

1. Last week I continued our exegesis of Dan 11:40-45. As part of that study I taught the when, where, how and participants in the Armageddon Campaign.
2. When time expired last Sunday I was about to teach the meaning of the phrase "a day is coming" as found in Zec 14:1.
3. Before we do however I want to review some of that learned and then we will continue our study of the world's last and greatest military campaign.
4. First let's look at an expanded translation of Dan 11:40-45.

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 ¹/₄ 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 the King of the North 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 the King of The North attacks Jerusalem forcing a remnant up against mount Moriah where in and around the Temple they make what appears to be 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. In the history of Jerusalem there have been many sieges. Prominent among them is the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. and to Rome in A.D. 70.

2. Yet to come is the siege of Jerusalem which occurs near the end of the Tribulation; that siege is a part of the Armageddon Campaign.

3. Before the conquering armies of the king of the North, Jews living in Palestine suffer mental anguish, anxiety, and paralyzing fear.

4. They had deluded themselves into thinking that Anti-Semitism was a curse of the past. They considered themselves invulnerable by virtue of their alliance with the mighty king of the West.

5. Led by a godless but brilliant general, the armies of the king of the North experience stunning initial success. They advance to the attack with exceptional courage.

6. They are well trained; they move with perfect discipline and do not waiver under fire. These forces charge through the barrage of enemy fire they are unstoppable.

7. As perhaps the best trained army in all human history, they might have ruled the world but for one detail the intervention of Jesus Christ. No man or group of people can progress further than God allows.

8. No army advances when God calls a halt. Jesus Christ controls history, past, present, and future.

9. Zechariah 12 discusses the siege of Jerusalem from the standpoint of believers. Here the frog demons of Rev 16:14 accomplish their task of gathering all nations in Palestine to make war against the Lord Jesus Christ and His army. (Rev 19:19)

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

10. Satan intends to use the forces of the King of the North for the annihilation of God's people. Truly, this is the "time of Jacob's distress." Never was the night so black for Israel as will be those closing moments of the Tribulation.

11. Yet the mighty coalition of kings that attack Judah in that day will besiege Jerusalem in vain, for Jesus Christ will make Jerusalem a "cup that causes reeling" to these gentile empires.

Zec 12:2 Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around [gentile empires]; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah.

12. Jesus Christ who is omnipotent in heaven, on earth, and among men brings to pass these events. Jerusalem is pictured as a cup filled with a strong intoxicant.

13. The intoxicant is divine wrath poured out on the armies that are besieging Jerusalem "in that day." The kings drain its contents and reel as drunken men.

Zec 12:3 And it will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples [the armies]; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

14. Even at the present time Israel is the center of world conflict. Jerusalem and Judah are a "heavy" weight which the nations cannot carry. Israel is a problem they cannot solve.

15. Three great confederations attempt the conquest, but even their greatest efforts are nullified by the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. The One who conquers them, Jesus Christ, will rule the world. The three are the Antichrist's forces coming from the west, the King of the north coming from the south and the Kings of the East coming from the Orient.

16. Two other verses in Zechariah give a resume of the siege of Jerusalem which plunges the Land into a bloodbath and a scramble for plunder.

Zec 14:1 Behold, a day is coming for the Lord when the spoil [wealth] taken from you will be divided among you.

17. The word "day" in the Bible has three connotations:

17.1 A twenty-four hour period (Gen. 1:5);

Gen 1:5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

17.2 Less than twenty-four hours, such as the "day of salvation" (2Co 6:2) which refers to the instant of time when an individual believes in Jesus Christ; or the "day of Christ," the moment the Rapture occurs (Phi 1:10);

2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Phi 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ.

17.3 More than a twenty-four hour period, the most common instance being the "day of the Lord" (Isa 13:6). This period can cover the Tribulation, the Second Advent and the Millennium, a combined span of approximately 1007 years.

Isa 13:6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

17.4 In Zec 14:1 "day" refers to a more than twenty-four period, specifically the coming of the Second Advent and the Armageddon campaign.

Zec 14:1 A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.
Zec 14:2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people [believing remnant] will not be cut off from the city.

17.5 These verses summarize the events of Dan 11:40-45 and Rev 16:12-16 and presents the divine explanation: God permits Israel's enemies to gather against her.

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.

Rev 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

Rev 16:13 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.

Rev 16:14 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.

Rev 16 "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."

Rev 16:16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

17.6 As the armies sweep through Jerusalem, two thirds of the city's population are massacred having been lulled into false security by treaties, promises couched in smooth words, and religious phrases (Zec 13:8).

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

17.7 They are the victims of violence and rape and their wealth is plundered. "But the rest of the people [believing remnant of Jews] will not be cut off [destroyed] from the city." The remaining one third, who are believers, are still resisting. (Zec 13:9)

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, "They are my people," and they will say, "The LORD is our God."

17.8 Better to die fighting for freedom than surrender to those who live by violence! Violence can be stopped only by greater violence. The born-again Jews of the Tribulation understood this principle. Why? For the answer we must go back to Zechariah 12.

Zec 12:5 Then the leaders (the Hebrew Alluph) of Judah will say in their hearts, "The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God."

17.8.1 R. B. Thieme in his latest publication writes of Alluph "Clans" is literally "captains" or general officers and so translated in the Septuagint ... God always has men who are prepared to stand in the gap because they know Bible doctrine."

17.8.2 The Septuagint specifically translates Alluph as "captains of thousands." In the AV Allup is translated "governors."

17.8.3 Wigram in his Hebrew Lexicon says of the word: "It means as an adjective "a thousand;" as a verb it means to teach or to learn; as a noun it means variously any leader, be it a tribal chief, a military leader, a teacher or a choice animal leading the herd."

17.8.4 I believe, given the context that alluph refers to two or more teachers in Jerusalem who teach of the coming of the Messiah after the 24 hour period of darkness. Their teachings provide impetus for Israel to hold on until the Messiah comes. The darkness is therefore a very powerful evangelical tool.

18. Although the generals or teachers are aware of the lack of training of the remnant and their inferior weapons, they know these believers can be depended upon to return to the fray and await the Messiah's coming.

19. They are motivated by the faith-rest technique that is undergirded by an understanding of the doctrine of eschatology. (Joe 2:18-21)

Joe 2:18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

Joe 2:19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

Joe 2:20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.

Joe 2:21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.

20. They have been taught doctrine and have the Word in their souls, so they continue to resist and faith rest. This is applicable to every area of life. When people understand doctrine, they know exactly what to do.

21. They know better than to date just anyone in order to have a social life, or to enter into the activities to which others succumb for kicks, or to swallow the distortions and human viewpoint pervasive in the world in which they live.

22. They are willing to resist and stand on the principles they have learned from the Word of God. How refreshing to find believers who are neither dependent on friends, family, alcohol, drugs, or sex to make them happy.

23. They have the courage to be Daniels, to be different, and to resist peer pressure. Even in the face of ridicule, they respect authority while refusing to ingratiate themselves to someone above them in order to be promoted.

24. They stand on Bible doctrine and do not compromise their principles. There are also courageous men with integrity in the business world who apply Bible doctrine and depend on God's grace rather than being greedy and relying on shady business practices to make a profit.

25. No one has ever lost or will ever lose by taking a stand on principles of doctrine. Let's look at the NIV of Zec 12:3-9:

Zec 12:3 On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

Zec 12:4 On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness," declares the LORD. "I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations.

Zec 12:5 Then the leaders of Judah will say in their hearts, 'The people of Jerusalem are strong, because the LORD Almighty is their God.'

Zec 12:6 "On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

Zec 12:7 "The LORD will save the dwellings of Judah first, so that the honor of the house of David and of Jerusalem's inhabitants may not be greater than that of Judah.

Zec 12:8 On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them.

Zec 12:9 On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.

26. Faith-rest is the basic technique for claiming the promises of God and mixing them with faith (i.e., believing God's Word).

27. Heb 4:1-4 tells us we must generate tranquility of soul in the midst of the adversities of life.

Heb 4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

Heb 4:2 For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Heb 4:3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world.

Heb 4:4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

28. The three stages of the faith-rest drill are:

28.1 mixing the promises of God with faith to stabilize thinking,

28.2 gleaning from the promise a relevant doctrine or rationale to apply and

28.3 reaching doctrinal conclusions so that faith controls the soul.

29. From the teaching of those Aluffs in the city the 1/3 remnant return to their fighting positions and await deliverance from the Lord.

30. In the meantime, the King of the North has established his command center between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea.

31. The Antichrist, called here the King of the West, and his ten nation confederation have arrived and stationed themselves in the Valley of Megiddo.

32. The Kings of the East and perhaps a surviving remnant of the King of the South, are arriving from the east and south respectively.

33. Everyone seems destined for Jerusalem a city already under siege.

34. Jerusalem finds itself faced with the largest concentration of armies in the history of the world.

35. The rag tag army of Israel has been driven back against the Temple wall, the situation is hopeless.

36. Yet these hostile armies of the world will suffer the most decisive and devastating defeat ever known in military history.

37. Before the complete annihilation of the enemy by the intervention of Jesus Christ however, there is a supernatural darkness on both sides of the earth simultaneously.

Mat 24:29 But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Isa 60:2a For behold, darkness will cover the earth, And deep darkness the peoples."

38. This is not the darkness of night which contains light, but a total blackout on the earth a night devoid of light.

39. Nothing seems to be able to penetrate this utter blackness. It will be exactly like the total darkness which shrouded Jesus Christ while He was bearing our sins on the cross (Mat 27:45).

Mat 27:45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

40. No one was permitted to see God's judgment of sin.

Zec 12:4 In that day," declares the Lord, "I will strike every horse with bewilderment [terror], and his rider with madness [shock]. But I will watch over the house of Judah, while I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness.

41. The horses in today's military vernacular would represent mechanized cavalry facing Jewish infantry. The cavalry would consist not only of tanks but airborne assault vehicles both fixed wing and rotary.

42. The darkness causes such disorientation and terror that armies of the world will lose all formation and orientation. As a result of the confusion, they will even kill each other. (Zec 14:13)

Zec 14:13 On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other.

Joe 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joe 3:15 The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

43. The battle comes to a standstill. It is impossible for them to maneuver armored divisions, infantry, and material in total darkness. Isaiah describes the personal fear of those involved:

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:7 Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt.

Isa 13:8 Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame.

Luk 21:25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

Luk 21:26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.

44. Traditionally, the Jews have never employed cavalry as part of their military system, this because God cautioned them about using chariot and horse. The divine warning was to keep Israel from remembering the strength of Egypt; Egypt they were to forget.

Isa 31:1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

45. The darkness protects those believers still alive just as darkness at the cross hid the imputation of all sin to Christ.

1Jo 2:2 He died not just for our sins but for the sins of the entire world.

46. Suddenly, in the middle of the thick darkness, there appears a supernatural light.

Psa 97:2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Psa 97:3 Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side.

Psa 97:4 His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

Psa 97:5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

Psa 97:6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Rev 1:7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds with Church Age saints], and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

47. Everyone will be able to see Jesus Christ as He comes out of heaven. His divine essence is the "light of the world," the only Light which can penetrate the abysmal darkness even as He is the only Light who can penetrate the darkness of the human soul lost in sin.

48. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Joh 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

49. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. (Zec 14:3)

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.

50. The statement "then the Lord shall fight," refers to the many times the Lord has fought on behalf of Israel.

50.1 For example there was that which was done at the Red Sea.

50.1.1 The Jews of the Exodus generation were hopelessly trapped with the Red Sea.

50.1.2 The Israelites panicked. Then Moses shouted, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation [deliverance] of the Lord . . . the Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." (Exo 14:10-14)

Exo 14:10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.

Exo 14:11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

Exo 14:12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

Exo 14:13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

Exo 14:14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

50.1.3 As they quieted down, they beheld the miracle of the sea opening up before them to let them pass through dry-shod, and then they watched the waters return and drown the Egyptians.

50.1.4 Grace was the principle of deliverance then as it will be in the future. Grace depends entirely on who and what the Lord is.

End Lesson Taught 4-20-2003