

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

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Chapter Nine -

Armageddon - When It Comes

Armageddon, or Har-Magedon, is the name of a small mountain or hill in the plain of Jezreel west of the river Jor Daniel The meaning of the name is "the Hill of Megiddo." But "Megiddo" is a word meaning *slaughter*, and therefore "Armageddon" may be and has been translated, "The Mount of Slaughter."

In the eternal counsels of GOD this place, Armageddon, has been predetermined as the future scene of the most awful battle in the world's history. In the Word of GOD this battle is called **"the battle of that Great Day of God Almighty"** (Revelation 16:14).

The great battle will take place in connection with the second coming of our LORD to the Earth. This is not His coming for His saints, to catch them to meet Him in the air; but His coming with His saints, at the end of the Great Tribulation, **"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power"** (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).

It is the fulfillment of the Smiting Stone prophecy of the second chapter of Daniel. Under the sixth vial, as described in the sixteenth chapter of the Revelation, the water of the great river Euphrates is dried up, **"that the way of the kings of the East might be prepared"** (verse 12). Then John writes:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come 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, which 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 is 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" (Revelation 16:13-16).

Islands in Flight as Men and Demons Rebel

Then there follows the awful destruction of the seventh vial:

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of Heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath" (Revelation 16:17-19).

Babylon here stands for Gentile world-sovereignty, and her destruction speaks of the end of the Times of the Gentiles, which began with Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. Let us read on:

"And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of Heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: (About one hundred pounds) and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (Revelation 16:20, 21).

Because Satan and his angels are unseen by us, we are apt to ignore them and even forget that they exist. But GOD's Word shows that Satan is the Prince of this World, and that the whole world lieth in him: **"Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out . . . Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me . . . And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (John 12:31; 14:30; I John 5:19).**

As **"Prince of the power of the air,"** Satan is at the head of vast numbers of demons, through whom the present world-system is ruled, always subject, however, to the restraining power of the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD: **"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience . . . For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming" (Ephesians 2:2; II Thessalonians 2:7, 8).**

In the day of slaughter at Armageddon GOD will deal not only with men, but also with Satan and his angels.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth" (Isaiah 24:21).

GOD's own people, who shall have turned to Him during the Great Tribulation and are waiting for the LORD's appearing at the end of that dreadful time, will be protected by His own power from the destruction that shall overtake His enemies. It is written:

"Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the

Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea" (Isaiah 26:20-27:1).

The "indignation" referred to in this Scripture is explained in the thirty-fourth chapter of Isaiah.

"Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of Heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in Heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the Lord is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, and with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the Lord hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion" (Isaiah 34:1-8).

The LORD JESUS is pictured in the sixty-third chapter of Isaiah as He shall in that day avenge His elect in taking vengeance upon their enemies, and His:

"Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was 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 is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was 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" (Isaiah 63:1-6).

When an Angry GOD Treads the Grapes

A similar word is also found in Isaiah 66:

"For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many" (Isaiah 66:15, 16).

The slaughter of the LORD's enemies in that awful time shall by no means be confined to the plain of Jezreel, or even to the land of Palestine. See what is written in the twenty-fifth chapter of Jeremiah, beginning with the fifteenth verse:

"or thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them.

Then took I the cup at the Lord's hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the Lord had sent me: To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day;

Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people; And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod, Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon, And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea, Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners, And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert, And all the kings of Zimri, and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes, And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord of hosts. Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord.

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" (verses 15-33).

The thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth chapters of Ezekiel seem to have Armageddon in view, and also that other somewhat similar battle that shall take place upon Satan's temporary release at the close of the Millennium. A graphic portrayal of Armageddon is in the third chapter of Joel, beginning with the ninth verse:

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord" (Joel 3:9-11).

The Armageddon Battle Array

Here we have the battle array. The nations of the Earth are to be there, in their armies, headed by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. These are all on one side. And on the other side are the armies of Heaven, come down to Earth: **"Thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord!."** Now, read on:

"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 is great" (Joel 3:12, 13).

Then look at this word of the LORD through the prophet Obadiah:

"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be as though they had not been" (Obadiah 15, 16).

Also, this, in Zephaniah 3:8:

"Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy."

The twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of Zechariah constitute a single strain of predictive testimony, dealing with the events connected with the Second Coming to Earth of the Son of Man to judge His enemies and establish His kingdom. The whole is summarized in the fourteenth chapter, already referred to frequently in our studies. First, in verses 1 and 2, we see the gathering of the nations against Jerusalem to battle, with the result that the city is taken by the besiegers and everything seems to be lost.

But in verse 3 the LORD Himself comes out of Heaven to reinforce His suffering people:

"Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when He fought in the day of battle."

Following this, in the verses beginning with the fourth, we are told of the precise point to which our LORD shall come, and of the wonderful physical changes wrought in the land itself by His

power:

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to 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, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, (the Mediterranean) and half of them toward the hinder sea: (the Dead Sea) in summer and in winter shall it be" (Zechariah 14:4-8).

Then the throne of David is reestablished, with the promised Seed occupying it:

"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one" (Zechariah 14:9).

In verses 12 to 15 the SPIRIT of Truth gives us a description of the awful destruction that will come upon the allied armies of the nations fighting against the LORD and His people:

"And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. And it shall come to pass in that day, that a great tumult from the Lord shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up against the hand of his neighbour. And Judah also shall fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the heathen round about shall be gathered together, gold, and silver, and apparel, in great abundance. And so shall be the plague of the horse, of the mule, of the camel, and of the ass, and of all the beasts that shall be in these tents, as this plague."

In that dreadful day it will not be possible for any enemy of the LORD to escape judgment, for they will be hunted out as surely as the scavengers of the air hunt out the hidden carrion:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" (Matthew 24:27, 28).

compare with

"Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off. Her young ones also suck up blood: and where the slain are, there is she" (Job 39:27-30).

These are the words of the Son of Man Himself. Their unfolding is in the nineteenth chapter of the Revelation. His coming "as the lightning" is described in detail in verses 11 to 16:

"And I saw Heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in Heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Then our LORD's reference to the carcase and the eagles is made clear by what follows, in verses 17 to 21:

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of Heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

Judgment is GOD's strange work. he loves to be gracious, and His arms are outstretched to welcome whosoever will come to Him through the blood-sprinkled Way - even by Him who said, **"I am the Way."** But for those who will not come unto Him that they might have life, there is nothing left but righteous judgment. A righteous GOD is of necessity shut up to this alternative.

"Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (Psalm 2:12).

~ end of chapter 9 ~
