

The Battle of Armageddon

The Judgment of Israel

- While the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is taking place in heaven, the war on earth continues.
 - God concludes His judgment of Israel.
 - “‘As I live’—the declaration of the Lord God—‘I will rule over you with a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath. I will bring you from the peoples and gather you from the countries where you were scattered, with a strong hand, an outstretched arm, and outpoured wrath. I will lead you into the wilderness of the peoples and enter into judgment with you there face to face. Just as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you.’ This is the declaration of the Lord God. ‘I will make you pass under the rod and will bring you into the bond of the covenant. And I will also purge you of those who rebel and transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they live as foreign residents, but they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.’” (Ezekiel 20:34-38)
 - The Antichrist regroups his forces after having been thrown into chaos by God and defeats Jerusalem.
 - “I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem for battle. The city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city.” (Zechariah 14:2)
 - The Antichrist then moves against the Jewish remnant that had fled at the midpoint of the tribulation period, most likely to Masada.

- “So when you see the abomination that causes desolation, spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place’ (let the reader understand), ‘then those in Judea must flee to the mountains! A man on the housetop must not come down to get things out of his house. And a man in the field must not go back to get his clothes. Woe to pregnant women and nursing mothers in those days! Pray that your escape may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. For at that time there will be great tribulation, the kind that hasn’t taken place from the beginning of the world until now and never will again!’” (Matthew 24:15-21)
- With the Antichrist and his forces advancing on the remnant of the Jews, God lifts the spiritual blindness from them.
 - “After this I will pour out My Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. I will even pour out My Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days.” (Joel 2:28-29)
 - “So that you will not be conceited, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery: A partial hardening has come to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Liberator will come from Zion; He will turn away godlessness from Jacob. And this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins.” (Romans 11:25-27)
- The Jewish leaders will then call for the nation to repent.

- “Come, let us return to the Lord. For He has torn us, and He will heal us; He has wounded us, and He will bind up our wounds. He will revive us after two days, and on the third day He will raise us up so we can live in His presence. Let us strive to know the Lord. His appearance is as sure as the dawn. He will come to us like the rain, like the spring showers that water the land.” (Hosea 6:1-3)
- The Jews will realize their error.
 - First, in attempting to earn righteousness through the law instead of building a faith relationship with Christ.
 - “We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that no one is justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 2:15-16)
 - “I only want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? So then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law or by hearing with faith? For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, because it is written: Everyone who does not continue doing everything written in the book of the law is cursed.” (Galatians 3:2,5,10)
 - Second, in not understanding that failure through the law is inevitable.
 - “For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all.” (James 2:10)

- “But Israel, pursuing the law for righteousness, has not achieved the righteousness of the law. Why is that? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone.” (Romans 9:31-32)
- Third, that Jesus was their Messiah.
 - “He didn’t have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at Him, no appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like someone people turned away from; He was despised, and we didn’t value Him. Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished Him for the iniquity of us all...He was struck because of my people’s rebellion. They made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man at His death, although He had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully.” (Isaiah 53:2-6,8-9)
 - As a result, the Jews will mourn because they rejected Him.

- “Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him as one weeps for a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.” (Zechariah 12:10-11)
- He was rejected because he did not fit their preconceived ideas of what He should be.
 - “There He saw a man who had a paralyzed hand. And in order to accuse Him they asked Him, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?’ But He said to them, ‘What man among you, if he had a sheep that fell into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn’t take hold of it and lift it out? A man is worth far more than a sheep, so it is lawful to do what is good on the Sabbath.’ Then He told the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ So he stretched it out, and it was restored, as good as the other. But the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.” (Matthew 12:10-14)
 - “Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to Him. He healed him, so that the man could both speak and see. And all the crowds were astounded and said, ‘Perhaps this is the Son of David!’ When the Pharisees heard this, they said, ‘The man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.’” (Matthew 12:22-24)

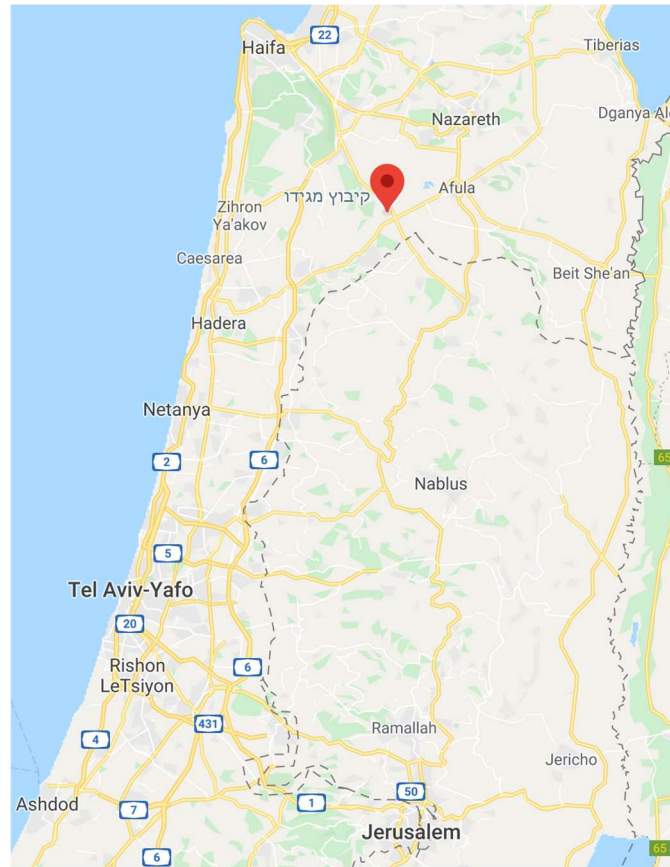
- Israel will repent and confess her national sin.
 - “But if they will confess their sin and the sin of their fathers—their unfaithfulness that they practiced against Me, and how they acted with hostility toward Me, and I acted with hostility toward them and brought them into the land of their enemies—and if their uncircumcised hearts will be humbled, and if they will pay the penalty for their sin, then I will remember My covenant with Jacob. I will also remember My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.” (Leviticus 26:40-42)
 - “Let us lie down in our shame; let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the Lord our God, both we and our fathers, from the time of our youth even to this day. We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God.” (Jeremiah 3:25)
- They will cry out for Christ to save them.
 - “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! She who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, yet you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will never see Me again until you say, ‘He who comes in the name of the Lord is the blessed One!’” (Matthew 23:37-39)
 - “I will depart and return to My place until they recognize their guilt and seek My face; they will search for Me in their distress.” (Hosea 5:15)
- Christ will deliver Israel from the Antichrist.

- “For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)
- “I will pardon their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, for the Lord dwells in Zion.” (Joel 3:21)
- Jesus then returns to earth in glory as he had ascended.
 - He arrives on the Mount of Olives.
 - “After He had said this, He was taken up as they were watching, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While He was going, they were gazing into heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven.’” (Acts 1:9-11)
 - “Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations as He fights on a day of battle. On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Mount of Olives will be split in half from east to west, forming a huge valley, so that half the mountain will move to the north and half to the south.” (Zechariah 14:3-4)
 - Everyone will see Him return.
 - “Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him. And all the families of the earth will mourn over Him. This is certain. Amen.” (Revelation 1:7; cf. Matthew 24:30)

- His return will be accompanied by great signs in the heavens.
 - “Immediately after the tribulation of those days: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the celestial powers will be shaken.” (Matthew 24:29)
- With His second coming, the stage is set for the Battle of Armageddon.

The Battle of Armageddon

- The word ‘Armageddon’ comes from a Hebrew word Har-Magedone, which means ‘Mount Megiddo.’
- The exact location of the valley of Armageddon is unclear because there is no mountain called Megiddo.
 - Since ‘Har’ can also mean hill, the most likely location for this battle is the hill country surrounding the plain of Megiddo.
 - Megiddo is the location of more than 200 battles.
 - Barak’s victory over Canaanites (Judges 4:15).
 - Gideon’s victory over the Midianites (Judges 7).
 - Where Saul and his sons were killed (1 Samuel 31:8).
 - Where King Josiah was killed (2 Kings 23:29-30; 2 Chronicles 35:22).
 - Megiddo is located 60 miles north of Jerusalem and 18 miles southeast of Haifa.



- This site's military significance comes from its strategic location at the crossing of two military and trade routes, controlling a commonly used pass between Egypt and Mesopotamia.
 - In modern times, Megiddo was also the site of an important battle as part of the final Allied offensive in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign against the Ottoman Empire.
 - This led to the final defeat of the Turks in the Middle East in World War I.
 - Napoleon is reported to have once commented that this site perhaps the greatest battlefield he had ever witnessed.
- Jesus will lead His army riding on a white horse for the final battle to defeat the Antichrist and save remnant of Israel.

- “Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness. His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on His head. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself. He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19:11-16)
- This battle is so terrible that if Jesus does not end it and defeat the Antichrist once and for all, nobody would survive.
 - “Unless those days were limited, no one would survive. But those days will be limited because of the elect.” (Matthew 24:22)
- The Antichrist and the False Prophet are captured and thrown into the lake of fire, while their armies are killed.
 - “Let the nations be roused and come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit down to judge all the surrounding nations. Swing the sickle because the harvest is ripe. Come and trample the grapes because the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because the wickedness of the nations is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the Day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will cease their shining. The Lord will roar from Zion and raise His voice from Jerusalem; heaven and earth will shake. But the Lord will be a refuge for His people, a stronghold for the Israelites.” (Joel 3:12-16)

- “Then I saw an angel standing on the sun, and he cried out in a loud voice, saying to all the birds flying high overhead, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of commanders, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of their riders, and the flesh of everyone, both free and slave, small and great.’ Then I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and against His army. But the beast was taken prisoner, and along with him the false prophet, who had performed the signs in his presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”
(Revelation 19:17-21)

- The conclusion of the Battle of Armageddon marks the transition from the Great Tribulation to the Millennial Reign of Christ.

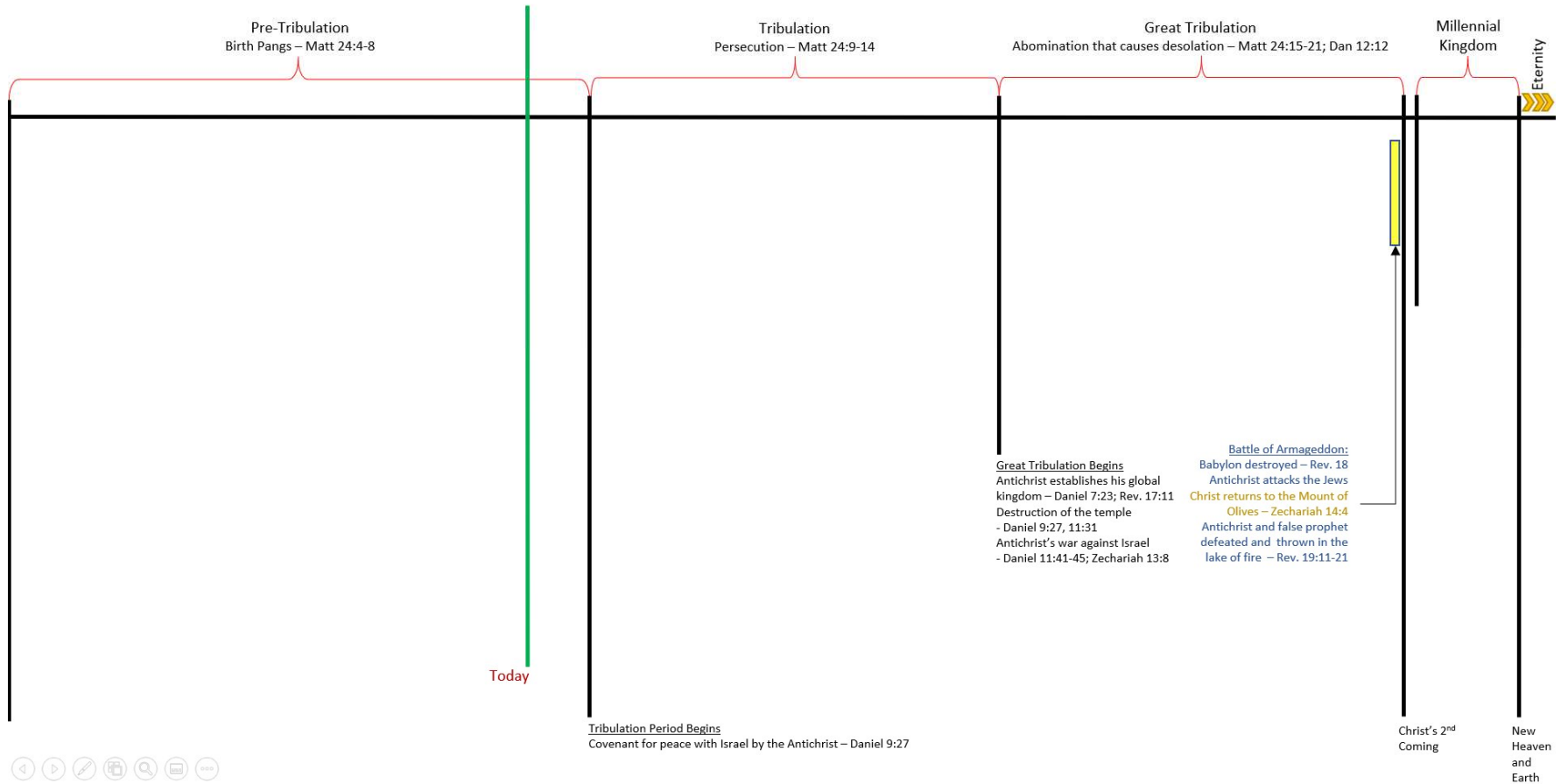


Figure 1: Timeline of the Battle of Armageddon

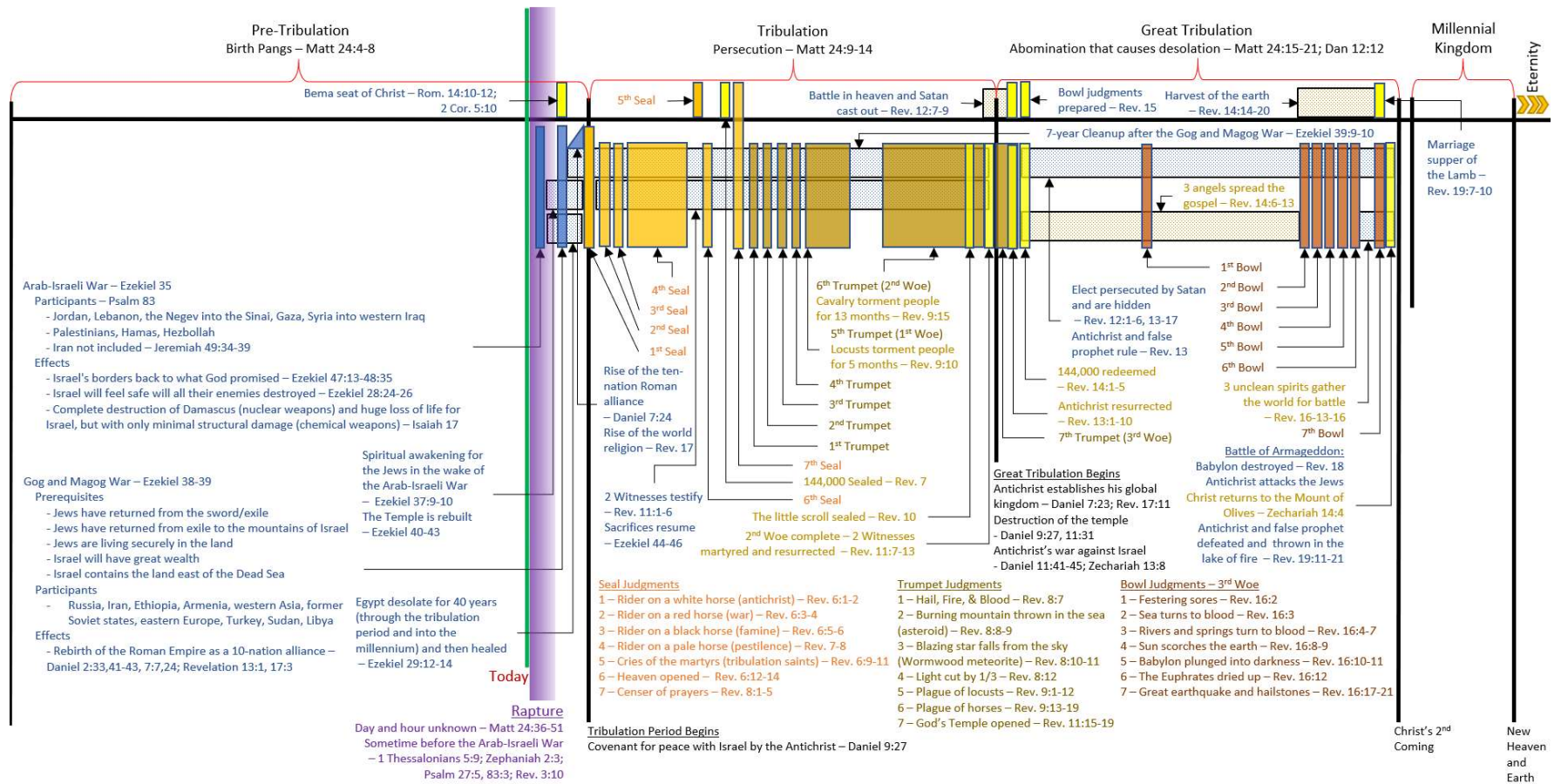


Figure 2: Timeline of End-Times Events