

The Broadmoor Bulletin

A Monthly Publication for the Christians at Broadmoor

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Gideon

Every Man Stood in His Place Judges 7:21

In Judges Chapter 7, we read of the thrilling story of how Gideon defeated a massive Midianite army with only 300 soldiers. God told Gideon that the 32,000 soldiers were too many for the battle and would cause Israel to boast about their victory; so God reduced the army to 10,000. He then reduced their number even further so that only 300 men were left.

The Strategy

Gideon divided the soldiers into three groups of 100 men each. Each man had a trumpet, a torch, and a pitcher that covered the torch. Gideon positioned these three groups of 100 soldiers around the camp of the Midianites so as to be able to attack the camp from three different positions. When Gideon gave the signal, all the men smashed their pitchers, lit their torches and blew their trumpets. They all shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" This strategy may have given the impression to the Midianite soldiers that they were being attacked by 300 different brigades of men since each brigade would often be led by a trumpet blower and/or torch bearer.

The Key to Victory

I believe that verse 21 reveals the key to this impressive victory for Gideon and his soldiers. It says that "every man stood in his place all around the camp" [NKJV]. When the soldiers did exactly what Gideon told them to do, and each stood in their place, it gave the impression to the Midianite soldiers that they were surrounded by an enormous army. The Midianites "concluded" that the situation was hopeless and began killing each other. They were utterly defeated by Gideon and his small band of 300 men.

Key to Victory Today

I believe that this Old Testament story reveals some great lessons that we can use today. If we want to achieve victory over the enemy, each of us needs to find our place in God's will, get in it, and stay there. And I believe that if we all stand in our places that God has designated, we can achieve spiritual victory in every area of our lives.

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The Battle of Armageddon

Introduction: During the last forty years, the subject of the battle of Armageddon has been a topic of biblical discussion. In this decade, Armageddon has especially been on the minds of many. While Armageddon is a biblical term, as we shall see, much of the teaching and beliefs relative to Armageddon look to the teaching found under the canopy of Premillennialism. Premillennialism has set forth an eschatological time frame of events that usually include what they call the battle of Armageddon (see addendum for events six through fourteen as supplied by Premillennialists. Notice that Armageddon is event number ten).

In view of the events in the Middle East, many religious people believe Armageddon is imminent. Some use the term Armageddon to mean some cataclysmic event. Hollywood is sensationalizing the idea of Armageddon with movies regarding doomsday. One Web site has the following:

"Armageddon: Then shortly after Jesus' 2nd Coming, down from the sky will come the great hosts of Heaven with Jesus in the lead to destroy the Antichrist and his one-world empire in the awesome Battle of Armageddon.

This great slaughter of the Antichrist and his armies will take place in and around the valley of Megiddo near Haifa in Israel. It will mark the end of man's cruel rule on earth, as Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and His Heavenly forces forcibly take over the World to rule and reign and run it the way it should have been run if man had not disobeyed God and gone his own selfish way!

And so begins a period known as the Millennium, a thousand years of peace and plenty and paradise on Earth."

I. Is Armageddon really a biblical subject and, if so, what is actually taught about the battle of Armageddon?

A. Smith's Bible Dictionary makes the following comments concerning Armageddon:

"Armageddon: (the hill or city of Megiddo). (Revelation 16: 16). The scene of the struggle of good and evil is suggested by that battle-field, the plain of Esdraelon, which was famous for two great victories, of Barak over the Canaanites and of Gideon over the Midianites; and for two great disasters, the deaths of Saul and Josiah.

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Every Man Stood in His Place

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Application of This Principle

First of all we need husbands and fathers who will stand in their place as the spiritual and moral leaders of their homes. We need men to be men and love their wives in the same way that Christ loved the church. And we need men who will take the time to teach and discipline their children. We also need wives and mothers who will stand in their place to lovingly submit to their husband's headship out of reverence for God. And we need women who will value the teaching and training of their children above a lucrative business career. And we need children who will stand in their place and submit to and obey their parents.

We also need elders who will stand in their place as the spiritual leaders of God's people who will lovingly shepherd the flock and discipline unruly members. We need church members who will stand in their place and submit to the elder's authority and oversight. We need deacons who will stand in their place of service and seek to meet the needs of the various members of the congregation. And we especially need preachers who will stand in their place to preach the word of God only without any concern for being politically correct. We need evangelists who are busy doing the work of evangelizing the lost.

Victory is Assured

If all of us will find our place in God's kingdom, get in it, and stay there, we are assured of success! The key is for each of us to stand in the place that God designed for us and stay there. God will bring about victory in the home, in the church in civil government if all of us will stay in the places that He has set for us.

Mike Roy

The Battle of Armageddon

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Hence it signifies in Revelation a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked. The Revised Version gives the name as Har-Magedon, i.e. the hill of Megiddo."

B. The term Armageddon is found once in the King James Version, Revelation 16: 16. The physical, geographic location is the "valley of Megiddo" (2 Chron. 35: 22). The Valley of Megiddo was where Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera and his army (Judges 5: 19) and Josiah was slain (2 Kings 23: 29, 30). It was also known as a place of great mourning (Zech. 12: 11).

II. The setting of the "battle of Armageddon."

A. The primary text used (the text in which the word occurs) to set forth the Premillennial idea of a great physical slaughter being lead by the military commander, Jesus Christ is Revelation 16: 12-16. This text concerns the sixth angel pouring out his vial upon the great river Euphrates and the consequent happenings. Consider the text of this passage.

B. There are seldom two reputable expositors who exactly agree regarding what or who is meant by the "kings of the east," "three unclean spirits like frogs," and the "false prophet" (vs. 12, 13). Yet, these agents are primary in the biblical presentation.

C. It should also be appreciated that the text of Revelation 16: 12-16 is highly symbolic and figurative. Notice the language: "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon" (vs. 13). Were these really frogs proceeding from the mouth of an actual dragon? These frogs **represented** something, the working and influence of demons (vs. 14).

III. I submit that the Bible often presents matters of spiritual nature, concern, and application.

A. Salvation is a spiritual happening that involves the spiritual washing away of sins (Acts 2: 38, 22: 16). The church is spiritual and has an enjoined spiritual work to perform (Eph. 1: 22, 23; 1 Tim. 3: 15). Many have been caused to err because they insisted on placing a physical meaning on spiritual principles and teachings (cp. John 3: 1-9). Hence, in the case of Jesus' church, many have sought to reduce it to a physical institution that performs purely social activities and has only monetary goals.

B. In like fashion, the warfare in which the Christian is to engage is spiritual, not physical. Jesus is presented as the Commander in Chief, if you will (2 Tim. 2: 3, 4). The required weaponry of spiritual warfare is spiritual in nature rather than material (Eph. 6: 13-17). One carnal doctrine relative to biblical warfare is found in the verse immediately preceding the passage to which allusion was just made (Eph. 6: 12). Consider Paul's emphatic teaching (read Eph. 6: 12 and 2 Cor. 10: 4).

IV. The Premillennial physical connotation placed on the battle of Armageddon.

A. As noted, many today believe and teach that the battle of Armageddon is going to be a literal physical battle in the actual location of the valley of Megiddo in the Middle East. They also believe it will be fought with relatively primitive weaponry; hence, the intense interest regarding the current military interest in the Middle East. Most scholars agree that Revelation 19: 19-21 refers to the same event mentioned in Revelation 16: 12-16 and designated as Armageddon. The leader of the great army in Revelation 19 is described in verses 11-13. (continued on page 3)

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B. The Commander of the great army involved in the battle of Armageddon is obviously Jesus Christ, called "The Word of God" (cp. John 1: 1 ff.). In view of the teaching of the scriptures concerning Christianity not engaging in carnal warfare, the view of Armageddon that involves Jesus and his people in physical combat is utterly untenable and repulsive.

V. The meaning of the battle of Armageddon.

A. Some would say, "It is apparent from what you have written that you do not believe in the battle of Armageddon." I believe in the battle set forth in Revelation chapters 16 and 19, however, I disagree and reject man's teaching relative to the battle of Armageddon.

B. The truth of the matter is that we do not know for sure what event is symbolized or indicated in the biblical battle of Armageddon, apart from the Judgment Day.

C. One basic design of Revelation was to teach by the use of symbols (Rev. 1: 1). In a large percentage of cases, the symbols are explained (cp. Rev. 1: 20, vs.12-19). In these cases, we know what is meant. However, in some cases there is no attendant explanation. We must be careful not to take figurative language and array it against plain teaching found elsewhere in the scriptures (such as 2 Cor. 10: 4).

D. The primary lesson of Revelation is that of ultimate victory. There would be difficulties and defeats, Revelation is saying, but the righteous would ultimately be triumphant and the wicked would be overthrown (Rev. 6: 11, 12-17, ch. 7, ch. 11, 14: 9-14). The paramount message is, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2: 10).

Conclusion: The record and teaching of the battle of Armageddon, then, is not meant to be understood as teaching some material cataclysmic world battle in which Christians and the wicked will come to physical blows and the Christians kill the wicked. The spiritual lesson is that the righteous led by Jesus their Leader in spiritual conflict will ultimately and completely overcome!

Addendum: Here are the sequential events six through fourteen as often presented by teachers of the premillennial persuasion:

6. The resurrected dead together with the transfigured living saints are to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

7. The judgment of all the righteous will then take place.

8. Before and during the tribulation period, the Jews are to be restored to the land of Palestine.

9. At the mere sight of their Messiah, the Jews are to turn to Him in a national conversion.

10. Christ, at his coming, will destroy the anti-Christ and all his forces in the battle of Armageddon.

11. After this battle, Christ will establish a world-wide Kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital, in which He and the resurrected and transfigured saints will rule for a literal thousand years in peace.

12. During this Jerusalem reign, the temple, feasts, fasts, priesthood, and sacrificial system are to be re-instituted, though performed in a "Christian" spirit and by "Christian" worshippers.

13. During the golden age, nature's curse is to be removed. The desert will bloom as a rose; wild beasts are to be tamed.

14. At this time, great numbers of the Gentiles will turn to God and be in His Kingdom.

Don Martin

The hidden title for the puzzle is spelled out by the uncircled letters in the solved puzzle.

Puzzle 19

Hidden Title: _____

Scripture: Judges 6:11-18

GIDEON	THRESHED	WHEAT
ANGEL	APPEARED	MIGHTY
VALOUR	SAVE	ISRAEL
MIDIANITES	FAMILY	POOR
GRACE	SIGHT	SIGN

M	S	L	E	G	N	A	N	G	I
I	A	M	L	S	I	G	H	T	D
D	V	I	E	E	I	D	O	D	N
I	E	G	A	S	I	F	E	S	C
A	C	H	R	V	A	R	A	O	L
N	A	T	S	M	A	L	E	D	N
I	R	Y	I	E	U	L	C	U	G
T	G	L	P	D	R	O	O	P	A
E	Y	P	H	D	E	H	W	U	V
S	A	W	W	H	E	A	T	Q	R

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