

The End Times and The Last Days – What to Expect and How to Prepare

Lesson 29 “The Campaign of Armageddon”

With all that’s happening in the world today, many wonder – who’s in control or is there anyone in control of the events now happening?

We must be encouraged to know that The Lord God – Almighty – Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them is the Lord who reigns over all the affairs of mankind and the events on the earth.

He is bringing His appointed end and one of the key events that culminates the Tribulation is identified by one ominous word – **ARMAGEDDON**.

IN 1971, Ronald Reagan, then Governor of California, told others: “For the first time ever, everything is in place for the battle of Armageddon and the second coming of Jesus Christ.” In 1983, he said: “You know, I turn back to your ancient prophets in the O.T. and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if – if we’re the generation that is going to see that come about. Our times certainly define the Biblical warnings of those days.”

In Dr. Billy Graham’s book, “Till Armageddon” he said: “There is no doubt that global events are preparing the way for the final great war of history – the great Armageddon!”

The meaning of the Word – Armageddon-

Only found one time in the Bible in the book of Revelation 16:16.

Yet one of the most familiar Bible terms from end time prophecy.

“Armageddon: is made up of two Hebrew words: **Har** [mountain], and **Megiddo** [a city in the northern part of ancient Israel].

- The ancient city of Megiddo was built on a hill, therefore the mountain of Megiddo – Armageddon.



This city overlooks a beautiful – large valley known as the plain of Esdraelon.

It is known as the location in which the armies of the earth will gather in the last days and face total defeat by the returning King Jesus from heaven -

Rev. 16:12-16

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River, and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies toward the west without hindrance. 13 And I saw three evil^{*}spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. 14 They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

15 “Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed.” 16 And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name *Armageddon*.”

Rev 19:19-21 “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.”

What Armageddon is NOT-

It is not a single battle, but a campaign involving a series of battles in the land of Israel.

Armageddon is often equated with the last battle or war on earth, but this is not the case.

- The last war in history will be the final revolt of satan in Rev. 20:7-11, called Gog & Magog.
- This war occurs 1,000 yrs after Armageddon.

Rev. 20:7-11 “When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Final Judgment

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide.”

What Armageddon IS-

Armageddon is the climactic war of the Great Tribulation when all the armies of the earth gather to attack Israel and attempt to finally eradicate the Jewish people.

- They will capture Jerusalem, but then Jesus Christ will return to destroy the invading armies and deliver the faithful Jewish remnant.

Ten main passages that describe Armageddon

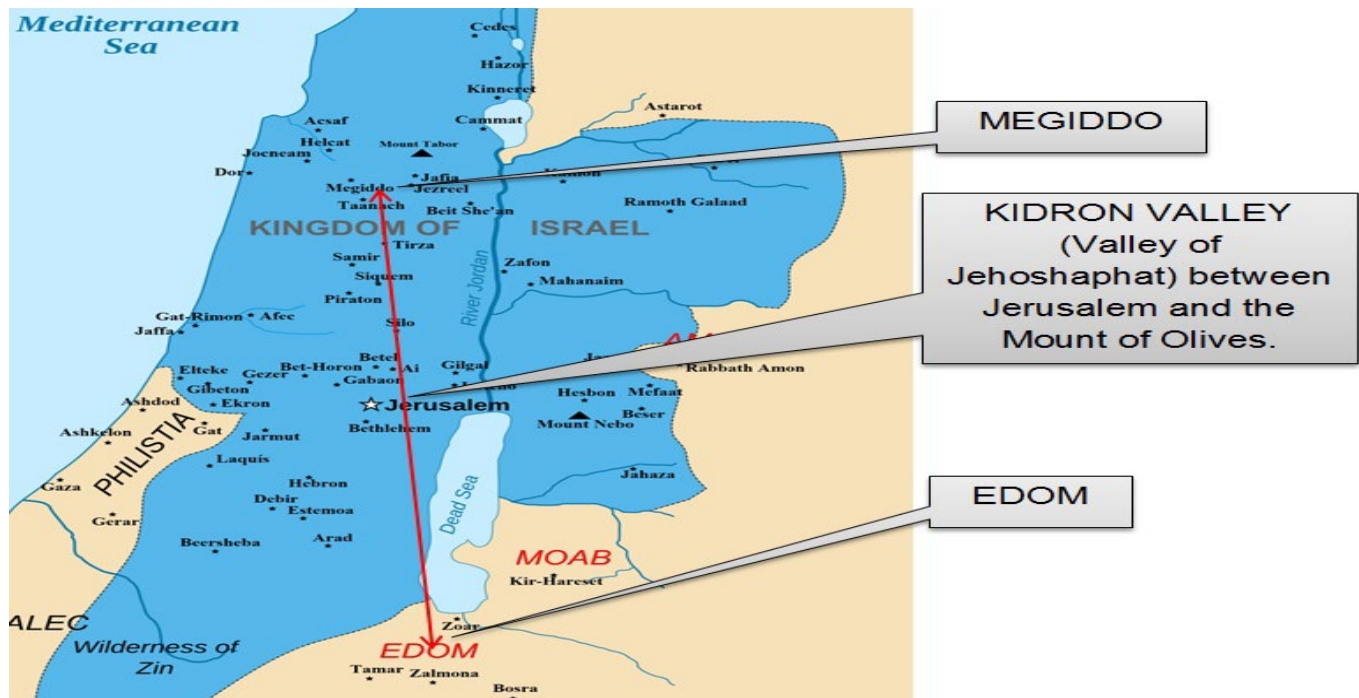
1. Psalm 2
2. Isaiah 34:1-16
3. Isaiah 63:1-6
4. Joel 3:1-17
5. Zechariah 12:1-0
6. Zechariah 14:1-15
7. Malachi 4:1-5
8. Rev. 14:14-20
9. Rev 16:12-16
10. Rev 19:19-21

Seven key titles of Armageddon

1. The day of the Lord's vengeance – Isa. 34:8 “For it is the day of the LORD's revenge, the year when Edom will be paid back for all it did to Israel.”
2. The winepress of God – Isa. 63:2, Joel 3:13 “Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people.” Rev. 14:19-20 “So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God's wrath. The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream about 180 miles long and as high as a horse's bridle.”
3. The Great and Awesome day of the Lord – Joel 2:31 “The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives.”
4. The harvest – Joel 3:13 “Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people.”
Rev. 14:15-16 “Then another angel came from the Temple and shouted to the one sitting on the cloud, “Swing the sickle, for the time of harvest has come; the crop on earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ So the one sitting on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the whole earth was harvested.”
5. The day...burning like a furnace – Malachi 4:1 “The LORD of Heaven's Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day, the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.”
6. The great and terrible day of the Lord – Mal. 4:5 “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives.”
7. The war of the great day of God, the Almighty - Rev. 16:14 “They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.”

The Scope of the Campaign

It will spread over an area of 20,000 square miles, encompassing the entire land of Israel from Megiddo in the north to Edom and Bozrah in the south, spanning two hundred miles from north to south and one hundred miles from east to west.



The battle will be the most intense in three specific areas:

1. The Valley of Jehoshaphat Joel 3:2, 12 “I will gather the armies of the world into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will judge them for harming my people, my special possession, for scattering my people among the nations, and for dividing up my land.

V. 12 - “Let the nations be called to arms. Let them march into the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I, the LORD, will sit to pronounce judgment on them all.”

- This is another name for the Kidron Valley.
- Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions locate the place of final judgment for the nations in the Kidron Valley.
- This valley runs east of Jerusalem and between the city and the Mount of Olives.
- Mentioned two times in scripture: Joel 3:2, 12.
- Jehoshaphat means “Yahweh Judges” a fitting place to be poured out.

Zechariah locates this final judgment of the nations near the city of Jerusalem – Zech 14:1-5 “Watch, for the day of the LORD is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you! ²I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem.

The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city.

³Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. ⁴On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south. ⁵You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all his holy ones with him.”

2. The Plain of Esdraelon – known as the Valley of Jezreel, Valley of Taanach, and the Plains of Megiddo, a plain twenty miles long and fourteen miles wide.

- This will be the site where the nations of the world allied with the Anti-Christ will meet their doom.

3. Bozrah/Edom – Isa 34:1-5; 63:1

Isa. 34:1-5 “Come here and listen, O nations of the earth. Let the world and everything in it hear my words. ²For the LORD is enraged against the nations. His fury is against all their armies. He will completely destroy them, dooming them to slaughter. ³Their dead will be left unburied, and the stench of rotting bodies will fill the land. The mountains will flow with their blood. ⁴The heavens above will melt away and disappear like a rolled-up scroll. The stars will fall from the sky like withered leaves from a grapevine, or shriveled figs from a fig tree. ⁵And when my sword has finished its work in the heavens, it will fall upon Edom, the nation I have marked for destruction.

Isa. 63:1 “Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? “It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!”

Bozrah is a city east of the Jordan River in ancient Edom, modern Jordan. After descending to the Mt. of Olives, Jesus will lead His army down to Edom to rescue the hiding Jewish remnant.

When He returns from Edom, His clothes will be stained with blood, and His sword will be drenched in blood – Isa. 34:6; 63:1-3

Isa 34:6 “The sword of the LORD is drenched with blood and covered with fat—with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of rams prepared for sacrifice. Yes, the LORD will offer a sacrifice in the city of Bozrah. He will make a mighty slaughter in Edom.”

Isa. 63:1-3 “Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? “It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!”² Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? ³ “I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes.”

The most vivid description of the severity and brutality of Armageddon is found in Rev 14:17-20 “After that, another angel came from the Temple in heaven, and he also had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Then another angel, who had power to destroy with fire, came from the altar. He shouted to the angel with the sharp sickle, “Swing your sickle now to gather the clusters of grapes from the vines of the earth, for they are ripe for judgment.” ¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and loaded the grapes into the great winepress of God’s wrath. ²⁰ The grapes were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress in a stream about 180 miles long and as high as a horse’s bridle.”

This raises an interpretive question of will the blood really flow as deep as a horse’s bridle or about four feet deep for an area of two hundred miles from Megiddo to Bozrah?

- Some believe it is a literal description of the event.
- Others maintain it is an exaggeration to emphasize the massive extent of slaughter and bloodshed.
- Either interpretation could be possible.
- It is an imagery drawn from the process of the winepress where grapes are stomped and smashed and the juice flows freely.
- Therefore, scriptures call it “the winepress of God’s wrath.”
- The wine of His wrath will cause the blood to splash as high as the horse’s bridle. A picture of the ferocity of God’s judgment on sinful – rebellious man.

Why do the nations gather at Armageddon?

1. Some contend the battle is a gathering from all over the world to challenge the Anti-Christ.
 - By the end of the Tribulation, with all of God’s judgments poured forth, the world will be in terrible shape.
 - The nations may view the Anti-Christ as the source of the trouble and want to destroy him.

2. Others believe the armies are gathered to finally eradicate the Jewish people.
- It is viewed as a campaign, energized by satan, in his last effort to rid the Jews from the earth and thwart the promises of God.

This second view makes more sense due to Rev 16:13 declaring unclean spirits will gather as armies emanating from satan, the Anti-Christ and the false prophet.
Rev 16:13 “And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.”

These evil armies will see the Lord Jesus coming from heaven and direct all their forces and animosity toward Him – Rev. 19:19 “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the ONE sitting on the horse and His army.”

Seven Phases of Armageddon

This being a military campaign and not a single battle, it will be played out in several distinct phases as outlined in Scripture.

It will occur over the entire land of Israel, at various locations.

The following is a potential order as scripture suggests:

Phase 1 - The Euphrates River dries up, preparing the way for the kings of the East.
Rev 16:12- “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River, and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies toward the west without hindrance.”

Phase 2 - The Anti-Christ's allies assemble.
Rev 16:12-16 – “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River, and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies toward the west without hindrance. ¹³And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. ¹⁴They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.

¹⁵ “Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and

ashamed.” ¹⁶And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name *Armageddon*.”

- These armies will assemble to destroy the Jews once and for all.

Phase 3 – The armies attack Jerusalem, and it falls.

Zech. 14:1-3 “Watch, for the day of the LORD is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you! ²I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city. ³Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past.

Phase 4 – Jesus Christ returns personally to the Mt. of Olives – Zech 14:4

“On that day, his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.”

Phase 5 – Christ and the armies of the Lord destroy the armies gathered against Jerusalem in the Valley of Jehoshaphat – Joel 3:9-17; Zech 12:1-9; Zech 14:3.

Zech 12:1-9 “This message concerning the fate of Israel came from the LORD: “This message is from the LORD, who stretched out the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed the human spirit. ²I will make Jerusalem like an intoxicating drink that makes the nearby nations stagger when they send their armies to besiege Jerusalem and Judah. ³On that day I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock. All the nations will gather against it to try to move it, but they will only hurt themselves. ⁴“On that day,” says the LORD, “I will cause every horse to panic and every rider to lose his nerve. I will watch over the people of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of their enemies. ⁵And the clans of Judah will say to themselves, ‘The people of Jerusalem have found strength in the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, their God.’

⁶“On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a flame that sets a woodpile ablaze or like a burning torch among sheaves of grain. They will burn up all the neighboring nations right and left, while the people living in Jerusalem remain secure.

⁷ “The LORD will give victory to the rest of Judah first, before Jerusalem, so that the people of Jerusalem and the royal line of David will not have greater honor than the rest of Judah. ⁸ On that day the LORD will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David! And the royal descendants will be like God, like the angel of the LORD who goes before them! ⁹ For on that day I will begin to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”

Zech 14:3 “Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past.”

Phase 6 - Christ descends upon Bozrah/Edom in modern Jordan to destroy its inhabitants and to deliver the Jewish remnant – Isa. 34:1-7; 63:1-6; Joel 3:19
Isa. 34:1-7 “Come here and listen, O nations of the earth. Let the world and everything in it hear my words. ² For the LORD is enraged against the nations. His fury is against all their armies. He will completely destroy them, dooming them to slaughter. ³ Their dead will be left unburied and the stench of rotting bodies will fill the land. The mountains will flow with their blood. ⁴ The heavens above will melt away and disappear like a rolled-up scroll. The stars will fall from the sky like withered leaves from a grapevine, or shriveled figs from a fig tree. And when my sword has finished its work in the heavens, it will fall upon Edom, the nation I have marked for destruction. The sword of the LORD is drenched with blood and covered with fat— with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of rams prepared for sacrifice. Yes, the LORD will offer a sacrifice in the city of Bozrah. He will make a mighty slaughter in Edom. ⁷ Even men as strong as wild oxen will die— the young men alongside the veterans. The land will be soaked with blood and the soil enriched with fat.

Isa 63:1-6 Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? “It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!”
² Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? ³ “I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes.
⁴ For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors. ⁵ I was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed.

So I myself stepped in to save them with my strong arm, and my wrath sustained me.
⁶I crushed the nations in my anger and made them stagger and fall to the ground, spilling their blood upon the earth.”

Joel 3:19 “But Egypt will become a wasteland, and Edom will become a wilderness, because they attacked the people of Judah and killed innocent people in their land.”

- Earlier, the Anti-Christ breaks his covenant with Israel and sets up the abomination of desolation, one – third of the Jewish people will flee into the hills, and the wilderness, where they will be supernaturally protected by God for 3 ½ yrs from the attacks of the Anti-Christ and satan – Rev 12: 6, 14 “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where God had prepared a place to care for her for 1,260 days. But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time.”
- Scripture indicates they will hide in the rock city of Petra in the southern part of modern Jordan – Micah 2:12-13 “Someday, O Israel, I will gather you; I will gather the remnant who are left. I will bring you together again like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture. Yes, your land will again be filled with noisy crowds! ¹³Your leader will break out and lead you out of exile, out through the gates of the enemy cities, back to your own land. Your king will lead you; the LORD himself will guide you.”

Dan. 11:41 “He will enter the glorious land of Israel, and many nations will fall, but Moab, Edom, and the best part of Ammon will escape.”



Phase 7 – The armies at Armageddon are destroyed – Rev. 16:16; 19:19-21

Rev 16:16 “And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name *Armageddon*. “

Rev 19:19-21 “Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world, and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.”

- The Anti-Christ and his armies suffer complete defeat at the mighty hand of the King: Psalm 2:9; 2 Thess 2:8

Psalm 2:9 “You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.”

2 Thess 2:8 “Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.”

The sword of His Word will smite the nations – Rev. 19:15 “From his mouth came a sharp sword to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will release the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty, like juice flowing from a winepress.”

There will not be a war as we think of a war. There will just be a word spoken by HIM who sits astride the great white horse.

The aftermath of Armageddon

Two key events will happen:

1. The great bird supper – Matt 24:28; Luke 17:37; Rev 19:17-21

Matt 24:28 “Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.”

Luke 17:37 “Where will this happen, Lord?” the disciples asked.

Jesus replied, “Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.”

Rev 19:17-21 “Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, shouting to the vultures flying high in the sky: “Come! Gather together for the great banquet God has prepared.

¹⁸ Come and eat the flesh of kings, generals, and strong warriors; of horses and their riders; and of all humanity, both free and slave, small and great.”

¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world, and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. ²⁰ And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.”

- Carcasses will fill the entire region; the birds of the air will gather to feed on the carnage.

2. The Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire

FOREVER – Rev. 19:20 “And the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived

all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. Both the beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”

- These two ambassadors of satan will be the first occupants of the lake of fire.

This ends the campaign and there will be no more war on earth for a 1,000 yr. period.