

God's Master Plan In Prophecy

Lesson 13 – The Battle of Armageddon & 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ

Key Scriptures: Revelation 19:1-21 Ezekiel 38 & 39 Joel 2:1-11 Zechariah 12-14

Introduction

Rev 19:1 After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God;

While the Wrath of God is being poured out, there was the voice of "a great multitude in heaven" praising God! This is the redeemed church which has missed the Wrath of God and was taken out of Great Tribulation. While the earth is experiencing the judgment of God without mercy, we are experiencing His goodness without judgment!

Rev 19:2-3 **BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." 3** And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

From what is being said in these verse, it is obvious that the church will be fully aware of what is happening upon the earth during this time, yet because we are no longer viewing earth's events through the eyes of mortal flesh, we will understand that God is righteous and true in His judgments. To modern minds it may seem strange to worship and say, "hallelujah" over the fact that God is pouring out judgment, but that is because we see imperfectly now. Then, we will be able to see a clearer view of eternity and God's working among men and the end result of such viewpoint will be that what God is doing is right.

Rev 19:4-5 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" **5** And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great."

Notice the distinction here between the twenty-four elders and the redeemed church. The redeemed church was already praising God. Now the elders join in and then a voice commands "all you His bond-servants" to join in as well. It is very likely that this term of "bond-servants" is used for the other angels because the church is referred to as the bride of Christ or as children of God. This also seems to back up our supposition about the twenty-four elders being the angelic leaders of worship and not the church.

Rev 19:6 Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

There are countless millions of angels and they all began to praise God with all of their might! This will be something to see! "Omnipotent" means "all powerful."

Rev 19:7 "Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

This is the reason that the angels begin to praise God in thunderous acclaim: "for the marriage supper of the Lamb is come! We have discussed how that the church is the bride of Christ¹ so our joining with Him after the saints are caught away from the earth is rightfully termed the "marriage supper of the Lamb." Notice Jesus Christ is coming back for a bride who "has made herself ready." We must do something to be ready when Christ returns!

Rev 19:8 It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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See Ephesians 5:22-33.

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Here we are given to understand the symbolism of the white robes: it represents the "righteousness of saints." It is very obvious from a comparison of this scripture with others – notably Acts 2:38, Romans 8:11, and Revelation 7:14 – that the church made themselves ready by repenting of their sins, being baptized in the name of Jesus, and receiving the Holy Spirit! If one has not put on the robe of righteousness, then they will not be welcome at the marriage supper.² Furthermore, they must keep such a robe of righteousness on and thus "stay ready."

Rev 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

This verse is certainly an understatement because those who are called or brought to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will be blessed in every way: they will have a glorified body that is no longer susceptible to death; they will have no more tears, sickness, or pain; they will have missed the wrath of God; they will be at the greatest party that has ever been; they will have laid hold of eternal life ever to be with Jesus Christ! Then the angel commanded John to write "these are true words of God" almost as if God is telling us, "It may sound too good to be true, but I cannot lie and you can depend upon everything being just as good as I have said it will be!"

Rev 19:10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

John fell down in awe at what he had seen and began to worship the angel. The angel quickly stopped him and said, "don't worship me, for I am a servant of God just as you are: worship God!" Even the angels understand the principle that only God is to be praised!

The Battle of Armageddon

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

This is the Battle of Armageddon. Jesus Christ is the one who is Faithful and True.³ The white horse here stands for purity. Jesus Christ is about to perform the Second Coming to the earth and this time, He is coming in war!

Rev 19:12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself.

His eyes are flaming with fire because He is about to consume the enemies of His people and His many crowns represent His many victories of the past. The "Name written on Him which no one knows except Himself" is probably a reference to the Jewish Tetragrammaton, YHWH. Under the Law, the revealed name was Jehovah or Yahweh.⁴ Throughout Jewish history, the rabbis and scribes were so afraid of speaking the Lord's name in vain, that they refused to say the name when reading the scriptures out loud, always substituting the substitute name *Adonai*. They also so revered the name of God that they would not write it and so abbreviated it by removing all of the vowels. The result is that no one really knows how to pronounce the name of God in the Old Testament or even the correct spelling. Today, we use Jehovah and Yahweh and hope that it's close, but we really do not know – only God really knows the correct pronunciation and spelling of Jehovah and Yahweh.

The point is that it really doesn't matter. The name Jehovah, as we call it, was the saving name of God under the Era of Law. Today, under Grace, we have a "more excellent name" that is "above every name" that we are saved by, the name of Jesus.⁵ Jesus Christ is coming to fight to save the Jewish people and they are about to get a revelation of the true name of God but it will not be what they think – for they will quickly realize that the name of the one true God of the Old and New Testaments is Jesus Christ!

Rev 19:13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

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See Matthew 22:1-13.

³ See Revelation 3:14.

⁴ That is English and Hebrew languages rendering of the word respectively.

⁵ See Philippians 2:9-10; Acts 4:10-12.

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This is without a doubt, Jesus Christ. It was Jesus Christ who shed His blood and in John 1:1,10,14 He is referred to as "the Word!"

Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.

This is where the prophecy gets extremely personal for you and I. The "armies which are in heaven were following Him on white horses." The armies that John was meaning were those who were "clothed in fine linen, white and clean" which is exactly what the saints, the redeemed church are wearing! And so we learn a startling fact about the end of the Wrath of God and the battle that is commonly called Armageddon: the church comes back to fight with Jesus Christ against the enemies of Israel!

Joel's Prophecies

The prophet Joel actually prophesied about this event well before John ever got to the isle of Patmos and began having visions.

Joel 2:1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the Lord is coming; Surely it is near,

The "Day of the Lord" is the day of Jesus Christ's second coming! The trumpets and alarms represent the sound of war around Jerusalem.

Joel 2:2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations.

After describing the battle scene, Joel begins to talk about the army that is with the Lord. He said there is never been anyone like them nor will there be anyone like them again! This is the redeemed church coming to fight with Jesus Christ and to fight against an army comprised of most of the nations upon the earth! And the fact that this is taking place after the resurrection means that we will be in glorified bodies and thus be impervious to death, pain, or hurt!

Joel 2:3-5 A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. 4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 5 With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle.

We are fighting from horses with fire, except these horses can leap to the tops of the mountains! Could it be that we are riding horses similar to the ones that came and picked up Elijah?⁶ They were "horses of fire" that flew down to earth to transport him up to heaven. Another instance of these type of horses in scripture is when Elisha opened his servant's eyes to the spiritual realm and they saw "horses and chariots of fire round about."⁷ In both these instances, no person or angel is ever mentioned riding them, but when we get to the Battle of Armageddon, we find that the redeemed church is riding upon some sort of fiery horses!

Joel 2:6-9 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. 7 They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. 8 They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. 9 They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief.

What an army: if we fall upon the sword, we shall not be wounded because we are immortal and no doubt our very appearance will strike much fear in the opposing army!

⁶ See 2 Kings 2:11.

⁷ See 2 Kings 6:17.

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Joel 2:10-11 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. **11** The Lord utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the Lord is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

So not only will we be fighting but the Lord will fight as well by turning His wrath that had been being poured out upon the earth and instead focusing it upon the opposing armies! Here is the great earthquake that we have previously identified as a key characteristic of the wrath of God: God is now fighting *for* Israel with His wrath.

Joel 2:12-13 "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; **13** And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

After this battle, Israel gets a second chance at salvation. We cannot ignore these scriptures and neither can we spiritualize them away: the God who was at first pouring out His Wrath upon the Jewish people will then turn in mercy to them. They are not the bride of Christ because the bride of Christ, the redeemed church, is with Him when He returns, but they do get a second chance at salvation. Let's skip down in the chapter and see who we were fighting against:

Joel 2:20-21 "But I will remove the northern army far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things." **21** Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the Lord has done great things.

We were fighting against "the northern army" and we win! We will discuss this army in a moment. Let's skip down to a popular scripture that applied to the church at Pentecost but will also apply to this day as well:

Joel 2:27-29 "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the Lord your God, And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame. **28** "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. **29** "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

We began these lessons by showing how that all prophecy has an immediate fulfillment and a distant fulfillment – we call this the law of double fulfillment. Peter quoted this scripture on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Early Church. That was the immediate fulfillment of this prophecy. But the context of these verses also reveal that there will be a distant fulfillment of this prophecy upon the nation of Israel after the Battle of Armageddon:

Joel 2:30-32 "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. **31** "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. **32** "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the Lord has said, Even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.

This perfectly matches the description of the Wrath of God: Joel was prophesying directly to the Jewish people and promises that those of the "survivors" who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved and receive His Spirit. That is, those Jewish people who make it alive through the wrath of God and that are willing to call upon His revealed name, will have a second chance at salvation at the close of the Battle of Armageddon.

Zechariah's Prophecies

The prophet Zechariah also prophesied about this time of the future. In particular, the 12th, 13th, and 14th chapters of the book are about the battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ. We will just hit the highlights:

Zech 13:6 "And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will say, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

The phrase in the Hebrew for "wounds between your arms" could be translated several different ways. The KJV has "in thine hands," the reading here in the NASU has "wounds between your arms" with a footnote that "hands" could also be meant. That most translations have something different here and have multiple footnotes as to other ways that it could be taken is proof that the Hebrew can be interpreted in several different, valid ways. Most translators agree that one or both of two primary meaning could be intended: either "wounds in the middle of the hands" are meant or wounds on the chest

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or back is meant – being literally “between the arms.” Whichever of the two meanings were meant and even if both are meant, it is obvious that this prophecy applies in the distant fulfillment to Jesus Christ. The Jews will rush out to meet their Messiah with joy in the midst of the battle but will be astonished to discover that their Messiah has nail scars in His hands and stripes upon His back – their Messiah is none other than Jesus Christ!

Zech 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the Lord of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

God will explain to them that the reason that He allowed the nation of Israel to be scattered abroad was because they struck the shepherd, meaning Jesus Christ. That is, they had to endure the Wrath of God because they crucified their savior at His first coming!

Zech 13:8-9 "It will come about in all the land," Declares the Lord, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it. 9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

These verses give us very important additional information: of all of the Jewish people alive at the time of the Second Coming, "two parts" or "two thirds" will die during the Wrath of God and the beginning of the Battle of Armageddon! It will only be the remaining third who will have a chance at salvation.

Zech 14:1-2 Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. 2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

God will allow the enemy armies to get all of the way to Jerusalem before He steps in to fight for Israel. "Half of the city" of Jerusalem will be taken before His Second Coming and His coming will be at the last moment possible.

Zech 14:3-4 Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. 4 In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

When Jesus returns to earth, He will stand upon the Mount of Olives which is beyond the eastern wall of the city past the Brook Kidron and when His feet touch the ground, the mountain will split in half in a great earthquake. It is interesting to note that modern geologists have already found a fault line at this exact place today! The reason for this split is that it will cause the Dead Sea to flow into the Mediterranean Sea and become alive again.⁸

Zech 14:5 You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

Zechariah plainly prophesies that Jehovah God will come with all the saints to fight for Israel just as the 19th chapter of Revelation says, but notice that in Revelation, it is Jesus Christ that fights for Israel. Obviously Jesus Christ and the Jehovah God of the Old Testament are the same!

Zech 14:12 Now this will be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

The Lord will smite the armies coming against Israel with some sort of "plague" that will cause their flesh to melt away while they are still standing – this certainly sounds like what happens when nuclear energy is used! The enemies of Israel do not stand a chance in this battle that they at first thought that they were winning.

Finishing Up

⁸ See Ezekiel 47:7-10; Zechariah 14:8; Joel 2:20.

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We now return to the 19th chapter of Revelation armed with some new details about this coming day of judgment and war. We will end this lesson by completing the 19th chapter of Revelation and by taking a cursory glance at some further details recorded in the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel.ⁱⁱ

Rev 19:15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

Notice that the symbols here fits perfectly with the vision of the simultaneous harvests that we found in the 14th chapter of Revelation. In both places the Lord equated the Jewish people having to go through the wrath of God as being placed through a "wine press."

Rev 19:16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

Jesus Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and He is proving it by defeating the kings of the earth and the Antichrist in battle! Remember that the Antichrist is the primary force behind this assault upon Israel.

Rev 19:17-18 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

This great feast is mentioned many times through scripture and apparently what is meant is that there will be so many men killed during this battle, that the scavenger birds will have their fill of food! This verse is to emphasize the great bloodshed that will take place: the Battle of Armageddon will be the bloodiest and most deadly war that has ever happened and will even be worst than the 5th and 6th Trumpet wars!

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

The Antichrist is leading the armies against Israel. The obvious question that arises is, "who exactly are these armies and from what nations do they represent?" The ten-nation union will be very involved because it is from them that the Antichrist gets his power. But some parallel scriptures in Ezekiel give us even more detailed information:

Ezek 38:1-2 And the word of the Lord came to me saying, 2 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

"Gog" refers to the area of Persia's former kingdom which is directly northeast and east of Israel and encompasses the area and nations around modern day Turkey such as Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and even India. Because the "kings of the east" will cross the Euphrates River, it is obvious that Turkey will be somewhat involved in the battle.⁹ "Magog" refers to the countries extreme north of Israel which includes Greece, Western Europe, and Russia. It is interesting to note that two prominent modern Russian cities, Moscow and Tobolsk are named after "Meshech and Tubal" respectively.

Ezek 38:3 and say, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

Obviously Russia will have a very prominent role in leading the battle against Israel because God addresses them repeatedly throughout these chapters.

Ezek 38:4 "I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them splendidly attired, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them wielding swords;

God is basically saying, "whatever you can bring to the battle, bring it on and I'll still wipe you out!"

⁹ See Revelation 16:12.

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Ezek 38:5-7 Persia, Ethiopia and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; 6 Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah from the remote parts of the north with all its troops — many peoples with you. 7 "Be prepared, and prepare yourself, you and all your companies that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them.

Persia, and Ethiopia are easy enough to identify. "Put" is the ancient name for the country we now call Libya. "Gomer" and "Beth-togarmah" were ancient names for other nations north of Israel.

Ezek 38:14-16 "Therefore prophesy, son of man, and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God, "On that day when My people Israel are living securely, will you not know it? 15 "You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army; 16 and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land. It shall come about in the last days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I am sanctified through you before their eyes, O Gog."

This fits so perfectly with everything else that we know about the Battle of Armageddon that is obvious that these are all prophecies about the same event. Indeed, these chapters in Ezekiel are considered some of the "key scriptures" about the Wrath of God and the Battle of Armageddon.

Ezek 38:18-19 "It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord God, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. 19 "In My zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.

Here the wrath of God being turned upon the armies and the great earthquake are mentioned yet again. But the next chapter brings us some additional information and details:

Ezek 39:9-10 "Then those who inhabit the cities of Israel will go out and make fires with the weapons and burn them, both shields and bucklers, bows and arrows, war clubs and spears, and for seven years they will make fires of them. 10 "They will not take wood from the field or gather firewood from the forests, for they will make fires with the weapons; and they will take the spoil of those who despoiled them and seize the plunder of those who plundered them," declares the Lord God.

Israel will spend seven years to burn all of the residue from the battle and they will have so many rifle butts and such to burn for fire, that they will not need to cut down trees for firewood for this entire time!

Ezek 39:11-13 "On that day I will give Gog a burial ground there in Israel, the valley of those who pass by east of the sea, and it will block off those who would pass by. So they will bury Gog there with all his horde, and they will call it the valley of Hamon-gog. 12 "For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. 13 "Even all the people of the land will bury them; and it will be to their renown on the day that I glorify Myself," declares the Lord God.

"Hamon-gog" simply means "multitudes." It will take Israel seven months to bury all of the dead and the stench will cause people to remember the great victory of the Lord!

Ezek 39:14-15 "They will set apart men who will constantly pass through the land, burying those who were passing through, even those left on the surface of the ground, in order to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make a search. 15 "As those who pass through the land pass through and anyone sees a man's bone, then he will set up a marker by it until the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog.

There will be so many dead bodies throughout the valleys north of Israel that men will be hired who do nothing but bury the dead; after seven months, if anyone finds a dead body they will leave a little flag or sign next to it and then these men will come bury it. This will have been the worst war that the world has ever seen!

Ezek 39:27-29 "When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. 28 "Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. 29 "I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel," declares the Lord God.

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Once again God talks about how that He will deliver Israel from the attack of the northern armies and will turn again to them with salvation. Of course, we have only hit the highlights of what the scriptures say about the Battle of Armageddon because God gave us so many scriptures dealing with this event. God spend much more space in His Word describing the Antichrist's defeat than He did telling us about the successes of this false messiah – obviously God wanted to make sure that you and I know who wins in the end!

Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

At the end of the battle, the Antichrist and his government will have been completely defeated. The Antichrist and his false prophet will be "thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone" to be lost for forever!

Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

The rest of the army are killed and their fate was doomed when they pledged their loyalty to the Antichrist's regime and took his mark: the birds of the air will eat their flesh!

Review

To recap what we have learned: somewhere towards the end of the Wrath of God being poured out, the Antichrist will gather together a great army made up of nations around Israel, particularly to the north and east. Russia will be one of the leaders helping to lead the charge. The Battle of Armageddon – its other name being the "First Battle of Gog and Magog – will begin 200 miles north of Jerusalem.¹⁰ Israel will begin to lose the battle badly and will slowly retreat during this massacre back to the city of Jerusalem. During this time two-thirds of the Jewish people will have been killed either from the attack of the northern armies or by the events of the Wrath of God. Jesus Christ will wait until the attackers take half of the city of Jerusalem and then will make His Second Coming to earth. He will descend from heaven with the army of the redeemed saints who were caught up from the earth before the Wrath of God. Jesus Christ will descend to the Mount of Olives at which time a great earthquake will take place and the Wrath of God will turn from being poured out upon the Jewish people to being poured out upon the invading enemy army. The Mount of Olives will split and the Dead Sea will flow west into the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time, the Lord and His saints will completely destroy the enemy army. Overjoyed that their Messiah is finally here, the remaining one-third of the Jewish people will rush outside the city only to be shocked that their long-awaited Messiah has nail scars in His hands and stripes across His back and is the very Jesus Christ that they crucified 2,000 years ago! Those that believe that He is the Messiah at this time will be given a second chance at salvation. The carnage from the Battle of Armageddon will be so great that the scavenger birds will have their fill of bodies to eat and it will take seven months for the Israelis to bury the dead bodies in mass graves. The residue from the war will be so great that they will burn rifle butts and other wooden parts, and for seven years no body will have to chop firewood! The Antichrist and the false prophet will be taken alive and cast into the lake of fire to be forever tormented – Jesus Christ will assume control over the earth and His Wrath will cease. The next step in the final moments of the timeline of the future is then the "Millennial Reign" of Jesus Christ. This will be the subject of our next lesson.

¹⁰ See Revelation 14:20.

Endnotes

In recent times the worship and veneration of angels and spirit beings and statues representing such things has become increasingly popular. Such is idolatry and an abomination unto God – we must worship God alone and do so directly!

ⁱⁱ There are many other prophecies in the Old Testament concerning this great day of battle. Because of a lack of space and time, we cannot go verse by verse through all of them. The entire books of Joel and Zephaniah, plus many other chapters of other books deal with the Battle of Armageddon and the wrath of God being poured out upon the Jews followed by God's subsequent hand of mercy being extended to Israel again. As you read your Bible be sure to look for the key phrases "Day of the Lord" and "sound the alarm in Zion" because those phrases usually accompany the passages that are talking about this time of prophecy.