

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-27 The Second Coming and Battle of Armageddon

It's beyond belief, yet true! In the Bible John says, "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. ...He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ...On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev 19:11, 13-14, 16). It is a revelation given by God the Father to Christ the Son and revealed to John about things that "must soon take place" (Rev 1:1). The Book of Revelation was written by the apostle John. He wrote from the island of Patmos, where he had been banished for preaching the gospel. John's writing is a revelation of truth about Christ himself, a disclosure of future events and his Second Coming.

In our last lesson you learned about the Great Tribulation on earth, led by the Antichrist. It will be a time of great suffering. Meanwhile, the raptured saints in heaven will be judged for their works. Rewards will be given, followed by the great celebration of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

After the Marriage Supper celebration in heaven, Christ will claim all of his kingdom. He will ride on a white horse, followed by the saints who will also be on white horses. They will be wearing white robes. Angels will also come with them as Jesus comes back to earth in all his glory. John tells us that every eye shall see him. Christ descends with the splendor of flashing lightning to claim that which Satan has temporarily controlled. Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives from where he ascended into heaven nearly 2,000 years ago! He is coming to earth a second time, to fight the battle of Armageddon, bind Satan, and set up his kingdom.

Revelation describes the Battle of Armageddon. "Then I saw three impure spirits ... they are demonic spirits ... and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty ... to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon" (Rev. 16:13-16).

The Battle of Armageddon is not Star Wars or science fiction. It is the end of the struggle between God "and the spiritual forces of evil" (Eph 6:12). When these two worlds collide, the foundations of the earth will shake. Every man and woman will be affected. Here God will pour out judgment on the nations for their persecution of Israel and for their sin and godlessness. When Christ comes with his saints accompanied by lightning and thunder, there will also be a severe earthquake. John writes, "No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth." Jerusalem split into three parts, "and the cities of the nations collapsed...every island fled away and the mountains could not be found" (Rev 16:18-20).

The significance of this battle is not the number killed or the amount of blood shed. It is the importance of the spiritual victory accomplished when Satan is bound and cast into the Abyss. That is the "bottomless pit," locked and sealed, so he can no longer deceive the nations and their people (Rev 20:3, KJV). Satan will be bound for one thousand years.

This lesson is **important** because you have learned about Christ's Second Coming with his saints, the Battle of Armageddon, and the victory over Satan and his armies.

The **main truth** of this lesson is the order of events of the end time. Christ and his saints win victory over Satan and all evil at the Battle of Armageddon. Satan is bound while Jesus and his holy people reign on earth 1,000 years.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. Where did the apostle John write the Revelation of Jesus Christ? [Pause.]
A. If you said, "John wrote from the island of Patmos where he was banished for preaching the Gospel," you are right.
2. Who will be coming with Christ to the Battle of Armageddon? [Pause.]
A. If you answered, "The saints and angels will be coming with Christ to the Battle of Armageddon," you are correct.
3. What is the greatest significance of the Battle of Armageddon? [Pause.]
A. If you said, "The greatest significance of the Battle of Armageddon is the spiritual victory accomplished when Satan is bound and cast into the 'bottomless pit,'" you are right.

Your **assignment** is to memorize our thirteenth *Statement of Faith*: "We believe Christ will return with his saints to reign 1,000 years. After this will come the final judgment and a new heaven and a new earth." Also learn the **Memory Verse**: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Rev 22:13). Share with at least two other persons about Christ's Second Coming, the Battle of Armageddon, and how to be ready by accepting Jesus before these things take place.