

# Brief on The Battle of Armagedon <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RJMI's Briefs are Long Commentaries contained in the end of *The Catholic Bible*, revised by RJMI.

### *Christ's army defeats Antichrist's army at the Battle of Armagedon*

The final battle of this world is the Battle of Armagedon in which Christ's army defeats Antichrist's army. Christ's army consists of a visible earthly army and an invisible heavenly army of angels and saints led by Christ the King. The ultimate ruler of Christ's earthly army is Christ the King. Antichrist's army consists of a visible earthly army with him at the head and an invisible hellish army of devils and damned humans with Satan at its head. The ultimate ruler of Antichrist's earthly and hellish army is Satan. Apocalypse, Chapter 19, speaks of the Battle of Armagedon:

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he [Christ the King] that sat upon him was called faithful and true, and with justice doth he judge and fight. And his eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many diadems, and he had a name written, which no man knoweth but himself. And he was clothed with a garment sprinkled with blood; and his name is called THE WORD OF GOD. And the armies that are in heaven followed him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth proceedeth a sharp two edged sword; that with it he may strike the nations. And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God the Almighty. And he hath on his garment, and on his thigh written: KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that did fly through the midst of heaven: Come, gather yourselves together to the great supper of God: That you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of tribunes, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all freemen and bondmen, and of little and of great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered together to make war with him that sat upon the horse, and with his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet, who wrought signs before him, wherewith he seduced them who received the character of the beast, and who adored his image. These two were cast alive into the pool of fire, burning with brimstone. And the rest were slain by the sword of him that sitteth upon the horse, which proceedeth out of his mouth; and all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (Apoc. 19:11-21)

### *The Sixth Vial and the Sixth Trumpet (The Battle of Armagedon)*

The sounding of the sixth trumpet and the pouring out of the sixth vial, as recorded in Apocalypse, usher in the Battle of Armagedon. Each gives additional information regarding the battle. Even though *The Jerome Biblical Commentary* contains many heresies, it teaches this truth in the following quotes:

*The Jerome Biblical Commentary*, 1990 edition:

“[On the Sixth Trumpet] 40. ...14. *At the great river Euphrates:* The mention of the Euphrates anticipates the battle associated with the sixth bowl [vial] (16:12-16). It is likely that the sixth trumpet and the sixth bowl allude to the same event from different points of view...

“[On the Sixth Vial (Bowl)] 52. ...12. *The sixth (angel) poured out his bowl upon the river Euphrates.* The mention of the Euphrates River links this vision to the sixth trumpet (9:13-21)... The sixth bowl resumes the sixth trumpet, apparently depicting the same event in more coherent images and in a way which makes its historical setting clearer, *its water dried up to prepare the way of the kings of the East.* The sixth trumpet and bowl refer to a battle fought both by supernatural

beings (the angels and their demonic armies in 9:13-21 and the three unclean spirits of 16:13-14 and by human beings (explicit only in the sixth bowl —the kings of the East and of the earth —vv 12 and 14.”<sup>2</sup>

### The sixth vial (Apoc. 16:12-14)

When the sixth vial is poured out, a way is prepared for Christ’s earthly army that comes from the East (from the “rising of the sun”) and crosses the Euphrates River:

Christ’s Army: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon that great river Euphrates and dried up the water thereof, that a way might be prepared for the kings from the rising of the sun.” (Apoc. 16:12)

Then, the Antichrist gathers his earthly army to fight against Christ’s army. Note that it says that Antichrist’s army is gathered from the whole world and not just from the East, as is Christ’s army:

Antichrist’s Army: “And I saw from the mouth of the dragon [Satan], and from the mouth of the beast [the Antichrist], and from the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are the spirits of devils working signs, and they go forth unto the kings of the whole earth, to gather them to battle against the great day of the Almighty God.” (Apoc. 16:13-14)

Hence Antichrist’s army is gathered from the “whole earth,” and Christ’s army comes from the East, which excludes Israel because Israel is in the Middle East. Hence, Israel will be part of the Antichrist’s kingdom and army.

The text then says that this battle will be fought at Armagedon:

Location of the Battle: “And he shall gather them together into a place, which in Hebrew is called Armagedon.” (Apoc. 16:16)

### The sixth trumpet (Apoc. 9:14-21)

At the sounding of the sixth trumpet, four of God’s angels who are bound in the Euphrates River are loosed in order to prepare the way for Christ’s earthly army by drying up the Euphrates River. And they participate in the Battle of Armagedon with Christ’s invisible heavenly army:

Sixth Trumpet: “Saying to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet: Loose the four angels who are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to kill the third part of men.” (Apoc. 9:14-15)

We know that these are good angels who prepare the way for Christ’s army and participate in the Battle of Armagedon because, as you will read, they win the battle and those whom they defeat are evildoers. Hence when it says that the angels are bound, it does not mean in shackles but that they are held back from taking action, just as God holds back his good angels from destroying the earth until his servants are given Christ’s mark on their foreheads:

“After these things, I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that they should not blow upon the earth, nor upon the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the sign of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying: Hurt not the earth,

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<sup>2</sup> Edited and Nihil Obstat by Raymond E. Brown, S.S.; Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J.; Roland E. Murphy, O. Carm. Imprimatur by Reverend William J. Kane, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Washington, November 15, 1988. Forward by Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, S.J. Published by Prentice Hall, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1990. Apoc. 9, pp. 1006-7; Apoc. 16, p. 1011.

nor the sea, nor the trees, till we sign the servants of our God in their foreheads.”  
(Apoc. 7:1-3)

We also read that a husband and wife are bound to one another, but that does not mean that they are bound in shackles and as evildoers:

“I think therefore that this is good for the present necessity, that it is good for a man so to be. Art thou bound to a wife? Seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? Seek not a wife. But if thou take a wife, thou hast not sinned.” (1 Cor. 7:26-28)

And St. Paul was bound to preach the gospel, but that does not mean that he was bound in shackles and as an evildoer:

“Praying withal for us also, that God may open unto us a door of speech to speak the mystery of Christ (for which also I am bound), that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak.” (Col. 4:3-4)

Hence, in context with other verses describing the sixth trumpet, the words “Loose the four angels who are bound in the great river Euphrates” means held back from taking action.

Apocalypse 16’s verses regarding the sixth trumpet go on to say that the number of Christ’s army is 200 million (twenty thousand times ten thousand), which consists of his visible earthly army and invisible heavenly army:

Sixth Trumpet, continued: “And the number of the army of horsemen was twenty thousand times ten thousand. And I heard the number of them.” (Apoc. 16:16)

However, it is not improbable that this refers only to Christ’s earthly army, as the nations from the East contain many people, such as China. And if the 200 million refers only to Christ’s earthly army, that is a small percentage of the world population. For example, if the world population just before Antichrist comes to power is 7 billion, it will be much less at the time of the Battle of Armagedon. Hence if the world population at the time of the battle is 2 billion, then 200 million is only 10% of the world population.

The text goes on to describe Christ’s army and its weapons, which, regarding his earthly army, is a description of weapons of modern warfare that did not exist in the days of St. John; such as gunpowder and nuclear weapons that emit fire, smoke, and brimstone (projectiles) from guns, tanks, bombs, and missiles. And it says that a third of mankind is killed in this war:

Sixth Trumpet, continued: “And thus I saw the horses in the vision: and they that sat on them had breastplates of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and from their mouths proceeded fire, and smoke, and brimstone. And by these three plagues was slain the third part of men, by the fire and by the smoke and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths, and in their tails. For, their tails are like to serpents and have heads: and with them they hurt.” (Apoc. 16:17-19)

Some weapons of modern warfare shoot not only from the front (their mouths) but also from their rear (tail), such as bullets and missiles fired from the rear of tanks, planes, and helicopters. And St. John also possibly describes the arms and the effects of Christ’s heavenly army.

The text goes on to say that the army just mentioned (Christ’s army) wins the battle, and all or most of the men in Antichrist’s army that were not killed in the battle did not repent from their evil ways:

Sixth Trumpet, continued: “And the rest of the men who were not slain by these plagues did not repent from the works of their hands, that they should not adore devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and wood, which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk. Neither did they repent from their murders, nor from their sorceries, nor from their fornication, nor from their thefts.” (Apoc. 9:20-21)

The fact that those who are defeated in the Battle of Armagedon are evildoers who adored devils and idols and are murderers, sorcerers, fornicators, and thieves is one proof that they are of Antichrist's army and the opposing army is Christ's army who comes from the East, "rising of the Sun" (Apoc. 16:12), and crosses the dried up Euphrates River (Apoc. 16:12; Apoc. 9:14). Hence at the time of the Battle of Armagedon, the Antichrist controls Israel, his home base is Jerusalem, and his army comes from the whole world, which includes parts of the East. Beware, then, of the error which teaches that the kings of the East are part of Antichrist's army and that Christ's army controls Israel. Christ's army is coming to liberate Israel and convert it from being apostate Israel to Catholic Israel.

### *Location of the Battle of Armagedon*

Apocalypse 16:16 says that this final battle will be fought at Armagedon:

"And he shall gather them together into a place, which in Hebrew is called Armagedon." (Apoc. 16:16)

The most probable opinion is that the Battle of Armagedon is fought in the mountains and plains of Megiddo. Megiddo is located in Northern Israel in the land allotted to Manasses:

"And the inheritance of Manasses in Issachar and in Aser was Bethsan and its villages, and Jebelaam with its villages, and the inhabitants of Dor, with the towns thereof: the inhabitants also of Endor with the villages thereof: and in like manner the inhabitants of Thenac with the villages thereof: and the inhabitants of Mageddo with their villages, and the third part of the city of Nopheth." (Jos. 17:11)

"Manasses also did not destroy Bethsan and Thanac with their villages, nor the inhabitants of Dor and Jebelaam and Mageddo with their villages. And the Chanaanite began to dwell with them." (Jdg. 1:27)

Megiddo commanded the pass between the plains of Jezreel and Sharon.<sup>3</sup>

Many famous battles were fought at Megiddo. For example, Debora's army defeated Sisara and his army at Megiddo. (See Jdg. 4:10-24; 5:19.) Gideon defeated the Midianites at Megiddo. (See Jdg. 6:33; 7:1-15.) Saul was defeated at Megiddo. (See 1 Ki. 29:1; 31:1.) The good King Josias was killed in battle at Megiddo. (See 4 Ki. 23:29-30.)

It is a less probable opinion that the Battle of Armageddon will take place in and around Kidron Valley. And it is also possible that the battle may not take place in Megiddo or Kidron Valley but in some other place.

### *The Two Witnesses and the Battle of Armagedon*

#### The arrest of the Two Witnesses causes the Battle of Armagedon

Near the end of the reign of the Two Witnesses, God will allow the Antichrist to have power over them and thus arrest and murder them; just as God allowed the apostate Jews to have power over Christ and arrest and murder him near the end of his earthly ministry.

It is probable that the arrest of the Two Witnesses and jailing them in Jerusalem is what causes the Battle of Armagedon, as those who followed the Two Witnesses (faithful Catholics) will rise up at all costs in order to try to free the Two Witnesses and kill the Antichrist.

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<sup>3</sup> (See "Error! Reference source not found.," p. 1146.)

### The Two Witnesses are murdered in Jerusalem and Antichrist's followers celebrate

The murder of the Two Witnesses in Jerusalem is one proof that Jerusalem at that time is under the control of the Antichrist. It is Antichrist's home base, hence it is apostate Jerusalem. (See Apoc. 11:3, 7-10.) Therefore, the fact that the Two Witnesses are murdered in Jerusalem is one proof that Jerusalem is under the control of the Antichrist before and during the Battle of Armagedon. The death of the Two Witnesses causes the followers of Antichrist to celebrate and demoralizes Christ's earthly army and emboldens Antichrist's army during the Battle of Armagedon.

### The Two Witnesses are resurrected and taken into heaven, God punishes Jerusalem and the rest of the earth, and Antichrist is defeated

Three and one half days after the Two Witnesses are murdered, they are resurrected and taken into heaven, which ends their reign. (See Apoc. 11:11-13.) As the death of the Two Witnesses demoralized Christ's earthly army and emboldened Antichrist's army, the opposite occurs when the Two Witnesses are resurrected and taken into heaven. Their resurrection and being taken into heaven, and God's immediate punishments upon Jerusalem and the rest of the earth, gives confidence to Christ's earthly army and demoralizes Antichrist's army and causes it to flee and thus Christ's army wins the Battle of Armagedon, which ends the reign of the Antichrist. The survivors of Antichrist's army flee and hide. The Antichrist also flees and hides and is captured thirty days later and thrown down into hell along with the False Prophet. And all or most of the apostate Jews in Jerusalem who survive the battle repent and convert and thus become Catholics. Hence Jerusalem is liberated and thus converted from apostate Jerusalem to Catholic Jerusalem.

### The sounding of the seventh trumpet and pouring out of the seventh vial occur within one hour after the Two Witnesses are taken into heaven

Within the hour after the Two Witnesses are taken into heaven, the seventh trumpet is sounded and the seventh vial is poured out.

The seventh trumpet announces the end of all new prophecies as announced by the prophets upon the taking up of the two last prophets, the Two Witnesses, into heaven:

"In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound the trumpet, the mystery of God shall be finished, as he hath declared by his servants the prophets." (Apoc. 10:7)

After the Two Witnesses are resurrected and taken into heaven, there will be no more prophets on earth and thus prophecy will end and thus there will be no new prophecies. However, some prophecies that were made before the witnesses were raptured (such as recorded in the Old and New Testaments) are yet to be fulfilled; such as the killing of the Antichrist, the desolation of this world, the General Judgment, the creation of the everlasting earthly paradise, and the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven.

The seventh vial is also poured out when the seventh trumpet is sounded and hence within one hour after the Two Witnesses are raptured and thus when "it is done," when all prophecy has ended and hence there will be no more prophets. The pouring out of the seventh vial also causes additional punishments from God upon Jerusalem and the rest of the earth which are not mentioned in Apoc. 11:13:

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial upon the air, and there came a great voice out of the temple from the throne, saying: It is done [when prophecy has ended when the Two Witnesses are taken into heaven]. And there were lightning,

and voices, and thunders, and there was a great earthquake, such an one as never had been since men were upon the earth, such an earthquake, so great. And the great city [Jerusalem] was divided into three parts; and the cities of the Gentiles fell.” (Apoc. 16:17-19)

The “great earthquake” caused by the pouring out of the seventh vial, as mentioned in Apoc. 16:18, is the same one that occurs within one hour after the Two Witnesses are taken into heaven, as mentioned in Apoc. 11:13:

<p>“And the seventh angel poured out his vial upon the air, and there came a great voice out of the temple from the throne, saying: <u>It is done [when prophecy has ended when the Two Witnesses are taken into heaven]</u>. And there were lightning, and voices, and thunders, and there was <u>a great earthquake...</u>” (Apoc. 16:17-18)</p>	<p>“And after three days and a half, the spirit of life from God entered into them [the Two Witnesses]... And they heard a great voice from heaven, saying to them: Come up hither. And they went up to heaven in a cloud: and their enemies saw them. And at that hour there was made <u>a great earthquake...</u>” (Apoc. 11:11-13)</p>
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Hence some of God’s punishments upon Jerusalem and the rest of the earth which occur within one hour after the Witnesses are raptured are mentioned in both of these scriptures (Apoc. 11:11-13; Apoc. 16:17-19):

Apostate Jerusalem is split into three parts, a tenth of the city is destroyed, and seven thousand citizens of Jerusalem are killed.

- Gentile cities [Babylon] fall.

These punishments cause all or some of the apostate Jews who survived in Jerusalem to repent and convert and thus become Catholic. And they cause some Gentiles throughout the world to repent and convert and thus become Catholic. And these punishments also cause Antichrist’s army to panic and flee and thus be defeated by Christ’s army at the Battle of Armagedon.

*For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men*

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