

# The Winepress of Gog and Magog vs. the Battle of Armageddon

## treading the winepress

The prophet Ezekiel, speaking for the Lord, wrote,

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. From **that day forward** the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God (Ezekiel 39:21,22).

He was speaking of the *day* on which the forces of Gog and Magog will be destroyed by the Lord. This carnage is equivalent to the winepress of God's wrath (Isaiah 63:1-6; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19,20, 19:15c).

Many believe that this combat will occur prior to the beginning of, or sometime during, the **70th Week**: the final seven years of this age. On the contrary, the destruction of the armies of Gog and Magog, who will be attacking Israel at the time (Ezekiel 38:8,18, 39:2), will take place at the *very end* of the 70th Week, as Jesus returns physically to earth. This is *not* the same as the Battle of Armageddon, which will occur a short time later.

Note the similarities within these parallel passages in Isaiah and Revelation, at the time that Jesus returns bodily to earth in **Bozrah, Edom**:

Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained **crimson**? Who is this, **robed** in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." Why are your garments **red**, like those of one treading the **winepress**? "I have trodden the **winepress** alone; from the nations no one was with me. I **trampled** them in my anger and trod them down in my **wrath**; their **blood spattered my garments**, and I stained all my clothing. ... I **trampled** the nations in my anger; in my **wrath** I made them drunk and poured their **blood** on the ground" (Isaiah 63:1-3,6).

The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great **winepress of God's wrath**. They were **trampled** in the **winepress** outside the city, and **blood** flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia (Revelation 14:19,20).

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a **robe dipped in blood**, and his name is the Word of God. ... Out of his mouth comes a sharp **sword** with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He **treads** the **winepress** of the fury of the **wrath of God Almighty** (Revelation 19:11-13,15).

## great supper of God

Now, note the similarities within these parallel passages in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Revelation, at the time that the destruction of the armies of Gog/Magog, likened to “rams and lambs, goats and bulls” (Ezekiel 39:18), takes place, beginning in **Bozrah, Edom**:

My **sword** has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgment on **Edom**, the people I have totally destroyed. The **sword** of the LORD is bathed in **blood**, it is covered with fat—the **blood** of **lambs** and **goats**, fat from the kidneys of **rams**. For the LORD has a sacrifice in **Bozrah** and a great slaughter in **Edom**. And the wild oxen will fall with them, the bull calves and the great **bulls**. Their land will be drenched with **blood**, and the dust will be soaked with **fat** (Isaiah 34:5-7).

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**. 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. At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink **blood** till you are drunk. At my table you will eat your fill of **horses and riders, mighty men** and **soldiers of every kind**,” declares the Sovereign LORD (Ezekiel 39:17-20).

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, 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” (Revelation 19:17,18).

The armies of the Magog nations, following Gog, will come against and ravage *Israel*, particularly *Jerusalem*; but Jesus will return to put an end to it (Zechariah 12:2-9, 14:2-4). On the contrary, the armies of the Antichrist and the kings who follow him will come not against Israel or Jerusalem but, specifically, against *Jesus, the Lamb* (Revelation 17:12-14), after He already has returned to earth to rule and reign.

When Jesus comes back to earth, He will arrive in Bozrah and travel to Jerusalem, most likely on His white horse, slaughtering the nations’ armies in the “winepress of God’s wrath” along the way. Both Isaiah and John described Jesus’ garments, bloody red from treading the winepress and slaughtering the armies (Isaiah 63:2,3; Revelation 19:13,15c). Then (after that), the Antichrist (beast) and his armies will gather (in the plains of Megiddo) to make war against Jesus (Revelation 19:19). The birds who have gathered will feast first on the armies of Gog/Magog, then later on the armies of the Antichrist.

## prophecy in Daniel: 1,290 days

Next, look at this prophecy, given to the prophet Daniel:

From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the **abomination that causes desolation** is set up, there will be **1,290 days** (Daniel 12:11).

The "abomination that causes desolation" will be set up in the middle of the 70th Week (Daniel 9:27). At that time, a remnant of Israelis will flee from Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15-17) and will be protected for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:6). At the end of the 1,260 days, Jesus will return to earth to destroy the armies coming against Jerusalem. This will leave 30 (that is, 1,290 - 1,260) days remaining to complete the fulfillment of Daniel 12:11.

It will be at the end of that subsequent 30-day period that the Antichrist and His armies, enraged that the seven Bowl Judgments will have been being poured out upon them during that month, will meet in the plain of Megiddo, that is at Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). They will be preparing to come against Jesus (17:12-14), Who already will have been sitting on His throne in Jerusalem since having returned to earth 30 days prior to that. Then Jesus will go out and destroy them all, at the Battle of Armageddon.

## prophecies in Zechariah

The prophet Zechariah wrote,

I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. ... Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. ... The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name (Zechariah 14:2-5,9).

This is a clear depiction of the final attack on Jerusalem, which will be done by the Gog/Magog forces. Then the Lord, Jesus, will return to earth, destroying the attackers of Jerusalem and Israel once and for all, taking His place as King over all the earth and being known by all as Lord.

Moreover, Zechariah made these statements, distinguishing between two different events:

On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo (Zechariah 12:11).

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

In the first case, on the day Jesus returns, there will be weeping in Jerusalem. That weeping will be *like* the weeping of Hadad Rimmon (a place in the Valley of Megiddo) when Jesus later destroys the armies of the Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon.

In the second case, the Lord (Jesus) will fight against Gog and the armies from the Magog nations, who will come against Jerusalem (Ezekiel 38:8,18, 39:2), just *as*, 30 days later, He will fight against the Antichrist and his armies who gather to come against Jesus (Revelation 17:12-14) at the Battle of Armageddon (16:16).