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Campaign of Armageddon

THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON

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The Campaign of Armageddon

Introduction:

The term, *the* Battle or Campaign of Armageddon, is the name usually associated with a single battle at a single place (Rev. 16:16). To understand the “battle” of Armageddon with the Lord Jesus Christ and His army, a series of battles must be recognized that dispensationally occur during the seven years of tribulation.

THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON			
1. Battle precipitated by the King of the North and South's invasion with allies (midtribulation)	2. The Beast (Antichrist) invades as head of the Revived Roman Empire	3. The Kings of the East invade against the Beast for political and commercial power; possibly interrupted by the sign of the son of man in heaven	4. The “<i>final</i>” Battle at “a place” called Armageddon by all nations against the King of Kings; possibly precipitated by the sign in the heavens of His return

The battles are poorly understood for several reasons. (1) The descriptions of the battles in the *latter* days, or *last* days, or *the last* day are scattered throughout the Scriptures. (2) The descriptions indicate that the battles are conducted throughout Palestine against Israel and the city of Jerusalem. (3) The Greek word used for battle in Rev. 16:14 is **pol emoj** (polemos), which means a single battle *or* a series of battles or wars.¹ (4) Numerous wars have occurred in Palestine historically, and many are mentioned in Scripture, but only the campaign or war of Armageddon is identified as occurring in the *latter*, *last*, or *that day(s)* associated with Israel and Jerusalem (Zech. 12:3-4, 6, 8-9). (5) Only the *final* battle is the conflict with the actual presence of Lord Himself on earth. The other battles are between the Beast's confederacy, the King of the

¹ *Strong's Greek Dictionary* (SwordSearcher, Version 5.0, Broken Arrow, OK) Strong's Number 4171. A survey of the use of Greek polemos in the KJB reveals it is usually translated war(s).

North, the Kings of the East, and the King of the South. The Lord is involved only by His use of the forces of nature rather than the “sword” from His mouth from His presence. (6) The Beast entices the nations by using the charade that the *final* battle is for the purpose of gaining world political power. Satan empowers the Beast to draw all nations for the *final* conflict. Satan is aware that the second phase of the second coming of the Lord is about to occur. He deceives all the nations by demonic influence to come to Palestine for the *final* battle (Rev. 16:13-14). His purpose is to try one final time to defeat the Lord.

“Satan, knowing that the second coming of Christ is near, will gather all the military might of the world into the Holy Land to resist the coming of the Son of Man who will return to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4). Though the nations may be deceived in entering into the war in hope of gaining world political power, the satanic purpose is to combat the armies from heaven (introduced in chap. 19) at the second coming of Christ.”²

(7) The *final* battle on the Plain of Esdraelon, also called Megiddo, is when the Lord will use the “sword of His mouth,” to establish the kingdoms of earth as His. (8) These battles occur in rapid succession and they are limited to the second part of the seventieth week of Daniel. (9) Armageddon is “a place” in Palestine (Rev. 16:16). (10) The Valley of Jehoshaphat mentioned by Joel may well be an idiom as Albert Barnes explains.

“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat” - It may be that the imagery is furnished by that great deliverance which God gave to Jehoshaphat, when "Ammon and Moab and Edom come against" him, "to cast God's people out of" His "possession," which "He gave" them "to inherit" 2Ch 20:11, and Jehoshaphat appealed to God, "O our God, wilt Thou not judge them?" and God said, "the battle is not yours but God's," and God turned their swords everyone against the other, "and none escaped. And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah" (blessing); "for there they blessed the Lord" 2 Chr. 24, 26. So, in the end, He shall destroy antichrist, not by human aid, but "by the breath of His mouth," and then the end shall come and lie shall sit on the throne of His glory to judge all nations. Then shall none escape of those gathered against Judah and Jerusalem, but shall be judged of their own consciences, as those former enemies of His people fell by their own swords.

²Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, 1983-c1985) 968

Therefore, the references to the Valley of Jehoshaphat by Joel may be the same battle described in Revelation 16:16, which will include or spread to all the areas of Palestine. The Valley of Jehoshaphat is near Jerusalem. The Valley of Jehoshaphat has never been called the valley of Berachah by the natives. It is not the plain or bottom land between the hills of Meggido, which is where Armageddon is located.

Southwest of Bethlehem and east of Tekoa are still 3 or 4 acres of ruins, bearing the name Bereikut, and a valley below them, still bearing silent witness to God's ancient mercies, in its but slightly disguised name, "the valley of Bereikut" (Berachah). The only valley called the "valley of Jehoshaphat", is the valley of Kedron, lying between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, incircling the city on the east.³

The conclusion is that there is confusion related to the "valley of Jehoshaphat." (11) The Battle of Armageddon has been associated with other Scriptural and non-Scriptural entities and events. For example some claim Armageddon is about the church. Although a great amount of symbolism and figures of speech are used in Revelation, one has to do violence to the Scriptures to make Armageddon about the church, since it occurs during the time Christ is dealing with Israel. Albertus Pieters writes in *The Lamb, the Woman and the Dragon*, an exposition of the Revelation of St. John,

that the battle of Armageddon in chapter 19 is a symbolic declaration of Christianity's triumph over paganism and the persecution of Rome against the church;⁴

Neither is Armageddon about the war of 1914-18. Dean M. B. Stearns reports that Paul Perret, writing in *Prophecies I Have Seen Fulfilled* made some outlandish claims.

Dean Stearns said,

The war which the demons emerging from the mouths of the dragon, and the beast (and the false prophet, who is passed over in silence in this interpretation) foment, is said to be the war of 1914-18.⁵

³Albert Barnes, *Barnes Notes* (SwordSearcher, Version 5.0, Broken Arrow, Ok, 2005) Comments on Joel 3:2.

⁴E. F. Harrison, "Book Review of *The Lamb, the Woman and the Dragon*," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 95:379 (Dallas Theological Seminary, July, 1938) 383.

⁵Dean M. B. Stearns, "Book Review of *Prophecies I Have Seen Fulfilled*," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 96:384 (Dallas Theological Seminary, Oct., 1939) 503.

(12) Some believe that the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39 occur at the beginning of the Millennium rather than in the tribulation. For example, John F. Walvoord reports that Louis S. Baumann holds this belief saying,

A matter of importance to some interpreters is his position that the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will occur before the return of Christ. The view has been advanced that the battle described in this passage, while distinct from that prophesied in Revelation 20:8, occurs *after* the return of Christ and *during* the early part of the millennium.⁶

Baumann's interpretation destroys any time line and interpretive consistency for a premillennial position even though he is a premillennial proponent. His interpretation places war into the 1000 year reign of Christ on earth, a time of peace until Satan is released at the end from the bottomless pit.⁷ This is contrary to some great passages of Scripture (e.g. Isa. 11:6-7; 65:25, Joel 2:18-27); and, in addition, dead bodies will be cleaned up for seven months (Ezek. 39:12) from the battle with Gog (Russia) at the beginning of the campaign of Armageddon. This is contrary to the character of the millennium described in Scripture. Plus, the Lord on His return at the last battle of Armageddon will destroy all the wicked (Jer. 25:32-33). Who would be left to fight any battle at the beginning of the Millennium against the Lord or the saved people taken into the Millennium?

With these thoughts in mind, this work will consider: (1) The Place of the Battles, (2) The Participants in the Battles, (3) The Preparation and Push of the Participants into Palestine, (4) The Particular Time of the Battles, and (5) The Final Phase: The Battle at Armageddon.

⁶John F. Walvoord, "Book Review of *Russian Events in the Light of Bible Prophecy*," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 100:399 (Dallas Theological Seminary, July, 1943) 454.

⁷ See the paper appended to this work by Dr. Pentecost which discusses the events of Ezekiel 38 and 39.

The Place of the Battles of Armageddon

Jerusalem was warned that it would become a “cup of trembling” to the world (Isa 51:17, Zech. 12:2). The reason is that the center of conflict would be Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-11; 14:2). Literal street fighting is pictured in Zechariah’s prophecy (14:2). In addition, the battle of the Beast with the King of the North (Gog) will include a surprise invasion of the King of the South’s land by the beast, who is Antichrist. (Dan. 11:40). Furthermore, other nations will be conquered by the invading willful King, the Antichrist, who is also called the Beast out of the sea, because of the alliances with the King of the North. Gog, who is Russia aligns with Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Germany, and Turkey (Ezek. 38:1-39:24). So, the Beast extends his battle, but spares Edom, Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon (Dan. 11:41-43). The land of Egypt shall not escape (Dan. 11:42).

Dr. Pentecost makes some interesting observations about the extent of the battle. Pentecost notes: (1) the Valley of Jehoshaphat is involved near Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12), (2) the Lord comes from Edom with his garments dyed red from battle (Isa. 63:1-4), (3) Isaiah 34 and 63 also confirm the involvement of Edom and Idumea, which is south of Jerusalem while Megiddo is north, and (4) Ezekiel reports “the invaders will “cover the land” (Ezek. 38:9, 16).⁸

Edwin C. Deibler makes this comment about the Valley of Jehoshaphat while commenting on the book of Joel.

In this book the truth revealed in Daniel concerning the destruction of the Gentile dominion by the stone cut out of the mountain is supplied under the picture of a divine judgment on the nations. Chapter 1 delineates the coming of the promised kingdom, and calls it the day of Jehovah. It shall be as destruction from the Almighty.

⁸ J. Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come, Tracing God’s Kingdom Program and Covenant Promises Throughout History* (Kregel Publication, Grand Rapids, MI, 1995) 341.

Chapter 3 points to the valley of Jehoshaphat as the scene of this judgment; and the cause given for the infliction of this desolation is the harsh treatment accorded Israel by the offending Gentile powers. The figures used to describe this time are all reminiscent of divine wrath: darkness, thick clouds, sun and moon blackened, stars with their shining withdrawn, etc. Chapter 2 relates the occasion of the judgment. Gentile world-powers will invade Palestine from the north. There they will be met and destroyed by the Lord's army. Then will come the repentance of Judah in her land, Jehovah's promise of deliverance, the pouring out of the Spirit in the last days upon Israel, the return of the Lord in glory, the regathering of the nation and the judgment on the Gentiles, and lastly, the permanent blessing.⁹

Therefore, we see that the campaign is widespread, but the final battle is concentrated in "a place" (Rev. 16:16).

Some claim the area of Armageddon is not identified. Dr. Walvoord reports that the book, *The Apocalypse Conspiracy* by John Noe claims:

"that Armageddon's location is not known, but, as any student of Scripture who looks up the facts knows, it refers to Megiddo in northern Israel."¹⁰

We must be careful to understand that even the last battle at the return of Christ to earth with all the nations is located at a minimum in the "valley of Jehoshaphat," which may be an idiom (vid. supra) for a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon, plus the countries of Edom, and Idumea.

But apparently and principally, the last battle will be in Armageddon. It is not an unfeasible consideration in light of the smaller armies required in modern warfare with modern weapons of mass destruction and accuracy that the area of Armageddon is the principle place for "all" the nations to gather. Excursions of platoons or battalions into the Valley of Jehoshaphat from the main contingent in the Megiddo area are not unreasonable either. The Lord will destroy them with the "sword" of His mouth at either location.

⁹Edwin C. Deibler, "The Relation of the Church to the Kingdom," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 97:359 (Dallas Theological Seminary, July, 1940) 358.

¹⁰John F. Walvoord, "Book Review of *The Apocalypse Conspiracy* by John Noe," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 151:604 (Dallas Theological Seminary, Oct., 1994) 493.

The Participants in the Battles

The participants in the battles of the *latter* years are identified in several prophetic books. However, their exact identification has been debated by theologians for many years. The major participants are broken into five groups by Pentecost.¹¹ The *first* is “the ten kingdom federation,” which is identified as the last beast depicted and described in Daniel 7:7-8, 23-28 and as the fourth kingdom interpreted by Daniel 2:40-45 from the dream of the great image given in Daniel 2:31-36. The *second* is the northern confederacy described in Ezek. 38:1-39:25 (cf. 38:15; 39:2); Daniel 11:40; Joel 2:1-27 (cf. 2:20); Isaiah 10:12; 30:31-33; 31:8-9, but primarily in Ezek. 38:2-6. The identification of Gog, Magog, Meshech, Tubal, and possibly Rosh (from Hebrew רוֹשׁ, ro'sh, meaning “ruler” and נָשִׂיף, nasiy', meaning chief) in these verses has been debated for centuries. For example, Walvoord and Zuck say,

The third group awaiting Egypt in the grave were the nations of **Meshech and Tubal** (Ezek. 32:26-27). “Meshech and Tubal, “mentioned earlier (27:13), were probably located on the northern fringe of what is now eastern and central Turkey. They appear again in chapters 38-39 as Gog's allies. Aggressive Meshech and Tubal had carried on a long battle with the Assyrians for control of the area south of the Black Sea...The once-awesome might of **these warriors** had vanished, and they were now suffering the judgment due their sin.”¹²

However, Pentecost and Gaebelien, who use the NIV, RV, and other paraphrases, along with William Kelly identify Rosh as “a Gentilic name [Rosh]” and Gaebelien says, “The prince of Rosh, means therefore, the prince or king of the Russian empire.”¹³ However, Walvoord and Zuck give an excellent caution in 1985 (Pentecost was writing in 1958 in

¹¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, op. cit., 342 (TTC).

¹² Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, Vol. 1, 1983-c1985) 1292

¹³ J. Dwight Pentecost, op. cit.; 326-327 (TTC).

Things To Come) in light of the changing national borders with the break-up of the old Soviet Union.

Should these names be connected with the Soviet Union? One must first identify the areas against which Ezekiel prophesied and then determine the countries that occupy those land areas today. Ezekiel's *rō'sh* does not point to "Russia" merely because the words sound similar. Neither should one identify "Meshech" with "Moscow" or "Tubal" with "Tobolsk." Ezekiel had historical places in mind (not modern-day names) and these areas must be located in Ezekiel's time. However, while one must avoid dogmatic assertions, three reasons suggest including the Soviet Union within Ezekiel's prophecy: (1) Some of the countries named by Ezekiel were located in what is now Russia. (2) The armies are said to come "from the far north" (Ezek. 38:6, 15; 39:2). This probably includes the land bridge between the Black and Caspian Seas, now part of the Soviet Union. (3) Ezekiel spoke of a coalition of several nations, many of whom are today aligned with or under the influence of the Soviet Union. These include Iran ("Persia"), Sudan and northern Ethiopia ("Cush"), Libya ("Put"), and Turkey ("Meshech," "Tubal," "Gomer," and "Beth Togarmah"). All these nations (see 38:2-3, 5-6), possibly led by the Soviet Union, will unite to attack Israel.¹⁴

This all indicates that the Lord had calculated the break-up of the Soviet Union because of His omniscience, and the Scripture as verbally, plenary translated by the King James Bible translators is correct (e.g. "the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" Ezek. 38:2). An excellent map may be found in the appendix to this work, which identifies the most likely locations of Magog, Tubal, and Meshech.

The northern nations will be joined by other countries in the region who want to destroy Israel for ideological reasons or to plunder them. They are joined by

"Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer, and Beth Togarmah. Together they will surround the defenseless peoples of Israel who have returned from all the nations of their diaspora to live in peace and safety in the land of promise. The intent of the attacking nations will be to plunder the land, to despoil it of all the wealth its citizens have accumulated in their exile and return."¹⁵

These nations go all the way back to the book of Genesis. Their names and origins have been identified by archaeological findings.

The early chapters of Genesis include a "Table of Nations," recorded in Genesis 10. It gives the descent of the sons of Noah, and stands in the midst of chapters

¹⁴Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., et al, op. cit., 1299 (*The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Vol. 1*)

¹⁵Zuck, R. B., Merrill, E. H., & Bock, D. L., *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, (Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1996, c1991) 380.

which have been put in the category of myth, legend, and tradition by those who were skeptical of the historicity of many parts of the Old Testament. Archeological monuments, however, have yielded the names of peoples and countries mentioned in this record. Many of them were unknown until discovered in ancient archeological records. W. F. Albright, in his 1955 revision of the article, "Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands," pointed out what he had said earlier, that this chapter "stands absolutely alone in ancient literature" (*Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible*, p. 30). We find that the monuments attest Tubal in the form Tabal, Meshech as Mushke, Ashkenaz as Ashkunz, Togarmah as Tegarama, Elishah as Alashi (Alashiyah), Tarshish as Tarsisi (Assyrian Tarshish), Cush as Kusi (pronounced Kush in Assyrian), Phut as Putu, Dedan as Ddn, Accad as Akkadu, Shinar as Shanghar. Many other parallels appear in the monuments, and this evidence leads Dr. Albright to conclude that "The Table of Nations remains an astonishingly accurate document" (*ibid*).¹⁶

Cush is currently identified as a part of Arabia, Put is Libya, Gomer is northern Turkey (see the map), and Togarmah is Armenia or Turkey.

The *third* group, identified by Pentecost invading the "land," is the Kings of the East (Rev. 16:12). It is interesting that the emperor of Rome was also called the King of the East.¹⁷ Also, the kings that Abraham warred against to rescue Lot were kings from the east.

The first conflict of armed forces recorded in Holy Scripture is that in Ge 14:1-24. The kings of the Jordan valley had rebelled against Chedorlaomer, king of Elam--not the first of the Kings of the east to reach the Mediterranean with his armies--and joined battle with him and other kings in the Vale of Siddim.¹⁸

The conclusion of Pentecost, Walvoord and many others is that the kings of the east are from the Orient. Not much more can be said about them from Scripture. Certainly, Japan is not mentioned as some exegetes imply.

"He states, "Literally, the phrase 'kings of the East' should be rendered, '*the kings who are from the rising of the sun.*' This must mean Japan—the nation internationally known as 'the Land of the Rising Sun'." This conclusion is in the opinion of the reviewer not justified as final and sure. The kings of the East are more probably a coalition of all the Orient. There is no Scriptural warrant for making predictions

¹⁶Joseph P. Free, "Archaeology and Biblical Criticism, Part 3, Archaeology and Historical Accuracy of the Scriptures," *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 113:451, (Dallas Theological Seminary, July, 1956) 215.

¹⁷Avraham Negev, *The Archaeological Encyclopedia of the Holy Land* (Prentice Hall Press, New York, 1996, c1990, 3rd ed.) Section on Tadmor; Palmyra. "Whereas Odaenathus had been content to recognize the nominal sovereignty of the Roman emperor, although he was in fact King of the East, Zenobia's challenge to the Romans led directly to the city's downfall."

¹⁸*International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (SwordSearcher, Version 5.0, Broken Arrow, OK) Section: Army, The First Campaign in History.

concerning the outcome of this present war in relation to Japan. In spite of these criticisms, this volume is heartily recommended as a source of information on this subject.¹⁹

Whether these kings are related to China, Pakistan, India, and other countries to the east of Palestine remains to be seen.

The *fourth* group listed by Pentecost is the King of the South (Dan. 11:40). He is generally associated with Egypt (Dan. 11:8, 42), although some include Ethiopia and Libya inasmuch as Egypt often ruled them.

He [the King of the North] shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall follow in his train.²⁰ [HDW, my addition for clarity]

The Scripture indicates the King of the North shall encompass them on his invasion (Dan. 11). This chapter in Scripture probably has a near and far view in light of history. Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163 B.C.) so completely fulfilled Daniel 11:21-35 that many historians doubt the veracity of the book of Daniel from the 6th century. Daniel 11:36 introduces a new king, probably the “little horn” or Antichrist of Daniel 7:8 and 9:26. The King of the South who has been weakened by the King of the North and his invasion shall attack Palestine and be overcome by the Antichrist. Just prior to these events the King of the North is soundly defeated with only one sixth of his army surviving while those dead take seven months to bury (Ezek. 39:2, 12). The weapons will take seven years to clean up (Ezek. 39:9)

The Preparation and Push of the Participants into Palestine

The *purpose* of the invasion by the King of the North is ultimately not for the benefit of the participants, but for the glory of the Lord. Zuck says,

¹⁹John F. Walvoord, “Book Review of *The Yellow Peril (Japan) and Bible Prophecy*,” *Bibliotheca Sacra*, Vol. 102:406 (Dallas Theological Seminary, April, 1945) 241.

²⁰D. S. Russell, *Daniel* (Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY, The Daily Study Bible Series, 2001, c1981) 212.

One basis for grounding the restoration of Israel in the period of the Millennium is, as suggested, the clearly eschatological message of Ezekiel 38–39. Here the prophet describes an invasion of Israel, “a land of unwalled villages” (38:11), by a coalition of hostile powers led by “Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” (v. 1). This fearsome commander will come from the “far north” (39:2) with a vast army, but he will come not entirely of his own volition but as the instrument of the sovereign God of Israel (38:4). The purpose then is obvious: the Lord will use the nations of men to achieve His own self-glorification (38:16, 23; 39:7, 21, 27–28).²¹

God is not fooled by the purposes of any man or any nation. The invasions into the Holy Land prophesied by the Scriptures prior to this age have always occurred as recorded by history and His words. There is no reason not to believe that the preparation of the world for the battles in the last half of the tribulation is currently under the watchful eye of Him, who knows all, and will occur. The “push” into Palestine by the participants is forecast to occur. God is allowing it for His ultimate purpose—His glory. He could stop it at any moment with the “breath” of His mouth. He does not prevent it because His grace will be displayed by the salvation of many individuals during the three and a half years of these battles. They are saved by His grace by simply believing in His words that proclaim His Son and His work on the Cross. May His glory shine mightily in the spiritual eyes of those who understand the grace of Almighty God in light of the depravity of man!

The Particular Time of the Battles

The battles leading up to the *final* battle concentrated at Armageddon have not seen any equal in the history of Israel, or for that matter of the world to the present day. Also, the events are different, therefore their timing is different. The differences between

²¹Ibid. 380. (Zuck, R. B., Merrill, E. H., & Bock, D. L., *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, (Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 1996, c1991) The identification of Gog and most of these other personal and place names has been debated to no successful conclusion. For various views, see Alexander, “Ezekiel,” pp. 929–30.

the initial invasion by the King of the North into Palestine compared with the battle of Armageddon are presented first.

Chart: Comparison of Armageddon with the Invasion From the North²²

Invasion by the North	Armageddon	Scripture
1. Some allies	1. The whole world	Joel 3:2; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 12:3; 14:4; Psa. 72:11; 118:10;
2. Gog comes from the north	2. Armies from the whole earth	Ezek. 38:6, 15,; 39:2
3. Gog comes to take spoil	3. Assemble to destroy the people of God (and defeat Christ)	Ezek. 38:11-12, Jer. 30:11
4. Invasion is protested	4. No protest (all seek to destroy Jerusalem, the cup of trembling)	Ezek. 38:13, Zech. 12:2; 14:2
5. Gog is the head of this army	5. Beast is the head	Ezek. 38:7, Rev. 19:19
6. Gog defeated by “convulsions of nature”	6. Destroyed by the sword of the Lord’s mouth	Ezek. 38:22; Rev. 19:15
7. Gog’s armies are in an open field	7. The armies are seen in Jerusalem	Ezek. 39:5; Zech. 14:2-4
8. The Lord calls for assistance	8. He treads the winepress alone	Ezek. 38:21; Isa. 63:3-6

In light of the above, the two events cannot be the same, and so, the timing is different. The timing is associated with the following factors.

Chart: The Timing of the Invasion by Gog²³

Factor	Scripture
1. Has to be a future event because of context.	Ezek. 37, the nation returns to her land, 38-39 describe the event, and 40 Israel is in the millennium
2. It is said to take place in “the <i>latter years or days</i> ”	Ezek. 38:8, 16
3. Since it occurs before the millennium, it must be in the tribulation	Ezek. 40 is about the millennium
4. Israel is inhabiting the land, so it occurs after the covenant with the “prince that shall come”	Ezek. 38:11
5. Israel’s conversion has not occurred, therefore it must be future. The conversion does not occur until the Messiah comes.	Ezek. 39:22, Jer. 31, Isa. 42:6 (He is the covenant for Israel), 59:20, Rom. 11:26
6. The land will be reforested. This is beginning to occur in some parts.	Ezek. 39:10
7. Because of the doctrine of imminence, it cannot take place before the rapture, and the man of sin is not revealed until the restrainer is taken out of the way.	1 Thess. 4:15-18, 2 Thess. 2:1-8
8. The prophecy is addressed to Israel in her latter day(s).	See above

²² Adapted from the information available in *Things To Come*, 344-345

²³ Ibid. 345-346

9. "The prince that shall come" makes the covenant with Israel, which can not occur until the restrainer is removed	Dan. 9:27, 2 Thess. 2:7-8
10. Israel is out of the land until the time of the Gentiles be filled	Lk. 21:24
11. The events surrounding Gog are not associated with Zech. 14 and Revelation 19.	These scriptures are related to Armageddon.
12. The invasion is most likely the middle of the 70 th week of Daniel. God is dealing with Israel when she is in her own land	Rev. 12:14-17; Ezek. 38:8

The Final Phase: The Battle at Armageddon

The final events of the forty two months are ready to occur when the beast has defeated the King of the South and the King of the North has been defeated by the Lord's forces of nature. Those left among the nations of the world are the army of the Beast and of the Kings of the East. As they prepare for the final grab of the wealth of Israel, which is probably the oil discovered under their land, the sign of the Son of man appears in the heavens. This event causes the whole world to gather to fight (Rev. 17:14; 19:19) against the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (16:14; 17:14; 19:11-21). There is no question about the outcome of the final battle. Following this final battle, the Beast (the beast out of the sea, the Antichrist, Rev. 13:1) and the False Prophet (the second beast out of the earth, Rev. 13:11) are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20). The Devil, that old serpent who is Satan and who empowered the Beast and the False Prophet, is confined to the "bottomless pit" (could this be a black hole) for a thousand years. He is released one more time to cast his spell upon the nations. Afterwards, the Devil is cast into the lake of fire along where the False Prophet and Beast have been for a thousand years. The three of them "shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Rev. 20:7, 10).

Amen!

H. D. Williams, M.D.

Chart: The War of Armageddon

Battles of Armageddon	Geographical Location	Time of the Battle	Participants	Scriptural Reference
1. Invasion of Palestine by the King of the North and the King of the South Against Israel Protected by the Roman Federation	Open field (Ezek. 39:5)	After the rapture because of “imminence”, probably at the middle of the tribulation, while Israel is at peace, (Ezek. 38:11), latter years,	(Ezek. 38:2, 5, 6) Russia (Gog) Persia (Iran) Ethiopia, Libya, Germany (Meshach and tubal), and Turkey	Dan. 11:40; Ezek. 38:1-39:24; Joel 3:2; Zeph. 3:8; Zech 12:3; 14:4
2. Invasion of Israel by the Armies of the Beast in response to invasion #1	“many countries” including Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, but Edom and Moab escape along with the leaders in Ammon; Beast moves his headquarters into Jerusalem in response to probably the Kings of the East (Dan. 11:44)	When the King of the South attacks (“pushes against”) the Beast’s coalition; King of the South joined by the King of the North; in the middle of the ‘week,’ the covenant with Israel broken in response	Roman coalition against the King of the North and South and their alliances	Dan. 11:40b-45 Zech. 12:2, 4; Ezek. 39;
3. Invasion by the armies of the East	Across the Euphrates toward Palestine	Just before the return of the Lord to earth, and right after the defeat of the King of the North and south by the armies of the Beast	Kings of the East are not identified, but they are brought to Palestine for the final battle with the Beast. However, they will join the Beast to fight the King of Kings	Rev. 16:12
4. The Invasion by the Lord and His Armies	The hills and plain of Meggido, as the Beast and Kings of the East prepare to do Battle in “a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon, some say it is the Valley of Jehoshaphat near Jerusalem	The Sign of the Son of man appears in the heaven at the end of the tribulation	The sign causes the Beast, who now rules the world except for the “East,” and Kings of the East to join into the <i>final</i> battle of the tribulation against the King of Kings.	Matt. 24:30 Rev. 16:14-16

Chart: Some Scripture References Related to the Battles of Armageddon

<p>Revelation 16:13-16 “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs <i>come</i> out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, <i>which</i> go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed <i>is</i> he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”</p>
<p>Zechariah 12:1-3 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah <i>and</i> against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.</p>
<p>Haggai 2:22 And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.</p>
<p>Zechariah 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.</p>
<p>Isaiah 30:23 Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.</p>
<p>Joel 3:12-13 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness <i>is</i> great.</p>
<p>Isaiah 63:2-6 Wherefore <i>art thou</i> red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people <i>there was</i> none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance <i>is</i> in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed <i>is</i> come. And I looked, and <i>there was</i> none to help; and I wondered that <i>there was</i> none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.</p>
<p>Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination <i>is</i> to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, <i>even</i> all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.</p>
<p>Haggai 2:6-7 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, <i>it is</i> a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry <i>land</i>; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.</p>
<p>Micah 4:11 Now also many nations are gathered against thee, that say, Let her be defiled, and let our eye look upon Zion.</p>
<p>Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, <i>that</i> every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.</p>
<p>2 Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.</p>
<p>Zechariah 14:5 And ye shall flee <i>to</i> the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, <i>and</i> all the saints with thee.</p>
<p>Joel 2:18-27 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: But I will remove far off from you the northern <i>army</i>, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things. Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the</p>

rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Jeremiah 25:32-33 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Isaiah 13:2-5 Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles. I have commanded my sanctified ones, I have also called my mighty ones for mine anger, *even* them that rejoice in my highness. The noise of a multitude in the mountains, like as of a great people; a tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together: the LORD of hosts mustereth the host of the battle. They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, *even* the LORD, and the weapons of his indignation, to destroy the whole land.

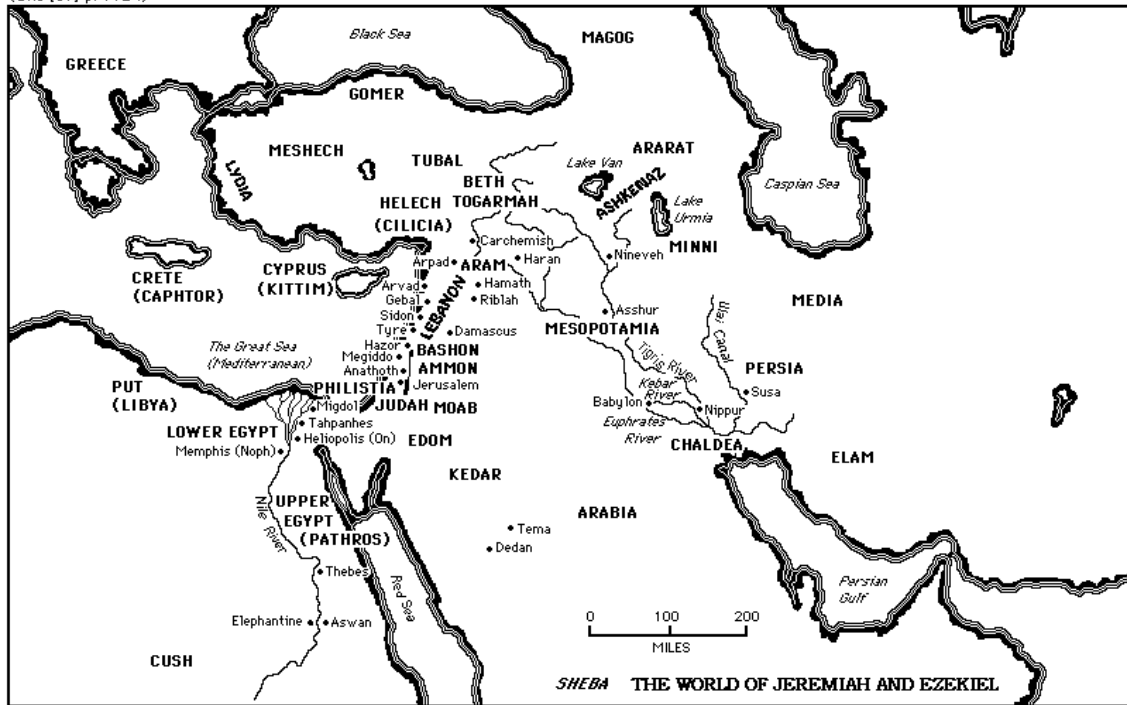
Isaiah 13:6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Isaiah 13:7-16 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces *shall be as* flames. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. And it shall be as the chased roe, and as a sheep that no man taketh up: they shall every man turn to his own people, and flee every one into his own land. Every one that is found shall be thrust through; and every one that is joined *unto them* shall fall by the sword. Their children also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled, and their wives ravished.

Isaiah 5:26-30 And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly: None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken: Whose arrows *are* sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses' hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind: Their roaring *shall be* like a lion, they shall roar like young lions: yea, they shall roar, and lay hold of the prey, and shall carry *it* away safe, and none shall deliver *it*. And in that day they shall roar against them like the roaring of the sea: and if *one* look unto the land, behold darkness *and* sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.

Map: The World of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel²⁴

(BKC [OT] p. 1124)



²⁴ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Victor Books, Wheaton, IL, Vol. 1, 1983-c1985) 1125