

THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

Int.

1. Aim: To give an exegesis of the passage and then make an application to us today about evil and good.
2. The book of Revelation is often twisted to teach strange and weird doctrines!
 - a. There are some things difficult to understand and that will probably not be known until we reach heaven.
 - b. But this should not discourage us from the study of the book. Rev. 1:3
3. The battle of Armageddon is one of those twisted passages in the book of revelation
 - a. Many sincere people have laid awake at night wondering if the battle of Armageddon would break out any minute.
 - b. Many false doctrines have been built around this battle of Armageddon by denominational churches - it is called Premillennialism
 - c. The Battle of Armageddon has been understood as:
 - (1) The struggle between the Israelis and Arabs
 - (2) A future war between the US and Russia
 - (3) The next World War
 - (4) The 1,000 year reign begins or ends with battle of Armageddon.
 - d. These interpretations could have had no meaning to the 1st century readers.
 - e. It must be understood as something that was about to happen in the first century.
Rev. 1:1, 3 Rev. 22:6 "Shortly come to pass"
 - f. What did it mean to John and the readers of the 1st century?
 - g. Whatever it meant to them is what the battle of Armageddon was or is or shall be!¹

Discussion

I. THE SIXTH BOWL OF GOD'S WRATH - Rev. 16

- A. Five angels have already poured out their bowls of wrath
1. First - sores upon those who received mark of beast
 2. Second - sea became blood - masses of people died
 3. Third - rivers and fountains became blood
 4. Fourth - Sun scorched men
 5. Fifth - seat of heart - great pain
- B. This is the sixth bowl - Rev. 16:12-16 - the final act of this sixth bowl of wrath is the **battle of Armageddon.**
1. **Where was the battle fought?**
 - a. Har - Magedon Har = mountain Megiddo - a specific place
 - b. A Place of Battle
 - (1) This battlefield began on the north-west side of Palestine at Mt. Carmel
 - (2) It extended across Palestine to Mount Gilboa on the Southeast
 - (3) Between these two mountains was a perfect plain for battles
 - c. Megiddo was known as a place of battle
 - (1) Nearly all notices of the place are connected with military transactions
 - (2) Judges 5:19-20 Barak and Debora, with the stars fighting on their side, defeated Sisera and the Canaanites "by the waters of Megiddo."
 - (3) Saul and Jonathan fought their last battle with the Philistines on the plains of Megiddo
 - (4) At Megiddo was where the people of God defeated Antiochus Epiphanes IV, according to Daniel 11.

- d. The best blood of Israel and the worst blood of Israel's enemies soaked the battle fields of Armageddon.²
- e. The name represents a great struggle between the forces of evil and good.

2. When was it fought?

- a. It must have meant something to the readers in the first century
- b. It would have been in their lifetime around the close of the first century.
 - (1) Rev. 1:1, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified [it] by his angel unto his servant John:"
 - (2) Rev. 1:3 "Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand."
 - (3) Rev. 22:6 "And he said unto me, These sayings [are] faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done."

3. Who was involved in the Battle?

- a. The greatest enemy of Christians was the Roman Empire
- b. The greatest enemy of the Roman Empire was the Parthians
 - (1) The river Euphrates was the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire
 - (2) But it was also the Western boundary for the Parthian Empire.
 - (3) Rome was never able to conquer or defeat the Parthians.

- c. The battle of Armageddon was a clash between these two great powers.
 - (1) God used the Parthians to relieve the Christians from Roman persecution
 - (2) Christians would identify the battle with the overthrow of evil and the triumph of good.

C. **The events that led up to the battle**

1. **Gathering of enemies of Rome (Parthians)** 16:12

- a. Drying up of Euphrates river - Removal of last obstacle
- b. The Parthians who dwelled in the East were prepared to enter the Roman Empire

2. **Gathering of Rome's Allies** 16:13-14

- a. These forces of the Roman Empire described
 - (1) Dragon = Satan himself
 - (2) Beast = Roman Emperor
 - (3) False Prophet = those who directed emperor worship
- b. They commission the three unclean spirits to gather for the coming battle.

D. The Battle of Armageddon is the battle that occurred between the Parthians and the Roman Empire!

- 1. To the Christians this would mark the end of their persecutors, the Romans!
- 2. It was the end of a triumphant struggle of good against evil.!
- 3. It is in this sense that the battle of Armageddon has meaning for all mankind.
All men are faced with the struggle of good against evil.!

II. SOME WHO HAVE FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

- A. Adam and Eve against the lying serpent - Gen. 3 = LOST
1. God placed Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden, a lovely home.
 2. There were 4 rivers running through this garden and they had all kinds of fruit.
 3. They could eat of all these except the fruit of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil.
 4. They should have been very happy in this environment
 5. But the devil tempted them. They fought the battle of Armageddon and lost it.
- B. Noah against popular opinion - Gen. 6 = Won
1. All the rest of the people were evil and disobedient to God
 2. Gen. 6:9 "Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."
 3. Noah Won the battle of Armageddon
- C. Joseph against the lusts of the flesh with Potiphar's wife - Gen. 39 = Won
1. Joseph was living in the land of Egypt as a steward in Potiphar's house.
 2. Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to commit adultery with her. She tried several times and was unsuccessful.
 3. Joseph fought the battle of Armageddon and won.
- D. Moses against the pleasure of sin - Heb. 11:24,25 = Won
1. Moses could have engaged in all the pleasures in the land of Egypt.
 2. But he refused to do so. He fought the battle of Armageddon and won.

E. David against his lust for Bathsheba - II Sam. 11 = Lost

1. David's army was out in the fields of war fighting. He was upon the roof of his house at the cool of evening.
2. He saw a woman bathing in a nearby pool. He lusted for her and sent for her.
3. He not only committed the sin of adultery but also murder in trying to cover up his sin.
4. David fought the battle of Armageddon and lost.

F. Jesus against the temptations - Mt. 4:1-11 = Won

1. After his baptism he was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.
2. After this he fought the battle of Armageddon with the devil in three encounters:
 - a. Command these stones to be turned to bread
 - b. Offered the world to him if he would fall down and worship him
 - c. Cast himself down from the temple - God will not allow you to be hurt
3. Answered all of these with "It is written" - He Won the Battle

G. Christians against the Roman Empire and emperor worship = Won and Lost

III. WE TOO MUST FIGHT THIS BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

A. Many fought it this morning and this evening

1. Decision about whether to come to worship
2. You know you should but Satan says "stay home and take it easy"!

B. We all must fight a battle against temptations especially those sins which "so easily beset us." Heb. 12:1 such as..

1. Drinking of Alcoholic beverages & drugs

- a. Gal. 5:19-21
- b. Prov. 20:1 Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
- c. Alcoholics - or social drinkers - sin in the sight of God.
- d. To many this is a battle they must fight for it is a besetting sin to them.

2. Gambling and cheating

- a. Others must fight against the sin of Gambling
- b. Gambling is where 2 or more people agree to steal from each other
- c. Appeals to covetousness and greed
 - (1) Lk. 12:15
 - (2) Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:
 - (3) Covetousness = desiring what belongs to another
- d. Gambling is a violation of the law to work - 1 Thes. 4:11-12
- e. It promotes a "something for nothing" idea!!!

3. Fornication and adultery

- a. 1 Cor. 6:18 "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."
- b. 1 Cor. 6:9-10

- c. This Sin will cause you to loose your soul - just as is true with any sin!
- d. Repent - quit the sin!!
- e. Mt. 19:9 - living in an adulterous marriage is also sin.
- f. This is a battle that must be won for if we lose we lose our soul!

4. Immodest apparel

- a. 1 Tim. 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"
- b. The person [man or woman] who dresses so as to invite lust is guilty of sin!
Mt. 5:28
- c. They become a Stumbling block - Rom. 14:13
- d. III. In hot climates they wear clothes
- e. Mk. 5:15 "And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and **clothed, and in his right mind:** and they were afraid."

5. Lying

- a. Rev. 21:8
- b. Eph. 4:25

6. Cursing

- a. Jas. 3:8-12
- b. Col. 3:18 - filthy communication

CONCLUSION

1. Paul describes this great struggle in Rom. 7:14-15 ESV "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ."
 - a. Battle between flesh and spirit
 - b. He wants to do good and avoid evil.
 - c. How can he do it? V. 25 through Jesus Christ ---- Romans 7:25NKJV "I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin."
2. 1 Cor. 10:13 NKJV "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.]"
3. Will you win or lose the battle?
4. You must fight the battle of Armageddon now as we sing the invitation
 - a. The good in you says "obey the gospel" or "go back and repent of those sins"
 - b. The evil says "no, wait, you don't need God."
 - c. Don't loose this battle!!!
5. Josh 24:15 Choose you this day
6. "Whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17

End Notes

1.Revelation Through First-Century Glasses by W.B. West p. 109

2.West p.110

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening August 9, 2009
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