

# Armageddon And The Millennium

*Revelation 16:16 & 20:2-7*

**Introduction:** I feel sure that at some time or another, you have heard of the Battle of Armageddon and the Millennium. As a matter of fact, there is so much said about these two events that you would think that the Bible says something about them on nearly every page. However, the passages in our text are the only places where any mention is found! This is quite revealing and may cause one to investigate just how so much comes out of so little.

## I. The Battle Of Armageddon.

- A. Premillennialists have this as the battle to end all battles. Where the great forces of Satan's armies engage in battle with God's army. For years the main contingent of Satan's army has been the Soviet Union and its allies. Now it must surely be different since the Soviet Union has disbanded. God's army usually consists of those Christians who survive the tribulation along with those who were "raptured." In all of this, *2 Corinthians 10:4* seems to be lost in this theory. Usually the events of *Revelation 19* are also associated with this conflict.
- B. The "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" comes forth to battle (*Rev. 19:11-16*).
  1. At this point in the Revelation letter we are prepared to witness great struggle. We have had much detail about the power of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet (*Rev. 12, 13*). We are now given a striking description of the strength of the King of kings.
  2. Christ is pictured as riding a white horse coming to judge and make war.
  3. The devil has also gathered his army to fight at a "*place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon*" (*Rev. 12-16*).
- C. The battle of that great day (*Rev. 19:17-21*).
  1. Only mention is in *Rev. 16:16*. I understand this is figurative.
    - a. If the battleground is a literal place, then the generals who fight for the devil are going to look like frogs! (*Rev. 16:13*).
    - b. Furthermore, there must be enough room for one of the armies to have 200 million horsemen (*Rev. 9:16*).
    - c. There will also be a great river of blood 200 miles long (*Rev. 14:20*).
  2. Armageddon means "hill of Megiddo" which is supposed to be literally in the Valley of Jezreel where a number of famous battles were fought. This Valley stood historically as a famous battleground between the forces of good and the forces of evil.
    - a. Barak and Deborah overthrew the kings of Canaan (*Jgs. 5:19*).
    - b. Gideon defeated the Midianites (*Jgs. 6:33*).
    - c. Saul was defeated by the Philistines (*1 Sam. 31:8*).
    - d. Ahaziah died of Jehu's arrows (*2 Kgs. 9:27*).

- e. Pharaoh-Necho overthrew Josiah (*2 Kgs. 23:29-30*).
- 3. Armageddon has no actual physical location. It stands as a symbol for the battleground where God overcomes Satan. (Used like “Waterloo”).
- 4. When persecuting Roman Empire fell and the false emperor worship ceased, the Battle of Armageddon was over. The beast and the false prophet were “taken” (*Rev. 19:20-21*).

## II. The Millennium.

[Term actually means “one thousand”]

- A. *Rev. 20 DOES* mention a thousand years (*see vv. 2-7*).
- B. There are also some things that are **NOT** mentioned in *Rev. 20*:
  - 1. Second coming of Christ.
  - 2. A bodily resurrection.
  - 3. Christ on earth.
  - 4. The literal throne of David.
  - 5. Jerusalem, Palestine or Israel.
- C. Can we know when this thousand year period will be?
  - 1. Last week’s lesson showed that Christ is reigning now on David’s throne (see, for instance, *Acts 2:29-36*).
  - 2. The key to this period is the binding of Satan:
    - a. When Christ came and then arose from the grave, He bound Satan so far as limiting his power over sin and death (*Matt. 12:28-29; Heb. 2:14-15; Eph. 4:8*).
      - 1) Through Christ we can now resist and be delivered from the power of Satan (*1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7*).
      - 2) This does not mean sin came to an end, but the bondage of sin was broken, and men now make the choice which lord they shall serve (*Rom. 6:16-18, 23*).
    - b. The binding of Satan in Revelation. 20 does not mean that Satan is rendered powerless. He is restricted. One likens this to a binding of a dog on a chain. The dog is limited, but can still do some harm.
  - 3. Living and reigning with Christ for 1,000 years (*Rev. 20:6*).
    - a. First resurrection (baptism, *Rom. 6:3-5*).
    - b. No effect from second death (*Rom. 8:1*).
    - c. Priests (*1 Peter 2:5, 9*).
  - 4. All of these present, in the “church age” and therefore the 1,000 years is the “church age.”

**Conclusion:** There have been (and still are and probably still will be) some sensational speculation about Armageddon and the Millennium. However, calm study shows Armageddon is past and the Millennium is present. Neither are spectacular events sometime in the distant future.