

**"The Significant Characters of the Tribulation"**

**Part 14**

**Revelation 12-14**

**Introduction:** Today in our study of the book of Revelation we have come to the closing verses of Revelation 14. The verses that are before us will find their fulfillment at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus Christ returns in all His glory.

The event before us will be the culmination of the wrath of God before Jesus establishes His Kingdom on the Earth. The event that will be described in the verses before us today will be like nothing the world has ever witnessed before. The Event is Armageddon.

It will be a final purging of the earth before the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Satan, the Anti-Christ, the False Prophet and the demons will be conquered and bound. Armageddon is spoken of by many people but there are very few that understand what will really take place.

I want to start off today by looking at some background on Armageddon.

**I. Background**

In our study today, I want to borrow from Bible teacher Mark Hitchcock and his book "THE END".

**a. What is Armageddon?**

In the past couple of weeks, I have learned so much about Armageddon that I did not know before. Armageddon is NOT one single battle. It is a military campaign that will involve several battles. Armageddon will be the climatic war that will take place at the end of the Tribulation period.

The campaign of Armageddon will be spread over about 20,000 square miles. It will compass the entire land of Israel from Megiddo in the north to Edom and Bozrah in the south. It will span 200 miles from north to south and 100 miles from east to west.

The battle will be the most intense in 3 different areas.

1. **The Valley of Jehoshaphat.**
2. **The Plain of Esdraelon also known as the Valley of Jezreel.**

3. **Bozrah/Edom. This is very near to Petra.**

**Why are the armies of the earth gathered together in this area?**

It seems to be Satan's last attempt to destroy the Jews to stop the return of Jesus Christ to the Earth.

- b. **Seven Key Phases of Armageddon.**

I will borrow these from Hitchcock because I believe they will help us to better understand the campaign.

1. **The Euphrates River dries up to prepare the way of the kings of the east.**

**Revelation 16:12**

*<sup>12</sup> And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

2. **The Anti-Christ's allies assemble.**

**Revelation 16:12-16**

*<sup>12</sup> And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

*<sup>13</sup> 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.*

*<sup>14</sup> 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.*

*<sup>15</sup> Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*

*<sup>16</sup> And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

3. **The armies attack Jerusalem and it falls.**

**Zechariah 14:1-3**

*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*

*<sup>2</sup> For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

<sup>3</sup> Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4. **Jesus Christ returns to the Mount of Olives.**

**Zechariah 14:4**

<sup>3</sup> Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

5. **Jesus and His armies destroy the armies gathered against Jerusalem in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.**

**Joel 3:9-17**

<sup>9</sup> 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:

<sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

<sup>11</sup> Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

<sup>15</sup> The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

<sup>17</sup> So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

6. **Jesus descends upon Bozrah/Edom, in modern Jordan, to destroy the inhabitants and to deliver the Jewish remnant.**

**Isaiah 63:1-5**

*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.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.*

<sup>5</sup> *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.*

7. **The armies of Armageddon are destroyed.**

**Revelation 19:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *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.*

<sup>20</sup> *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.*

<sup>21</sup> *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.*

Now let us get to our text for today.

II. **The Reaper**

**Notice Revelation 14:14**

The One sitting on a white cloud here is Jesus Christ. He has on His head a crown and this is a victor's crown. You see He is coming back at the end of the Tribulation to conquer and to defeat all His enemies.

When Jesus came the first time He came as a SOWER but when He returns at the end of the Great Tribulation He will come as THE REAPER.

### **Luke 19:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

When Jesus returns at the end of the Tribulation He will come to destroy all who are His enemies.

Here in our text He sits on a white cloud which pictures Jesus in His glory. He has in His hand a sharp sickle ready to thrust it into the earth.

This event will mark the end of the longsuffering of God at this time. His wrath has reached its pinnacle at this time. The opportunities for salvation for the unsaved of the earth has reached its end.

### **Isaiah 63:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> 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.*

*<sup>4</sup> **For the day of vengeance is in mine heart,** and the year of my redeemed is come.*

## **III. The Ripeness**

### **Notice Revelation 14:15**

The harvest of the earth is ripe. This means that it is rotting or passed the point of usefulness. This speaks of the sinful condition of the world at the end of the Tribulation. The world's population will begin a downward spiral into spiritual darkness from the day of the Rapture forward.

### **2 Thessalonians 2:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup> And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

*<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

### **Revelation 9:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

*<sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

#### IV. The Reaping

##### Notice Revelation 14:16

This is what Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13.

##### Matthew 13:27-30

*<sup>27</sup> So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?*

*<sup>28</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?*

*<sup>29</sup> But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

*<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

Now John describes another vision.

#### V. Reaper #2

##### Notice Revelation 14:17-18

The second angel which comes out here comes from the altar. Let me show you something we looked at a while back.

##### Revelation 6:9-11

*<sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

*<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*

*<sup>11</sup> And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

These saints that were killed prayed for the vengeance of God upon the world.

**Revelation 8:3-5**

*<sup>3</sup> And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

*<sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

*<sup>5</sup> And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

This may be the same angel as we see in Revelation 14:18.

The angel in 14:18 comes out to be sure the prayers of the saints who cry for vengeance are being answered.

These two visions are two different pictures of the same event.

**Notice Revelation 14:19-20**

This final battle before the Kingdom is established will be far worse than anything the world has ever seen. The blood from the battle will run a river 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep and 200 miles long.

Let me give you some stats to consider. There are 6 quarts of blood within a man. To run a river 200 miles long 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet deep and only 20 yards wide it would take 1 billion people. Now we can also figure in the blood of the horses and the bodies that will cause the blood to rise but from this we get a picture of the carnage that will unfold at the final battle.

**Conclusion:**

**Revelation 19:17-21**

*<sup>17</sup> 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;*

<sup>18</sup> *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.*

<sup>19</sup> *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.*

<sup>20</sup> *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.*

<sup>21</sup> *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.*

**Hebrews 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*