

Mid-East Prophecy Update – November 16th, 2008

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- Today, I would like to look at a prophecy that will find its fulfillment during the tribulation in a place known as Megiddo, (Armageddon).
- This is one of the first sites we'll visit while we're on our trip to Israel. The Valley of Jezreel at Megiddo is rich with history and prophecy.

- Megiddo hasn't been inhabited since 700 BC. Under King Ahab's reign made child sacrifices to the prophet Baal and Ashtoroth.
- Tel Megiddo as it's called, "tel" is Arabic for "hill" or mound which is often made of ancient ruins. In Hebrew, it's "Har" Megiddo.
- In history Megiddo has seen more battles than any other location on earth; in prophecy it sees its final one, the battle of Armageddon.

- There is a most fascinating connection between Bible history, and Bible prophecy, and Megiddo is a perfect example of that.

- In Joshua 12:21 we have its first reference in Scripture, there we find a list of Canaanite kings defeated during the Israelite conquest.
- In Joshua 17:11 we see it fall in the inheritance of the tribe of Manasseh; in 1 Kings 9:15 we see the largest period of building at Megiddo.
- This was during King Solomon's reign that even made it one of his district capitals. Kings built here and kings fought battles here.

- In Judges 6:33-35 we see the Midianite and Amalekite army camping here before their defeat by Gideon's famous 300 men army.
- In Ezekiel 37:1-14 we see the prophet Ezekiel receiving the prophetic vision of Israel's dry bones coming back to life as a nation.

- That's why Megiddo is both a historic and prophetic place. Again, it will be where the great and final Battle of Armageddon will be fought.
- This is where the Antichrist will lead the world system against the returning Jesus Christ who at the end defeats the world's army's.

Revelation 16:12-16 12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. 13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." 16 **Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.** NIV

Revelation 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers." NIV

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. NIV

- In the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, we are given a horrific description of the unspeakable carnage in the battle of Armageddon:

Revelation 14:19-20 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. NIV

- So when does this battle of Armageddon happen, and where does it fit in the overall prophetic program in worlds last and final days?
- It's important for us to understand that there are three battles that the Scriptures foretell will take place near and at the time of the end.

1 The battle of Gog: This is a Muslim alliance of nations who attack Israel to "wipe her off the map, possibly before the rapture. (Ez 38-39)

2 The battle of Armageddon: This is the kings of the world warring against Jesus at the end of the tribulation. (Rev 7:12-16, 17:14, 19:19)

3 The final battle: This is when Satan and his allies make war against God, after the Kingdom age, (the millennium). (Rev 20:7-10)

- So if the battle of Gog comes before the battle of Armageddon, and the battle of Gog could happen soon, how soon is Armageddon?
- Perhaps this Times Gazette Blog site can provide for us some interesting insight that may answer how close we may actually be.

The Times Gazette Blog - Before Armageddon! By Michael Bell - Posted Sunday, October 26, 2008 - We always hear about the battle of Armageddon, the last stand for good and evil, where good will prevail and the evil of the world will be no more, I have read the end of the book and Jesus and his followers do win. Sorry if I spoiled it for the non-believers! There are always battles that trigger the full scale wars. The one that triggers Armageddon is the War of Gog and Magog. ... God will intervene in both and prove his existence to those that don't believe ... Whoever the Antichrist is; his false prophet is close at hand to prepare the world for Satan, as an imitator of Christ. John the Baptist was the fore-runner for Jesus Christ, so too will there be a forerunner for the Antichrist. ... Read you Bible and watch the news, and you may see the same way I do, the Glorious Appearing is soon at hand!

<http://www.t-g.com/blogs/michaelbell/entry/21655/>