

Joel 3 - Armageddon

For God to establish His Kingdom on Earth, **the world must first be prepared**. Only when the world is humbled will the nations be willing to respond to God: **Isa 26:9**.

We read of Armageddon in **Revelation 16:16**. We are told that this word should be interpreted "in the Hebrew tongue". This phrase takes us back to the Hebrew Old Testament. Hebrew is also the language of modern Israel. The context of **Rev 16** is the return of Christ and God's judgments on the nations, a subject also found in the Old Testament. God will reveal Himself with power in and set up Jesus Christ as King in Zion.

Revelation 16:14 says this involves the "kings of the earth and the whole world" and that they are "gathered to the battle of the great day of God Almighty".

Armageddon is a combination of 3 Hebrew words: **Arema** - A heap of sheaves; **Gai** - in a valley; **Don** - for judgment. This means "a heap of sheaves in a valley for judgment". Many prophecies liken God's judgment to sheaves of wheat being threshed: **Rev 14:15-16; Micah 4:12-13; Joel 3:14; Dan 2:35; Hab 3:12; Zech 12:6**.

Joel 3:1-2 says Armageddon occurs after 2 significant events. These are the turning around of 2 captivities:

1. **Judah** - Captivity returned in **1948** when Israel became a nation in the land again.

2. **Jerusalem** - In **1967** Israel gained control of the whole city of Jerusalem during the 6 day war.

v2 Jehoshaphat = Heb. "Yahweh's judgment"

v2 Nations are judged because they scattered and persecuted the Jews through the ages.

Particularly refers to the Romans who scattered them in AD70, but more recently the Russian and European nations. At Armageddon God's land will again be divided: **Zech 14:2; Dan 11:39**.

CHAPTER 3.
1 God's judgments against the enemies of his people. 2 His blessing upon the church.
FOR, behold, ¹in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down ^binto the valley of Jehoshaphat, and ^cwill plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/ judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & Return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).
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The Final Battle is in Jerusalem: Zech 12:2-3; 14:2; Joel 3:16; Micah 4:11-13; Isaiah 31:9. The city of Jerusalem is mentioned over 20 times in **Zechariah 12-14**. God will intervene by destroying those nations that come against Jerusalem: **Zech 14:3; Ezek 38:19-20**.

The result of Armageddon is that Yahweh is King over the whole earth: **Zech 14:9,16**. Because of Israel's repentance, there will be no more wars in Jerusalem after this: **Ezek 39:22,26; Joel 3:17; Zech 13:1**.

v9 The gathering of nations for Armageddon.
Wake up: A revival in Russian power.

v11 Joel's prayer for God to send his Saints to save Israel. The immortal Saints are God's mighty ones.

v12-13 God's judgment on the nations

9 ¶ Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; ⁷Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

10 ^aBeat your plowshares into swords, and your ^bpruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: ^cthither ^dcause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit ^eto judge all the heathen round about.

13 ^fPut ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for ^gthe press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

v13 The 2 phases of Yahweh's judgment:

1. "sickle... the harvest is ripe" - Armageddon:

The wheat harvest: **Rev 14:15-16**. Judgment on Russia and her allies after their invasion of Israel.

2. "press is full, vats overflow" - European Rebellion:

Grape harvest, the "treading of the winepress of the wrath of God": **Rev 14:18-19; 17:14**. Judgment on Catholic European nations when Christ reigns: **Psalms 2; Rev 19:11-21**.

In nature, the wheat harvest comes first. For us personally, the bread (wheat) and wine (grapes) relates to our own judgment: when we examine ourselves: **1 Cor 15:23-31**.

14 Multitudes, multitudes ^bin the valley of ²decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 ^cThe sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

16 ^dThe LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and ^eutter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the ^fhope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 ^gSo shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, ^hmy holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be ⁱholy and there shall ^jno stranger pass through her any more.

18 ¶ And it shall come to pass: ^kin that day, ^lthat the mountains shall drop down new wine, and ^mthe hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and ⁿas a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of ^oShittim.

19 ^pEgypt shall be a desolation, and ^qEdom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence ^ragainst the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judah shall dwell ^sfor ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For ^t"I will cleanse their blood ^uthat I have not cleansed: ^vfor the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

"decision" = Heb. "threshing"

v16 Armageddon in Jerusalem: Zech 12:3; 14:2. This is where God judges the nations. This is "the controversy of Zion": **Isaiah 34:8**.

God will save the nation of Israel (those who survive) by sending Jesus Christ: **Zech 13:6-9; Isa 59:19-20; Rom 11:25-27**.

v17 This is the final invasion of Israel: NIV "never again will foreigners invade her". Israel are restored: **Ezek 39:22**. Israel is cleansed and will suffer no more destruction: **Zech 13:1; 14:9-10**.

v18 The Kingdom of God is then established on Earth: Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world. In Jerusalem, Ezekiel's temple will be established with water flowing from Mt Zion: See **Ezekiel 47**.

v20 The ancient dominion of Israel will be re-established: **Micah 4:8**. Jesus Christ will be established as King on David's throne: **Luke 1:32-33**.

Parallel Armageddon Scriptures:

Zech 12-14; Ezekiel 38-39; Daniel 11:40-45; Malachi 4

- Invasion of Israel and city of Jerusalem by many nations.
- At the Time of the End / no more destruction for Israel.
- The "Day of Yahweh".
- A crisis for Israel, out of which they are saved.
- A turning point in God's dealings with Israel.
- Eternal peace for Israel in God's Kingdom on Earth.

Ezekiel 38-39 describes how God will bring Israel to repentance: See **Ezek 39:22,26**. It also describes an invasion which results in great spoil and destruction: **38:20; 39:9-10**.

Events that occur before Armageddon: Resurrection, judgment, Saints made immortal, marriage of the Lamb.