

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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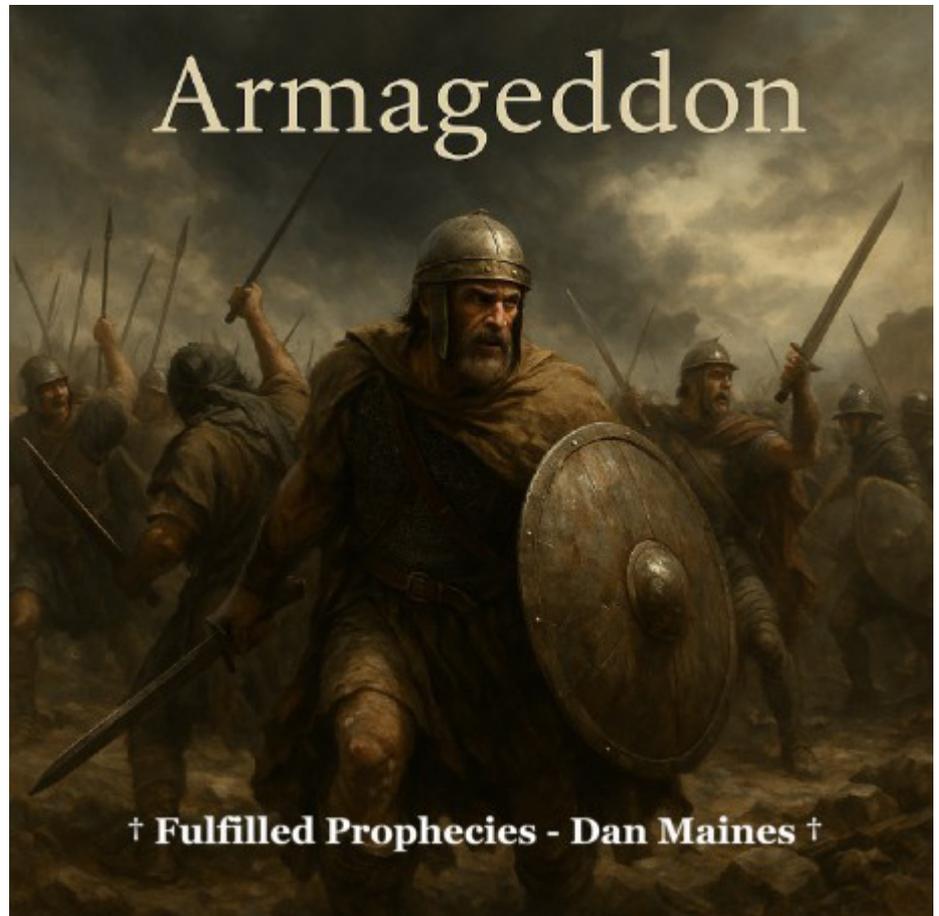
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## Armageddon



By Dan Maines

## Armageddon

### Introduction

#### Revelation 1:1

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond servants, the things which must soon take place.

#### Revelation 1:3

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it, for the

time is near.

† These opening statements place the entire book, including Armageddon, inside their lifetime. Soon and near can't be stretched for 2000 years.

† Armageddon in Revelation 16:16 isn't about the modern idea of a global military showdown. It isn't about Russia, China, Europe, or the United States. From the fulfilled perspective, Armageddon is a covenantal gathering of first century enemies against Jerusalem, the city under judgment from God for rejecting His Son. The Book of Revelation is a prophecy about events that were near, not far away, and Armageddon is part of that immediate judgment that fell on the generation Jesus addressed.

† Armageddon is rooted in the time statements of Jesus and Revelation. It's not a modern prediction but the fulfillment of covenant judgment on Old Covenant Israel.

† Revelation 16 shows the bowls of God's wrath poured out on the land, and the sixth bowl focuses on the drying up of the Euphrates to prepare the way for the kings from the east. That imagery isn't about literal rivers drying up, it's about removing obstacles so the nations could converge on the covenant people. Scripture interprets scripture, and Revelation consistently points the reader back to the war of AD 66 to 70, the war that ended the Old Covenant world.

† The bowls aren't ecological disasters for our future. They are symbolic images of judgment leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem.

## **Armageddon Is About Jerusalem's Judgment**

### **Revelation 16:16**

And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew

is called Har Magedon.

† The word Armageddon means mountain of Megiddo. Megiddo was never a literal mountain, it was a battlefield symbol in Israel's history. Every Israelite knew Megiddo as a place where God defeated His enemies or judged His own people.

Revelation uses that symbol to point to the final covenant war of their age. Armageddon is symbolic language for the gathering of nations in the first century to destroy Jerusalem, fulfilling everything Jesus said in Matthew 23 and 24.

### **Revelation 16:14**

For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

† This gathering isn't world geography, it's covenant geography. The whole world means the Roman world, the same world Luke 2:1 speaks of when Caesar took a census of the whole world. These kings are stirred up to fulfill God's purpose in judging Jerusalem, just like God used pagan nations throughout the Old Testament to bring judgment on Israel when they broke the covenant.

### **Matthew 23:36**

Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

† Armageddon belongs inside this time statement. Jesus didn't speak of a distant future generation. He said their generation. Revelation is the written expansion of what Jesus prophesied in Matthew 23 and 24.

### **Matthew 24:34**

Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

† Armageddon is included in the all. It isn't outside the time limit Jesus gave. Armageddon was part of the covenantal war that ended in AD 70.

## **Zechariah 14:1-2**

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

† Zechariah isn't talking about our future. He's describing the same gathering mentioned in Revelation 16. God says He gathers the nations. Revelation says they're gathered. The fulfillment is the Roman siege, the war of AD 70.

## **Luke 21:20**

But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.

† Jesus didn't tell them to look for signs thousands of years away. He told His disciples what they would see. The armies surrounding Jerusalem were Rome's forces under Cestus, Vespasian, and finally Titus. Those armies were the nations gathered for God's covenantal day of the Lord.

## **Additional Fulfilled Scripture Connection**

### **Revelation 19:2**

Because His judgments are true and righteous, for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond servants on her.

† This confirms the object of God's wrath was the same covenant city guilty of shedding prophetic blood, which places Armageddon directly in the first century judgment on Jerusalem.

### **Revelation 6:16-17**

And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand.

† This is covenantal judgment language, not global destruction.

The great day of His wrath is the same day of the Lord fulfilled in the fall of Jerusalem.

## **Armageddon Isn't Global Destruction**

† Revelation never describes the destruction of planet earth. Instead, it describes the removal of the Old Covenant world. Armageddon is the symbolic battlefield for the final clash between the rebellious covenant people and the God they rejected. It's the covenant lawsuit reaching its climax.

### **Revelation 11:8**

And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

† Armageddon's location is defined by scripture. The war targets the same city where their Lord was crucified. That's Jerusalem, not the nations of the twenty first century.

### **Revelation 18:20**

Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.

† Armageddon is the finale of God's judgment against the city responsible for killing the prophets. The apostles and prophets rejoiced because the blood of the martyrs was vindicated.

## **Historical References**

Josephus, Wars of the Jews 5 to 6

† Josephus records the siege of Jerusalem in detail. He describes the nations gathered under Roman authority, the city's internal collapse, the starvation, the infighting, the burning of the temple, and the total destruction. Revelation's imagery matches these historical events with precision.

Josephus, Wars 3.2.4

† Josephus says the Romans came with auxiliaries from all the nations around, fulfilling the imagery of the nations gathered.

Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Tacitus writes of the nations gathered under Rome's banner, fulfilling the prophetic expectation of a multi national army surrounding Jerusalem.

Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3

† Eusebius affirms the early Christian understanding that Jesus' prophecies were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem.

Clement of Alexandria

† Clement of Alexandria affirms that the predictions of Jesus and the apostles concerning the destruction of Jerusalem were fulfilled, showing early Christian agreement with the first century application of these prophecies.

## **How It Applies to Us Today**

† Armageddon teaches that God keeps His word. He said judgment would fall in their generation, and it did. The destruction of Jerusalem wasn't a failure of prophecy, it was the proof of it. It also shows that the kingdom isn't waiting to come. It arrived. Jesus is reigning now. The old world ended, the new covenant world began, and believers live in the fullness of that kingdom today.

† Believers don't have to fear a future Armageddon, a global conflict, or a world ending war. The judgment has already happened, and what remains is the ongoing reign of Christ, the peace of the kingdom, and the assurance that prophecy didn't fail.

† Believers live in the kingdom that came through judgment, not a kingdom that's waiting to arrive. Armageddon wasn't the end

of hope, it was the beginning of the new covenant world where Christ reigns without rival.

† Armageddon isn't a threat to our future. It's a completed event that confirms the faithfulness of God and the finished work of Christ. We're not waiting for another war to validate Jesus' word. The judgment has already happened, and the kingdom has already come.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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### **Source Index**

† Revelation 16:14-16, Matthew 23:36, Matthew 24:34, Luke 21:20, Zechariah 14:1-2, Revelation 11:8, Revelation 18:20, Revelation 19:2, Revelation 6:16-17, Revelation 1:1, Revelation 1:3

† Josephus, Wars 5-6, Josephus Wars 3.2.4

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History Book 3

† Clement of Alexandria

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