

Armageddon – A misunderstanding

A serious error has crept into the understanding of some, about just who will be present at the battle of Armageddon.

Just before the return of Jesus Christ from Heaven with His army of angels and His Bride, the army of the Beast, (Daniel 11:44, *'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. 45 And 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.'*) and the 200 million from the East, (Revelation 9:16, 16, *'And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.'*) are about to fight each other, but they then unite to fight those who descend from the Sea of Glass to land upon the Mount of Olives. Zechariah 14:4-5, *'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; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and **the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.**'*

A new but erroneous teaching, derived from a dramatic and impressive “vision”, has introduced the idea that all ‘Israel’ will be gathered and present at this time, at Armageddon, whereas we know that the remnant of Israel is gathered from all nations where they have been scattered in slavery by Jesus Christ and His Bride, after the battle is over. Isaiah 51:11, *'Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.'*

They arrive in Jerusalem with joy and gladness, not in fear and trembling as the final battle is about to commence. In fact, they have already **undergone a judgment** to determine their eligibility to live in ‘the Holy Land’, Ezekiel 20:36-38, *'Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so **will I plead** with you, saith the Lord GOD. And I will cause you **to pass under the rod**, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.'*

The misunderstanding arises over the meaning of two Hebrew words, Joel 3:1-2 *'For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem. I will also gather all **nations**, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and **will plead** with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land '*

Here the word 'nations' is 'goy' Strong's 1471; 'a foreign nation; hence, a Gentile....' The same word is found in Jeremiah 25:31, and refers to Gentile nations. *'A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD'*.

Yes, many foreign nations are gathered together at the battle of Armageddon – but not Israelites, who at that time are far away, held in captivity.

The second misunderstood word is found in Isaiah 66:15-16, *'For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword will the LORD **plead** with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many'*

The word 'plead', Strong's 8199, here means 'judge'. It is used 119 times to mean 'judge', but 'plead' only 11 times, and it is quite clear how we should apply it with regards to this subject from Isaiah 66:16. *'For by fire and by his sword will the LORD **plead** with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.'*

Brown Driver Briggs translates the word as 'judge, govern', **in this verse**, under the heading of 'execute judgment.'

As we have seen, Israel is judged even before they are allowed to enter the land, and the scriptures make clear that they have not been gathered at the point of Armageddon, where God is dealing only with His enemies.

So we see God here 'pleads' using fire and sword to His enemies. He rebukes them and slays many, Isaiah 66:14-16, *'And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies. For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. **For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.'***

Let us remember that at this time, most 'visions' are similar to those seen by Mohammed, and Joseph Smith of the Mormons, who were deceived by an 'angel of light', and not likely to come from God. For that reason they are unlikely to confirm and agree with God's Holy Word and are designed to divert us from the purely biblical path. Anyone receiving a vision should be very wary about the source until they have double checked that it in no way contradicts any of the scriptures.