMAGEDDON

Even non-church people discuss Armageddon. It is, perhaps, the most widely discussed battle of all time. But what is it? Five points should be covered to clarify this plague:

1. **The drying up of the Euphrates**, Revelation 16:12.
2. **The kings of the East**, Revelation 16:12.
3. **The three unclean spirits from the mouth of the beast, dragon and false prophet**, Revelation 16:13, 14.
4. **Gathered to Armageddon**, Revelation 16:14, 16.
5. **Coming as a thief**, Revelation 16:15.

Let us review these points separately.

THE DRYING UP OF THE EUPHRATES

OLD BABYLON was situated upon the EUPHRATES river, Jeremiah 51:12, 13, 63, 64. Cyrus, commander in chief of the Medo-Persian armies, dammed up the river which flowed beneath the city walls, and thus his army gained entrance to the city at night and conquered it, [see Daniel, chapter 5]. WATER, in prophecy, represents people, Revelation 17:15. THE DRYING UP OF THE WATER OF THE EUPHRATES means that the support of the people who are followers of Satan's kingdom (which is spiritual Babylon, as we learned in Lesson 21) will be dried up. Disillusioned, they part company with their leaders. The LITERAL drying up of the river takes place under the extreme heat of the fourth plague, Joel 1:19-20.

THE KINGS OF THE EAST

The words, KINGS OF THE EAST, refer to King Jesus and certain of those who assist Him in heaven who are also called kings in Revelation 1:6 and Revelation 5:10. The EAST, in prophecy, refers to heaven. The

glory of God came from the east in Ezekiel 43:2. The angel of Revelation 7:2 comes from the east. Cyrus, who conquered earthly Babylon, came from the east, Isaiah 46:11; 41:2; 44:28; 45:1. Cyrus represents Jesus and His kings who come from the east (heaven) to destroy spiritual Babylon. The "way of the kings of the east", Revelation 16:12, is prepared by the drying up of the support of Babylon by its adherents. In other words, the people's disgust with and turning away from Babylon, prepare the way for Jesus' coming.

THE THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS FROM THE MOUTH OF THE BEAST, DRAGON AND FALSE PROPHET

THE BEAST IS THE PAPACY (see Lesson 19). Revelation 19:20 makes it clear that THE FALSE PROPHET IS FALLEN PROTESTANTISM, which is pictured in Revelation 13:11-17, being led by America, (Lesson 19 also discusses this). THE DRAGON, though primarily Satan, also REPRESENTS old Pagan Rome and thus PAGANISM IN GENERAL. So the picture here is of Catholicism, apostate Protestantism and Paganism (all the religions of the world) being united by spirits of devils who work through them to prepare people world-wide to attack God's people and thus God, Himself. Great miracles will be wrought through these spirits of devils to endeavour to prove that their work is of God.

GATHERED TO ARMAGEDDON

ARMAGEDDON means MOUNT OF SLAUGHTER OR DESTRUCTION. It comes from two Hebrew words: HAR, which means "mount" and MEGIDDO, which means "slaughter" or "destruction". Megiddo is a small, strategically located valley in northern Palestine, where several decisive battles were fought. Its literal location means nothing here, however, because all the Old Testament locations mentioned in Revelation are symbolic. Examples are Babylon, Egypt, Sodom and Euphrates. In the last great battle, "the kings of the earth and of the whole world are involved". No little spot in Palestine could hold them. Jeremiah 25:31 calls it the Lord's "controversy with the nations".

The entire sinful world is arraigned on one side with Satan as its leader, and on the other side, the kings of the east (Jesus and His kings). Armageddon refers to the destruction or slaughter of the unsaved at Jesus' second coming. The "gathering" together for the battle of Revelation