

1 **COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON**

Revelation 16:12-17

2 **October 29, 1998 Countdown**

- Down to the last few seconds: 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, zero
- John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth, returned to space.
- Importance
- Today talk about another countdown – The Countdown to Armageddon

3 **What is Armageddon?**

- Great valley in north central Palestine
- Napoleon: "The greatest natural battlefield in the world."
- Site of the final cataclysmic battle at the end of the tribulation period.
- Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords will come in power and glory. . .

4 **When will Armageddon take place?**

- A. D. 70?
- First Persian Gulf War?
- Recently the nation of Israel has once again been in the headlines.
- This message: Focus our attention on the [Countdown To Armageddon](#)
- Give an [overview](#)

5 **PRELIMINARIES TO THE COUNTDOWN, Genesis 1-11**

- Creation: Perfect
- The Fall: Marred by sin--a curse on the whole creation
- The Flood: Man's wickedness brings God's judgment. One man, Noah, found grace in God's sight.

6 **BEGINNING OF THE COUNTDOWN**

- God Chooses Abraham (Israel)
 - The Call: Genesis 12:1-3: Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

7 **The Call**

- The Land
- The People – Epigram: "How odd of God to choose the Jews"
- The Purpose:
 - Provide a Savior, Jesus Christ
 - Provide a Revelation, the Bible
 - Provide a Witness for God in the world

8 **The blessing and the curse**

- Genesis 12:3: I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ESV
- God promised His blessing
- God also promised to curse

9 **Two Hebrew words:**

- arar: Traditional meaning of "to curse."
- qelal: Basic meaning of "to make light of, treat with contempt"
- [Example: United States](#)
- Summary:

10 **The Covenant**

- Genesis 15:1-4: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." ² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my

house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

11 **The Covenant**

- Genesis 15:5-8: ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. ⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it." ⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

12 **The Covenant**

- God established the covenant unilaterally
- God even specified the geographical boundaries of Israel's land.
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13 **Geographical boundaries of Israel's land**

14 **Origins of Israel's enemies, the Arabs**

- The start of the trouble, Hagar conceives Ishmael -- Genesis 16:11-12: And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."
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15 **Father of the Arabs**

- "a wild donkey of a man,"
- Job 39:5-8: "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager (species of wild donkey), ⁶ Whose home I have made the wilderness, And the barren land his dwelling? ⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver. ⁸ The range of the mountains is his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.

16 **"His hand shall be against every man"**

- Joke:
- Fulfillment:
- Recent Uprisings in Arab countries:
- Example of Terrorism
- God would multiply Ishmael--Genesis 17:10
- 21 Arab nations with a total population of about 360 million

17 **More Trouble from Arab Ancestors**

- Lot's grandsons, Moab & Ammon
- Abraham's sons by Keturah
- Double Trouble from Esau
 - Loses the birthright
 - Loses the blessing
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18 **CONCLUSION: Three Views of History:**

- 1 - The Stoic (pessimistic) View: Humanity on an endless treadmill of lost hopes.
- 2 - The Optimist's View: World is getting better
- 3 - The Bible View:
 - God is in control.
 - History is His story.
 - The outcome is sure & certain
 - Hope of eternal peace, joy and happiness with God in heaven!