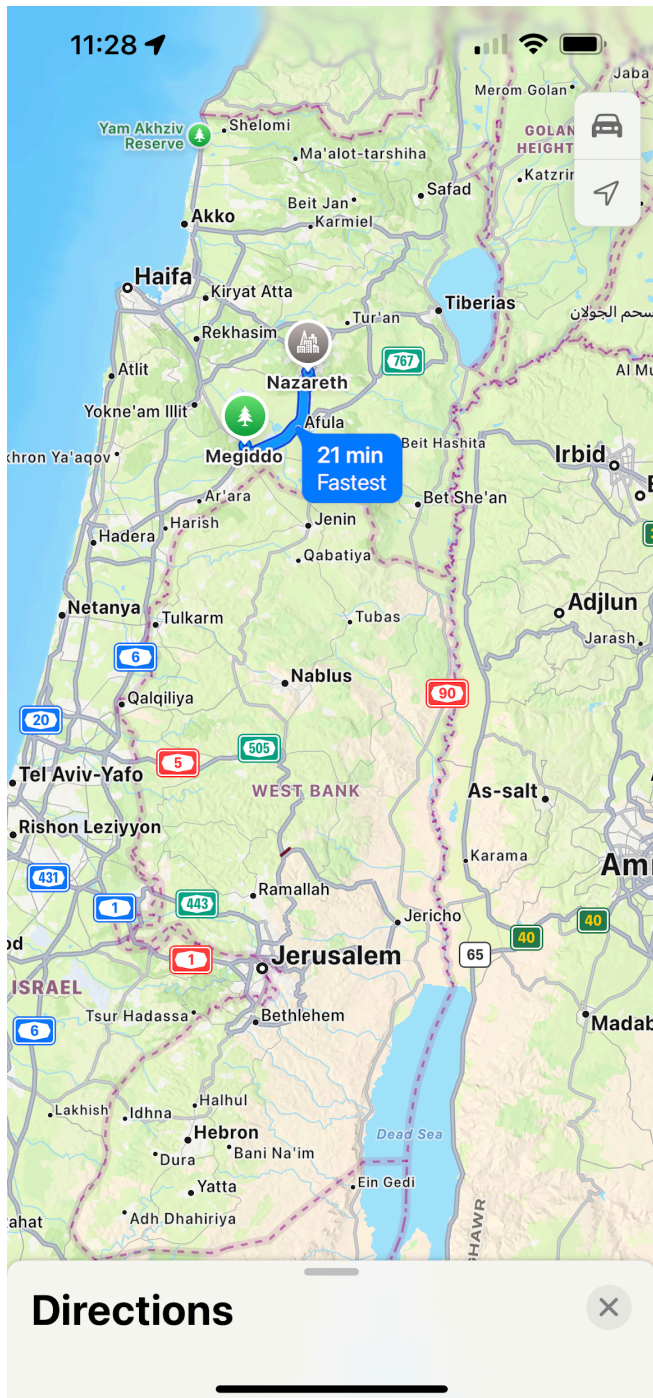


Lesson 7 Genesis and Armageddon — the Beginning and the End?



Introduction

The Bible begins with simple yet majestic words: **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** (Genesis 1:1, NKJV)

This is how the story of the world opens in the book of Genesis. But every story has not only a beginning — it also has an ending. And the Bible does not leave us in the dark about how history will be completed.

The theme of **Armageddon** is not a frightening end-of-the-world scenario or a movie fantasy. It is a biblical revelation about the moment when the history of the fallen world reaches its climax and **Christ openly appears as King, Judge, and Victor.**

It is striking that the place associated with this event is located in the **Jezreel Valley**, near **Nazareth**, where Jesus grew up and where His earthly ministry began.

This lesson is important for us today because we live **between Genesis and Armageddon** — between the beginning of history and its final outcome.

Understanding this theme helps a person see that the world is not moving toward chaos, but toward **God’s sovereign plan**, and invites us to ask the most important question:

What is my place in this story, and whom am I following — Christ or life without Him?

What Does the Word “Armageddon” Mean?

The word comes from two Hebrew terms: **Har** — “mountain” or “hill,” and **Megiddo** — the name of an ancient city in the Jezreel Valley, located not far from Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

In reality, this refers not so much to a mountain as to a **critically important military and strategic region of the ancient world**, a region that remains strategically significant even today.

It is a real place, well known in the history of Israel, strategically crucial, and mentioned many times in the Old Testament.

Why Megiddo?

Megiddo is located in the **Jezreel Valley**, the main crossroads of the ancient and modern world.

For thousands of years, the fate of nations was decided in this valley. It is no coincidence that the Bible uses this very place as an image of the **final decisive confrontation between good and evil**.

Historical Battles of Megiddo in the Jezreel Valley

1. The Battle by the Waters of Megiddo — Deborah and Barak vs. Sisera

(Judges 4–5) **Meaning:** Victory came not by military power, but by God’s intervention. One of the clearest examples of God’s rule over history.

2. The Midianite Camp and the Victory of Gideon

(Judges 6–7) **Meaning:** Jezreel is the place where God deliberately reduces human strength in order to reveal His glory.

3. The Defeat and Death of King Saul

(1 Samuel 31) **Meaning:** The tragic end of Israel’s first king — a battle that becomes judgment for disobedience.

4. The Death of the Godly King Josiah at Megiddo

(2 Chronicles 35:20–24) **Meaning:** Even a righteous king falls when acting without God’s word. Megiddo is a place of turning points in Israel’s history.

5. Assyrian and Egyptian Battles for Control of the Region

(8th–7th centuries BC) **Meaning:** Whoever controlled Megiddo controlled trade routes and military movement.

6. The Conquests of Alexander the Great (4th century BC)

Meaning: The Jezreel Valley became part of the **Hellenistic world**, where Greek language and culture spread among non-Greek peoples of the Middle East.

7. Roman Military Operations in Galilee and Jezreel

(1st century BC – 1st century AD)

Meaning: In Jesus' time, this region was under constant military presence.

8. Battles During the Crusades

(12th–13th centuries)

Meaning: The same valley, the same routes, the same struggle for control.

9. The Battle of Megiddo (1918, World War I)

The British army, under General **Edmund Allenby**, defeated the Ottoman Empire in one of the most decisive victories in the Middle East.

Meaning: The name “Megiddo” once again entered world history as a symbol of a decisive battle. European commanders, beginning with Napoleon, rediscovered the strategic uniqueness of the valley that the Bible had pointed out long before.

Armageddon in the Book of Revelation

In Revelation, Armageddon is:

- the place where forces opposing God are gathered;
- the moment when evil reaches the peak of its rebellion;
- the point where God decisively intervenes.

Important: The Bible does not focus on battle details, but on the result — **the victory of Christ**.

“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse...”
(Revelation 19:19–20, NKJV)

“...the devil... was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:10, NKJV)

Armageddon is a stage of **final judgment**, not a temporary conflict.

Christ — the Center of Armageddon

It is crucial to emphasize this clearly:

Armageddon in the Bible is not a story about the devil, wars, or politics. It is a story about Christ.

In Revelation, Christ is not a passive observer or a victim — He is the **central figure**.

“On His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

(Revelation 19:16, NKJV)

In the Gospels we see Jesus:

- humble,
- suffering,
- crucified for human sin.

But in Armageddon He appears as:

- **King of kings,**
- **Lord of lords,**
- **Righteous Judge.**

Jesus is not only Savior — He is the One who restores justice.

Christ’s Victory: Not by Weapons, but by the Word

One of the most powerful images in Revelation says:

“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.”

(Revelation 19:15, NKJV)

This means:

- Christ does not win by human weapons;
- His power is in **the Word of God**;
- God’s truth completely destroys falsehood.

Conclusion: Evil is not defeated by greater violence, but by **God’s truth and righteousness**.

Armageddon Is Not an Equal Battle

A common misconception must be corrected — that good and evil are almost equal in Armageddon.

The Bible shows otherwise:

- the beast and the false prophet are defeated immediately (Rev. 19:20);
- the devil is ultimately judged (Rev. 20:10);
- Christ does not struggle — He **establishes His authority**.

👉 This is not a duel.

👉 This is the proclamation of God's judgment.

Christ — the Finisher of the Story Begun in Genesis

In Genesis, God creates the world **by His Word**.

In Revelation, Christ — called **the Word of God** (Rev. 19:13) — brings history to its completion.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."
(*Revelation 22:13, NKJV*)

The connection is simple and profound:

The One who began the story is the same One who finishes it.

What the Role of Christ in Armageddon Teaches Us

- Jesus controls the future, even when the world seems chaotic.
- Evil is not eternal, no matter how powerful it looks.
- Following Christ means standing on the side of the Victor.
- Our choices today are part of a much bigger story.

In Armageddon, Christ does not merely defeat evil —
He completes the history of the fallen world and opens the way to **new creation**.

So the main question is not *when* Armageddon will happen,
but **with whom I live today — with Christ or without Him**.

The Practical Meaning of Armageddon

The Bible speaks about Armageddon not for debates or sensationalism, but to **change the way we live today**.

The apostle Peter directly connects the end of history with daily life:

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?”
(2 Peter 3:11, NKJV)

Armageddon Teaches That Life Is Not a Game Without Consequences

The world often tells young people:

- “Live however you want.”
- “There are no absolute truths.”
- “What matters most is pleasure now.”

Armageddon shows the opposite:

- history moves toward accountability;
- every choice will be revealed;
- evil will not go unjudged.

♦ **Choices matter.**

Who you are becoming today matters for eternity.

✓ Ask yourself: *What habits, decisions, and values are shaping my heart right now?*

Armageddon Frees Us from Fear of the Future

The Bible teaches:

- the future is not in the hands of chaos;
- the end of history is not a catastrophe, but **the victory of Christ**.

♦ **Christ is already the Victor.**

If you are with Him, your future is secure.

✓ Instead of fear, learn to trust God and pray when anxiety comes.

Armageddon Shows That Neutrality Does Not Exist

In Revelation, humanity gathers either **against God or with Him**. There is no third side.

The same is true today:

- either Christ is the center of life,
- or something else takes His place.

♦ **Everyone is already on a side.**

Even inaction is a choice.

✓ Check honestly: Who really controls your decisions — Christ or the pressure around you?

Armageddon Teaches Us to Live with an Eternal Perspective

If history has a final destination, then life is not only about “here and now.”

This changes how we view:

- money,
- relationships,
- popularity,
- success.

♦ **Eternity matters more than instant success.**

What has no eternal value should not rule your life.

✓ This week, try making at least one decision based not on profit, but on God’s will.

Armageddon Calls Us to Be Light for Others

God reveals the truth about judgment not to cause panic, but so people still have time to repent.

“The Lord... is not willing that any should perish.”

(2 Peter 3:9, NKJV)

♦ **As long as there is time, there is a mission.**

God left the Church in the world for a reason.

✓ Pray for at least one person who is far from God and be ready to share your faith.

Armageddon Brings Our Focus Back to Christ

The main thing in this topic is not dates, charts, or fear — it is **the Person of Jesus Christ**.

He is:

- the Alpha and Omega,
- the Beginning and the End,
- the Victor of history.

♦ **The main question is not “when?” but “with whom?”**

Knowing Christ matters more than knowing end-time details.

✓ Examine your relationship with God: do you have personal prayer, trust, and obedience?

Conclusion: Armageddon is not a topic meant to create fear.

It is a reminder that life has direction, history has meaning, and **Christ has the final victory**.

Therefore, the most important question today is not when the world will end, but **with whom I am living right now**.

“Behold, I am coming quickly... I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.”

(Revelation 22:12–13, NKJV)