

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

MEGIDDO, THE WAR FORTRESS

The Mount of Megiddo was not an impressive mountain. It was, however, one of the most if not the most powerful war fortresses of the ancient Middle East.



This is Tel Megiddo today and it looks rather unimpressive, but in its day, this was an imposing War Fortress. [Photo by Chip Thompson, 2018]

Megiddo was the fortress that dictated who was allowed to pass from North to South along the Mediterranean coastal plain in Israel. If you were the commander of an ancient army, you had to conquer Megiddo to move your army through the Carmel Mountain Pass. For this reason, Megiddo is the 2nd most attacked city in the world (#1 is Jerusalem with at least 118 conflicts). Megiddo has 34 separate conflict layers. It was totally destroyed and rebuilt many times.

The Valley of Megiddo has been the arena of many great battles throughout history. To the south lay the capital city of Israel (Jerusalem) and the ancient Egyptian Empire. To the north were the ancient empires of Assyria, Babylon, and Persia. All these empires at one time controlled Har Megiddo (the Mount of Megiddo). From ancient times to this day, this valley was used as a staging area for some of the greatest battles in history. As recently as 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte defeated the Ottomans in the Valley of Megiddo.

According to Bible prophecy, the Valley of Har Megiddo will be the scene of a great future battle. Har Megiddo (In Latin, Armageddon) will be the final battle of the age in which we are living. In this great battle, the armies of the world will gather to fight against Jesus the Christ at his second coming. The language used to describe this future battle is VERY IMPRESSIVE. Do

not get me wrong, the language does NOT imply that the world's armies are all that impressive. What is IMPRESSIVE about this battle is Jesus Christ returning to earth in all His Glory. This prophecy is found in Revelation chapters 16 & 19.



Har Megiddo (The Mount of Megiddo) overlooks the Valley of Megiddo. Wars fought in this broad valley often determined the history of the ancient world. [By permission, Joel Kramer, SourceFlix.com]

At the end of Revelation chapter 16, John the Apostle wrote, "The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared... [Jesus then declared] "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them [their armies] together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon [Literally: Har Megiddo/the Mount of Megiddo].

Then in Revelation chapter 19 we read about the Battle of Armageddon, "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except He Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

"Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a

loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

"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 and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."



The Valley of Megiddo is large – It is about 10 miles wide and 25 miles long. Today it is a peaceful agricultural valley, but in the end according to Bible prophecy it will flow with blood "up to the horses' bridles" (Revelation 14:20). [Photo by Chip Thompson, 2017]

Some may view this future battle as the imaginations of an old man who is known to the world as the Apostle John. And, you have free agency to believe whatever you choose to believe. But the Bible has an AMAZING track record when it comes to fulfilled prophecies. In fact, the Bible has a 100% track record. All the prophecies about the 1st coming of Jesus were fulfilled to the letter. Why would anyone doubt the future prophecies about the 2nd coming of Jesus will also be fulfilled. This article has one purpose in mind – that you might know the truth about Jesus and his 2nd coming. John the Apostle also wrote this, "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).