

1. Last week I exegeted in part Dan 11:40-45. As part of that study I taught an overview of the Armageddon Campaign.

2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will continue our study of the world's last and greatest military campaign. First let's look at an expanded translation of Dan 11:36-45.

Dan 11:36 The Antichrist will do as he pleases. He will magnify himself above every god; he will however display a particular hatred toward the God of Israel. He will say blasphemous things against Him; as a world leader he will be successful until the middle of the Tribulation when he begins to lose control; at the appointed time in God's infinite wisdom, his reign will be brought to an end.

Dan 11:37 The Antichrist in the Tribulation will openly flaunt his hatred of religion; particularly will he ridicule the hope of a coming Messiah. He will finally declare himself to be god.

Dan 11:38 Even early in his ministry he will glorify raw power, placing his trust in military might and wealth.

Dan 11:39 He will attack and defeat those nations who do not submit to his program of world domination and with the help of the False Prophet he will procure favor among the Jews in the land. He will at first aid and protect them. In fact all who support his rise to power he will protect and prosper.

Dan 11:40 "Sometime near the middle of the Tribulation a Pan-Arabic block led by Egypt will break the peace established in the Middle East. These Axis powers will by their military might attempt to take over Israel; with mechanized infantry, they will start to move their forces overland through Gaza and into Israel. This political and military indiscretion will precipitate a response from the Soviet Union. The Union forces will storm out against the Pan-Arabic coalition with infantry, armour, air and sea power. From the Bosphorus will come a naval force and from the area west of the Caspian Sea will come a large contingent of armour and infantry with tactical fighter support. Russia will sweep through Turkey, Syria and Iran like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade Israel on his way south in blitzkrieg fashion leaving pockets of resistance in his path. Many countries will fall, but those countries east of Israel like Jordan and the Persian Gulf nations will be delivered because the Russian forces seem intent on staying as close to the Mediterranean as possible thus permitting maximum support from their naval armada sweeping down out of the Black Sea.

Dan 11:42 The forces of Russia will very quickly drive the Arab forces southward into Egypt.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of Egypt and her north African allies, not just defeating them but taking all of their wealth as earned plunder. The Pan-Arabic block will be not just defeated but they are annihilated and militarily embarrassed.

Dan 11:44 Soon however while the King of the north is mopping up in the south an alarming report is given to the commander of the Russian forces; there, he is told, a large armada of orientals moving across the Euphrates and a naval force with marine expeditionaries are coming from Rome. This demands quick action on his part, so he orders his entire army northward back into Israel.

His naval forces attempt to turn northward “and return to the safe confines of the Black Sea; before the Russian naval expedition can return to base, the Antichrist's navy engages and defeats them in the Mediterranean.

Dan 11:45 The Russian ground forces however are successful in moving northward with a vengeance; they attack and defeat the remaining Israeli forces, ravaging and plundering as he goes. After securing all the surrounding country-side he establishes his command post just west of Jerusalem where he awaits further battle, he hopes to engage both the Antichrist's forces and the Oriental forces near Meggido just north, northeast of Jerusalem. While waiting he attacks Jerusalem forcing their remnant up against mount Moriah where in and around the Temple they attempt to make their last stand. Before he can defeat the remnant the Lord Jesus returns with an angelic army at His Second Coming and the Russian forces are totally annihilated.

1. Now let's continue our study of Dan 11:40-45.

KJV

Dan 11:40 And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.

Dan 11:41 He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Dan 11:42 He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

Dan 11:43 But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.

Dan 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.

Dan 11:45 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.

NIV

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

Dan 11:41 He will also invade the Beautiful Land. Many countries will fall, but Edom, Moab and the leaders of Ammon will be delivered from his hand.

Dan 11:42 He will extend his power over many countries; Egypt will not escape.

Dan 11:43 He will gain control of the treasures of gold and silver and all the riches of Egypt, with the Libyans and Nubians in submission.

Dan 11:44 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.

Dan 11:45 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.

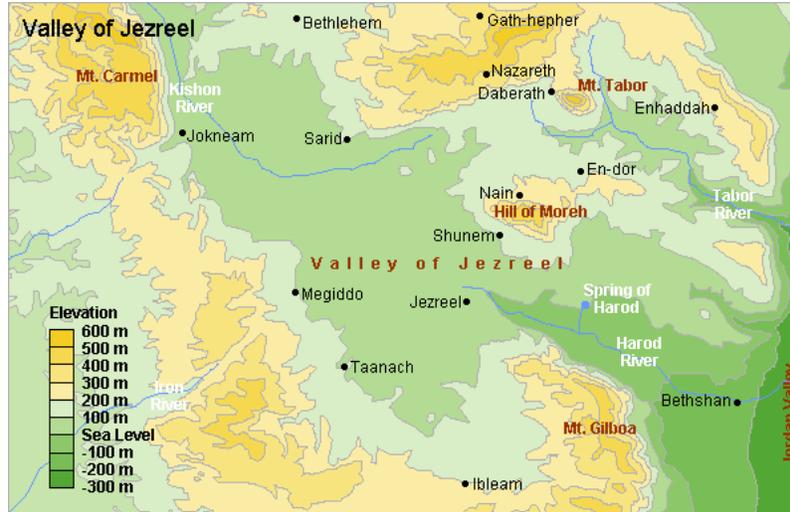
Principles:

1. The time of the end introduced in verse 35 is again mentioned in the opening portion of verse 40 making clear that the military struggle described is that which will characterize the end of the age.

2. The events described are what many glibly refer to as the Battle of Armageddon; just as glibly many think the battle is confined to the valley of Megiddo.

3. The term Battle of Armageddon is actually a misleading expression; the word battle should better be translated "campaign" thus Campaigns of Armageddon would be more descriptive.

4. Actually, this war will encompass more than just the Valley of Megiddo; it covers all of the land of Palestine from Mount Carmel to the Gulf of Aqabah.



5. The carnage and the horror of the scene are described in general by Daniel. In order to get a full picture of this horrible period, we must turn to several other passages.

6. The first in a series of battles to come, is described in Dan 11:40-43.

7. The Scriptures describing the location of the campaign lead to the conclusion that the campaign leading up to "the great day of God the Almighty," is fought in several specific geographical areas:

7.1 Jerusalem (Zec 14:2 and 12:2-11);

7.2 Megiddo and the Plain of Esdraelon (Rev 16:16 and Isa 63:6);

7.3 That the conflict will rage throughout the entire land of Palestine is confirmed in the phrase "covering the land" (Eze 38:9, 16) and alludes to the fact that the armies will sweep over the land of Palestine.

Eze 38:9 You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

Eze 38:16 You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

8. This great battle of Christ versus the Antichrist will conclude in a display of the omnipotent and sovereign Christ, for He will utterly destroy the Antichrist and his armies.

9. The carnage of this battle is well described by John in Rev 19:17-18 and Ezekiel in Eze 39:17-22.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,
Rev 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Eze 39:17 "Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood.

Eze 39:18 You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls-- all of them fattened animals from Bashan.

Eze 39:19 At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk.

Eze 39:20 At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,' declares the Sovereign LORD.

Eze 39:21 "I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay upon them.

Eze 39:22 From that day forward the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God.

10. It is my view the battle described in verse 40 occurs near the middle of the Tribulation. Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe the campaign of Armageddon beginning with the early movements of the Kings of the south and north and their ultimate defeat.

11. "In Ezekiel 38:22 we learn that when, in the Tribulation period, the King of the North moves into Palestine to conquer it, God is going to pour out a judgment from heaven that will wipe out the military might and power of the Northern confederacy.

Eze 38:22 I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.

Eze 38:23 And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.'

11.1 The world will one day learn that God is sovereign over this earth. In Eze 39:1-6 we read,

"Son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Gog, I am against Rosh, with Meshech and Tubal, his princes. I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands for, all those who were allied with thee and the people that is with thee: I will give thee to every ravenous bird of every sort, and every beast of the field to be devoured. And I will send a fire upon Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord."

11.2 That last verse suggests that this judgment is not only upon that invading army, but on the headquarters of that power and upon all those who have supported this great movement multiplied millions will be removed in a moment of time.

11.3 Why will God do it? This is divine judgment on a godless and atheistic world. God is going to demonstrate that no man can repudiate Him and live. The extent of this vast judgment is described in Eze 39:9.

Eze 39:9 Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up-- the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel.

11.4 It is going to take the Israelites seven years to collect the debris and dispose of it. And according to verses 11 and 12, the physical death is going to be so extensive it is going to take seven months to bury the dead.

Eze 39:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.

Eze 39:12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

11.5 And those trying to go from the south of Palestine to the north of Palestine have to travel, "stopping their noses" because of the corruption" when God moves in to destroy this invading force from the north.

11.6 The question arises, "When does this take place?" In Revelation 13 we have a description of the one whom we know as the head of the Federated States of Europe. As we have seen, this one will come on the world scene to unite Europe just after the translation of the Church.

11.7 This head of the Federated States of Europe will make his covenant with the nation Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period. He will claim to be a prince of peace, and he will guarantee peace for Israel through the opening years of the Tribulation.

11.8 The head of the Federated States of Europe gives the land of Palestine to Israel, The King of the South and the King of the North want that land. But neither does anything about it for three years.

11.9 Then in middle of the Tribulation period, Palestine is going to be invaded.

12. The events described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 are a mirror of what we find in Dan 11:40-12:2 where a similar description is found.

12.1 In Daniel the King of the north attacks at the time of the end. His attack comes in response to a military incursion into Israel by the King of the south.

Dan 11:40 "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

13. Putting all of these passages together I think we can reasonably assume that sometime near the middle of the Tribulation, the campaign of Armageddon will begin with the King of the south making a move toward Israel, only to be defeated by the King of the north.

13.1 Recall the False Prophet is active in Israel and the Antichrist rules from Rome. Overrunning the Pan Arabic States, particularly Egypt and North Africa, the King of the north hears of the coming army from the east and in fear turns back toward home only to be destroyed ultimately by the Lord Himself.

14. All of this takes some time. It is in the Valley of Megiddo that the armies of the west, south and east engage one another in fierce battle.

15. While the Book of The Revelation lacks details of the campaign, it verifies the fact that a mighty conflict involving all the nations of the world takes place in Palestine. These satanically inspired forces assembled in defiance against God are bent on complete annihilation of His people, Israel.

16. However those elements and personalities under the domination of Satan and in opposition to God, are themselves destroyed at the climax of this final campaign at the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ.

17. Armageddon is not just the decisive defeat of vast military forces representing mighty international empires, but is an integral part of both the closing campaign of the Tribulation and the fulfillment of God's predicted plan.

18. Part of God's predicted plan is to have Israel as the focus of four great powers. One could say Palestine is the bait and God is the fisherman.

19. During the biblical 'week' Palestine's strategic location; it is even more crucial than ever before. Four great spheres of influence are engaged in a power grab for the wealth and control of Palestine of the Tribulation. Palestine is the central focus of the various battles of Armageddon.

20. The characters involved in the Armageddon campaigns are designated in Scripture as the "king of the West," the "king of the North," the "king of the South" and the "kings from the East." Their identities are derived from their directional relation to Palestine. Each entity is a group of gentile nationalities united as Satan inspired combatants for the purpose of destroying Israel and controlling the world.

21. In identifying the spheres geographically, we can relate them to current geopolitical conditions, but even a few years from now the picture could change completely.

22. Among the kings gathered to the campaign of the great day of God, the Almighty, is the one whom Daniel variously calls the "king of the North" (Dan 11:40); "a king ... insolent and skilled in intrigue" (Dan. 8:23).

23. Ezekiel labels him "Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech, and Tubal" (Eze 38:2, 39:1).

Eze 38:2 "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him

Eze 38:3 and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Eze 39:2 I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel.

Eze 39:3 Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand.

Eze 39:4 On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.

24. This king is not to be confused with "Gog and Magog" of Rev 20:8 which is an inclusive term for all Gentile adherents to Satan after his release at the close of the Millennium and subsequent rebellion against God.

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog-- to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

25. In relationship to world politics today, the Gog of Ezekiel 38 and 39 would be Russia, but positive identification must await the unfolding of future events.

26. The general nature and location of the warfare is also specified in Dan 11:40-43. Let's take a look at a few principles, but first we need to review again our three verses.

NIV

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