



Visiting Armageddon Again by Sellers S Crain, Jr

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Recently one of our member gave me a article by the **Tennessean** newspaper's Religious Editor Ray Waddle entitled "*Mainline churches; silence on Armageddon fuels doomsday jitters.*" While he makes some good points, his main point was that because churches have failed to speak on this subject has left people worrying about when it is going to happen. He wrote,

The churches' strange silence on this stubborn subject leaves people watching the news and the skies with nerve twisting dread. The sky ought to inspire awe, not disillusionment.

There is perhaps no subject more misunderstood or abused than this one. Only one verse in the Bible uses the name Armageddon (**Revelation 16:16**). The word is actually "Har-Magedon," which literally means "Mountain of Megiddo." The fact is there it is no Mount Megiddo, unless one believe the 70 feet high hill upon which the ancient fortress of Megiddo sits is a mountain. The Hebrew word "har" could be used loosely for "hill" or "hill country."

The plain below this ancient city was the scene of many famous battles. It was the place where Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites (**Judges 4:13-15**), and the scene of Gideon's victon of the Midianites with an army of 300 (**Judges 7**). This was also the place where young King Josiah was wounded in battle and eventually died (**2 Kings 23:29**). Therefore this ancient battle field became a symbol for any decisive struggle. It become a type and not a locality.

Interestingly there is no mention of a battle at all in **Revelation 16**. This text just states that the forces are gathered together awaiting the war of the great day of God, the Almighty..." (**14, 15**). Tue "great day of God:" is used in prophetic literature to denote a time of judgment. There was not one "great day of God," but there were many. There will be another when Jesus does return in the clouds of heaven to claim His own and to judge the world. This old world will then be burned up (**1 Peter 3:8-12**).

Even in **Revelation 19**, there is no real war. The forces of evil are helpless against the Lord and His angels. He destroyed them with the sword that went forth out of his mouth (**15**; see also **Ephesians 6:17: Hebrews 4:12**). **The dispensational premillennial "Battle of Armageddon" is completely false. We have nothing to fear from an impending horrendous physical war that will take place on earth.**

So what is it? **Armageddon is a spiritual battle not a physical one.** The **Revelation** text itself bears that out. While I believe the original meaning had to do with ancient Rome, rather than seeing this as one great conflict, it is better to understand it as the ultimate overthrow of the forces of evil by the forces of God in any age. ***Remember this; God always wins!***

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