

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 31

April 21, 2024



Cyrus Hands over the Looted Treasure by Ferdinand Bol cir 1660

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message Thirty-Two

THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON PART I

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THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON

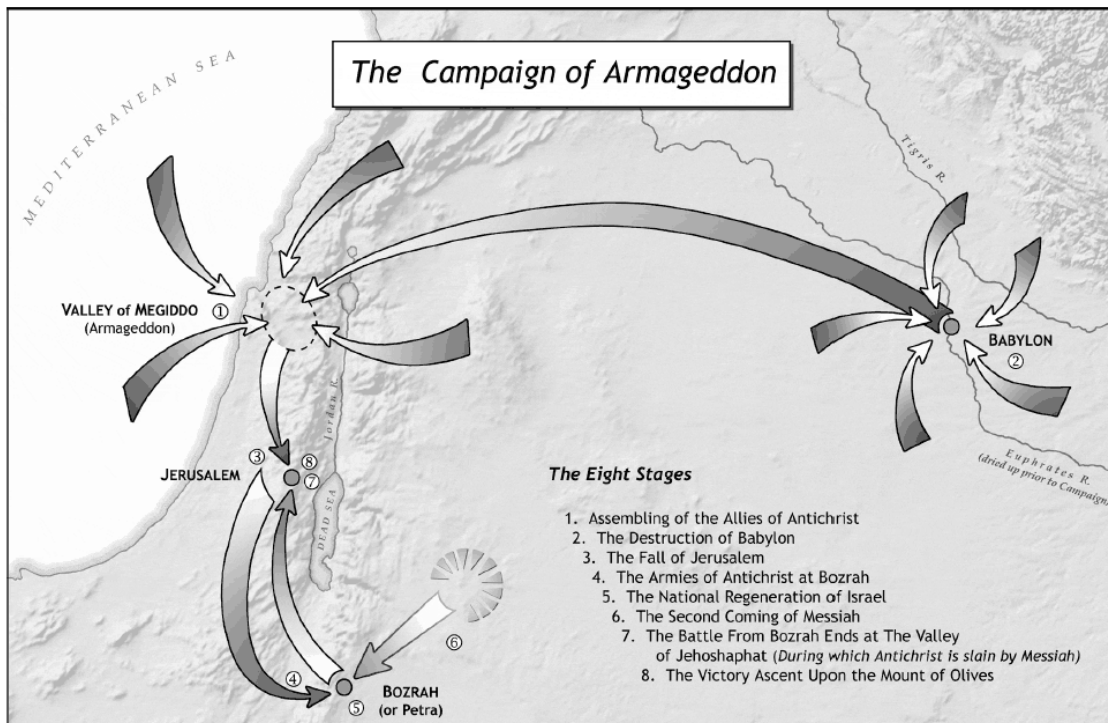
The Campaign of Armageddon is actually a multi-staged event. It is not just the invasion of Jerusalem.

The campaign of Armageddon involves eight stages. They are as follows:

1. The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist.
2. The Destruction of Babylon.
3. The Fall of Jerusalem.
4. The Armies of the Antichrist at Bozrah (Petra).
5. The National Regeneration of Israel (Zechariah 12)
6. The Second Coming of the Messiah.
7. The Place of the Second coming.
8. The Manner of the Second Coming.

The Battle from Bozrah to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

The Victory Ascent Up the Mount of Olives.



by Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum

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THE FIRST STAGE:

The Assembling of the Allies of the Antichrist

The entire campaign begins with the sixth Bowl Judgment during the middle of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 16:12-16

¹²And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. ¹³And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. ¹⁶And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon (KJV).

This sixth Bowl Judgment causes the great river Euphrates to dry up which allows the “kings of the east” to easily get into the battleground. Many believe that the kings of the east are the Chinese because of the large population of that country. It is always important to validate Scripture with Scripture so that we can see how God uses terms. Then consistently apply those terms throughout a Testament and in many cases the entire Bible. The term “*of the east*” has been used frequently to refer to the Middle East and never China or the Far East. Consider the following verses:

Matthew 2:1

¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem (KJV).

The Magi or Kings came from the area of Babylon, which is in Mesopotamia. It is present day Iraq or Assyria. They did not come from China. In fact, they were descendants of the colleagues of Daniel while he was in captivity in Babylon.

Genesis 25:6

⁶But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country (KJV).

Keturah Abraham’s second wife’s sons were given gifts and sent eastward to the east country which is revealed in Genesis 25:18 as Assyria

Genesis 29:1

¹Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east (KJV).

Here again the people of the east are referring to Assyrians or Babylonians where Jacob ended his journey. This was the land of his father and grandfather, not China. The preparation has now been made for the Antichrists army to gather and prepare to invade. This is the final campaign against the Jews, which will end the “final solution” of the Antichrist.

The actual name for the forthcoming battle is as Revelation 13:14 states:

The war of the great day of God, the Almighty;

Although convenient to call it Armageddon it is actual God’s war of His Great Day. The Day of the Lord is the proper term as it is called throughout Scripture.

Verse fifteen offers comfort in a parenthetical verse stating that there is hope to the believers to continue in the faith for when they see the armies they know that the Second Coming is very soon.

Verse sixteen states the valley where the allies of Antichrist will be gathered: HarMagedon. The ASV correctly translates is as follows:

Revelation 16:16

¹⁶And they gathered them together into the place which is called in Hebrew Har-magedon (ASV 1901).

This is a combination of two Hebrew words, which mean, “the Mountain of Megiddo.” Megiddo was a strategic city located at the western end of the Valley of Jezreel. The Valley of Armageddon is actually the Valley of Jezreel. Armageddon is only applied to the mount at the western end of the Jezreel Valley not to the valley itself. It is located in the Lower Galilee where the armies of the Antichrist will gather with the intent to destroy the Jews remaining in the world. This is where they will gather and not battle. This is similar to the role Great Britain had for the allies who gathered prior to D-Day, which was June 6th 1944 invasion of Normandy, France to push the Nazi’s back into their homeland, Germany. The battle will begin elsewhere. God’s perspective is shown in two sets of verses.

Joel 3:9-11

⁹Proclaim ye this among the nations; prepare war; stir up the mighty men; let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. ¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. ¹¹Haste ye, and come, all ye nations round about, and gather yourselves together: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Jehovah (ASV, 1901).

God is mocking them by telling them to go ahead and manufacture weapons. For the weak He says go ahead and persuade yourselves that you are strong. Because while Satan and the Antichrist prepare the forces for the purpose of destroying the Jews, God has an entirely different purpose for allowing this gathering.

Psalm 2:1-6

¹Why do the nations rage, And the peoples meditate a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, ²And the rulers take counsel together, Against Jehovah, and against his anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bonds asunder, And cast away their cords from us. ⁴He that sitteth in the heavens will laugh: The Lord will have them in derision. ⁵Then will he speak unto them in his wrath, And vex them in his sore displeasure: ⁶Yet I have set my king Upon my holy hill of Zion (ASV, 1901).

This demonstrates the taunting of the nations gathered together to do harm to God the Father and Jesus His Christ. Satan is also seeking to destroy God's Jews and break the cords of God's control in the world. God is seen sitting in heaven laughing at this folly. God's will be established in this first stage of the campaign of Armageddon as the armies gather for their next move. God is in control of the Campaign of Armageddon and will not allow the nations to prevail against His covenanted people Israel.

THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON-INTRODUCTION:

Ancient Babylon will be rebuilt, and become the Antichrist's political and economic capital of his worldwide empire. This is not to be confused with his temporary battle camp as stated in the prophetic book of Daniel.

Daniel 11:45

⁴⁵And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him (KJV).

In verse 45, Daniel states where the Antichrist will plant his headquarters during the Midtribulation war just before he is killed and brought back to life by Satan himself. This is also known as the Second Worldwide conflict as fully described in Daniel 11:40-45. A more accurate translation of this verse would be:

He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas at the glorious holy mountain.

The word for tent refers to a military tent of a general, and the word for palace to a royal tent. It is a royal tent of a military general (the Antichrist) that is set up. It is set up between the seas, meaning between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. Furthermore, it is at the glorious holy mountain, meaning the Temple Mount or Mount Moriah also known as Mount Zion.

It is important to introduce the concept of "Babylon" and its three meanings (references) in Scripture. The Bible contains eight chapters that deal with the concept of Babylon. They are

Genesis 10 & 11; Isaiah 13 & 14; Jeremiah 50 & 51 and finally, Revelation 17 & 18. Each of these chapters plays a role in the origin identification of and destiny of Babylon. By reading through these chapters in one sequence we are able to gain God's perspective on this important concept. Due to the nature of the Hebrew language not all the information in these Old Testament chapters pertain to Babylon. These chapters describe Babylon. They do not refer to the United States as Babylon or any other entity.

Babylon the concept is found in three separate categories in the Bible.

1. A physical location (city)
2. A way of life on this earth; the world's system.
3. A system of corruption in the world's systems and ecclesiastical entities.

Genesis chapters 10 and 11 describe its origin in terms of its physical location, world systems, founder and corruption.

Genesis 10:8–10

⁸And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. ⁹He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah: wherefore it is said, Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before Jehovah. ¹⁰And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar (ASV, 1901).

The word "before" in Hebrew is *paneh* and in this context it means defiant. Nimrod: The name means to rebel or to be rebellious. Principally it means to rebel against God.

Josephus says:

"Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God. He was the grandson of Ham (the Biblical text does not name his father), the son of Noah, a bold man, and of great strength of hand. He persuaded them not to ascribe satisfaction to God, as if it was through His means they were happy, but to believe that it was their own courage, which procured that happiness. He also gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence on his power..."¹

The Tower of Babel was in essence an attempt to have their own way apart from God. They were commanded to "*Be fruitful and fill the earth.*" Instead, they attempted to settle down in one location and establish a world state to offset the divine rule. The tower was meant to be a rebellious attempt to break from divine rule. They did not wish to obey God. One popular song states the condition quite well: "I did it my way!"

THE CULTIC BACKGROUND OF BABYLON:

¹ Josephus, Flavius Translated by William Whiston, *The Works of Josephus*, Hendrickson Publishers Peabody, MA 01916-3473, 1987, Pg. 35 Antiquities of the Jews Chapter 4:2

Tradition suggests that Nimrod died a violent death. One tradition says that a wild animal killed him. Another says that Shem killed him because he had led the people into the worship of Baal.

According to ancient Egyptian and Babylonian traditions, his mother was Semiramis. Sometimes Semiramis is also referred to as his wife, leading to the belief that Nimrod married his mother. Also, according to these traditions, Semiramis, who rose to greatness because of her son, was presented with a difficulty when her son died, so instead she pronounced him to be a god, so that she herself would become a goddess.

Even though Semiramis claimed to be a virgin she had another son, named Tammuz, who she said was the reincarnation of Nimrod. She became known as the "Virgin Mother", "Holy Mother" and the "Queen of Heaven" and was symbolized by the Moon. So, began the worship of Semiramis and the child-god, and the whole paraphernalia of the Babylonian religious system.

After the decline of Babylon, the religion was transported through migrations of the Babylonians to Egypt where the people worshipped Isis and her son Osiris (otherwise known as Horus). The same mother and child deities appeared in Greece as Ceres, the Great Mother, with the babe at her breast, or as Irene, the goddess of Peace, with the boy Plutus in her arms and in Pagan Rome as Fortuna and Jupiter. Other cultures embraced this concept such as Cyprian and Indian.

In its organized form false religion began with the tower of Babel and Nimrod, from which Babylon derives its name. Cain was the first false worshiper, and many individuals after him followed his example. But organized pagan religion began with the descendants of Ham, one of Noah's three sons, who decided to erect a great monument that would "*reach into heaven*" and make themselves a great name (Genesis 10: 9-10; 11:4). Under the leadership of the proud and apostate Nimrod they planned to storm heaven and unify their power and prestige in a great worldwide system of worship. That was man's first counterfeit religion, from which every other false religion in one way or another has sprung.

God's judgment frustrated their primary purpose of making a grand demonstration of humanistic unity. By confusing "*their language, that they may not understand one another's speech,*" and scattering "them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:7-8) the Lord halted the building of the tower and fractured their solidarity. But those people took with them the seeds of that false, idolatrous religion, seeds that they and their descendants have been planting throughout the world ever since. The ideas and forms were altered, adapted, and sometimes made more sophisticated, but the basic system remained, and remains, unchanged. That is why Babel, or Babylon, is called "*the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth*" (Revelation 17:5). She was the progenitor of all false religions.

From various ancient sources, it seems that Nimrod's wife/mother, Semiramis apparently was high priestess of the Babel religion and the founder of all mystery religions. After the tower was destroyed and the multiplicity of languages developed, she was worshiped as a goddess under many different names. She became Ishtar of Syria, Astarte of Phoenicia, Isis of Egypt, Aphrodite of Greece, and Venus of Rome—in each case the deity of sexual love and fertility. Her son Tammuz, also came to be deified under various names and was the consort of Ishtar and god of the underworld.

According to the cult of Ishtar, Tammuz was conceived by a sunbeam, a counterfeit version of Jesus' virgin birth. Tammuz corresponded to Baal in Phoenicia, Osiris in Egypt, Eros in Greece, and Cupid in Rome. In every case, the worship of those gods and goddesses was associated with sexual immorality. The celebration of Lent which has no basis in Scripture, but rather developed from the pagan celebration of Semiramis' mourning for forty days over the death of Tammuz (cf. Ezekiel 8:14) before his alleged resurrection is another of Satan's mythical counterfeits. These traditional stories may or may not be factual. People believed them and followed the occult as the text of Ezekiel 8 demonstrate.

Ezekiel 8:13-15

¹³He said also unto me, Thou shalt again see yet other great abominations which they do. ¹⁴Then he brought me to the door of the gate of Jehovah's house which was toward the north; and behold, there sat the women weeping for Tammuz. ¹⁵Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? thou shalt again see yet greater abominations than these (ASV, 1901).

There were a total of three Babylonian invasions of Jerusalem in 605, B.C. 598 B.C. and 586 B.C. The Babylonians took Ezekiel to Babylon in the second invasion of Nebuchadnezzar in 598 B.C. Ezekiel was communing with The Lord in a vision and the Lord showed him these things Sometime after the 1st invasion and before the 3rd invasion the Lord showed Ezekiel in a vision the extent of the apostasy the Jews had fallen into.

That the text of the Bible develops the concept of Nimrod being "against" the Lord is confirmed in several Jewish writings. The Targum of Jonathan describes Nimrod to be the mightiest rebel against the Lord that ever was on the earth. The Jerusalem Targum reads it that he was mighty in sin before the Lord and a hunter of men exhorting them to leave the judgments of Shem and adhere to the judgments of Nimrod. Nimrod founded a system of government, which was apart from God and set men to worship the sun, the moon and the stars. A Targum is a Jewish writing similar to a commentary of the first century A.D, which explained the Hebrew text of the Old Testament in an era when Hebrew was declining as a spoken language.

Unenlightened humans did not gradually develop idolatry. It came about two generations after Noah's sons left the ark. Idolatry rose suddenly under Nimrod the great grandson of Noah. He brought it into being to counteract the will and worship of the true God, Jehovah. It began to deify The Lust of the Eyes, The Lust of the Flesh and the Pride of Life instead of the true Creator.

BABYLONIAN COMMERCE

For nearly 2,000 years Babylon was the most important city in the world. It was a commercial and financial center of Mesopotamia. The arts of divination, astronomy, astrology, accounting, mathematics and private and commercial law all sprang up from Babylon. In short many of our world systems came from that region.

Herodotus, the father of history claimed the outer walls were 56 miles in length, 80 feet thick and 320 feet high. He said they were wide enough to allow a four-horse chariot to turn around on. The

river Euphrates went through the middle of the city under the walls and linked with a moat surrounding the walls.²

Inside the walls were fortresses and temples containing immense statues of solid gold. Rising above the city was the famous Tower of Babel, a temple to the god Marduk, that seemed to reach to the heavens.

Nebuchadnezzar came from the sea lands of the tribe of Kedar in the south. (Kuwait) So did Mohammed and Sadaam Hussein.

Nebuchadnezzar also built the Ishtar Gate. It was a double gate at the south end of the processional way, which was dedicated to the goddess Ishtar. It was covered with brilliant blue glazed bricks and bas-relief animal sculptures. It is now in the state museum of Berlin

Nebuchadnezzar paved the street sidewalks with small red stone slabs. Along the edge of each stone were carved, "I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who made this," demonstrating Nebuchadnezzar's absolute power and influence over Babylon.

The Babylonians divided the day into 24 hours, each hour into 60 minutes, each minute into 60 seconds. This form of counting (hexasegimal or base 60) has survived for 4000 years. Their year and calendar had 30-month days and 360-day years. (Same as Genesis 7 & 8, Daniel 7:25 Revelation 12:6, 13:5 and 14)

They had tables of squares, square roots, cubes, cube roots, reciprocals, exponential functions, and log functions. They had knowledge of trigonometry, the Pythagorean theorem 1200 years before the Greek Pythagoras did, and pi. They divided the circle into 360 degrees.

Babylon spiritually symbolizes the city of man or the city of Satan. It has never been destroyed yet. It fell into disrepair over the years since Cyrus took over the city. Under Saddam Hussein it was rebuilt and God will destroy it.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXXII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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² Herodotus, First written in 430 B.C. translated by Aubrey de Selincourt, 1954, *The Histories*, Published by The Easton Press 1996, Book I page 71, paragraph 179