

Vision Of The Last Days

Daniel 11-12

In chapters 10, 11, and 12, we read the closing vision which God gave to Daniel. In the tenth chapter we have the introduction of this final vision. In the eleventh chapter we have the narration of the end time events, and then in the twelfth chapter we have the conclusion where he ties it all together.

Daniel 11 is a great study in history, but was predicted hundreds of years in advance. This again is one of the reasons that Bible critics and skeptics do not like the book of Daniel because here Daniel is describing hundreds of years of history before it occurs, and now we look back on it and we see that he knew exactly what he was talking about, even to the naming of kings and nations.

Daniel chapter 11 contains some of the most detailed predictions about the future in the Bible. Daniel 11 is organized around 5 different men, and these men are representatives of periods of history. All of these kingdoms in some way affect the Jewish people in an adverse manner. When Daniel wrote the things in the first 35 verses, they were still ahead for him, they were prophecy. We read these verses now, and we know that everything Daniel predicted has come to pass.

1. PROPHECY ANTICIPATING A FINAL CONQUEROR

Alexander the Great is mentioned in those verses. There is a reference to Cleopatra in those verses. It mentions Antiochus Epiphanes, the ruler that was going to come in Syria. As he describes the coming world-wide empires and the kings and the leaders of these empires, they are a model of the characteristics of the last world leader who will unite the entire world behind him and will attempt to create a utopia.

- The first king is Ahasuerus.

“Behold Daniel, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth king shall be far richer than them all; and by his strength, and through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.” Daniel 11:2

The first prophecy concerned the future of the Persian government, under which he was currently serving. During the time of Ahasuerus, the Jewish people went through a major crisis we read about this in the book of Esther.

- The second king is Alexander the Great.

“A mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.” Daniel 11:3

Alexander the Great came on the scene 150 years later. It was during that time under Alexander that, once again, the people of Israel suffered greatly.

“When he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken up and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity nor according to his dominion with which he ruled; for his kingdom shall be uprooted, for others beside these.” Daniel 11:4

Alexander’s legacy was quickly made, briefly lived, and has lasted to this day. Born in 356 B.C. and dying 32 years later, he only reigned for 13 years – the vast majority of which he spent outside of his home state of Macedon. His legendary conquest of nearly the entire known world resulted in one of the largest empires in ancient history. Alexander overthrew the entire Persian Empire: Asia Minor, Persia, Egypt and everything in between, including Israel. Alexander died undefeated in battle but without a clear heir, which led to the division of his empire among four of his generals.

Although Alexander's empire split, the Hellenism he spread continued. Greek became the universal language, and Greek culture was either required or encouraged in all parts of the divided empire. Israel changed hands between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms. Israel later gained its independence from 167–63 B.C., a time referred to as the Hasmonean Period and recorded in the apocryphal books of 1 and 2 Maccabees. The end of this period was marked by the Roman conquest of Jerusalem in 63 B.C.

When Alexander was at the peak of his career, he died at thirty-three years of age. Some people think he was poisoned. His only possible family members who could have picked up his kingdom were an illegitimate son, a brother with mental disability, and the unborn child of his pregnant wife. All of these people were murdered within a few months after his death, leaving no descendent whatsoever to Alexander. History tells us that it was split into four parts, each of them ruled by one of Alexander's generals.

Approximately 250 years before Alexander began his world conquest, God provided Daniel with a glimpse into the future. This was important to Daniel and his people, as God also told them that they would return to their land and He would take care of them through the coming tumultuous times. Kingdoms rise and fall, but God holds the future, and His Word stands.

- The third king is Antiochus the Great.

Daniel introduces us to this king, whose wars against Egypt were marked first by defeats, and then by victories. He lived in 223–187 BC. His reign marked the end of a long period of peace for Judea and was associated with increasing tensions.

“The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power. After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be betrayed, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.” Daniel 11:5-6

Fulfillment: At first, the Seleucid king in Syria had been a subject of Ptolemy in Egypt, but in time he actually became more powerful. Therefore, the king of the South proposed a marriage alliance to unite kingdoms. Princess Berenice from the South married the Seleucid king, and a child was born. However, the king died suddenly, and the wife and child were murdered in 246 BC. Instead of sealing an alliance, this started a war.

“One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years, he will leave the king of the North alone. Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country. His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress.” Daniel 11:7–10

Fulfillment: Princess Berenice's brother, the king in Egypt, carried out a successful campaign against the North in 245–241 BC. Later, the Syrian kingdom tried to retaliate—and even attempted to invade Egypt.

“Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant. For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped.” Daniel 11:11–13

Fulfillment: Syria was defeated by Egypt in 217 BC; the Greek-Egyptian king of the South slaughtered about 20 percent of the Syrian force, but the victory was short-lived as Syria invaded again with a bigger force and was

successful.

“In those times many will rise against the king of the South. The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success. Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.” Daniel 11:14–16

Fulfillment: Israel was initially under the more tolerant rule of the Ptolemaic kings of the South. But with the Syrian victory, Israel passed under the control of the Seleucid king of the North in 200 BC. Some in Israel, thinking that they were being oppressed by the Ptolemies, supported the Seleucids against the Ptolemies. There were divisions and factions within Israel as people took different sides. Jerusalem, the “fortified city,” had Egyptian (southern) troops stationed there, and they were defeated by the king of the North.

“He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him. After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.” Daniel 11:17–19

Fulfillment: There was another try at a marriage alliance. The daughter of the Seleucid king (of the North) married the Ptolemaic king (of the South) in 193 BC. “She shall not stand with him.” This was fulfilled when Antiochus III gave his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt. He did this hoping to gain permanent influence and eventually control in Egypt. To the great disappointment of Antiochus III, the plan did not succeed because Cleopatra wasn’t faithful to her Egyptian husband at all. The plan was not truly to build an alliance but to undermine the king of the South, for the daughter was to be an agent of her father. However, after marriage, she sided with her husband instead. Since the subterfuge did not work, the Seleucid king of the North attacked a number of Greek islands and part of Asia Minor. He had been warned by the Romans to stay out of Greece, but he ignored the warning and the Romans attacked and defeated him at Thermopylae in 191 BC. He was humiliated and had to start paying tribute to Rome.

“His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.” Daniel 11:20

Fulfillment: The Seleucid successor was preoccupied with getting money to keep Rome at bay. He was unsuccessful in an attempt to loot the temple in Jerusalem to get tribute money. This king had a short and inconsequential reign. The Romans finally take control of Syria, taxing the people heavily for causing so many problems. To pay this tax, the king of Syria sent a tax collector to plunder the temple in Jerusalem. History affirmed Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 11:20.

- The fourth king is Antiochus Epiphanes.

Then we meet the most wicked man whose history is recorded in any book you will ever read. His name is Antiochus Epiphanes. Antiochus, literally means, “The Madman.” He was among the most wicked people who ever walked on this earth, more than Stalin, more than Hitler, and anyone you can think of. He had no claim to the Syrian throne, but he decided he would try to make his way into power through bribes and gifts, and he stirred up a battle against the South, but he couldn't win on the battlefield. He lived in 175–164 BC. Spent much of his youth as a hostage in Rome after his father's defeat, where he was influenced by Roman culture and institutions. Known for his harsh persecution of the Jews, which directly led to the Maccabean Revolt.

“He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. Then an overwhelming army will be

swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant will be destroyed. After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time. With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him. Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle. The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time. The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but his heart will be set against the holy covenant. He will take action against it and then return to his own country. At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before. Ships of the western coastlands will oppose him, and he will lose heart. Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant. His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation. With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him. Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered. When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.” Daniel 11:21-35

When Antiochus Epiphanes invaded Jerusalem, he erected an image of Zeus in the Jewish temple, and he demanded that the Jews worship that image. He stopped all the Jewish sacrifices. He himself sacrificed a pig on the Jewish altar, and the temple was desolate so that no Jew could go there because Antiochus Epiphanes had made it an abomination.

“Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

That was the Maccabeus revolt that ultimately ended up in the way we celebrate Hanukkah. The apocryphal books tell us of this family of brave Jews who led a revolt against Antiochus and finally brought his reign to an end.

- There is one final king left, the Antichrist who is to come.

The willful king: a shift to a future fulfillment.

“The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his ancestors or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his ancestors he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.” Daniel 11:36-39

If you go back through history, starting with Ahasuerus, every prophecy that God made concerning him is true, and Alexander, and Antiochus the Great, and Antiochus Epiphanes, all of them. Trace them. You have the prophecy, then you have the fulfillment. All of them perfectly fulfilled. Now we have one prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled.

That prophecy will be exactly as God says it will be. God bats 100% whenever he makes a prophetic statement.

He doesn't miss any of them. What God says is going to happen, happens. And He sends his prophecy to Daniel through his angel Gabriel. And no wonder the prince of Persia didn't want that gospel message to get through to Daniel. Because it is one of the keys to believing in the living God, that when He speaks, His Word is authoritative, it's inerrant, and you can demonstrate it by the prophetic truths that you find in the Scripture.

One day there's another ruler coming on this earth. His name is the Antichrist. We don't know who he is. Nothing is left before the Rapture that needs to happen, and when the Rapture comes, the Antichrist will be revealed.

In one single chapter of the Bible, we have covered an entire era of history that was accurately predicted in detail long before it ever happened.

From Daniel 11:21-35, we find the career of a single king of the north, whose name was Antiochus Epiphanes. Antiochus Epiphanes is a composite and a forerunner of the anti-Christ who is going to come.

He is called “the Antichrist of the Old Testament.” He was a most despicable character, and yet a remarkable man in many ways. He is the “little horn” from Daniel chapter 8 who persecuted Israel and ultimately set up the first “abomination of desolation” in the temple at Jerusalem. He reigned from 175 to 164 B.C., a treacherous man who came to power, gaining influence through flattery. He launched a campaign against Egypt, which he won and thus established his power more thoroughly. Then, in verses 29-30, a very interesting thing is recorded:

“At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south [Egypt]; but it shall not be this time as it was before.” Daniel 11:29

Antiochus made a second invasion of Egypt, but this time he met with difficulty.

“For ships of Kittim shall come against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be enraged and take action against the holy covenant.” Daniel 11:30a

We know from history how this occurred. Antiochus Epiphanes (he called himself Epiphanes which means “The Illustrious One, The Magnificent One”—it was his own appraisal of himself—but his enemies called him Antiochus Epimanes, “the Madman.” He led his army into Egypt, but this time the Egyptians had sent for help from the Romans. The Roman Senate sent a general named Popilius, who led a legion against Antiochus. They arrived in Roman galleys which are referred to here as “ships of Kittim.” Popilius insisted that Antiochus return to his own land, keep the peace, and acknowledge the authority of Rome. Antiochus asked for time to consider these terms, but Popilius drew a circle around him with his sword and told him to decide before he stepped out of that circle. So Antiochus gave in and agreed to keep the peace, but returned to Jerusalem to take out his spite on the Jews. Instead of keeping peace, he did what is recorded in verse 31.

“Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the continual burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.” Daniel 11:31

Antiochus went up to Jerusalem, entered the temple, and built a pagan altar. He offered a pig, an unclean animal to the Jews, upon the altar, taking the broth of the pig and sprinkled it around the sanctuary, thus defiling it. Then he set up a statue of Jupiter or Zeus and insisted that the temple be dedicated to that pagan god. This is what is called “the abomination that makes desolate.” All this is extremely important because it was a preview of another abomination of desolation that is yet to come.

In Daniel 11:32-35, we have the career of a very remarkable people described, a people known to history as the Maccabees. They were the sons of an old man named Mathias, who rebelled against the desecrations of Antiochus and led a revolt against the authority of the king. His sons were successful in this revolt and finally recaptured the temple, cleansed the sanctuary, and restored the Jewish offerings. If any of you are at all

acquainted with the history of the Jews, you know that this is an important event in their calendar. They celebrate it at the same time we celebrate Christmas, because the temple was cleansed on December 25, 164 B.C. Here is the description of the Maccabees in the prophecy.

“He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant; but the people who know their God shall stand and take action. And those among the people who are wise shall make many understand, though they shall fall by sword and name, by captivity and plunder, for some days. When they fall, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery; and some of those who are wise shall fall, to refine and to cleanse them and to make them white, until the time of the end, for it is yet for the time appointed.” Daniel 11:32-35

Beginning with Daniel 11:36, we have the last section of this chapter. There we have a clear picture of the false Messiah. He will be accepted by the Jews as a Messiah and will erect the abomination of desolation for the last and final time in a temple that is yet to be rebuilt in the city of Jerusalem.

Many Bible scholars regard this whole section, from verse 21 on, as a preview to be repeated in the last days. Antiochus is the dress rehearsal of the real thing to come.

“At that time[the time of the events of the closing part of Chapter 11] shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time.” Daniel 12:1a

That “time of trouble” is the great tribulation which our Lord mentions in Matthew 24. So there is no question about the fact that we are dealing with the last days.

“And from the time that the continual burnt offering is taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” Daniel 12:11

That is referring to the last desecration of the temple that is to occur, but the only reference to it in this vision is clear back in Daniel 11:31 which describes the desecration under Antiochus Epiphanes.

“Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the continual burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate.” Daniel 11:31

He comes on the scene with a fierceness that is unprecedented.

The speaking angel has been fighting the unseen prince of Persia. Our battle is not against flesh and blood. This same speaking angel is the one delivering the vision of the future. Looking at the unseen enemies surrounding Antiochus, you get an idea of the work of the enemy during that time. The power tried to get to Israel through the minds of that leader. Since the enemy cannot be everywhere at all times, he has these angels who are over certain areas. We live in a day where warfare is getting fiercer and increasing depravity.

2. PROPHECY ANTICIPATING A FINAL CONFLICT

“At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels. But news from the east and the north shall trouble him; therefore he shall go out with great fury to

destroy and annihilate many. And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.” Daniel 11:40-45

Here is what it says is going to happen after describing these nations as a foundation or a basis for the last world empire that will come. Daniel 11:45 is telling us that Jerusalem is going to be his capital and the mountain called Mount Zion is going to be the place where his palace is going to be established and the place where the temple has been rebuilt will become the place that he will occupy as his headquarters. So, the capital of the world will not be Moscow or London or New York or Washington D.C. or Tokyo, it's going to be Jerusalem, and the world's moving toward that.

The anti-Christ and his ten-nation confederacy. We don't know what entities will make up this confederacy, but it comes from European roots. We get the ten nations from the ten toes of the statue in Daniel 2 and from other places, as from the ten heads on the beast of Revelation 13. The Bible says in Daniel 11:36 that this anti-Christ will do according to his will.

Look at his perversion in Daniel 11:37. He does not regard the God of his fathers. This indicates that the Anti-Christ, although he may come out of the ten-nation confederacy, he's going to come out of Europe, is an apostate Jew. He's a Jew who is an unbelieving Jew. He does not regard the God of his fathers.

In Daniel 11:38-39. “...*he shall honor the God of forces...*” One of the things that you see about the anti-Christ is that he comes in preaching peace, but he's really a man with war in his heart. He is a man who comes with sheep's clothing, but inwardly, he's a ravenous, fierce wolf.

He has political power. He has military power. He has economic power. Daniel 11:38 talks about his wealth, “*gold and silver and precious stones.*” He's able to buy the favor of the nations of the world. He does this by controlling the economy of the world. How does he control the economy of the world? He does it by the computer and by causing everybody to be registered and everybody to be a part of a society that is a totally socialist society where you cannot buy or sell or get any kind of care or have a job unless you have subscribed to the new world order.

In Daniel 11:39, he's going to set up kings. He's going to take down kings. He has great power. He is the first participant in this final conflict.

The king of the north is going to be a participant. You look north of Israel, and you see Syria. He mentions Libya that is also there. You see Syria, Turkey and, of course, Russia - all the republics of Russia that were once the Soviet Union.

In Daniel 11:40, he mentions the king of the south in this conflict. You look south, and you have the nation of Egypt and then the nations of Africa.

Then he mentions the king of the east in Daniel 11:44, “*But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him...*”

Then he mentions the nation of Israel in Daniel 11:43. He talks about the glorious land in verse 41 that is also a reference to the nation of Israel.

Revelation tells us the next participant will be the armies of Christ. (Revelation 19:11-16)

What will cause the battle of Armageddon?

It will be the struggle for power against the anti-Christ and the rebellion of the nations against his authority.

As we look at this in Daniel 9:27, we see that the first thing that is going to precipitate this conflict is a false peace. There's going to be a peace treaty signed, and nothing is going to stop it.

The world religions are going to be united during the Tribulation for three and a half years—Islam, Christianity and Judaism—through this false peace. But at the mid-point of that 7-year time period, the peace treaty is going to be broken by the anti-Christ. Israel will think he's their protector, so he has their confidence, but it's going to be broken. Not only that, but there is a surprise attack against him from Egypt and Africa, king of the south, and Syria and Russia, king of the north.

I believe that the issue is going to be the nation of Israel. He's going to set up his kingdom in the capital city in Jerusalem, and the struggle will be for control of Jerusalem. This peace that is established at the beginning of the tribulation is interrupted.

Revelation describes all the devastation of nuclear conflict, and it talks about world-wide famine. Revelation 6 deals with the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, traces war, famine, and disease, death and then eternity in hell for those without Christ.

What Daniel is saying is all of these wars and all of this pestilence are going to come. The Lord intervenes. Ezekiel 38 describes a great battle that sounds very much like nuclear weapons are involved. When the flesh of people involved in the battle is burned off their bones, literally the flesh is melted and burned off and God intervenes because this is all in His plan.

So, as the king of the north comes down, and the king of the south comes in. They are squeezing the nation of Israel, and God intervenes. The king of the north is soundly defeated and destroyed. Ezekiel 38 describes a great nuclear battle that's going to take place.

Daniel 11:44 says the anti-christ is in the glorious land, and he has been victorious against many countries; but then he is going to have other problems because the king of the east is going to get involved.

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” Daniel 11:44

In Revelation 16:12-16, it tells us that when the armies of Asia, mainly China and all the Asiatic nations, come into the land of Israel, they will bring an army of two hundred million men. The Bible says they will come across the river Euphrates, which will be dried up, and they'll move their forces into the land of Israel.

Now, the final battle is going to take place there. Revelation 16:16 says that God is going to allow Satan and the demons of hell to bring all of these nations into the land of Israel for the final battle.

Daniel 11: 45 says, *“...He shall come to his end... and none shall help him.”* Now he's going to defeat every other army, but there is one army he can't defeat.

Then look at Daniel 12:1. The chapter division is a little confusing because verse one tells you how the anti-Christ is going to come to his end.

Daniel 12:1 *“ And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which stands for the children of your people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”*

How is this anti-Christ going to be defeated? None of the armies of this world can do it. God is going to provide Israel with a powerful ally, Michael the archangel. Israel will be victoriously delivered, and that's when they are going to recognize who the Messiah truly is.

Revelation 19:11-16 describes heaven opening and One seated on a white horse, whose name is "*Faithful and True*," and the armies that are in heaven follow after Him. It says that He is going to defeat the armies of this world with the word of His mouth, the sword that proceeds out of His mouth, that sharp two-edged sword. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming in power and glory and it's going to be at the glorious revelation of Jesus, at His glorious appearing, that Israel is going to be delivered and will recognize who the Messiah is.

The final conflict will be a war against Israel for the land of Israel, and the anti-Christ will be furiously fighting against anyone who challenges him as god of the universe. The whole battle will be fought over who will be god and who will rule on the throne of David. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to be victorious!

Armageddon has caught the imagination of man. Every great war or threat of war always raises the image of Armageddon. The word occurs in literature over and over again. After World War I, a motion picture was made called "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," which depicted World War I as being the final war of mankind. Then, when World War II took place, the world was shocked by the blitz of Britain and then the release of the atomic bomb. Many people thought that this was Armageddon.

There has always been a real uneasiness in the hearts of humanity about the future. Books have been written about this event. Armageddon has captured the imagination of every student of Scripture and, of course, a great many sensational things have been said about it. But it is not a matter of speculation, it is a matter of revelation.

The Word of God depicts a war that is a real global conflict. World War I and World War II were not worldwide. They were the largest wars that have taken place in the world, but they were not truly "world wars" because in World War I most of North and South America and most of the Orient were excluded. In World War II, a few more nations were involved, especially in the Orient, but by no stretch of the imagination could it be called a global conflict.

The war that is depicted in the Word of God is much larger in its vastness, the number of nations that are engaged, the size of the armies that participate, the intensity of the conflict, and the issues that are involved in it. The general public has a rather hazy conception of Armageddon as it is presented in the Word of God.

Armageddon is the ultimate and final victory of God over the opposing forces of evil.

- Place of Armageddon

Armageddon is mentioned only one time by name. There are many references to it, but the only time it is given a name is "*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*" Revelation 16:16

We had a glimpse of it in Daniel 11:44-45.

"But reports from the east and the north will alarm him, and he will set out in a great rage to destroy and annihilate many. He will pitch his royal tents between the seas at the beautiful holy mountain. Yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him." Daniel 11:44-45

"Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. 'Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.' Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon." Revelation 16:13-16

That river Euphrates had been a boundary, and the meaning of the name “Hebrew” is “the man from the other side.” Abraham is called a Hebrew in Genesis 14:13 and means he came from the other side of the Euphrates River. That has been the boundary between the East and the West.

The Euphrates River has been the separating point. Now God says He is going to pull the rug out and is going to let the hosts out of the East march beyond the Euphrates for the first time.

“And 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.” Revelation 16:12.

Napoleon said that China was a sleeping giant, and God pity the generation that wakes it up. Out of the Orient will pour these multitudes in this final conflict. It is breathtaking to comprehend.

In Revelation 16:12, *“the battle of that great day of God Almighty,”* the word “battle,” according to Dr. M. R. Vincent means more than a single battle, it means a war. A more accurate term is “The War of Armageddon.” It is a conflict that cannot be put in a single battle context.

The Valley of Megiddo is part of the Plain of Esdraelon. The Plain of Esdraelon is about twenty miles long and fourteen miles wide. You can easily see across it. The ruins of Solomon's stables are at Megiddo. At the entrance of the valley is what is called “The calling cards of the nations.” Carved in a rock cliff are the inscriptions of the great rulers who have marched through there and left a record of their victories.

Nebuchadnezzar, the Assyrian forces, the armies of Egypt, and Alexander the Great all came through there. Pharaoh Thutmose III conquered Canaan in the valley of Megiddo. Napoleon declared the plain of Esdraelon to be the finest battlefield in the world. The final conflict, however, is not confined or localized to Megiddo or the Plain of Esdraelon.

“For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses ransacked, 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. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.” Zechariah 14:2-3

It is very important to see that the culmination of The War of Armageddon will be when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth.

“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.” Zechariah 14:4

When the Lord Jesus comes, the entire geography of the land will change. When Jesus comes back, it is going to change everything. Instead of the valley running north and south, it will run east and west from the Mediterranean Sea into the Dead Sea.

In Zechariah chapter 12, Jerusalem is mentioned twelve times and the expression “in that day” is used seven times. The expression “that day” in the Old Testament is a reference to the Great Tribulation and the Millennium which is to follow it.

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.” Zechariah 12:2-3

Every nation in the history of the world that has attempted to control Jerusalem has been destroyed or has gone into decline.

“In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.” Zechariah 12:4-5

Isaiah sheds more light on the War of Armageddon by telling us that it will extend into the land of Edom.

“Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength?” “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” “Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?” “I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.” Isaiah 63:1-3

Isaiah pictures Jesus coming from the War of Armageddon as the One who will end it.

The War of Armageddon is not confined to one spot, but is spread over the entire Middle East. In Ezekiel 38:9, we are told that Russia will come down like a cloud to cover the land so the entire land is involved:

“You shall ascend and come like a storm, you shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you, and all your bands, and many people with you.” Ezekiel 38:9

- Time of Armageddon

Into what time frame does the War of Armageddon fit? *“That great day of God Almighty”* begins in the Great Tribulation period.

In the middle of the Great Tribulation period, Russia will come down into the land of Israel, and trigger the conflict described in Ezekiel 38 and 39. The Antichrist will come to power on the program of peace. The world wants peace desperately, and it will accept anyone who would be able to bring global peace.

The first three and half years of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will succeed in establishing global peace, but Russia will trigger the War of Armageddon by coming down and invading the land of Israel, according to Ezekiel 38. God will intervene on behalf of His people and will destroy the invaders.

“And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.” Ezekiel 38:22

- Purpose of Armageddon

The War of Armageddon is, first of all, a great rebellion against God.

“And they worshipped the dragon [Satan] which gave power unto the beast [Antichrist]: and they worshipped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.” Revelation 13:4-5

Forty-two months is the last half of the Great Tribulation period. During that period, the Antichrist is a world

dictator, and it is the worst period the world has ever seen.

Christ is coming to the earth to put down the rebellion that is on this earth.

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear.” Revelation 13:6-9

Reading the book of Daniel up to this point has been like reading a mystery novel, wondering how it will end. The first part of the chapter 12 tells us about the prophecies of the end of time, and the last part of the chapter tells us about the end of the prophecies. Both are about the time of the end, or as sometimes we refer to them as “the end times.” In the first three verses, there are four major things God says will happen to this nation which He loves.

Verse 1 says Israel will be ravaged. *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people, and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.”* Daniel 12:1

God said, “Daniel, you think it's been bad in Babylon, but there's coming a time when there will be great tribulation on this earth. It will be directed primarily at the people of Israel, and it will be the most awful thing you can imagine. There will never have been anything like this for any nation up to this time in the history of the world.”

This is what we know as the Great Tribulation. You've heard of it, and you've probably wondered about it. It is the period of time at the end of the 7 years of tribulation.

In Matthew 24, we read, *“And there shall be a great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world, until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, these days will be shortened.”* Matthew 24:21

When the prophet Daniel says, *“At that time,”* he's talking about this time that I have just described, a time of war and famine and darkness and disease and demons. At that time, the earth will experience wholesale slaughter, the collapse of the heavenly bodies, the destruction of one-third of the earth and sea. The scorching sunlight will burn people to death. It will be a time which our world has never encountered and cannot comprehend.

3. PROPHECY ANTICIPATING A FINAL CORONATION

- End of Armageddon

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:11-16

Christ's return to the earth brings it to a conclusion. We have lost the sense of there being a struggle going on in

the world today. However, the pitched battle between light and darkness, between right and wrong, between God and Satan, between good and evil and right and wrong will culminate in this tremendous War of Armageddon.

Christ is going to put down the rebellion that is in the heart of man. It is quite interesting to note the men who have led in rebellion and their final reaction.

Scripture teaches that one world government is coming, and it will be as godless as it possibly can be, but Christ is coming to put down rebellion, so Armageddon is necessary.

Christ is coming as the Infinite not as an infant. The first time He came as an innocent child, a little lamb; but in the end, He will come as a Lion to rid the world of sin.

Christ is coming is to get glory for His name. He is going to declare to a rebellious and Christ-rejecting world that He is God and that He is holy!

The world forgot Him. He is not being given the glory due Him. He is being blasphemed in every way possible.

God created this earth and made it a wonderful home for human beings. God loves this little earth. He loves the human family. He loves us to the extent that He gave His Son to die for us down here! He is patiently dealing with us, but He must get glory to Himself.

Russia's and the world's godless leaders have been blaspheming God for years, and people ask, "How do they get by with it?" We think God is not going to do anything about our rebellion.

"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel." Ezekiel 39:7

He hasn't done that yet, but He is going to do it. This world must know that He is God, that He is holy, that He is the Savior.

"You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Psalm 2:9

Christ is coming to renovate this world and restore it to its original glory. God has a glorious purpose for this earth. He is not going to turn it over to Satan with his minions and evil men. The Lord Jesus is going to take it back to Himself and rule on this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords! Christ is coming to rule and reign over the world in righteousness.

You will yield yourself to Him some day, *"at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and ... every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* Philippians 2:10-11

This is a day when God is not moving to put down rebellion. He is permitting it to escalate. He allows it because He is patient, long-suffering, and not willing that any should perish, but that all might come to the knowledge of the truth.

Reasons Why We Need The Prophecy:

These predictive passages are not given to us to frighten us. They are not given to move us to go out and dig bomb shelters and hide in the ground or sell our property and get white robes and go up on the mountain top.

They are given to help us so that we will not be part of the delusion of the last days. That delusion is the worship of man. That is the final ultimate delusion. Humanism, the philosophy that man is able to be his own god and does not need the one true God, is the final, terrible lie of the devil that will sweep through the world.

These passages ought to teach us to trust in God in spite of the worsening conditions in which we live. Jesus said this specifically: “*When you see these things begin to pass...*” Then what? Go grovel in the earth? Act as though the world is coming to an end with no hope left? No. “*Lift up your heads and rejoice,*” (Luke 21:28) for it is working out exactly as God said it would. It ought to confirm your faith, not destroy it. It is coming to pass exactly as He said.

These passages ought to help us build deep ties of love and consideration with other Christians. “*Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, and so much more as you see the day approaching...*” Hebrews 10:25
Do not separate yourself from other Christians. Do not go off on your own. Love one another and pray for one another.

These stories ought to motivate us win our unsaved friends to Jesus.

Prophecy is not given to us to satisfy our curiosity, but to move us to do the right thing.

The last volume of Tim LaHaye's series, “The Left Behind” books, is entitled “The Glorious Appearing.” The title of the book he wanted was this: “Jesus Wins.”

Don't you like to be a winner? It's great to win! If you're on Jesus' side, you're on the winning side! Isn't it good to know that we're on the winning side?