

The Last Wars of Human History

How do we respond to the battles of life?

- Why do people have to fight all the time? Why is their conflict in marriage, at work, in cities, the government, between nations?
- Why can't we all just get along with each other and live in peace?
- Does the Bible predict the coming of World War III and other end-time wars? Will humanity survive?

It seems that life today is filled with fighting, quarrels, and strife. Bible Prophecy tells us that the worst is yet to come. The Seven Year Tribulation period will be the worst time of turmoil and world havoc ever experienced on earth. The Antichrist will be a ruthless world dictator unlike any the world has ever known. The war of Armageddon will be the most violent and horrible war in human history. Prophecy does not show a world getting progressively better, but worse. The world will not get any better until Christ returns to reign over the earth. There will be no peace until the Prince of peace is in control. God allows evil to run its course, but in the end, He wins. He will judge all evil, correct all injustice, and establish righteousness throughout the universe.

The Central Lesson and Application:

Life will always have its battles—but God wins in the end. Be faithful & patient.

The Three Great Wars of the End Times

There will be at least three major wars during the end times:

1. The War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39).

Armageddon is not the same as the Battle of Gog and Magog mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39. Bible teacher, Mark Hitchcock, makes the following contrast between Gog and Magog and Armageddon:

101 Answers to the Most Asked Questions about the End Times, p.189.

Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-39)	Armageddon (Rev. 14:18-20; 16:16; 19:11-21)
Invasion is led by Gog (Russia)	Invasion is led by Antichrist
Israel is at peace at the time of the invasion	There is no mention of Israel's peace
Armies to plunder Israel	Armies gather to fight against Christ
Occurs at the beginning [some believe in the middle] of the Tribulation.	Occurs at the end of the Tribulation
Russia & Islamic allies invade Israel	All nations invade Israel (WW III)
Occurs so that all the nations will know that He is God	Occurs to destroy the nations.

The nations who will be part of the battle of Gog & Magog are (Eze. 38:3-6):

- Gog, of the land of Magog—modern Russia (vs. 2-4).
- Persia—modern Iran (v.5).
- Cush—North Sudan south of Egypt (v.5).
- Put—modern Libya (v.5).
- Gomer—location is uncertain, but it is thought to be East Turkey or Ukraine (v.6),
- Beth-Togarmah—southeast Turkey near the border of Syria.

Except for Russia, notice that the nations listed above are all presently Muslim. Watch for Islam to continue being active throughout the world and to appear often in the news. They will be part of the end times conflict.

The Order of the Gog War:

1. Gog (Russia) will **ATTACK** Israel (38:1-16 esp. vs.14-16) during times of peace (38:8, 11). Israel will be experiencing peace because of a treaty that was negotiated by the Antichrist between Israel and her hostile neighbors. The Tribulation period will begin when the Antichrist signs the peace treaty in the Middle East (Daniel 9:27).
2. God will **INTERVENE** and **DESTROY** Gog and the other attacking allies (38:18-22). God will destroy Gog and her allies through:
 - a. A great earthquake (38:19-20)
 - b. Confusion between the troops who turn against each other (38:21).
 - c. Disease (“plague”) (38:22).
 - d. Torrents of rain (38:22).
 - e. Hailstones and burning sulfur (38:22).
 - f. Weapons failing to function (39:3).
 - g. Fire coming down from heaven (39:6).
3. God **SAVES** Israel from the Gog attack so that Israel and the whole world will know that God was the one who miraculously intervened (38:23; 39:6-8, 13, 21-22).
4. The defeat of Gog and her allies will be so complete that Israel will burn the weapons for fuel for **SEVEN** years (39:9-10). Israel will be burying the dead bodies for **SEVEN** months (39:12-16).

2. Armageddon (Rev. 14:18-20; 16:16; 19:15-21).

The word “Armageddon” is found only one time in the Bible—Revelation 16:16. The word is made up of two Hebrew words: *Har* (mountain) and *Megiddo* (a city in northern ancient Israel). The city of Megiddo was built on a hill that overlooked a large valley called the valley of Jezreel.

Armageddon is the climactic event of the Great Tribulation when all the armies of the earth gather to invade Israel and try to destroy the Jewish people (Zechariah 12:1-2; 14:1-2).

The Order of the War of Armageddon:

1. The **EUPHRATES** River dries up to prepare the way for the kings of the East (China and other oriental countries) to invade the Middle-East (Rev. 16:12). China does **not** invade at this point. This is only a time of preparation. The invading armies from the East will number over 200 million (Rev. 9:14-16).
2. During the end of the Tribulation period, different nations begin to **REBEL** against the Antichrist who is ruling over the entire world at that time. They will converge on the Middle-East seeking to gain control of the world (Rev. 16:13-16). The nations **South** of Jerusalem (Egypt & Lybia, vs.42-43) and the **North** (probably the rebuilt armies of Russia and armies from Europe) will attack the forces of the Antichrist (Daniel 11:40-45). But the Antichrist and his army will easily be victorious (Dan. 11:40).

3. The armies of the Antichrist will proceed to **INVADE** Jerusalem defeating every country in his path (Dan. 11:41-43).
4. The Antichrist hears reports of additional **INVASIONS** from armies from the **East** (China and its army of 200 million) and the **North** (another rebuilt army from Russia and Europe) (Dan. 11:44). The Antichrist responds with rage and seeks to *“destroy and annihilate”* his opposition. The Antichrist is victorious (Dan. 11:44).
5. The Antichrist and his forces continue to attack **JERUSALEM** and conquer it. The houses are ransacked, the women raped, and half of the people go into exile (Zech. 14:1-2). Antichrist establishes his headquarters in Jerusalem (Dan. 11:45 *“He will pitch his royal tents...at the beautiful holy mountain [Jerusalem]”*).
6. Suddenly, Jesus Christ **RETURNS** to earth with His heavenly army to save Israel and conquer the Antichrist and his forces (Zech. 14:3-11; Rev. 19:11-21). Christ will step down on the Mount of Olives and it splits in half (Zech. 14:4). Jesus defeats the Antichrist and his forces by just speaking the word (Rev. 19:15, 21). The bloodshed fills the valley of Megiddo to the point of *“rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia* [about 180 miles] (Rev. 14:20). A horse’s bridle is approximately 4 ½ feet high.
7. The Antichrist and his false prophet are thrown alive into the eternal lake of fire (Rev. 19: 20). Jesus becomes king over the whole earth and sets up His Millennial kingdom (Zech. 14:9-21).

3. Post-Millennial Revolt of Satan & the Nations against Christ (Rev. 20:7-11).

The Millennium is a period of 1,000 years where Jesus Christ rules over the earth from Jerusalem. The Millennium will be characterized by world peace and prosperity.

The Order of the Post-Millennial Revolt:

1. After Christ returns to the earth and the Millennium begins, Satan is **BOUND** in a pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).
2. When the 1,000 years are over, Satan is **RELEASED** from the pit and deceives the nations of the world. He influences them to rebel against Christ. Once again, the nations gather at the valley of Gog and Magog and advance against Jerusalem from where Christ is ruling over the earth (Rev. 20:7-8).
3. The battle is short because **FIRE** comes down from heaven and destroys them (Rev. 20:9). The devil is captured and is thrown into the eternal lake of fire with the Antichrist and his false prophet (Rev. 20:10).

Life will always have its battles—but God wins in the end. Be faithful & patient.

- Are you experiencing *personal battles* in your life or marriage?
- Do you get discouraged and worry about your future?
- Do you believe that God lets you experience life’s battles for a reason and that He wins in the end?
- Will you be faithful to God and patiently trust Him for victory in His time?

