

ARMAGEDDON CAMPAIGN – A BRIEF

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- A. The Armageddon Campaign is a military conflict that will occur after the rapture of the Church. It will last for a short time at the end of the seven years of tribulation in the future.
- B. It will be the culmination of the reign of Antichrist by his death and the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over His enemies when He returns at the second advent.
- C. The Armageddon Campaign is not a single combat situation but an extended complex of battles stretching from Babylon in the east to the mountain of Megiddo in the north and to Bozrah/Petra in Edom in the south.
- D. In fact, Armageddon is not really the location of any major conflict; but rather, it is the staging area for all the armies of the world to gather for the purpose of destroying the Jewish people once and for all.
- E. It is possible to divide the Armageddon Campaign into eight stages.

1. The First Stage:

[God will cause all the nations of the world to assemble as allies of Antichrist, the “*beast out of the sea,*” for the final destruction of the Jewish people. (Rev. 13:1-8)]

- a. The Armageddon Campaign begins as part of the sixth bowl judgment. (Rev. 16:12-16)
- b. The nations are to prepare for war and gather at Armageddon (Har-Magedon) in the Valley of Megiddo. (Joel 3:9-11; Rev. 16:16)
- c. God mocks this international confederation. (Psalm 2:1-5)

2. The Second Stage:

[God will cause Antichrist to destroy Babylon’s one-world religious system.]

- a. Antichrist will establish his capitol at a rebuilt literal Babylon; but in the middle of the tribulation, he and his ten kings will destroy Babylon’s religious system, “*mystery Babylon the great, mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth,*” because he will establish himself as God. (Dan. 9:27a; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3,4; Rev. 13:1-5; 12-15; 17:7, 11-13, 15-17)
- b. However, hostile forces, freedom fighters (probably gentile believers) who do not support Antichrist comes against Babylon and totally destroy the city itself, “*Babylon the great,*” the political headquarters of Antichrist. (Isaiah 13:1-5, 19-22; 14:22, 23; Jeremiah 50, 51; Dan. 11:41; Rev. 18:1-19:2)

3. The Third Stage:

[The fall of Jerusalem at the middle of the seven years of tribulation]

- a. Although Antichrist’s capitol, Babylon, is destroyed; nevertheless, he moves south to attack Jerusalem. (Dan. 11:41, 44; Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1, 2; Rev. 13:1, 7)

- b. The Jewish warriors in Jerusalem fight valiantly, but the forces of Antichrist prevail and the city falls. (Micah 4:11-5:1; Zech. 12:4-7; Dan. 9:26b-27a)
- c. Antichrist sets up “*the abomination of desolation.*” (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15-20; Mark 13:14-18; Luke 21:20-24; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 12:6, 14-17)
- d. Antichrist fights the other kings for world domination, killing three of them. (Dan. 11:36-45; 7:23-25)
- e. Antichrist is apparently killed in this combat and is resurrected and indwelt by Satan himself. (Rev. 13:3; 17:8, 11; 13:12, 14; 2 Thess. 2:9)

4. The Fourth Stage:

[Two or three years later, near the end of the “*great tribulation*” the armies of Antichrist then move south to Bozrah/Petra in Edom.]

- a. Antichrist takes his armies south to Bozrah (meaning sheepfold in Hebrew), where the remnant of Jerusalem fled at the middle of the tribulation when they saw “*the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place.*” (Daniel 9:27; Matt. 24:15-21; Mark 13:14-19; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 12:5-9, 14-18)
- b. The remnant seems to be faced with certain doom. (Jer. 49:13, 14; Micah 2:12)

5. The Fifth Stage:

[The regeneration of the nation of Israel]

- a. The people of Israel finally responds to the gospel en masse as a nation and confess their national sin. (Levit. 26:40-42; Jer. 3:11-14; Hosea 5:15)
- b. They realize that Jesus is their Messiah by the earlier ministries of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, by the two witnesses, or by the angelic messengers. (Rev. 7:2-8; 11:3-12; 14:6-13)
- c. Israel’s national conversion takes place over three days. (Hosea 6:1-3; Isa. 59:19, 20; Joel 2:32; Rom. 11:25, 26)
- d. The remnant of Israel will plead for Messiah to return and deliver them from the forces of Antichrist. (Isaiah 64:1-12; Matt. 23:39)

6. The Sixth Stage:

[The second coming of Jesus Christ]

- a. Jesus will return to earth in the same manner as He departed but not to the same place. (Acts 1:9; Matt. 24:27)
- b. Jesus apparently returns with an angelic escort and the church age saints. (Matt. 16:27; Mk. 8:38; 1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 17:14; 19:11-16)
- c. He returns in the Shekinah glory cloud first to the wilderness of Bozrah/Petra to defeat the forces of Antichrist and to deliver the remnant that had fled there at the midpoint of the tribulation. (Isaiah 34:1-7ff; Ezekiel 25:12-14; Micah 2:12, 13; Habakkak 3:3-7)
- d. Jesus wins this victory alone. (Isaiah 63:1-6)
- e. Antichrist and the remainder of his armies flee from the Lord back north and establish a temporary headquarters south-east of Jerusalem to destroy the remaining Jews. (Daniel 11:45)

- f. Jesus then continues north to deliver the believing remnant in Jerusalem and conclude the campaign by destroying the remainder of Antichrist's army. (Isaiah 63:1-6; Zech. 12:7-9; Rev. 19:13)

7. The Seventh Stage:

[The final battle]

- a. Jesus will continue to fight the remainder of the armies of Antichrist from Bozrah/Petra all the way north to the "*valley of Jehoshaphat*," also known as the "*valley of decision*." or the Kidron Valley east and south of Jerusalem. (Psalm 110:5-6; Joel 3:2-3, 12-16; Zech. 14:12-15)
- b. A remnant of Judah continues fighting in Jerusalem. (Isa. 59:20; Dan 7:21; Zech. 12:9-14; 14:12-15; Rom. 11:26, 27; 13:7)
- c. Antichrist will finally be killed by Jesus Christ. (Daniel 7:11; Habakkuk 3:12-15; 2Thess. 2:8; Rev. 19:17-21)
- d. The wrath of God will create, as it were, a wine press outside the city, "*the great wine press of the wrath of God*." (Rev. 14:14, 16, 19-20)
- e. This wine press of God will create a river of blood "*up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of 180 (or possibly 200) miles*," the distance from Bozarah to Megiddo. (Rev. 14:20)
- f. The whole valley of the dead bodies and ashes shall be holy to the Lord. (Jer. 31:40)

8. The Eight Stage:

[The ascent to the Mount of Olives]

- a. Jesus Christ completes His victory over the forces of Antichrist in the Kidron Valley by means of a miraculous transformation of the land. (Zech. 14:2-4)
- b. This transformation will provide a new valley for the last remnant of believing Jews in Jerusalem to escape from the city as part of the final destruction of the armies of Antichrist. (Zech. 13:8, 9; 14:5-8)
- c. Jesus, along with **His angelic entourage** and the **resurrected church age** saints, is joined by **the 144,000 Jewish evangelists** from. (2 Thess. 1:7; Zech. 14:5; Jude 14; 1 Thess. 2:19; 3:13; Rev. 19:14; Rev. 7:2-8; 14:1-4)
- d. These events will be part of the seventh and final bowl judgment. (Rev. 16:17-21)
- c. Jesus Christ standing on the Mount of Olives includes a victory celebration. (Rev. 14:2-5; 15:1-5)

- F. When the tribulation ends, "*the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed...it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever*." (Daniel 2:44; 7:13, 14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 20:6)