

Lesson 13 The 2nd Coming of Christ & the Campaign of Armageddon

Recap from last week: The Seven Trumpet Judgments compared to the Seven Bowl Judgments

Please read **Revelation 16** and fill in and complete your chart, "The Judgments of Revelation," found on pages 119 and 120 of lesson 8, with the seven bowl judgments.

See **Revelation 8:7, 16:2**

What do the first trumpet judgment and the first bowl judgment have in common?

The first trumpet judgment and the first bowl judgment both have to do with the earth or the land.

See **Revelation 8:8, 16:3**.

What do the second trumpet judgment and the second bowl judgment have in common?

The second trumpet judgment and the second bowl judgment both have to do with the sea.

See **Revelation 8:10, 16:4**.

What do the third trumpet judgment and the third bowl judgment have in common?

The third trumpet judgment and the third bowl judgment both have to do with the rivers and springs of water.

See **Revelation 8:12, 16:8-9**.

What do the fourth trumpet judgment and the fourth bowl judgment have in common?

Both have to do with the sun, moon, and stars, with only the sun mentioned in the bowl judgments.

See **Revelation 9:1-3, 16:10-11.**

What do the fifth trumpet judgment and the fifth bowl judgment have in common?

The fifth trumpet judgment deals with demon possession with the sun and the sky darkening, which is similar to the fifth bowl in which darkness will cover the earth and the earth dwellers will have sores that cause agony, maybe like skin cancers caused by the earlier judgments of scorching sun, i.e., in fourth bowl judgment.

See **Revelation 9:13-14, 16:12.**

What do the sixth trumpet judgment and the sixth bowl judgment have in common?

The sixth trumpet judgment deals with the Euphrates River where the four angels are bound who are released to kill one-third of Mankind, and the sixth bowl dries up the same Euphrates River so that the way could be prepared for the kings of the east to come over to the Promised Land for battle.

See **Revelation 11:15-19, 16:17**

What do the seventh trumpet judgment and the seventh bowl judgment have in common?

With the seventh trumpet judgment the Great Tribulation is coming to its end and with the seventh bowl judgment, God says in a LOUD voice, "It is done."

"In the trumpet judgments, generally speaking, a third of the earth or heaven is afflicted, whereas in the bowl judgments the effects of the judgments are on the entire earth and are much more severe and final in character. Accordingly, it seems best to follow the interpretation that has long been held in the church that the seven bowls are an expansion of the seventh trumpet, just as the seven trumpets are an expansion of the breaking of the seventh seal."⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Walvoord, John, Roy Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983, p. 967.

Day 1 Background Information on the Campaign of Armageddon

Much like the “apocalypse” movies we looked at in the introduction of Part 1 of this series on Revelation, I found a few of the movies and books that have “Armageddon” in their title. The number one movie in 1997 was “Armageddon” with Bruce Willis, Liv Tyler, and Ben Affleck. In the movie, there was an asteroid the size of Texas headed for earth. NASA recruited a misfit team of deep core drillers to save the planet. Other books that have “Armageddon” in the title are Day by Day Armageddon and Day by Day Armageddon Ghost Run both by J.Bourne, Armageddon by Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins, Armageddon’s Children by Terry Brooks, The War after Armageddon by Ralph Peters, and Armageddon by Leon Uris. Leon Uris wrote the popular book Exodus that was made into a movie with the song, “This Land is Mine, God gave this Land to me.” According to Wikipedia, Armageddon is the prophesied location of a gathering of armies for a battle during the end times, variously interpreted as either a literal or a symbolic location. The term is also used in a generic sense to refer to any end of the world scenario. ⁵⁰

This lesson will be an attempt to lead you through the individual events of the Campaign of Armageddon in chronological order. But first, I would like to give you some background information concerning anti-Semitism, and the political and religious systems that will be part of the schemes of the devil during the seven years of the Tribulation period.

Anti-Semitism

We all wonder why the Jews have been so hated throughout all of history. For the most part, anti-Semitism doesn’t make any sense to us. And yet, it has been around since Abraham and it has endured throughout every generation since. We also wonder just why ha-Satan continues his pursuit to become like God and sit on the throne of God in Jerusalem and in Heaven. It seems futile because the Scripture says God still wins in the end and ha-Satan ends up in the Lake of Fire for eternity. Doesn’t ha-Satan know the Scripture? Of course, he does. And He knows it so well that he can also use the truth of Scripture to fool the earth dwellers in the end time that he can still win in the end.

This is what ha-Satan knows:

Via the Scripture: Jesus’ Second Coming depends on the Jewish people pleading for His return. I will show you this Scripture later on in this lesson. If ha-Satan can destroy all of the Jews before they realize He is their Messiah and they plead with Him to come back, then he will be successful. By preventing the second coming of Jesus Christ, he will also prevent his own doom in the Lake of Fire forever and ever.

⁵⁰ Wikipedia, Internet Source, February 3, 2018.

Political System of the Tribulation

During the first half of the Tribulation, the entire world will be divided into 10 distinct nations ruled by 10 kings. During the second half of Tribulation, at the midpoint of the Tribulation, the anti-Christ will declare war with the ten nations, killing three kings of three of the nations and the other seven kings of the other seven nations will completely submit to him. Thus, the anti-Christ will be in complete control politically.

Religious System of the Tribulation

During the first half of the Tribulation (see **Revelation 17**) “ecclesiastical Babylon” will be the unification of all false denominations and all false religions into one super religious system. During the second half of the Tribulation, at the midpoint of the Tribulation (see **Revelation 18**) and after the anti-Christ takes over political control of the world, he will destroy this one super religious system. He will then take over the Jewish Temple, and declare himself to be the one true god. Those who accept him as the one true “god” must signify this by taking the mark of the Beast, “666.”

At this point, the anti-Christ will be in complete control politically and religiously.

Day 2 Stage 1 and Stage 2 of “the war of the great day of the LORD, the Almighty”

The Assembling of the Allies of the anti-Christ in the Valley of Jezreel (Armageddon)

Most expositors have stopped using the term “the Battle of Armageddon,” because there will not be a battle waged at the place called “Armageddon.” It will serve only as a gathering place for the armies of the anti-Christ. The expositors now are calling this the “Campaign of Armageddon,” because it is not just one battle but several battles.

There will be no fighting at the place called “Armageddon.” The battle will begin elsewhere. See **Rev 16:14**.

Please look up the following verses and describe God’s viewpoint of this campaign of ha-Satan to gather the armies of the earth dwellers to fight the heavenly armies of God: **Joel 3:9-11. Ps 2**.

How does God explain His viewpoint in these verses?

God sits in Heaven and laughs because He will soon have the nations in confusion. The nations have been encouraged to turn their farming equipment into weapons of war, while ha-Satan and the anti-Christ gather nations for the purpose of destroying the Jews (the program of the counterfeit trinity). God has His own purposes for permitting this gathering. What do you think His purposes are?

The Euphrates River will dry up. What benefit will this be to the gathering armies of the nations?

Certainly, it will make it easier for them to cross over the dry land.

Please read **Revelation 16:13-14**. Why will the armies of the allies of the anti-Christ gather in the place called Armageddon?

A decree will be issued from Babylon ordering the allies of the anti-Christ to gather armies together to annihilate the Jews. There are some authors who believe the armies of the nations are fooled by the anti-Christ into gathering together for a land grab and not for a battle against the Jews.

Who are the three spirits like “frogs” and what is their purpose?

Certainly, they represent demonic activity in cooperation with the unholy trinity to assemble the world’s armies against the Lord.

In **Revelation 16:16**, the term “Har Magedon” is used instead of “Armageddon.” Use your reference materials to find out what this term means.

In the **HEBREW**, “Har Magedon” means the “Mountain of Megiddo.” Biblically, this is the “Valley of Jezreel.”

The Destruction of Babylon

Please read **Revelation 18, Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51**

According to **Isaiah 13:1-5**, who is gathering here in Babylon and for what purpose?

Here we see another gathering, but this time it is a gathering of anti-Babylon and anti-Christ forces. The purpose of the anti-Babylon forces is to destroy Babylon. These gathered (the anti-Babylon forces) are God's consecrated ones or God's sainted ones, meaning, "Believers." These are not his Heavenly armies, but His earthly armies.

Who destroys Babylon according to **Isaiah 13:6-14:23**?

The Gentile Believers destroy Babylon.

Please refer to these Bible references: **Jeremiah 50:9-10,41-42, Revelation 16:12-16.**

Who does Jeremiah see gathered to destroy the city of Babylon?

Jeremiah sees groups of armies gathered to destroy the city of Babylon.

Explain the judgment in **Revelation 16:12-16**. Which judgment is this?

Please refer to **Revelation 18:1-20**. Explain the fall of Babylon. How fast will it happen? How extensive will be the damage?

When Babylon is destroyed, it is utterly and completely destroyed: in one day and in one hour.

Who will mourn or weep or lament over Babylon?

Why will shipmasters weep over the great city?

Why will the merchants weep over the great city?

Why will the kings of the earth weep over her?

What did God tell His own to do concerning the city?

He told them to rejoice over her destruction because God has pronounced judgment for His own against her (Babylon).

Read **Jeremiah 50:43**

From this passage what do we know about the whereabouts of the king of Babylon when the city is being destroyed?

The king of Babylon is not in the city of Babylon when it goes down; he is at the gathering in Armageddon.

Read **Jeremiah 51:31-32**

Who is sent from Babylon to the gathering at Armageddon to inform the king of Babylon that his city has been destroyed?

A messenger must be sent to inform the king of Babylon that his city has been destroyed.

While the anti-Christ is meeting his forces in the Valley of Jezreel, his enemies (the Gentile Believers) take the opportunity to gather and destroy his capital city very quickly – in one day and in one hour.

Day 3 **Stage 3 and Stage 4 of the “the war of the great day of the LORD, the Almighty”**

The Fall of Jerusalem

Read **Zechariah 12:2-3, Zechariah 14:1-2**

Instead of moving eastwardly after hearing of the downfall of Babylon, where does the King of Babylon move his forces next?

The King of Babylon moves his forces to the south of the Valley of Jezreel to Jerusalem in order to finish off the Jewish people

Please read **Zechariah 10:4-9, Micah 4:13-5:1.**

What will the attack on Jerusalem look like? What will follow this attack?

Some very heavy fighting follows the attack on Jerusalem. The forces of the anti-Christ suffer heavy losses, but Jerusalem does fall to the anti-Christ.

The Armies of the anti-Christ at Bozrah

Please read **Matt 24:15-22, Rev 12:6-17**.

Even though Jerusalem falls at this time, the majority of the Jews are not in Jerusalem at this time. Where are they?

At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the then current state of Israel collapses and most of Israel is moved to the mountains. So, the city is compromised severely even before the anti-Christ moves in to finish off the Jews and their city.

In **Matthew 24:16**, Jesus tells the Jews in Judea to move to the mountains when they discern the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION sitting in the Holy Place of the Temple of Jehovah. What else will be characteristic of this place in the mountains? See **Revelation 12:6, 13-14, Isaiah 33:12-16, and Micah 2:12**.

The Jews not only moved to the mountains, but **Matthew 24:16** also says they will be in the wilderness and **Revelation 12:6, 13-14** says it will be a very rocky place and **Isaiah 33:12-16** says this place will be easily defendable and **Micah 2:12** points out the specific place as to where they will be moved, in **HEB** is called Bozrah, and in **GK** is called Petra.

Look to your Bible dictionaries or in other sources to find out what the word "Petra" means and also what the word "Bozrah" means:

Petra means "cliff rock" and Bozrah means "sheepfold"

So where is this place to which God moves the Remnant of Israel, that is easily defendable, is rocky, like a sheepfold, and in the wilderness? This place is in the wilderness of today's Jordan (Edom, Moab, and Ammon from the past are all, three parts of Jordan today). The setting of Joel Rosenberg's book, The First Hostage is in Jordan. The current King of Jordan today read Joel's book and invited him and his family to his palace to meet with him. Do you suppose something like Cyrus, the king of Persia, being shown the prophecy of Isaiah, by those Jews who wanted to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple, will be played out here by Joel showing the king of Jordan today that his country will play a part in the end times to protect the remnant of Israel? Did you know that Jordan is an ally of Israel today? Jordan will be the only nation that does not submit to the anti-Christ during the Tribulation.

Read **Jeremiah 49:13-14**. What is the next place the nations of the earth will be gathered in order to destroy the Remnant of Israel?

The nations of the earth will next be gathered in Bozrah in order to destroy the Remnant of Israel.

Day 4 **Stage 5 and Stage 6 of “the war of the great day of the LORD, the Almighty”**

The National Regeneration of Israel

There are two pre-requisites for the Second Coming of Christ. I told you in the introduction to this lesson of one of these. The Biblical references follow:

The first pre-requisite is the National Confession of Israel, that being, Israel must confess their iniquity. The Jewish national offense that was committed against the Jewish Messiah is the rejection of His Messiahship. Israel cannot fully enjoy the land benefit of the Abrahamic Covenant until they repent of this sin nationally. They also cannot enjoy the full benefits that will come to them in the Millennial Kingdom unless they repent nationally of their rejection of Jesus as their Messiah. Please read **Leviticus 26:39-42** for the national confession of iniquity and also **Jeremiah 3:12-18**, **Hosea 5:15**, and **Isaiah 53:1-9**. Please read this last reference in its entirety. This **Isaiah 53** passage of Scripture is what Jeff Swank uses to speak with the Jews who come to the hostile where he lives when he is in Israel for three months each year. He uses this same **Isaiah 53** passage to speak to the Jews of Brooklyn, NY, who visit his corner in Crown Heights, when he lives there three months of each year. And he uses this same **Isaiah 53**, when he speaks to the Jews in Amsterdam when he is there six months of each year. The book, Isaiah 53, from Chosen People Ministries points out that the Jewish people avoid chapter 53 of Isaiah because they claim they do not understand it. Most of the Jews who will read **Isaiah 53** believe Israel is the one who is suffering here and not their Messiah.

The second pre-requisite is that Israel must plead with God for Jesus to come back for them. They must look unto the One whom they have pierced and mourn over Him. This will occur for the first two days of the last three days of the Great Tribulation. Please read **Zechariah 12:10**, **Zechariah 13-14**, and **Matthew 23:37-39**. (Looking forward to put this into perspective – on the third day, Jesus will return). **Hosea 6:1-3** says the leaders must decree that they need to all cry out to God for their deliverance.

The entire **Psalms 80** is a plea from Israel for their Messiah to return to them on this earth.

In **Psalms 80:1-3** for what does Israel plead with God

Israel pleads with God to deliver them out of their predicament.

In **Psalm 80:17** for whom does Israel plea to return to them?

Israel pleads for a specific Person to return. He is the Person of Jesus Christ, their Messiah.

The Second Coming of the Messiah

The place of His Second Coming will be Bozrah first before landing on the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem second.

Please read the following verses: **Ezekiel 39:21-29, Acts 1:9-11, Revelation 19:1-16**

Bozrah

Read **Isaiah 34:1-7**

What does the Lord name the place of His coming?

Here, the Lord actually names the place of His Coming, as Bozrah.

In verses **1-3**, God has indignation against all the armies gathered and all of the nations gathered will be slaughtered with the sword of Jehovah. Of what does the sword of Jehovah represent?

Where will this slaughter take place according to **Isaiah 34:5**?

All the nations gathered together to come against the Lord will be overcome in the land identified as Edom, which is in Southern Jordan today.

Isaiah 63:1-6

In this passage of Scripture, Isaiah is standing in the mountains and seeing Someone coming towards him. This Someone is coming from Bozrah and has the Shekinah Glory surrounding him, but his garments are dyed red from the blood of the slain.

63:1-2. Who is this Someone?

The first question asked by Isaiah is: *“who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, this One who is majestic in His apparel, marching in the greatness of His strength? ‘It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.’”*

The second question is this: *“Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press?”*

Who is this Someone? And why are his white raiment dyed red?

What does the Man answer Isaiah in **Isaiah 63:1b**?

Who is the One who speaks in righteousness and is mighty to save?

Remember that in His Second Coming, He will be in His glorified body. Notice from where Yeshua is coming.

In **Isaiah 63:3-6** He tells us that He has trodden the winepress alone. What does this mean when we have already heard that the armies of Heaven, both the Church saints and the army of angels, are with Him?

Please read **Habakkuk 3:3**

Where are Teman and Mt. Paran? Where does Habakkuk say God and the Holy One have come from? In other words, where were they before Isaiah sees them in **Habakkuk 3:3**? Or, where were they before Isaiah sees them in Jerusalem?

Paran was a city in the Arabian desert. Hagar was sent there with her son, Ishmael, by Sarah and Ismael grew up there. Paran was also where the Israelites temporarily settled in the Exodus. Teman was an Edomite town in part of then Arabia.

Please read **Micah 2:12-13**.

In **Micah 2:12** the Remnant of the Jews will be gathered in Bozrah (Petra) and they will be besieged by the forces of the anti-Christ.

Who will Christ save first before He saves those in Jerusalem according to **Zechariah 12:7**?

To what do you think the “tents” of Judah represent?

The tents represent temporary abodes, which means that Judah is not at home in Jerusalem, they are in Bozrah. The initial place of His return is Bozrah and not Jerusalem.

So where does Yeshua touch down in order to save Jerusalem?

He touches down on the Mount of Olives.

Day 5 **Stage 7 and Stage 8 of “the war of the great day of the LORD, the Almighty”**

The Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat

Apparently, the battle between the Lord and the anti-Christ, which started in Bozrah, extends all the way back to the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Here is where the battle ends, at the eastern wall. This eastern wall overlooks the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Please read **Joel 3:12-13**.

What does Jehoshaphat say about the harvest here? What will Yeshua do in the Valley of Jehoshaphat after He puts his sickle into the harvest to reap?

Is this winepress in **Joel 3:12-13**, the same winepress that we saw in **Revelation 14:19-20**? Because he judges the nations here, is this the same judgment as we read about in **Matthew 25:31-33** when the sheep and the goats will be separated from each other. Remember John sees the blood flowing for 200 miles and this blood flows up to the bridles of the horses. To give you an idea of how much 200 miles is in the Middle East, this would mean that the blood flow will extend from Jerusalem to the Gulf of Aqaba. The Gulf of Aqaba is close to the northern tip of the Red Sea, so west of Jerusalem. Take out your maps and look at these two places.

The Victory Ascent up the Mount of Olives

Please read **Zechariah 14:3-4** again.

How does Jehovah fight against the nations here?

Where will His feet stand “in that day?”

Will the fighting stop first or will Christ’s feet touch down on the Mt. of Olives first?

Dr. Fructenbaum says He rescues the Jews at Bozrah first, then the battle will be done before His feet touch down on the Mt. of Olives.

A number of cataclysmic events will occur as the Great Tribulation comes to its end. Name some of these cataclysmic events according to:

Revelation 16:17-21 – in the Seventh Bowl Judgment:

Zechariah 14:4-5, Joel 3:14-17

Matthew 24:29

Cataclysmic Events:

1. A great earthquake splits the city of Jerusalem into three parts.
2. The cities of the nations' fall.
3. The great city of Babylon will receive the full wrath of God.
4. Hail weighing 100 pounds will fall.
5. The Mount of Olives shall be split in two; half of the mountain will move to the North and the other half will move to the South, forming a valley running East and West in which the Jews can escape; God will prepare for the Jews a refuge accessible through this running valley.
6. A worldwide blackout will occur: the sun will be darkened and the moon shall not give its light, the stars will fall from Heaven and the powers of Heaven shall be shaken

With these cataclysmic events the Campaign of Armageddon comes to a close.

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