

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 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.

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Suppose that on a dark, rainy night you were speeding along the highway in your automobile. Suddenly, seven red lights loomed up out of the darkness. They were stretched across the road in front of you. Would you stop? Of course, you would. Red lights signify emergency, danger and disaster.

In Revelation, chapters 15 and 16, God has stretched seven brilliant red lights across the road to the future. He is saying, "Stop! Look! Listen! Pray! Seven terrible scourges or plagues lie just ahead. Beware!"

Television sometimes warns that sensitive people may find a certain program offensive. Likewise, we must alert you that the contents of this lesson are not pleasant to ponder. The lesson is, in fact, shocking. The seven plagues are horrible, grim, unnerving and upsetting. Most would prefer to look the other way.

But GOD intended that we should soberly consider these awesome plagues, so He dedicated two chapters of the great book of Revelation to their presentation. And, in Revelation 1:3, He pronounced a blessing upon all who take heed to the warnings and messages of the book. Certainly God would not waste two chapters of His last message to the church on something nonessential. He included the plagues for very good reasons.

God is loving, forgiving, caring, kind, patient and gracious beyond description. But people often misunderstand His love. There is extreme danger in viewing God as a benevolent grandfather who can see nothing wrong with His earthly grandchildren, no matter what they do. The death of Jesus is proof that God does not count sin a small thing. It will be dealt with in no uncertain terms. Its continued existence would jeopardize the universe.

God DOES draw lines. We had better understand this. He drew a line once in Egypt centuries ago and sent ten devastating plagues upon the people. He is about to draw a line again. This time, seven severe and terrible scourges will smite this earth and its people.

Thank God there **IS** a way of escape! The purpose of this lesson is to clearly reveal that escape mechanism.

THE WRATH OF GOD

1. What are the seven plagues called? Revelation 15:1

Ans: "Having the _____ last _____; for in them is filled up the _____ of _____."

NOTE: The seven last plagues are called the wrath of God.

2. The last three-point message of love and warning to the world is found in Revelation 14:6-12. What two punishments are mentioned for the wicked? Revelation 14:10.

Ans: "Drink of the wine of the _____ of _____
... be tormented with _____ and _____."

NOTE: The WRATH OF GOD (the seven plagues) is for those who receive the mark of the beast, Revelation 16:2. The FIRE is for all the lost (see Lesson 20). The wrath of God, in no way, depicts Jesus' wrath as human anger. It simply refers to the Divine judgment on sin.

3. Who will escape the plagues? Revelation 15:2

Ans: "Them that have gotten the victory over the _____ and over his _____ and over his _____ and over the _____ of his _____."

NOTE: This passage makes clear how extremely important it is to avoid receiving the mark of the beast. Everyone will receive one of two marks; either God's mark or the mark of the beast. To receive God's mark is to be saved. To receive the mark of the beast is to receive the plagues and be lost. Solemn. solemn thought! No wonder Revelation says so much about these two signs or marks.

4. Whom do the saved praise for their deliverance? Revelation 15:3, 4

Ans: "Great and marvellous are thy _____
_____."

NOTE: Salvation is through the Lord only. "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ", 1 Corinthians 15:57

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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,

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THE SIXTH PLAGUE - ARMAGEDDON

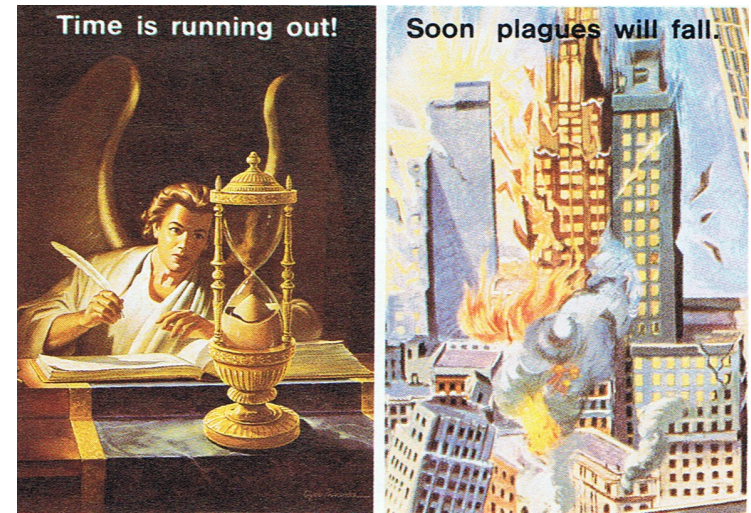
Even non-church people discuss Armageddon. It is, perhaps, the most widely discussed battle of all time. But what is it? Five points should be covered to clarify this plague:

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.



SALVATION'S DOOR CLOSES

5. **When will the plagues begin to fall? Revelation 15:8**

Ans: "The _____ was filled with _____ ... and no _____ was able to _____ into the _____, till the ... were _____."

NOTE: "No man" able to enter the "temple in heaven indicates that the judgment, which is now in progress there, ends because every case has been decided. Then the seven last plagues fall. See Lesson 15 for details on the judgment.

6. **What announcement will Jesus make that will indicate the heavenly judgment has ended? Revelation 22:11, 12**

Ans: "He that is _____, let him be unjust _____: and he which is _____, let him be filthy _____: and he that is _____ let him be righteous _____: and he that is _____, let him be holy _____."

NOTE: When the judgment ends in heaven, Jesus makes an announcement that all people have made final decisions and that none will ever choose to change. At that moment, probation for all people closes, forever. Each person has closed his own probation by his own choices.

NO SECOND CHANCE

7. Sometimes illness or disaster clarifies a persons thinking and causes him to turn to God. In the cases of the plagues, however, no one will be converted. What purpose does God have in sending the plagues? Revelation 16:10, 11, 21

Ans: "They. . . blasphemed the God of _____ ... and _____ not."

NOTE: FOR AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION OF QUESTION 7, SEE EXHIBIT #1.

GOD'S PLAGUES PRONOUNCE PUNISHMENT

8. Now long will the plagues last? Revelation 18:8

Ans: "Therefore shall her _____ come in one _____".

NOTE: The plagues will probably last about one year. The Bible rule is: one prophetic day equals one literal year, Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34. Apparently the plagues are not all universal, else none would survive.

9. What are God's acts of punishment and judgment called in Isaiah 28:21?

Ans: "His _____ work ... His strange _____".

NOTE: Acts of punishment and judgment, like the plagues, are so foreign to God's nature that the Bible calls them strange. He has "no pleasure in the death of the wicked", Ezekiel 33:11. He will, however, "not at all acquit the wicked", Nahum 1:3 or "clear the guilty", Exodus 34:7.

10. What is the first plague? Revelation 16:2

Ans: "A _____ and _____ sore?"

NOTE: Each plague strikes a blow at some aspect of false worship or apostate religion. This plague exposes the false miracle workers of Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:14. They cannot cure the sores.

11. What happens during the second plague? Revelation 16:3

Ans: "The _____ ...became as the _____ of a _____ man".

NOTE: The nations, (a united world-wide movement), which forced people

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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.

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sincerely ask Him. In fact, He can hardly wait for my request.

20. The book of Revelation contains God's last imperative message for planet earth. What did God say He would do to anyone who tried to add anything to the book of Revelation 22:18

Ans: 'God shall _____ unto him the _____.'

NOTE: God means for Revelation to be taught NOW — JUST AS IT IS, AND WITH GREAT URGENCY. And woe be to the person who tries to add something to it. Such a person is promised the plagues because he interferes with God's last urgent, precious message to the people He loves.

21. What does God promise the righteous in regard to the plagues?

Ans: "Neither shall any _____ come nigh thy _____."

22. What plan does God have to protect His people from the plagues? Psalm 91:11

Ans: "For He shall give His _____ charge over thee to _____ thee".

NOTE: Angels that excel in strength protect the righteous from the plagues.

23. What other wonderful promise. regarding the time of the plagues, is given God's people? Psalm 91:5

Ans: "Thou shalt not be _____."

NOTE: Praise God! Not a single plague will affect God's people. Angels will be their companions to protect them and not one of God's children will EVEN BE AFRAID during the dreadful and traumatic plague crisis. What a blessed privilege to serve such a wonderful Lord!

24. Jesus desperately wants to assign angels to protect you during the plagues. Will you invite Him to be your Saviour and Lord so He can do so? He's waiting with great anticipation for your answer!

Ans: _____

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to worship contrary to conscience, suddenly find commerce and communication disrupted by the bloody waters. This plague demonstrates God's feelings regarding this evil conglomerate. The final struggle in this world will not be atheism against democracy. It will be religious conflict between true and counterfeit religion and worship.

12. What Is the third plague? Revelation 16:4-7

Ans: "The _____ and _____ of waters ... became _____."

NOTE: The wicked label God's people "heretics" and many, doubtless, feel that to shed their blood would do God a favour, John 16:2. God, however, to show His feelings turns fresh water into blood and gives the wicked — blood to drink He thus exposes THEM as the real heretics. When blood comes out of the faucet for the wicked, God's people will be given fresh water, Isaiah 33:16.

13. What takes place during the fourth plague? Revelation 16:8, 9

Ans: "Men were _____ with great _____."

NOTE: The sun, which men have worshipped throughout history, will scorch men with great heat. Even today, in the Christian world, the majority still pay homage to the sun in giving reverence to Sunday (sun's day) as a holy day. Joel 1:15-20 gives a graphic description of the earth during this plague. During this time there is also a great famine for hearing the Word of God, Amos 8:11, 12; Luke 13:25-27. As in Amos' days, many of the wicked, though unrepentant, hunt someone to teach them the Word of God but no one can be found because God's people will have fled to the rocks and the mountains for safety, Isaiah 33:16. The response of the wicked is one of panic and fear of consequences as was that of Judas, Matthew 27:4. God's people will be protected from the heat. "The sun shall not smite thee by day", Psalm 121:6.



All with the mark of the beast receive the plagues.

14. When the fifth angel pours out his plague upon the seat of the beast, what happens? Revelation 16:10, 11

Ans: "His _____ was full of _____."

NOTE: When this plague is poured upon the headquarters of the beast, his kingdom, which stretches world-wide, Revelation 13:7. and embraces most of the world's population, will be enshrouded in total darkness. This literal darkness highlights the fact that because the beast refuses God's Word his kingdom is nothing but total spiritual darkness, Isaiah 8:19, 20. Revelation 16:11 points out that people still have the sores of the first plague under the fifth plague.

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

15. What happens under the sixth plague when the angel pours out his vial upon the great river Euphrates? Revelation 16:12-16

Ans: "The _____ thereof was _____ up ... and he _____ them together into a _____ called ... Armageddon".

NOTE: UNDER THE SIXTH PLAGUE PREPARATION IS MADE FOR THE GREAT BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON. SEE EXHIBIT #2 FOR DETAILS REGARDING ARMAGEDDON.

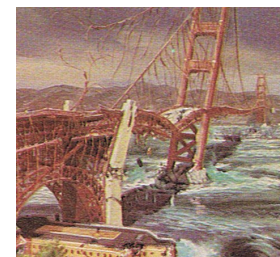
18. The second coming of Jesus takes place under the seventh plague. What two devastating upheavals of nature take place at that time? Revelation 16:17-21

Ans: (vs. 18) — "And there was a great _____."
... (vs. 21) — And there fell upon men a great _____ out of heaven".

NOTE: The GATHERING together, or preparation for Armageddon, takes place under the sixth plague, but the battle, itself, takes place under the seventh plague. Jesus and his armies descend from heaven and destroy the wicked who were poised to kill God's people, Revelation 19:11-19.

The HAIL is real with each stone weighing more than 50 lbs. Job said God would use hail in the last great battle, Job 38:22, 23. God's people will be protected from the hail, Isaiah 32:18, 19.

The EARTHQUAKE is indescribably devastating. It is mentioned also in Revelation 6:14-17; Isaiah 24:1, 3, 19, 20 and Jeremiah 4:23-26.



The seventh plague brings a mighty earthquake.

17. During the sixth plague, what happens to Babylon's three fold alliance of the beast, false prophet and dragon? Revelation 16:19

Ans: "And the great _____ was _____ into _____ parts".

NOTE: The combined world wide alliance of religionists against God and His people falls apart.

GOD PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE

18. In Moses' day God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians. How were God's people protected from the death angel of the tenth plague? Exodus 12:7, 13

Ans: "And they shall take of the _____, and strike it on the two side _____ ... and when I see the _____, I will pass _____ you"

NOTE: They put the blood of a lamb on the door posts of their homes and the death angel promised to pass over their homes when he saw the blood. The blood represented Jesus' blood.

19. How will God's people overcome during the seven last plagues? Revelation 12:11

Ans: They _____ by the _____ of the _____."

NOTE: God gave the people of Moses' day a sacred, annual festival in honour of Jesus' blood which caused the death angel to pass over the homes of the righteous. The feast was called the PASSOVER. Jesus shed His blood on Calvary as OUR Passover, I Corinthians 5:7. Jesus' blood applied to my heart erases my sins of the past and provides the miraculous power for me to become fully like Jesus. It means I will gladly follow wherever Jesus leads.

The armies of the Lord will pass over me and spare my life if I have Jesus blood on the door posts of my heart. He will gladly apply the blood if I but