

The Greek word *Armageddōn* is derived from the Hebrew **הַר מְגִדּוֹ** (*har Megiddō*), meaning the “hill of Megiddō” (Judges 5:19). The city of Megiddō occupies a salient position on the southern rim of the Plain of Esdraélon. (p. 10)

While Revelation 16 lacks details of the campaign, it verifies the fact that a mighty conflict involving all the nations of the world takes place in Palestine. These satanically-inspired forces assembled in defiance against God are bent on complete annihilation of His people, Israel.

However those elements and personalities under the domination of Satan and in opposition to God, are themselves destroyed at the climax of this final campaign, the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. Armageddon is not just the decisive defeat of vast military forces representing mighty international empires, but is an integral part of both the closing campaign of the Tribulation and the fulfillment of God’s predicted plan.<sup>3</sup> (p.11)

12. Peter, beginning in Acts 2:19, switches time zones back to the dispensation of the Tribulation during the Armageddon Campaign prior to the Lord’s sudden arrival at the Second Advent.

**Acts 2:19** - ‘And I will grant wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke.’ (NASB)

13. The paragraph is introduced by the phrase, “I will grant” which is the predictive future active indicative of the verb **δίδωμαι** (*didōmai*): which indicates that something will take place or come to pass, summarizing the action: “it will take place.”
14. This verb reveals the introduction of a divine policy to issue a warning of upcoming judgment. It is displayed by both celestial and terrestrial phenomena.
15. This means the Tribulation is in its final throes as the armies converge on Jerusalem placing resident Jews in serious danger of annihilation.
16. The two classifications of warning are “wonders in the sky above” and “signs on the earth below.” The “wonders” are “blood, fire, and vapor of smoke.”

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<sup>3</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Armageddon* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 10–11. See also the summary by William Ewing accompanying the visual, “MAP-Armageddon.”

17. "Blood" is emblematic of war and carnage specifically at the termination of the Armageddon Campaign, "fire" characterizes the divine execution of the aggressors making up the four armies and carried out in a supernatural way," and "pillars of smoke" are symbolic of the destruction of ecumenical religion.
18. "Blood" is used to describe the horrors of warfare and specifically in this passage to describe the Lord's miraculous slaughter of these armies advancing on Jerusalem.
19. For details on how this strategy will be executed, consult Revelation 14:14-20. Revelation chapters 15-18 continue to reveal more details including the seven bowl judgments.
20. "Fire" is emblematic of mass slaughter. When the righteous are under assault from emissaries of the Dark Side, deliverance will often intervene through divine Providence.
21. This idea is abhorrent to the adherents of Progressive ideology. The feminization of a culture leads to pacifism based on the incredulous idea that no problem may be solved through aggression.
22. If innocent people are left defenseless by those who succeed in imposing more strenuous gun-control laws, then criminals will have open season on the law-abiding.
23. In our context, Jews and Gentiles are innocent targets of the demonic armies that constrict around the city of Jerusalem. Who will deliver them?
24. These people are in a "no hope" situation and they are helpless to do anything about it. The only solution is the divine solution.

25. The divine solution will take the form of a miracle which is the only hope from the human perspective, but, when the Lord is the solution, then total and massive slaughter brings the satanic threat to heel.
26. As Speed used to opine regarding those who needed killing, he'd say, "The Good Lord is about to put the quietus on them."<sup>4</sup>
26. The end result of this "fire" is described in:
- Revelation 14:20** - And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.
27. Lastly come the "pillars of smoke" that billow from the ruins of all expressions of ecumenical religion. They liked to burn incense, so they get it in spades.
28. This is pointed out by John in Revelation 18. In this context, ecumenical religion is symbolic of Rome.
- Revelation 18:2** - And the angel having great authority [ the King of Arms of the Angelic College of Heralds (v. 1) ] cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [ Rome as headquarters of ecumenical religion ]! She has become a dwelling place of demons [ fallen angels ] and a prison [ φυλακή (*phulaké*): "prison"<sup>5</sup> ] of every unclean spirit [ demons ], and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird [ "unclean" refers to birds identified by the Mosaic Law as such; "hateful" denotes vultures that will soon feast on human carrion ].
29. Back in our passage, celestial phenomena occur which introduce the last two warnings that herald the Second Advent of Messiah:

(End CR14-63. See CR14-64 for continuation of study at p. 631

<sup>4</sup> "Quietus \quī-ĕ-tas\; Final settlement as of a debt; removal from activity; especially: DEATH; something that quiets or represses" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. "quietus").

<sup>5</sup> "In the New Testament figuratively of Babylon as the dwelling place, station, haunt of demons and unclean birds where they resort to holding their vigils (Revelation 18:2). Of a place where someone is watched, guarded, kept in custody, a prison" (Spiros Zodhiates, ed., "φυλακή," in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, rev. ed. [Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1993], 1456).

**Acts 2:20** - 'The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.' (NASB)

1. Several problems emerge in this verse on how to translate it. In concert with other verses on the same subject, it appears to be taken literally, e.g., Isaiah 13:9–10; Ezekiel 32:7–8; Joel 2:10–11; Amos 5:18, Zechariah 14:6, cf. Joel 2:31 and Acts 2:20.
2. However, the sun cannot be darkened while at the same time the moon in eclipse appears with a reddish hue, a phenomenon referred to as a “blood moon.”

The puzzle of why the sky looks blue and a totally eclipsed Moon turns red is the Earth's atmosphere. The atmosphere is about 300 miles thick and is made up of different gases, water droplets and dust particles. When sunlight entering the Earth's atmosphere strikes the particles (they) get scattered. Colors with longer wavelengths like red and orange get refracted back to the surface of the moon and give it the reddish-orange glow.<sup>1</sup>

3. So, obviously, this is not a “blood moon” but a moon that is given its reddish color when the sun, which is darkened, combines with atmospheric pollution to diminish its clarity.
4. Imagine the types of ordinance that will be available during the final days of the Tribulation. A world under the control of Lucifer who indwells the Beast-Dictator, world leaders under ingrained demonic influence, and armies converging on the Levant for the purpose of wiping out the Jewish people.
5. The effects of exploding ordinance, the kinds that First- and even Second-World nations presently possess, will cause tremendous darkening effects on the atmosphere of the region.

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<sup>1</sup> “Why Does the Moon Turn Red During a Lunar Eclipse?” <http://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/why-does-moon-look-red-lunar-eclipse.html>. Copyright © Time and Date.com 1995–2015. All rights reserved.

6. The sun will not be darkened in other areas of the world so its rays, projecting through the atmosphere, will imitate a blood moon, while in the area of Israel sunlight is diminished by the pollution.
7. Devastation and death will be widespread throughout the Levant, but all these things will occur “before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.”
8. The “day of the Lord” is a term assigned to the Second Advent of Christ which terminates Daniel’s seventieth heptad.
9. The events described in Acts 2:19–20<sup>a</sup> and Joel 2:30–31<sup>a</sup> occur before “the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come.”
10. This means that the atmospheric events described above are caused by pollution’s dramatic effects on the earth’s atmosphere. They are not the same as the supernatural events that commence in association with the Second Advent.
11. On the day of the Second Advent, there will be supernatural darkness for twenty-four hours over the entire world. No light will penetrate this darkness.
12. This cover of darkness will bring the amassed armies to a halt and disrupt their attack on Israel. Several passages of Scripture describe this event.

**Zechariah 14:4** - In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half shall move toward the south.

**v. 6** - In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

**v. 7** - For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there will be light.

**Isaiah 13:9** - Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it.

**v. 10** - For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not flash forth their light; the sun will be dark when it rises and the moon will not shed its light.

**Amos 5:18** - Alas, you who are longing for the day of the Lord, for what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you?

**v. 19** - As when a man flees from a lion and a bear meets him, or goes home and leans his hand against the wall and a snake bites him.

**v. 20** - Will not the day of the Lord be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?

**Joel 3:15** - The sun and moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness.

**v. 16** - The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the Lord is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

13. Prior to these events, the “last days” of the Great Tribulation are awash in vast military operations in a death struggle for dominance over the Levant.
14. The Lucifer-indwelt Beast-Dictator has inspired his legions to advance on Jerusalem and forever rid him of the pesky Jews who have insisted to hold-fort in the city of David.
15. Revelation 17–18 describe the closing days of the dispensation when the global power of ecumenical religion is destroyed.
16. Revelation 18:1–2 reveals an interesting aspect of the Angelic Conflict with regard to elect and fallen angels.