

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 50

THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM

REVELATION 19:17-21



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Do you know that human history will end with an epic battle called **the Battle of Jerusalem**? This battle, which is described in Revelation 19:17-21, will transit us from this age to the next age, which is the Millennial Kingdom.

This battle is not even between men and men but between men and God! Led by the Antichrist, nations will gather at the Valley of Jehoshaphat to war against Jesus and his saints. Because of the pride and arrogance of the human heart, the nations actually believe they can win this battle!

*The term the Battle of Armageddon, which this battle is commonly known as, is a misnomer because **the actual battle is not fought at Armageddon.** Armageddon is actually a staging area where the Antichrist gathers his troops during the final three-and-a-half years of human history. From there, the troops are dispatched to fight their battles. **This three-and-a-half-year military campaign of the Antichrist is known as the Armageddon campaign.***

The term Armageddon comes from the Hebrew name Har Megiddo (the hill of Megiddo). It is located around 60 miles north of Jerusalem. The troops of the Antichrist will initially be stationed there. Later on, they will move to occupy different parts of Israel.



The Battle of Jerusalem is both a physical and spiritual battle. It has to be seen in the context of both **the Second Coming of Jesus** and **the Armageddon Campaign**. Scriptures that talk about the Battle of Jerusalem include Psalm 45, Isaiah 34:1-8, Isaiah 63:1-6 and Joel 3:2,9-14.

The Second Coming of Jesus is not a one-day event. It is a **three-stage event** that likely occurs over a period of 30 days (Dan. 12:11).

The first stage is Jesus' procession in the sky and the rapture of the saints. The second stage is Jesus' procession on the land, where He lands somewhere in Egypt together with the saints and leads them through Sinai into Edom and Bozrah, which are located in Jordan. He gathers all the Jewish people who were taken captive and releases the seven-bowl judgements along the way.

The procession on the land will end at the **Valley of Jehoshaphat** (around 10 miles south of Jerusalem), where Jesus fights the **Battle of Jerusalem**. He will win this final battle, delivering the nation of Israel from oppression and from her enemies. This is followed by the **third stage**, which is **His triumphant procession into Jerusalem** to be enthroned as the King of all the earth!

The Armageddon campaign will end with the Battle of Jerusalem. The Second Coming of Jesus will also end with Jesus winning the Battle of Jerusalem. **The Battle of Jerusalem is where the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness will clash!**

The mission of Jesus in His Second Coming is to establish His kingdom here on earth. He will judge sin and evil, establish His throne in Jerusalem, and rule and reign from there. He will disciple and transform the nations, and His glory will spread from Jerusalem to cover the earth (Hab. 2:14).

The location of Jesus' throne is key. God insists that it has to be at Jerusalem, and the nation of Israel has to welcome Jesus back from Jerusalem (Ps. 2:6; Jer. 3:17; Matt. 23:39). The ultimate purpose of God is to take back the dominion of the earth through a Man because the dominion mandate was given to man in Genesis 1:26-28. It is also God's will that it has to be a man who defeats Satan (Gen. 3:15).

On the other hand, the Armageddon campaign is the mission of the Antichrist. His goal is also to have dominion over all the earth. He is rebelling against and resisting God. This campaign will involve many battles and will begin when the first seal is opened. It will intensify, and the armies of the Antichrist will be gathered at this place called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16). It will end in this final battle called the Battle of Jerusalem.



WHO IS THE ONE WHO GATHERS THE PEOPLE TO WAR AGAINST GOD?

Satan, through the spirit of deception, and the Antichrist (Rev. 16:12-16), as well as the pride and arrogance of men, causing them to think that they can win. **But ultimately, it is God Himself who gathers all the nations in this battle (Ps. 2; 45; 46; 110; Joel 3:2,9-14).**

W H Y ?

This is because the Battle of Jerusalem will be the ultimate litmus test for the nations, whether they are for God or against God.

You see, Israel will be the litmus test of God in the End Times, whether we are for Him or against Him. He is raising up the nation of Israel as a benchmark of whether we will stand with God or we are against God.



THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM WILL BE THE ULTIMATE VALLEY OF DECISION WHERE GOD IS GATHERING ALL, AND WHERE EACH OF US WILL HAVE TO DECIDE, “ARE WE FOR GOD OR AGAINST GOD?”

If we are for God, we will love Israel and stand with Him in praying for her. If we are against God, we will be gathered at the Valley of Jehoshaphat to fight against Jesus!



WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE BATTLE OF JERUSALEM?

Firstly, Israel will be progressively surrounded by the Antichrist army during the final three-and-a-half years (Zech. 14:1-2). The Antichrist will lay siege of and capture the city of Jerusalem. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will be killed (Zech. 13:8). The Antichrist will appear to have the victory over the Jewish people.

Jesus will return with the saints, march through Egypt and Jordan, gathering the Jewish people en route and releasing the seven-bowl judgements. The Antichrist will gather the rest of his army from Armageddon and come down south. They will meet at the valley of Jehoshaphat to fight the battle.

Jesus will defeat the Antichrist and his army, delivering the nation of Israel. Just prior to that, He would have split the Mount of Olives, allowing Jewish people to escape from the Antichrist. The eyes of the Jewish people will be opened to see that Jesus is truly their Messiah. They will cry out, ***“Blessed is He who comes in the name of YAHWEH!”*** and invite Him into the city of Jerusalem to rule and reign as the King of Israel and of the whole earth (Matt. 23:39).

Revelation 19:17-21 can be viewed through two lenses, the lens of the Bride or the lens of the rebellious. Viewed through the lens of the Bride, it is about a mature partnership with Jesus. This is the first mature partnership of the Bride, where she actually participates in Jesus' judgements.



Viewed through the lens of the rebellious, it is a terrifying great battle where Jesus will totally crush his enemies. Revelation 16:14 calls it “*the battle of that great day of God Almighty*”.

Revelation 19:17 describes it as the **supper of the great God**. If we read this passage together with Ezekiel 39:17-20, we will see that birds and beasts will be invited to feast on the dead bodies of the soldiers who fight against Jesus. The supper of the great God is the divine judgement of God on earth which will end human history and transit us into the next age. This is different from the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19:9, which is the Millennial Kingdom itself.

Revelation 19:18 tells us that the rebellious who gathered against God at the Battle of Jerusalem will be killed. The total number of casualties is so huge that their blood will flow for 200 miles, reaching a height of one metre!

Verse 19 tells us that the Battle of Jerusalem is a battle involving the Antichrist, the kings of the earth and their armies on one side, and Jesus and His saints on the other. Jesus will defeat His enemies and capture the Antichrist and the False Prophet, throwing them into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20). He then proceeds to kill all the rebellious by the sword which proceeds from His mouth (Rev. 19:21).



Let's end by soberly thinking about this. The ultimate valley of decision is preceded by many smaller valleys of decision throughout our lives, in which either we align with Jesus or we don't.

The question Jesus is asking us today is, "Are you for Me or against Me?"

Will we align ourselves fully with Him and His heart this day, especially with regards to Israel and the necessity to stand with her? Wrestle and develop our convictions now, so that we will not be found warring against Jesus at the Valley of Jehoshaphat in that Day!



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