

REVELATION: Lesson 143

Chapter 16:12-16, God Gathers His Enemies to Armageddon

12 February 2021

Vs 13 Here the Bible lists the unholy trinity: The Dragon (Satan, Rev 12:9, 20:2), the beast (Antichrist), and the false prophet (mimicking the Holy Spirit's role).

Vs 14 Spirits of devils go forth working miracles. Miracles will be used in the last days to convince people that the Antichrist is working the works of God. People will be easily deceived by miracles because they have let their guard down, they act upon their feelings, and are more susceptible to such deceptions.

- Miracles will be used to bring the armies of the earth to their slaughter at Armageddon.
- Miracles are not proof that something is of God. Devils work miracles to deceive people.
- Miracles must be tested by the Holy Bible.

Vs 15 God gathers His enemies to a place in Israel called Armageddon to be slaughtered. Armageddon is also known as the Mount of Megiddo, the Plain of Jezreel, and the Great Plain. It spreads out east to west across the middle of the Holy Land.

Other Battles that have been fought at Armageddon:

Judges 4:1-7, 14-16

- God promised to draw Israel's enemy to a particular place where He would defeat them (vs 7).
- Ten thousand Hebrew troops arrived at the battlefield to discover that God had already destroyed their enemy.
- **Judges 5:19-20** identifies the place of the battle as being "by the waters of Megiddo." God sent His "stars" (angels, Rev 1:20) from heaven to the battle.

2 Chronicles 35:20-23

- King Josiah took his troops to battle with Egypt's King Necho in the Valley of Megiddo.
 - Egypt crossed the Euphrates River to get to Israel. This is unusual strategy since Egypt is Southwest of Israel.
 - God set this battle up in the last book of the Hebrew Bible where He stops dealing with the children of Israel.
 - God will resume His dealings with the Hebrew people, and the stage will be set in the Valley of Megiddo, very much like it was in the last days of King Josiah.
 - God wanted Josiah to focus on spiritual matters, not worldly matters. Josiah didn't obey, and it cost him his life and the kingdom.
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1 Kings 22:1-23

- Jehoshaphat, King of Judah made an alliance with the ungodly nation of Israel, under King Ahab.
 - These two kings wanted to go to battle but decided to get God's blessing on their decision (instead of ASKING God what to do).
 - 400 false prophets gave the same opinion (not the word of God) to the kings and told them to go to battle (vs 6).
 - Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet of the LORD (vs 7). He knew those 400 prophets were fakers and flatterers.
 - The Prophet Micaiah is known by King Ahab to be a prophet of the Lord. Ahab hates him because he doesn't always prophesy good things about him (vs 8).
 - People today prefer churches that only speak of love and tolerance. They hate churches that preach the whole counsel of God.
 - They don't really care what God says about sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:8).
 - They want somebody to tell them everything is going to be alright, no matter how sinful they live their lives.
 - The false prophets preached prosperity (vs 12).
 - They tried to persuade Micaiah to speak only good things like the rest of the prophets (vs 13).
 - Micaiah promised to speak exactly what the Lord said unto him (vs 14).
 - Micaiah mocked the false prophets (vs 15).
 - Verse 16 reveals that Ahab knew the prophets were lying to him, but he didn't care.
 - Micaiah gave the true prophecy from God (vs 17) and Ahab complained. He didn't want God's truth.
 - Because Ahab did not want God's truth, God sent a lying spirit to fill the mouths of the false prophets to deceive the king into going into battle so the Lord could slay him (19-23).
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2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- When the Antichrist comes, he will come working miracles (vs 9).
 - God will send a strong delusion (deception) upon people who will not receive the love of the truth and be saved (vs 10-11).
 - The Antichrist is going to be able to deceive religious people with religious performances because they trust their own feelings and they don't love the truth of the word of God.
 - Unbelief makes people easy prey for the devil's deceptions.
 - If you don't love the truth of God's word, you could find yourself in the devil's army at Armageddon one day.
 - This includes religious people and church attendees with bibles in their possession, but which they do not love.
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