

“...all the armies of the world could maneuver for battle here [the valley of Armageddon].”¹ Napoleon Bonaparte breathed these words as he looked out over the valley of Armageddon in Israel, 1798

“We have had our last chance. If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, ARMAGEDDON will be at the door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past 2000 years. It must be the spirit if we are to save the flesh.”

General Douglas MacArthur, at Japanese surrender, 1945

“You know, I turn back to your ancient prophets in the Old Testament and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if — if we’re the generation that is going to see that come about. I don’t know if you’ve noted any of those prophecies lately, but, believe me, they certainly describe the times.”² “We see around us today the marks of a terrible dilemma, predictions of doomsday. Those predictions carry weight because of the existence of nuclear weapons, and the constant threat of global war...so much so that no president, no congress, no parliament can spend a day entirely free of this threat.”³

President Ronald Reagan, 1983

“...the danger of a nuclear war is greater now than during the Cold War.”⁴

Former President Richard M. Nixon, 1994

“The End Times are now, we’re living in them. The enemies of Israel will attack Israel during the night with a major chemical and biological attack and the numbers of casualties will be tremendous, and it is said that Israel will respond strategically with nuclear weapons, beginning a WWII...here in the U.S. you will see horrible things. Our prophecies do teach us that there will be a nuclear strike against an American city. Our prophecies teach us that America...will fall from racial rioting from within.”⁵

Rabbi Ariel R. Tzadok, 1994

“A nuclear confrontation in the Middle East is not just likely, it is certain. It is just a matter of timing.” Robert Hunter, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, 1996

26

WE WIN ARMAGEDDON— OUR FINAL BATTLE

The word Armageddon is known to most people from one verse in the New Testament portion of the Bible, namely Revelation 16:16. The meaning of the English word, Armageddon, is a complete mystery

¹Hal Lindsey with C.C. Carlson, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, p. 164. [] mine.

²“Reagan: Is Apocalypse Now?” *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, Sat., Oct. 29, 1983, reprinted by permission of Associated Press. Reproduction does not imply endorsement.

³Mike Evans, *The Return*, p. 94.

⁴Richard Nixon, *Beyond Peace*, p. 36. Nixon’s reference was to North Korea and the Arab nations, who were trying to join the nuclear club, but did not have the same restraint as the super-powers.

⁵*Ancient Prophecies II*, NBC News, Nov. 18, 1994.

to most who read or hear about it. Armageddon is an anglicized version of two Hebrew words: *Har* meaning “mountain” and *Magedon*, meaning “slaughter.” “And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called HarMagedon” (Rev. 16:16 NASB). So reads verse 16, of chapter 16, of the last book of the New Testament.

HarMagedon is located in northern Israel near Galilee. It is one of the bloodiest historical sites known on Earth. Twenty-eight different battles were waged in this immediate area. It is the key to strategic military needs, to any and every army which desires to gain a foothold in the surrounding territory. Today, it is a peaceful mountain overlooking a pleasant valley, and at the moment, one of Israel’s national parks. Peaceful, perhaps, for only a few moments more, for one day soon, it will become the scene of the last and worst battle ever fought!

You will recall the battles of Gog and Magog mentioned earlier in our chapter 19, “Russia is Crushed in Gog.” Well, the army that originates with Russia and the Arabs, terminates here at Armageddon in Israel, together with a 200 million-strong horde from Red China and the rest of the world’s armies, concentrating their forces in and around the valley.



A view of the Valley of Megiddo, from the summit of Mount Megiddo.



Mount Megiddo (Armageddon) from street level.



A road sign points the way to Mount Megiddo.

ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 587 BC

וְהָיָה דְבַר-יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: בְּרָאִים שֵׁים פְּנִיךָ אֶל-גּוֹל אֶרֶץ הַמָּגוֹג וְנִשֵּׂא רֹאשׁ מִשָּׁד וְתִקַּל
וְהִנָּבֵא עֲלָיו: וְאָמַרְתָּ כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה הִנְנִי אֵלֶיךָ גּוֹג נִשֵּׂא רֹאשׁ מִשָּׁד וְתִקַּל: ...
פָּרַס, כּוֹשׁ וּפּוֹשׁ אַתָּם כָּלֵם מִגֵּן וְכוּכָע: וְגַם וְכָל-אַגְפֵיָהּ בֵּית תּוֹגְרִמָּה יִרְכַּתִּי צָפוֹן
וְאֶת-כָּל-אַגְפָיו עִמִּים רַבִּים אֶתֶד: ... מִנְּמִים רַבִּים תִּפְקַד בְּאַחֲרֵית הַשָּׁנִים תִּבּוֹא ו
אֶל-אַרְצִי וּמְשׁוֹבְבֵת מִחֲרֵב מִקְבָּצֹת מֵעַמִּים רַבִּים, עַל הָרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר-הָיוּ לְחִרְבָּה תִמְדוּ
וְהָיוּ מֵעַמִּים הוֹצֵאָה וְנִשְׁבּוּ לְכַשַׁח כָּלֵם: וְעַלִּיתָ בְּשֵׂאֵה תִבּוֹא כַּעֲנַן לְכַסּוֹת הָאָרֶץ תִּהְיֶה
אֵל אֶתֶה וְכָל-אַגְפֵיךָ וְעַמִּים רַבִּים אֶתֶד: כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה וְהָיָה וְהָיָה בְּיוֹם הַהוּא יֵעָלוּ דְבָרַיִם
עַל-לְבָבְךָ וְחִשְׁבֹת מִחֻשְׁבֹת רַעִי: ... וְהָיָה בְּיוֹם הַהוּא בּוֹא גּוֹל עַל-אֲדָמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל
נָאֵם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה תִּעֲלֶה חֲמָתִי בְּאִפִּי: וּבְקִנְיָתִי בְּאֲשֶׁר-עֲבַרְתִּי דְבַרְתִּי אִם-לֹא וּבְיוֹם הַהוּא
יִהְיֶה רֶעַשׁ גָּדוֹל עַל אֲדָמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְרָעַשׁוּ מִפְּנֵי דָגִי הַיָּם וְעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם וְחַזְזַת הַשָּׂדֶה
וְכָל-הַרְמֵשׁ הַרְמֵשׁ עַל-הָאָדָמָה וְכָל הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה וְנִחְרְסוּ הַהָרִים וְנִפְלוּ
הַמְּדַרְגּוֹת וְכָל-חֹמְסֵי הָאָרֶץ תִּפּוּל: וְקָרָאתִי עָלָיו לְכָל-הָרִי חֲרֵב נָאֵם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה חֲרֵב
אִישׁ בְּאֶחָיו תִּהְיֶה: וְנִשְׁפַּטְתִּי אֹתוֹ בְּבָבֶל וּבְדָם וּבְגֵשֶׁם שׁוֹטֵף וְאֶבְנֵי אֶלְגָּבִישׁ אֵשׁ וְנִפְלִית
אֶמְטִיר עָלָיו וְעַל-אַגְפָיו וְעַל-עַמִּים רַבִּים אֲשֶׁר אֹתוֹ: ... עַל-הָרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל תִּפּוּל
אֶתֶה וְכָל-אַגְפֵיךָ וְעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר אֶתֶד לְעִישׁ צָפוֹר כְּלִקְנֶנֶה וְחַזְזַת הַשָּׂדֶה נִתְתִּיךְ לְאֶכְלָה:
עַל-פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה תִּפּוּל, כִּי אֲנִי דְבַרְתִּי נָאֵם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: וְהָיָה...וְאֶתֶה בְּרָאִים כֹּה-אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה
אָמַר לְצָפוֹר כְּלִקְנֶנֶה וְלִכֹּל וְחַזְזַת הַשָּׂדֶה הַקְּבָצוּ וְנָבֵאוּ הָאִסְפוּ מִסְבִּיב עַל-יְבֹחֵי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי
זָבַח לָכֶם וְנָח גָּדוֹל עַל הָרִי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֶכְלֶתֶם בְּשָׂר וּשְׂתִיתֶם דָּם: בְּשָׂר גְּבוּרִים תֹּאכְלוּ
וְדָם-נִשְׂאֵי הָאָרֶץ תִּשְׁתּוּ אֵילִים כְּרִים וְעֵתוּדִים פְּרִים מְרִיאֵי בָשָׂר כָּלֵם: וְאֶכְלֶתֶם-תִּקְלָב
לְשִׁבְעָה וּשְׂתִיתֶם דָּם לְשִׁכְרוֹן מִזְבְּחֵי אֲשֶׁר-וְנִבְחַתִּי לָכֶם: וּשְׁבַעְתֶּם עַל-שַׁלְחֵנִי כֹס
נִרְכַּב גְּבוּר וְכָל-אִישׁ מִלְחָמָה נָאֵם אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה: וְנִתְתִי אֶת-כְּבוֹדִי בְּגוֹיִם וְתָאוּ כָל-הַגּוֹיִם
אֶת-מִשְׁפַּטִּי אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי וְאֶת-יְדֵי אֲשֶׁר-שָׂמְתִי בָהֶם: וְגִדְעוּ בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם מִן-הַיּוֹם הַהוּא וְקִלְאָה:

יְחֻזְקָא לַח-א-ג, ה-ו, ה-י, י-ח, כב; לַשׁ-ד-ה, יז-כב

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

“And the word of the LORD came to me saying, ‘Son of man, set your face toward Gog of the land of the Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, ‘Thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal....Persia, Ethiopia, and Put with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; Gomer with all its troops; Beth-togarmah [Turkey] *from* the remote parts of the north with all its troops—many peoples with you....After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, *whose inhabitants* have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them. And you will go up, you will come like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land, you and all your troops, and many peoples with you.’ Thus says the Lord God, ‘It will come about on that day, that thoughts will come into your mind, and you will devise an evil plan....And 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. And 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. And the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, the beasts of the field, all the creeping things that creep on the earth, and all the men who are on the face of the earth will shake at My presence; the mountains also will be thrown down, the steep pathways will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground. And I shall

call for a sword against him on all My mountains,' declares the Lord God. 'Every man's sword will be against his brother. And with pestilence and with blood I shall enter into judgment with him; and I shall rain on him, and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire, and brimstone'....'You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your troops, and the peoples who are with you; I shall give you as food to every kind of predatory bird and beast of the field. You will fall on the open field; for it is I who have spoken,' declares the Lord God....'And as for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God, 'Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You shall eat the flesh of mighty men, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as *though they were* rams, lambs, goats, and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. And you will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war,' declares the Lord God. 'And I shall set My glory among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed, and My hand which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward.' ”

Ezekiel 38:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 18-22; 39:4-5, 17-22 NASB. [] mine

ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

“...for seven years there will gather great hosts and many peoples [Arabs], officers and charioteers....And at the end of seven years up will go a great company and a huge army....Gog and Magog will come upon the Land of Israel and will launch three wars against the Messiah and the People of Israel....And in one hour the earth will jump [an earthquake is indicated as Ezekiel predicted] [and they will advance] five hundred parasangs...And when they [Russia] reach the Land of Israel, the nations of the world will hear it, and many peoples [Arabs] will come up with them....they will come and sit in the gates of Jerusalem and drive half of the city into exile....In that hour the Messiah will come forth from Jerusalem to make war with them, and all the pious will be with him, a great multitude....In that hour the Holy One, blessed be He, will descend from the highest heaven above, and the ministering angels with Him....And they will make war against Gog and Magog....And how will be the wars of Gog and Magog? The Holy One, blessed be He, will wage war against them with...pestilence, blood, pouring rain, hailstones, fire, and brimstone....And the Holy One, blessed be He, fights for them, and He caused fire and brimstone to rain upon them....”⁶

Midrashim Alpha Betot, 2:438-42

“And thereafter will come Messiah ben David....And he will kill the wicked Armilus [Antichrist]....And thereafter the Holy One, blessed be He, will gather all Israel who are dispersed here and there.”⁷

Midrashim waYosha', BhM 1:56

“Thereafter the inhabitants of Jerusalem, by permission of the Messiah, go out, company by company....And for three months they will gather all their belongings and all the weapons they had...and bring all of it into Jerusalem, and they will fill Jerusalem like a pomegranate with the riches of Gog and Magog....And for seven months all the winged birds and all the fowl of heaven and all the beasts of the field will eat their flesh and drink their blood, and lick their fat, until they sate and

⁶Raphael Patai, *The Messiah Texts*, pp. 153-154. All [] mine except third [] .

⁷Ibid, p. 160. [] mine.

fatten their bones to such an extent that they will be unable to flee and to run because of the abundance of their fat....”⁸

Midrashim Alpha Betot, 2:438-42

NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 96 AD

“And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon....And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and* so mighty....And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe....And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it *is* called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war....And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses....And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS’....he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, ‘Come, assemble for the great supper of God; in order 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.’ ”

Revelation 16:16, 18, 21; 19:11, 14, 16-18 NASB



An aerial view of Armageddon.⁹

⁸Ibid, p. 155.

⁹Courtesy of the State of Israel Government Press Office, photography department.

ORIGINAL HEBREW TEXT WRITTEN 487 BC

וְנָתַתְּ תִּפְתָּהּ הַמַּגֵּפָה אֲשֶׁר יִגַּף יְהוָה אֶת־כָּל־הָעַמִּים אֲשֶׁר צָבְאוּ עַל־יְרוּשָׁלַם הַמֶּמְקֵם בְּשָׂרוֹ
וְהוּא עֵמֶד עַל־רַגְלָיו וְעֵינָיו תִּמְקַנְנָה בְּחַרְיָתָן וּלְשׁוֹנוֹ תִּמְקַמְּכֵם בְּפִיָּהֶם: וְהָיָה בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא תִּפְתָּהּ
בַּמָּאֵד: מִהוֹמֵת יִהְיֶה רַבָּה בָּהֶם וְהִחְזִיקוּ אִישׁ יָד בְּרֵעֵהוּ וְעַל־תָּהּ יָדוֹ עַל־יָד רֵעֵהוּ: וְגַם־יִהְיֶה
תִּלְתָּם בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְאֶסְפָּף חַיִּל כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם סָבִיב וְהָב וְקִסְפָּף וּבְגָדִים לָךְ
זְכַרְיָה יְדִיב־יָד

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE TRANSLATION

“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. And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another’s hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another. And Judah also will fight at Jerusalem....”

Zechariah 14:12-14 NASB

ANCIENT RABBINICAL COMMENTARY

“And what did Gog think? He said: ‘Pharaoh who went forth against Israel was a fool, for he let their Patron [i.e., God] be and went against them, and likewise Amalek and Sisera, and all those who arose against them. They let the Holy One, blessed be He, be; they were fools. But I, what will I do? I shall go forth first against the Patron of Israel, [since] if I first slay the Messiah, he will cause other Messiahs to arise. Therefore I shall go against the Holy One, blessed be He....’ What did they [the hosts of Gog] do? They stood on their feet and looked up toward the Holy One, blessed be He, and said: ‘*Come, let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance* (Ps. 83:5).’ What does ‘the Name of Israel’ mean? They said: ‘Let us uproot Him who wrote, *Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel* (Ps. 41:14).’ And what does the Holy One, blessed be He, do to them from Above? They stand on their feet, and He punishes them...[He says:] ‘Those feet which wanted to stand up against Me, *Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet* (Zech. 14:12). And those eyes which looked up, *And their eyes shall consume away in their sockets* (ibid.). And that tongue which spoke against the Lord, *And their tongue shall consume away in their mouth* (ibid.).’ The Holy One, blessed be He, says to them: ‘At first you were not at peace with one another...And now you made peace with one another so as to come against Me...I, too, shall do likewise. I shall call the birds and the beasts who were not at peace with one another, and I shall cause them to be at peace with one another in order to go forth against you. And because you said, *That the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance* (Ps. 83:5), by your life, you will die and they will bury you and will take a name [i.e., become famous] in the world.’”¹⁰

Aggadat B’reshit, ed. Buber, pp. 5-7

“The tradition may have even anticipated the tremendous destructive powers of our modern technology. Thus, we have the teaching of Rabbi Elazar that the Messianic Age will begin in a generation with the power to destroy itself.”¹¹

Rabbi Elazar of the first century

NEW TESTAMENT RECORDED 37AD

“...‘Take heed that no man deceive you...And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but

¹⁰Ibid, pp. 149-150. Bold mine.

¹¹Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, *et al*, *The Real Messiah*, p. 67.

the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places....ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake....many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many....When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judæa flee into the mountains....then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no **flesh** be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened....Behold, I have told you before.”

Matthew 24:4, 6-7, 9, 11, 15-16, 21-22, 25 KJV

MODERN RABBINIC COMMENT/REFUTATION

“There are some pessimists who say that mankind is approaching its end. They predict that we will either pollute ourselves off the face of this planet or overpopulate to the barest marginal existence. Others see man doing the job more quickly, bringing his civilization crashing down on his head in a nuclear war.”

The Real Messiah, by Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan, et al, p. 63; 1976

MODERN POLITICAL SCIENTIFIC FACT

“There is no defense¹² in science against the weapons which can now destroy civilization.”¹³

Albert Einstein

“If the Israelis threaten us, we will wipe them out within two days. I can assure you our plans are made for this eventuality.”¹⁴

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin

AUTHOR'S COMMENT—EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN POSITION

In light of the Old Testament biblical prophet Zechariah's awesome description of end time war, which could only be nuclear, coupled with Rabbi Elazar's point that the Messianic age would only begin in a generation with the power to destroy itself, we see interesting illumination in Albert Einstein's comment, as stated above, and in those who politically threaten the security of Israel and the West today. Thus Jesus' words of warning about the war in the last days and His advice to the Jews to flee to the mountains until His return, take on an immense importance. All of this undermines Rabbi Kaplan's irresponsible statement in *The Real Messiah*, to the effect that we will graduate into a Messianic peace without the war predicted by Jesus. Had Rabbi Kaplan read the commentaries of his own Jewish predecessors, he would have been more informed in this matter. If Mr. Kaplan were alive today, I would love to discuss these commentaries with him. Shouldn't we all heed the words of the Bible and New Testament as they become more evident in the end time scenario presently developing? Yes!

Philip Moore

¹²It is interesting that just as we were developing a defense (President Reagan's Star Wars nuclear defense shield), in late 1993, President Clinton cancelled this would-be life-saving project, further validating Einstein's statement. We pray that we get a responsible President who will invest in the protection of this nation's families, hopefully redeploying this scientific, space-age Strategic Defense Initiative before it is too late. For the Bible does not state whether anyone will or will not escape annihilation; apparently God is leaving this up to us. Though we know some areas of the world will suffer, the Bible does not mention the U. S. or its number of casualties!

¹³Hal Lindsey with C.C. Carlson, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, p. 146.

¹⁴Mike Evans, *The Return*, p. 184.

THE PRECIPITATION OF THE BATTLE AT THE BIBLICALLY PREDICTED ARMAGEDDON

The land bridge of HarMagedon connects Africa, Asia and Europe. Thus anyone trying to gain control of the Middle East and its precious oil reserves, makes Har Megiddo (in Israel) their first and foremost target. No wonder the apostle John foretold such a war for the future hill of Megiddo!

We should note that World War III, or Armageddon,¹⁵ and Gog,¹⁶ as the Bible also calls this war, will be a war of wars, the fiercest and most horrible ever fought (Dan. 12; Matt. 24:5), with only the personal intervention of the Messiah able to bring it to an end (Matt. 24:22). All of the United Nation's peace treaties will not be able to stop this war! It will certainly be the worst, due to the most sophisticated nuclear arsenal ever designed, which presently includes weaponry¹⁷ you could not imagine in your wildest nightmares. The prophets and Jesus, repeating the very words of God, emphasize the certainty of this war. Thus we dare not ignore it or try to lull ourselves into a world of dreams by pretending it does not have to happen!

The components of this war include: 1. the most evil personality ever to live, known to us as the Antichrist; 2. Russia, a nation filled with more nuclear weapons than the world has yet seen, and; 3. China, where 55 million innocent people¹⁸ were murdered during the communist takeover.

When oil, money, an unregenerate human nature and a global economy are all combined, we can only wonder at the horrors man and the most inhuman man (the Antichrist/False Messiah) will perpetrate upon the world!

WHY ARE WE UNABLE TO AVOID THIS WAR, APART FROM THE BIBLE'S PREDICTION?

The heart of man, without the God-given nature which we lost in the Fall (Gen. 3), is deceitfully wicked. The prophet Jeremiah says in the Old Testament: "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9 KJV).

Only Jesus, once invited into our hearts, can give us the power in our lives needed to avoid war. However, most of the people alive today, violently reject Jesus and His love. The Bible tells us the

¹⁵Revelation 16:16.

¹⁶Ezekiel 38-39.

¹⁷These weapons include: 1. the H-bomb, much more powerful than the A-bomb; 2. the cobalt bomb; 3. the neutron bomb, which, when exploded above a city, preserves the buildings, but kills all of the people within days, and; 4. genetically engineered germ warfare, capable of wiping out entire cities. You name it, they have it, and more!

¹⁸These were their **own** people, Chinese who did not agree with communism.

Antichrist will order the mass murder of those who believe in Jesus, just prior to this last war.

Hal Lindsey, in his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, writes: “After three and a half years of remarkable progress, the Antichrist will become worshiped for his brilliant statesmanship and the wonderful progress in the world. The believers in Christ will oppose his rule and be ruthlessly exposed. Publicly, they will not be able to buy, sell, or hold a job. They will be executed en masse as examples to those who would hinder the ‘brotherhood of man,’ because they will insist that Christ is the only lasting hope for man.

Riding upon the crest of public worship the Roman Dictator will go to Jerusalem and in the Temple proclaim himself to be God incarnate (II Thessalonians 2:4; Matthew 24:15). As mentioned, this will be the great warning sign to the believers of that day that Armageddon is about to begin. The residents of Israel who believe in Jesus will flee to the mountains and canyons of Petra for divine protection, as promised (Matthew 24:16; Revelation 12:6, 14).¹⁹

In the New Testament, God diagnoses the cause of war among men. He says: “From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not....” (James 4:1-2 KJV).

Only through a change in heart, possible only through Jesus, can lust and evil be eliminated. Satan, who is mentioned in both the Old and New Testament,²⁰ does all he can to divert our eyes from seeing the truth in the Messiah Jesus. He wishes us to be destroyed, hopelessly bound and alienated from our loving Father, God. Satan wants us to take part in his final destiny in the lake of fire prepared for him and his angels (Rev. 20:14).

THE ANTICHRIST’S TRICK OF FALSE PEACE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION!

When Satan personally indwells his masterpiece—the Antichrist—he will deceive the world (everyone except the believers in Messiah Jesus) into falsely believing that he has finally established a working solution for peace in the Middle East and throughout the globe. Some Orthodox Jews believe their Messiah, yet to come, will do this (remember Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan’s statement in *The Real Messiah*, in connection with the Antichrist?).²¹

¹⁹Hal Lindsey with C.C. Carlson, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, pp. 152-153.

²⁰See I Chronicles 21:1, Job 1-2, Psalms 109, Zechariah 3, The Acts 5:3; 26:18, and I Corinthians 7:5.

²¹See this false expectation regarding the Jewish Messiah quoted on the opening page of chapter 23, “The False Messiah Armilus Equals Antichrist.”

In the New Testament, Paul writes regarding the false hopes of peace the Antichrist will give people: “For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (I Thes. 5:3 KJV).

Today, since the re-establishment of the biblically predicted State of Israel in 1948, we see an angry²² Arab world bent on “liberating Palestine,” which in their minds means the total annihilation of the State of Israel! The Israelis know that to surrender the land God gave them would be risking another Holocaust, since it would leave them defenseless and without a country.

While pretending to be the Jewish Messiah and a friend of the Arabs, the Antichrist will contrive a covenant between the two parties, and overnight, the Middle East Crisis will appear to be resolved. The Antichrist will appease the Arabs while allowing the Israelis to fulfill the prophecy of rebuilding the Temple (see our *Vol. II*, chapter 17, “Jewish Plans for Rebuilding the Temple”).

There is an ancient church writing about the Antichrist rebuilding the Temple called Hippolytus, c. 6, 5, 11. It reads: “The Saviour raised up and manifested His holy body as a temple; in the same way he also [the Antichrist] shall raise up the temple of stone in Jerusalem.”²³

ISRAEL’S FUTURE PEACE PACT WITH HELL RESULTS IN A GREAT JEWISH PERSECUTION

Soon after the Rapture, the Scriptures predict that the Antichrist will sign an agreement²⁴ with Israel to rebuild the Temple, seven years before the return of Jesus and those believers previously raptured. Once this agreement is signed, actual Temple construction will begin. The Fourth Temple, for worship in Messianic Kingdom, is constructed upon the return of Jesus (Ezekiel 40-48; Zechariah 6:12-13). However, the third Temple, built under the supervision of the Antichrist as he impersonates the Messiah, is an absolute disappointment and a no-no, as far as God is concerned.

²²We do not doubt that the welcomed false Messiah will make “peace,” a false peace, with most Arab countries, just prior to the great war of Armageddon and Gog. Remember Paul’s words in I Thessalonians 5:3.

²³Wilhelm Bousset, *The Antichrist Legend*, p. 162.

²⁴Some believe the actual construction may begin several years before the Rapture, with the belligerent objection of the Arabs, and that the Antichrist comes in and signs an agreement, whereby the Arabs officially recognize the right of the Israelis to finish their Temple in exchange for land concessions or whatever—this is also a possibility! It is quite possible that we may, within twenty to thirty years, see Temple construction begin, if not before.

Regarding this covenant, Isaiah predicted: “Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves....Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it” (Isaiah 28:15, 17-18 KJV).²⁵

Daniel says of this agreement: “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate” (Daniel 9:27 KJV).

Even though the Third Temple will not be God’s Temple, its prospected rebuilding is of great interest to Evangelical believers because this prophesied event indicates the Rapture is imminent!

After the Antichrist seemingly settles the Middle East Crisis, all nations will cooperate with him, saying, “Who can make war with him?” He will create a false, but seemingly real, worldwide peace treaty for a short while. That is, until he enters the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem, three and one-half years after the signing of the Temple peace pact.

Once this happens (as foretold in Matthew 24:15; II Thessalonians 2-4), his peace agreement will crumble, the Jews will not worship him as he had hoped and he will become very angry. At this point, his vicious but hidden anti-Semitism will be revealed, as he attempts the greatest Jewish persecution of all time. God will then break out *Operation Petra* (see my book, *Nightmare of the Apocalypse*, Appendix 9, “They Escaped to Petra,” where it is shown that God supernaturally hides and protects the Jews from Antichrist there).

²⁵Isaiah 28:16 indicates that the hope of Jesus is available all through this time of desperation during the reign of the Antichrist. This cornerstone is Jesus (Daniel 2:34-5; Exodus 17:6; I Peter 2:8). “Therefore, thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste” (Isaiah 28:16 KJV). In the New Testament, Jesus claims to be this cornerstone to the Pharisees who were rejecting Him: “...What is this then that is written, The stone, which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder” (Luke 20:17-18 KJV).

THE PERSECUTION IS CUT SHORT BECAUSE OF PETRA, GOD'S FORTRESS

Once the Jews—women, men and children, many of them believing at that time—have safely established themselves in God's fortress of Petra, the battle between the earth's powers begins. The prophet Daniel outlines the movement of troops very clearly in the eleventh chapter of his book.

THE STRATEGIC BATTLE PLAN OF THE LAST WAR IS ALMOST BEFORE US, AS LAID OUT BY THE BIBLE!

Daniel 11:41 says that at the end, the kingdom of the South (Egypt, leading Arab forces) will collide with "him" (the Jewish Antichrist), and the king of the North (Russia, see Ezekiel 38-39) will storm against him with chariot, horsemen and many ships. He will enter in the countries and overflow them and press through. Verse 41 says: "He [the king of the North] shall enter also into the glorious land [Israel], and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon" (KJV; [] mine).

The three areas mentioned refer to Petra in modern Jordan, where Jesus warned *end time Israel* to flee, to escape from the Antichrist's abomination of desolation (claiming he is God) in the New Testament book of Matthew.²⁶

Verse 42 continues: "Then he will stretch out his hand against *other* countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape" (NASB). Thus the future Russian forces will wipe out everything in their path, not stopping at Egypt, but moving on into her, double-crossing the Egyptians and other surrounding Arab nations.

Verse 43 precisely predicts that: "...he [the king of the North or future Russia] will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians^[27] will follow at his heels" (NASB) In the original language this infers complete cooperation with this Russian commander.

²⁶Matthew recorded almost 2,000 years ago in 33 A.D. "...as he [Jesus] sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples [fellow Jews] came unto him privately, saying,....what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? [consumation of the age] And Jesus answered....When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet [Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11], stand in the holy place,....Then let them [Jews exiled from Judæa from 70 A.D. until 1948], which be in Judæa flee into the mountains [of Petra]....Pray ye that your flight be...not...on the sabbath day..." (Matthew 24:3,4; 16, 20, [] mine).

²⁷"Put" and "Cush" indicates North and Black Africa in the biblical Hebrew, not the present Libyans and Ethiopians, as translated.

After this, in verse 44, the prophet explains that while this leader is still standing in Egypt: "...rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many [referring to the Jewish people in Israel]" (NASB; [] mine).

The Bible continues with verse 45: "And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas [the Dead and Mediterranean Seas] and the beautiful Holy Mountain [Mount Moria, with its temple, in Jerusalem]; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him" (NASB; [] mine).

Remember that the Russian commander in Egypt heard troubling news as he looked northward toward Western Europe. The Antichrist's armies are apparently mobilizing to counter-attack Russia. When Daniel mentions his eastward look toward the Euphrates, this no doubt, refers to Red China's approaching armies. This is why the Russian commander moves his army out of Egypt and into Israel, only to meet his fate of total destruction: "...no one will help him" (Dan. 11:45 NASB).

ISRAEL WINS, AS RUSSIA IS TOTALLY ANNIHILATED BY THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND THE LORD (MESSIAH)

Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe future Russia's total annihilation, along with their allies, on the very mountains of Israel. Zechariah 12-14 identifies those in Israel who have apparently become believers by...