

The *Anderson Tours* Holy Land Scripture Series;

Understanding God, Scripture, & Self

Episode 7: Armageddon

“Knowledge of ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ’ (John 17:3) **is the most important knowledge in the Universe...**”

President Marion G. Romney of the First Presidency (“Except a Man Be Born Again,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1981, 14)

I. ARMAGEDDON INTRO

a. “The Battle of Armageddon: A Prophetic View” (Institute Manual Enrichment)

- a. “Armageddon! The name has inspired books, movies, and an almost endless amount of commentary. The very name conjures up pictures of vast armies, horrible suffering, and widespread devastation. It has created a host of speculations and much embellishment that is not scriptural...”
- b. “...It has created a host of speculations and much embellishment that is not scriptural. How much is known of this great event in the world’s history? How much of what is heard can be believed? Have the prophets really spoken that much about it? What about modern prophets? Have they too spoken of it? Where does it get its name?...”
- c. “...It is not surprising, considering its great importance in the winding-up scenes of the earth’s telestial existence, to find that the prophets, ancient and modern, have spoken at great lengths and in much detail about this final war that will usher in the Millennium. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, John, Joseph Smith, and others have all talked about the battle and the events associated with it...”
- d. Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, after quoting from several of these prophets, said: “Now I have read these passages of Scripture from these various prophets. Here you will find Isaiah saying the Lord will pour out war upon all the world; Jeremiah saying the same thing and speaking of these terrible things; Daniel saying so; Ezekiel saying so. We find Joel, Zephaniah, Zechariah, all proclaiming that in this last day, the day when the sun shall be darkened and the moon turned to blood and the stars fall from heaven that the nations of the earth would gather against Jerusalem. All of them speak of it; and when that time comes, the Lord is going to come out of His hiding place.” (*The Signs of the Times*, p. 170.)
- e. President Joseph Fielding Smith indicated that this great war would be one of the last events before Christ comes in His glory: “One thing we are given by these prophets

definitely to understand is that the great last conflict before Christ shall come will end at the siege of Jerusalem...”

- f. President Joseph Fielding Smith “So we are given to understand that when the armies gather in Palestine will be the time when the Lord shall come in judgment and to make the eventful decision which will confound the enemies of his people and establish them in their ancient land forever.” (Doctrines of Salvation, 3:46–47.). Obviously, this is an event of great importance to the world, and the Lord has given a wealth of detail so that those who will listen can be prepared and comforted as the greatest war in the history of the world begins to unfold.” (IM)
- g. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/old-testament-student-manual-kings-malachi/enrichment-i?lang=eng>

b. Bible Dictionary

- a. A Greek transliteration from the Hebrew Har Megiddon, or “Mountain of Megiddo.” The valley of Megiddo is in the western portion of the plain of Esdraelon about 75 miles north of Jerusalem. Several times the valley of Megiddo was the scene of violent and crucial battles during Old Testament times (Judg. 5:19; 2 Kgs. 9:27; 23:29). A great and final conflict taking place at the Second Coming of the Lord is called the battle of Armageddon. See Zech. 11–14, especially 12:11; Rev. 16:14–21.
- b. Photos of Megiddo & the Jezreel Valley (Plain of Esdraelon, aka Valley of Armageddon)

c. Via Maris (Strategic & Significance of Megiddo)

- a. Megiddo and the Valley of Armageddon are on the major trade and travel route anciently and is still a very important place strategically with the headquarters of the Israeli Air Force in the middle of the valley.

II. WHAT WE KNOW...

- a. It is the name given to the final battle which will bring in the Second Coming... (Rev 16, Zech 12)
- b. All nations will be engaged at Jerusalem to battle...(Zech 12-14)
- c. There will be tremendous destruction... (Ezek 39)
- d. Some of the major players who will be involved... (Ezek 38)
- e. There will be 2 Prophets who preach in Jerusalem for 3 ½ years... (Rev 11)
- f. When Jesus comes to save the Jews they will wonder at where He got the wounds in His hands and a nation will be born in a day... (Zech 13/Isaiah 66)

III. THE SETTING (WHAT MUST HAPPEN FIRST?)

- a. “According to the prophets, some important events must take place before the battle actually begins:...[Ask yourself if these things listed have happened yet]
 1. The house of Israel will be gathered from among the heathen (the Gentiles) and returned to their own land (see Ezekiel 36:24; 37:21).
 2. The land of Israel will be rebuilt and reinhabited by the covenant people (see Ezekiel 36:10–12, 33–36).
 3. The land will become highly productive and fruitful, even like the Garden of Eden (see Ezekiel 36:8, 29–30, 34–35).
 4. There will be one nation in the land of Israel again (see Ezekiel 37:22).
 5. Jerusalem will be reestablished as the capital city of the Israelites (see Zechariah 1:16–17; 2:12; 12:6; 3 Nephi 20:46).
 6. Judah will become powerful in politics and warfare (see Isaiah 19:16–17; Zechariah 10:3, 5–6).
 7. A great combination of organizations serving Satan will arise in the last days. This combination has several names: the “beast ... out of the sea” (Revelation 13:1), representing the kingdoms of the earth (see JST, Revelation 13:1; 17:8–14; Bruce R. McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary 3:520); the “great and abominable church,” “the church of the devil,” “the great whore,” and “the mother of ... abominations” (Revelation 17:1, 5). Elder George Q. Morris of the Quorum of the Twelve stated that some of the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century were part of this coalition: “The Savior recognized the domination of Satan over the world generally, and called him the prince of the world, but in a special way—in the way that Brother [Ezra Taft] Benson has referred to—he has entered into the politics of the world among the nations of the world, and already subjugated about one billion people of the world, and by a dire, sanguinary, and deadly philosophy has brought death to millions and has brought slavery to almost a billion people.” (In Conference Report, Apr. 1960, p. 100.)
- b. Virtually every single one of them have been accomplished. (It could start anytime)

IV. **MAJOR PLAYERS...**

- a. **Major Players:** Iran, Iraq, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Palestinians (Gaza Strip), Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, North Africa (Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria), South part of Africa (Ethiopia), European Nations, those in Asia Minor (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia)

- b. [Note: Assyria (Iraq), Egypt may join Israel in some capacity – Isaiah 19; 27:13]
- c. What about the USA? What size will they be on? (Answer coming later...)
- d. References for Major Players and the modern equivalents of the ancient territories & regions: Ezekiel 25, 38, Isaiah 11, 23, 25, Joel 3, Zechariah, I.M commentary on Ezekiel 38:1-2

V. **THE BATTLE...**

- a. **Scriptures on the Battle:** Zechariah 12-14; Ezekiel 38-39; Isaiah 11; Joel 3; Isaiah 15-24; 34; 36; 51:21-23; 54:15-17; 60:14-15; Ezekiel 25; 34-35; 38-39; Dan 8-9; 11, Jeremiah 47-52; Rev 16
- b. **What We Know...**
 - i. All nations will be engaged at Jerusalem to battle...(Zech 12-14)
 - ii. There will be tremendous destruction... (Ezek 39)
 - iii. God punishes those who scattered His people... (lots of scriptural references – see above)
 - iv. The Battle of Armageddon is the *Abomination of Desolation* spoken of by Daniel the prophet and referenced by Jesus in the Mt. of Olives Discourse... (Matt 24:15)
- c. **Zechariah Account (is the most detailed):**
 - i. Acts 1:9-12 = Jesus' Ascension = the same way you see Him go from the Mt of Olives you will see Him return
 - ii. Zechariah 12, 13, 14:1-4 = Jesus setting His foot down on Mt of Olives (Direct fulfillment)
 - iii. Overview of the Book of Zechariah relating to this event:
 - 1. **Chapter Headings of Chapters 1,2,3,8,9,10,12,13 (and 13:5-6),& 14**
 - a. Chapter 1 Heading: Zechariah calls upon Judah to repent—He is shown in vision that the cities of Judah and the temple will be rebuilt.”
 - b. Chapter 2 Heading: In the last days, Judah will gather to Jerusalem —The people will come from the land of the north—The Lord will dwell among them.

- c. Chapter 3 Heading: Zechariah speaks about the Messiah—The Branch will come—At the Second Coming, iniquity will be removed in one day.
 - d. Chapter 8 Heading: In the last days, Jerusalem will be restored, Judah will be gathered, and the Lord will bless His people beyond anything in the past.
 - e. Chapter 9 Heading: Zechariah speaks as the Messiah—The Messiah will come, having salvation...—Judah and Ephraim are instruments of the Lord.
 - f. Chapter 10 Heading: Judah and Joseph will be scattered among the people in far countries—The Lord will hiss for them, gather them, and redeem them.
 - g. Chapter 12 Heading: In the final great war, all nations will be engaged at Jerusalem, but the Lord will defend His people—Then the Jews will look upon the Lord, whom they crucified, and there will be great mourning.
 - h. Chapter 13 Heading: In the final great war, all nations will be engaged at Jerusalem, but the Lord will defend His people—Then the Jews will look upon the Lord, whom they crucified, and there will be great mourning.
 - i. Chapter 13:5-6 “5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. 6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”
 - j. Chapter 14 Heading: At His Second Coming, the Lord will fight for Israel—His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives—He will be King over all the earth—Plagues will destroy the wicked.
2. **Zechariah 14:1-5** 1 Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. 2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the

Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 ¶ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains...”

d. The Book of Daniel Details:

- i. **Daniel had many visions** that were challenging to decipher
- ii. **The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:** “Whenever God gives a vision of an image, or beast, or figure of any kind, He always holds Himself responsible to give a revelation or interpretation of the meaning thereof, otherwise we are not responsible or accountable for our belief in it. Don’t be afraid of being damned for not knowing the meaning of a vision or figure, if God has not given a revelation or interpretation of the subject” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 291)

iii. The Book of Daniel that relates to Armageddon:

1. Chapter 10 Heading, Chapter 11 Heading

- a. **Chapter 10 Heading:** Daniel sees the Lord and others in a glorious vision—He is shown what is to be in the latter days.
- b. **Chapter 11 Heading:** Daniel sees the successive kings and their wars, leagues, and conflicts that lead up to the Second Coming of Christ.
2. **Daniel 11:31-33** 31 And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. 32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. 33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.

e. Deductions from the experts on deciphering the Book of Daniel (as it relates to the Abomination of Desolation):

- i. Daniels writings and explanations “give us a Background”
- ii. Provide “a general outline”
- iii. Give us an “overview of main events”
- iv. “Provides types of future events”
- v. “Shows in type the great war”
- vi. “Several things are dualistic”
- vii. “Which is correct?”

viii. "...it is very possible that all four answers are correct."

f. **What We Know** (about the Abomination of Desolation)

- i. Jerusalem & the Temple were made desolate due to abomination the first time...
- ii. It has to do with Jerusalem & the Temple being besieged...
- iii. Such an occurrence will precede the Savior's Second Coming...
- iv. The first occurrence happened in 586bc by the Babylonians
- v. The Second occurred in 168bc with Antiochus IV (during the reign of the Macabees)
- vi. The Third (and last) such occurrence happened in 70ad by the Romans
- vii. Some are uncertain whether the one in the future it is Armageddon or the battle when Michael battles at the end of the Millennium. (*We are quite certain it is Armageddon!)

g. **A look at Daniel 8 using the deductions from the experts:** ("...the background, the general outline, overview of the main events, and discover the types of future events especially the type in this great war")

- i. **FYI:** Chapters 9-12 are all in concert with this chapter and it gives great insight! [This story line in Ch. 8 gets repeated and expounded on in Ch. 9-12 much like Daniel does in chapter 7 from the initial vision in Ch. 2].

ii. **Daniel sees in vision...**

1. **A Ram with 2 Horns**...Symbolic of 2 Kings (Iran):

- a. King of Media (Iran) and the King of Persia (Iran)
- b. They pushed Westward (Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Turkey)
- c. They pushed Northward (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russia)
- d. They pushed Southward (Oman, Doha, United Emirates, Saudi, Yemen)
- e. *They became great and no one could stop him

2. **Next he sees a He Goat**...King of Grecia from the West (Iraq) (Possibly Alexander the Great = ?)

- a. He came on the face of the whole earth (notable 1st King)
- b. Hit the Ram with fury & stamped him to the ground (conquered)
- c. Broke the 2 horns of the Ram (Iran)

- d. The great horn became broken and 4 notable ones came and out of them came a Little Horn (Possibly Antiochus IV = ?)
 - i. The little horn waxed great towards the south, east and the pleasant land
 - ii. The little horn cast down some of the host of heaven
 - iii. Magnified himself to the Prince of the Host – Sanctuary cast down!
 - iv. Saint asks how long will sacrifice/sanctuary would be trodden under foot? Answer: 2,300 Days = 6.3 years
 1. FYI: “The Great Disappointment” – Led to the Adventism (7th Day Adventists, etc.). Famous miscalculated interpretation of Dan 8:14 by William Miller who predicted the 2nd Coming to be in 1843!?
 - v. When the great horn became broken... 4 notable ones came out (Anacletic, Seleucid, Ptolemy, Ottoman, Antiochus) and out of them came the Little Horn

3. **A King of Fierce Countenance** & understanding with dark riddles became mighty-destroyer-prospered-shall destroy the Holy People THROUGH HIS POLICY – craft will prosper in his hand & in a time of peace shall destroy many and shall also stand up against the Prince of Princes (Christ) but shall be broken without hand

iii. **Summary: (of Daniel 8 and the potential Armageddon parallels):**

1. Iran & Iraq could be key players
2. A Fierce King who will be a destructive force will by his Policy & craft & will prosper. (Russia, European Union?)
3. Most likely Dualism! (Could apply to the future)
4. The Fierce King sounds like it could be the “Anti-Christ” that many believe will precede the Second Coming.
5. The Fierce King will destroy the Holy People. (This could be the main leader that is conquering in Jerusalem during Armageddon before he is broken by the Prince of Princes which we know Christ will win and conquer when He arrives on the scene.)

6. The war of doctrines resembles how it all began with the War in Heaven in the Pre-mortal existence.
7. *In Chapters 9-12 of Daniel many of these elements listed in Ch. 8 are mentioned throughout regarding war and the major players in the war and how it will go. Parallelism & dualism? Most likely!

VI. 2 PROPHETS IN JERUSALEM

- a. **Joseph Fielding Smith** indicated that this great war would be one of the last events before Christ comes in His glory and would culminate in Jerusalem: “One thing we are given by these prophets definitely to understand is that the great last conflict before Christ shall come will end at the siege of Jerusalem...”
- b. **The end of the conflict will be in Jerusalem!** It is the spiritual epicenter and the ideal stage for these epic events and also the focus of the Abomination of Desolation and also where 2 Prophets will preach prior to His coming.
- c. **God’s Instituted a Pattern for Establishing Truth = 2 or 3 Witnesses!**
 - i. Scriptural basis for this pattern: Deuteronomy 17:6; Deuteronomy 19:15; 2 Corinthians 13:1; 1 Timothy 5:19 [Note that it was established as an important part of the Law of Moses].
 - ii. “...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.” (Deuteronomy 19:15)
 - iii. “...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (2 Corinthians 13:1) [It was also critical in New Testament times]
 - iv. God ensured to have 3 eye witnesses of the angel Moroni and the golden plates which led to the translation of “Another Testament of Jesus Christ-The Book of Mormon”.
 - v. The pattern continues today in His church with witnesses at baptism, marriages, and other Priesthood ordinations.
- d. **Do we have more than 1 witness of these 2 Prophets in Jerusalem? (YES)!**
 - i. Revelation 11:3-12; Isaiah 51:17-20; Zechariah 4:1-2, 11-14; D&C 77:15
- e. **What do we know about these 2 Prophets in Jerusalem?**
 - i. The question is often asked; “**How could such a small nation as Israel stand against the combined armies of the world?**” = Answer is these 2 Prophets!
 - ii. Names given them; “**Two Witnesses**”, “**Two Olive Trees**”, “**Two Candlesticks**”
 - iii. **Revelation 11:3-21**: “Power given to these 2 to prophesy...to shut heaven...power over the waters...to smite the earth with plagues as often as they will, etc.
 - iv. “**These two prophets tormented them that dwell on earth.**” (vs. 10)

- v. **D&C 77:15**: “15 Q. What is to be understood by the two witnesses, in the eleventh chapter of Revelation? A. They are two prophets that are to be raised up to the Jewish nation in the last days, at the time of the restoration, and to prophesy to the Jews after they are gathered and have built the city of Jerusalem in the land of their fathers.
- vi. **These prophets will have power to pronounce great judgments upon the earth** (see Revelation 11:5–6). “They shall have power like Elijah who called down fire from heaven to consume his enemies, and who sealed the heavens that it rained not in all Israel for the space of three and a half years (1 Kings 17 and 18; 2 Kings 1), and like Moses by whose word blood and plagues lay heavily upon the Egyptians. (Ex. 7, 8, 9, and 10.)” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:510.)

f. Are these Prophets Jewish Prophets or LDS Prophets?

- i. **Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote**: “These two shall be followers of that humble man, Joseph Smith, through whom the Lord of Heaven restored the fulness of his everlasting gospel in this final dispensation of grace. No doubt they will be members of the Council of the Twelve or of the First Presidency of the Church. Their prophetic ministry to rebellious Jewry shall be the same in length as was our Lord’s personal ministry among their rebellious forebears. “The two olive trees, and the two candlesticks [are] symbols of the two witnesses; meaning, perhaps, that as olive trees, they shall provide oil for the lamps of those who go forth to meet the Bridegroom; ... and that as lamp stands they shall reflect to men that light which comes from Him who is the Light of the World.” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:509–10.)

g. Institute Manual Armageddon: A Prophetic View: (I-7) Armageddon: The Final Extremity

- i. John showed that eventually the two prophets will be captured and killed by the opposing army, and their bodies will be left in the streets of Jerusalem for “three days and an half” as the forces of evil engage in a great celebration over their death (Revelation 11:9; see also Revelation 11:7–8, 10).
- ii. “That level of spiritual debauchery is shown forth by the fact that the wicked not only slay the prophets of God, but boast of their deeds and glory in them. Such people, as the Jaredites and Nephites before them, are ripened in iniquity and are ready for that destruction and burning which shall cleanse the vineyard of corruption when Jesus descends with his chariots of fire.” (McConkie, Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:510.)
- iii. During the “three days and an half” that the prophets lie dead in the streets, the army will ravage the city of Jerusalem and the remaining population of Israel (Revelation

11:9). Elder Pratt explained: “After a struggle of three years and a half, they [Gog’s army] will at length succeed in destroying these two prophets and then overrunning much of the city; they will send gifts to each other because of the death of the two prophets, and in the meantime will not allow their dead bodies to be put in graves, but will suffer them to lie in the streets of Jerusalem three days and a half, during which time the armies of the Gentiles, consisting of many kindreds, tongues, and nations, passing through the city, plundering the Jews, will see their dead bodies lying in the street.” (Voice of Warning, p. 33.)

- iv. Zechariah says that only one-third of the nation of Israel will survive this final extremity when the “city [Jerusalem] shall be taken, and the houses rifled [looted], and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity” (Zechariah 14:2; see also Zechariah 13:8–9; 14:1).

h. Institute Manual Armageddon: A Prophetic View: (I-8) Armageddon: The Deliverance

(Note: This section is included in detail to show the elements that the writers chose to include in their write-up of Armageddon: A Prophetic View)

- i. In what will be one of the blackest moments of Israel’s history, just as it appears that they are about to be annihilated, the Lord’s fury will be unleashed upon the kingdoms of the world (see Ezekiel 38:18), and the Lord will “go forth, and fight against those nations” (Zechariah 14:3).
 - 1. The two prophets, lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem, will be resurrected in the sight of the people (see Revelation 11:11–12): “After three days and a half, on a sudden, the spirit of life from God will enter them; they will arise and stand upon their feet, and great fear will fall upon them that see them. And then they shall hear a voice from heaven saying, ‘Come up hither,’ and they will ascend up to heaven in a cloud, with their enemies beholding them.” (Pratt, Voice of Warning, p. 33.)
 - 2. An earthquake will strike the earth, affecting the whole world—the greatest earthquake the world has ever known (see Revelation 11:13; 16:18; Ezekiel 38:19–20; Haggai 2:6–7). Elder McConkie taught: “Three natural changes in the earth—all apparently growing out of one transcendent happening—are here named [Revelation 16:17–21] as attending our Lord’s Second Coming. They are: 1. Earth’s land masses shall unite; islands and continents shall become one land. 2. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low; the rugged terrain of today shall level out into a millennial garden. “3. Such an earthquake as has never been known since man’s foot was planted on this planet shall attend these changes in the earth’s surface and appearance. “And, fourthly,

as recorded elsewhere, the great deep—presumably the Atlantic ocean—shall return to its place in the north, ‘and the earth shall be like as it was in the days before it was divided.’ (D. & C. 133:21–24.)” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:543.)

3. This quake will evidently create a huge spring in Jerusalem which will form a new river, flowing westward to the Mediterranean Sea and eastward to the Dead Sea (see Zechariah 14:8–9; Joel 3:18; Ezekiel 47:1–5). Because of this river, the Dead Sea will have its waters healed, that is, it will become a lake with verdant foliage surrounding its shores and fish teeming in its waters (see Ezekiel 47:6–12; Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 286).
4. The area around Jerusalem, which is now very hilly and steep, will be smoothed out and become like “a plain” (Zechariah 14:10).
5. The Mount of Olives will be split in two, providing an avenue of escape for the house of Israel (see Zechariah 14:4–5).
6. “All [the prophets] speak of [this day]; and when that time comes, the Lord is going to come out of His hiding place. You can see what a terrible condition it is going to be; and the Jews besieged, not only in Jerusalem but, of course, throughout Palestine are in the siege; and when they are about to go under, then the Lord comes. There will be the great earthquake. The earthquake will not be only in Palestine. There will not be merely the separation of the Mount of Olives, to form a valley that the Jews may escape, but the whole earth is going to be shaken. There will be some dreadful things take place, and some great changes are going to take place, and that you will find written in the book of Ezekiel (38:17–23).” (Smith, Signs of the Times, p. 170.)
7. As the Jews flee through this avenue of escape they will see their Messiah who has come to deliver them. In gratitude and joy they will throw themselves at the feet of the Deliverer and discover the wounds in His hands and feet. Suddenly they will realize that their Messiah is the Messiah who came to them before, and the Jewish nation will be converted to their God. (see Zechariah 14:5; 12:9–10; 13:6; D&C 45:47–53.)
8. The Lord’s fury upon the army of Gog will consist of other judgments in addition to the great earthquake:
9. The armies of Gog will turn upon each other, perhaps in the panic and confusion of the great earthquake (see Ezekiel 38:21; Zechariah 14:13).
10. A great rain of fire and hail will shower down upon the army (see Ezekiel 38:22; D&C 29:21; Revelation 16:21). John said the hailstones will weigh a talent,

which is about 75.6 pounds or 34.3 kilograms (see Bible Dictionary, s.v. “weights and measures”). Ezekiel stated that fire will also be sent against the land of Magog (see Ezekiel 39:6). The account by Ezekiel could very easily be a description of atomic warfare. Isaiah described the fire’s effect on the land itself (see Isaiah 34:9–10).

11. A plague will strike the army, causing terrible disease and calamity (see Zechariah 14:12; compare D&C 29:18–20).
12. The result will be that only one-sixth of the invading army will survive the Lord’s judgments (see Ezekiel 39:2), and their power to make war will be destroyed. In Jerusalem itself, 7000 will be slain, and one-tenth of the city destroyed (see Revelation 11:13).
13. So great will be the devastation that for seven years Israel will be able to live off the spoils of war left behind (see Ezekiel 39:8–10). It will take seven months to bury the dead, and thereafter burial teams will search out the remaining bodies in an attempt to cleanse the land (see Ezekiel 39:11–16). Isaiah said that the Lord “hath delivered them to the slaughter ... and the mountains shall be melted with their blood” (Isaiah 34:2–3). Jeremiah stated that the Lord “will give them that are wicked to the sword, ... and the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other” (Jeremiah 25:31, 33).
14. The judgments of the Lord upon the armies of Gog is known in the scriptures as the great day of the Lord’s “sacrifice” (see Isaiah 34:5–6; Ezekiel 39:17–22), the Lord’s “controversy with the nations” (Jeremiah 25:31), the “supper of the great God” (Revelation 19:17; see also Revelation 19:18–21), and “the great winepress of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:19; see also Revelation 19:15; D&C 133:48–51).
15. Elder Charles W. Penrose summarized the foregoing list of events: “The bankrupt nations, envying the wealth of the sons of Judah, will seek a pretext to make war upon them, and will invade the ‘holy land’ to ‘take a prey and a spoil.’ ... “His [Christ’s] next appearance [after coming to his temple] will be among the distressed and nearly vanquished sons of Judah. At the crisis of their fate, when the hostile troops of several nations are ravaging the city and all the horrors of war are overwhelming the people of Jerusalem, he will set his feet upon the Mount of Olives, which will cleave and part asunder at his touch. Attended by a host from heaven, he will overthrow and destroy the combined armies of the Gentiles, and appear to the worshipping Jews as the mighty Deliverer and Conquerer so long expected by their race; and while love,

gratitude, awe, and admiration swell their bosoms, the Deliverer will show them the tokens of his crucifixion and disclose himself as Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had reviled and whom their fathers put to death. Then will unbelief depart from their souls, and ‘the blindness in part which has happened unto Israel’ be removed.” (“The Second Advent,” *Millennial Star*, 10 Sept. 1859, pp. 582–83.)

i. (I-9) Armageddon: The End or the Beginning?

- i. Armageddon signals the end of the world, which is defined as “the destruction of the wicked” (JS—M 1:4). But it prepares the way for the ushering in of the millennial reign of Christ and the era of peace that will endure for a thousand years. Mankind will enter a remarkable period of righteousness, health, education, prosperity, and security. (see Isaiah 65:17–25; Zechariah 14:9, 16–20; D&C 84:98–102; 101:23–24; 133:52–56.)
- ii. The millennial era could not begin without the widespread destruction of the wicked. Therefore, while the battle of Armageddon is in and of itself a thing horrible to contemplate, it is necessary because of the wickedness of the world, and ultimately it will play an important part in the Lord’s plan for redemption of the world.

VII. WHAT SIDE WILL THE USA BE ON “When all nations are gathered against Jerusalem to battle”? (Zech 14:2)

- a. Review of the “Major Players” identified scripturally as being involved in the battle. What about the USA?
- b. **Isaiah 11** (which was quoted in its entirety by Moroni to Joseph Smith) may provide insight.
- c. **Isaiah 11:12–14:** 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. 13 The **envy** also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14 But they shall **afly** upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them.
 - i. **13a** The tribes led by Judah and Ephraim were historically adversaries (after events of 1 Kgs. 12:16–20). In the latter days this enmity will be healed. TG Envy [This has already taken place!]
 - ii. **14a** HEB fly down on the shoulder; i.e., attack the western slopes that were Philistine territory. (see also Ezekiel 25). [This has NOT yet happened. Could this be an indication of the allegiance of the USA to Israel?]

- iii. If you put a modern country to the tribe of Judah it would most likely be Israel. If you put a modern country to the tribe of Ephraim it would most likely be the USA. This could be an indication of the allegiance of the USA to Israel and may be a predictor of where the USA will weigh in during this event. Because it hasn't transpired it is all educated guesses at this point.
- iv. It will be a fun ride to watch and possibly be a part of.

VIII. **ARMAGEDDON STARTS IT ALL**

- a. **Armageddon is the Abomination of Desolation** spoken of by Daniel the Prophet and referenced by the Savior in the Mt of Olives Discourse! This will usher it all in.
- b. **A Message of Comfort and Hope:**
 - i. "...for the day soon cometh that all the proud and they who do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day cometh that they must be burned. 16 For the time soon cometh that the fulness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men; for he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous. 17 Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, they shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire." (1 Nephi 22:15-17)
- c. **President Russel M. Nelson** (recently – last week at the Oct 2022 General Conference):

“My dear brothers and sisters, so many wonderful things are ahead. In coming days, we will see the greatest manifestations of the Savior’s power that the world has ever seen. Between now and the time He returns “with power and great glory,” He will bestow countless privileges, blessings, and miracles upon the faithful. Nonetheless, we are presently living in what surely is a most complicated time in the history of the world.” (Oct. 2022)

Links to the Scriptures & Other Resources:

[Old Testament:](#)

[New Testament:](#)

[Book of Mormon:](#)

[Doctrine & Covenants:](#)

[Pearl of Great Price:](#)

[New Testament Institute Student Manual:](#)

[3 Witnesses of the Book of Mormon:](#)

[The Battle of Armageddon: A Prophetic View](#)

[Ezekiel 38-39 Battle of Gog & Magog \(Armageddon\): Ancient Names and Modern Equivalents](#)

[Old Testament Institute Manual:](#)

[NY Times Article; “The Apocalypse as an ‘Unveiling’: What Religion Teaches Us About the End Times”, April 2020:](#)

QUOTES:

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:

“Whenever God gives a vision of an image, or beast, or figure of any kind, He always holds Himself responsible to give a revelation or interpretation of the meaning thereof, otherwise we are not responsible or accountable for our belief in it. Don’t be afraid of being damned for not knowing the meaning of a vision or figure, if God has not given a revelation or interpretation of the subject” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 291)

BD Armageddon

A Greek transliteration from the Hebrew Har Megiddon, or “Mountain of Megiddo.” The valley of Megiddo is in the western portion of the plain of Esdraelon about 75 miles north of Jerusalem. Several times the valley of Megiddo was the scene of violent and crucial battles during Old Testament times (Judg. 5:19; 2 Kgs. 9:27; 23:29). A great and final conflict taking place at the Second Coming of the Lord is called the battle of Armageddon. See Zech. 11–14, especially 12:11; Rev. 16:14–21.

President Joseph Fielding Smith indicated that this Great War would be one of the last events before Christ comes in His glory:

“One thing we are given by these prophets definitely to understand is that the great last conflict before Christ shall come will end at the siege of Jerusalem. ...

“So we are given to understand that when the armies gather in Palestine will be the time when the Lord shall come in judgment and to make the eventful decision which will

confound the enemies of his people and establish them in their ancient land forever.”
(*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:46–47.)

President Russel M. Nelson (recently at the Oct 2022 General Conference):

“My dear brothers and sisters, so many wonderful things are ahead. In coming days, we will see the greatest manifestations of the Savior’s power that the world has ever seen. Between now and the time He returns “with power and great glory,” He will bestow countless privileges, blessings, and miracles upon the faithful. Nonetheless, we are presently living in what surely is a most complicated time in the history of the world.”

([“Overcome the World and Find Rest”](#), President Russell M. Nelson, Oct 2022)

“It is a false idea that the Saints will escape all the judgments, whilst the wicked suffer; for all flesh is subject to suffer, and ‘the righteous shall hardly escape;’ still many of the Saints will escape, for the just shall live by faith; yet many of the righteous shall fall a prey to disease, to pestilence, etc., by reason of the weakness of the flesh, and yet be saved in the Kingdom of God” (*History of the Church*, 4:11).