



Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith, © 1982, 1992 - www.revelationillustrated.com

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

"Frogs in the Throat"
16:12-16

"Armageddon" has become one of the most popular words in the English language. Listen for it in the daily news as the commentators talk about the impending 'financial armageddon' due to our crashed and corrupt economy.

January 4-9 was 'Armageddon Week' on the history channel as they aired programs like *Doomsday 2012*.

The WWE brought you 'Armageddon' live on Pay-Per-View in December. It's been held every year (except 2001) since 1999.

Of course there was the 1998 movie in which Bruce Willis saved the world from an asteroid that was on a collision course with earth.

Through the centuries the human race has been fascinated with the concept of Armageddon. During that time the word has been separated from its original biblical context. The true meaning of Armageddon has been replaced by the secular concept of humanity destroying itself. The word is now synonymous with nuclear war,

natural disasters, impact from a comet or an asteroid, global warming, and any number of creatively conjured humanly generated threats.

The Bible doesn't connect a single one of these events with Armageddon.

Armageddon is derived from the original Hebrew word pronounced *har-Megiddon*, from which we get the English pronunciation *Armageddon*. Megiddo in Hebrew means something like *rendezvous*, or *place of troops*.

Megiddo is a hill which overlooks the Jezreel valley. On the opposite side of the valley can be seen Nazareth, the home town of Jesus until His ministry began

Megiddo has had a very long history, going back past 3000 B.C., mostly due to its strategic location on a pass through the Carmel mountain range. Those who held Megiddo controlled one of the best direct trade and military routes between Egypt and Mesopotamia (Iraq). The site has had at least two dozen different occupiers. Due to its strong defensive position, it was not one of the earliest cities taken by the Israelites after they entered the promised land under Joshua. By the time of King David however, the city came fully under Israelite control.

King Solomon, the son of David, rebuilt Megiddo as a major center. Solomon did things in a grand way, and Megiddo was no different - he stabled 450 horses there and fortified it.

Gideon's victory over the Midianites took place at Megiddo. There also died Kings Saul and Josiah.

Napoleon called it "the most natural battlefield of the whole earth."

After the division and decline of the northern and southern Israelite kingdoms of Israel and Judah, Megiddo briefly fell under Egyptian

and Assyrian control before eventually being destroyed and left a ruin, as it remains today.

On September 19 1918, near the end of World War 1, British forces under General Edmund Allenby defeated Turkish forces at the Battle of Megiddo, whereby Palestine was transferred from Turkish to British control. Then, thirty years later, the British permitted the Zionists to declare the modern state of Israel.

Something is going to happen there in the prophetic future, at the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation.

Revelation 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

Seven seals being opened give way to seven trumpets being blown which result in seven bowls being poured out. We're close to the end of the seven years at this point.

The Euphrates is one of the prominent rivers in the world. It formed the eastern border of the old Roman Empire. In Isaiah 11:15 and Zechariah 10:11 there is a similar prediction of the river drying up (although it is not mentioned by name).

The Euphrates was the site of the world's first great (and rebellious) city, Babel, after the great flood. It was the site of Nebuchadnezzar's magnificent capital, Babylon. On its shores in the future there will be a New Babylon to serve as the capital for the antichrist. (We'll read about it in the next two chapters).

It is of at least some interest that a lot of money has been and is being dedicated to rebuilding Babylon today. As reported by the *New York Times* on January 7, 2009:

After years of neglect, misuse and haphazard reconstruction of the ancient city of Babylon, a master plan is being developed to restore this Mesopotamian site, in present-day Iraq. The project, called "The Future of Babylon," was announced in

a news release by the World Monuments Fund, which will collaborate with Iraq's State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. Babylon endured numerous restoration and reconstruction projects during the reign of Saddam Hussein. It was heavily plundered after his fall... and used as the site of an American military base. The Babylon project, financed by a \$700,000 grant from the State Department, will map the city's archaeological sites, develop conservation plans and pursue possibilities for tourism and education.

Exactly how the sixth angel acts to dry up the river is not stated. It could involve shifts in the tectonic plates of the earth. Indeed, a major earthquake is discussed a little later.

It's interesting to observe in passing that the source of the water for the Euphrates is the perennial ice cap near the 17,000 foot summit of Mount Ararat. It's where most researchers believe that Noah's ark came to rest. It could be that God has kept us from discovering the ark so it could be revealed in the last days as a witness to the world of God's impending return for judgment.

The method by which the river is dried up is not so important as the reason. The river is dried up to prepare a passageway for the "kings of the east," literally, of the "sunrising."

The current size of China's army, for example, is 2.8 million. India's army is, by last count I could find, at about 1 million. We're talking about a world at war converging on the Middle East.

Armies regularly cross the Euphrates. Why dry it up? A few years earlier, during the Great Tribulation, a demon-hoard came up from out of the Euphrates.

Revelation 9:14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Revelation 9:15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

Revelation 9:16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Revelation 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of

the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

Revelation 9:18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed - by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

Revelation 9:19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

It would definitely freak me out to try to cross it after that! So drying it up would seem to invite an invasion.

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

This is the unholy trinity of Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet. The "three unclean spirits" are identified as "demons" in the next verse. Creepy.

Interesting this comparison to frogs. I've been mentioning the demonic connection with UFO phenomena. Ufologists talk about what they call the Juminda Incident.

Jacques Vallee listed a European frog-man encounter from the 1930's in his "Passport to Magonia" Appendix on UFO landing reports even though no UFO was mentioned. In the Fall of 1938 (or perhaps 1939), according to a personal communication to Vallee, two persons saw a strange "frog-man" 1 meter (about 40 inches) tall at Juminda on the Estonian coast. The frog-man had a round head, no neck, and a hump in front of the body. Its mouth was a large, straight slit, the eyes were like smaller slits, while its hands were normal. The creature's skin was brownish-green, compared by the witnesses to pegamoid (a kind of plastic or imitation leather). It walked in a peculiar "but elegant" fashion, its head waving up and down while its legs moved "carefully." When pursued, the creature accelerated very fast, with feet "fluttering." About 100 meters (325 feet) away from the witnesses, it vanished completely. Vallee took it for granted that the Juminda frog-man must have been a UFO occupant.

The Juminda frog-man resembles grotesque small humanoids seen by Beryl Hickey and her father at Mandurah, Western Australia, in their house one night in 1930, and by a man gathering Christmas trees on December 15, 1956 in woods near Derry, New Hampshire. The Mandurah creature was about 20 inches tall, glistened as though wet or covered with oil, and had pink skin, big ears, a wide

slit mouth, bulging eyes covered with a film and perfectly formed little hands and feet. It squeaked in fright when the Hickey father captured and dragged it outside with a prawning net. The Derry dwarf was green and naked, with a wrinkled skin resembling elephant hide, a high domed head, ears like a bloodhound's, eyes with a film like a snake's, merely two holes for a nose, short arms and legs, hands like stumps, and feet with no toes. It a screeched when the witness tried to catch it. The witness then fled.¹

Ancient and modern UFO lore is best explained as the activity of demons.

Revelation 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

There are a couple of ways, at least, to view this "battle." One is that the armies all gather to fight against God. Those who hold that position argue that the whole world is under the control of the antichrist so this cannot be a conflict between nations on the earth.

It's more likely that the antichrist's empire is deteriorating and that this is, in fact, a great battle involving all the nations of the earth against each other. Then, as the heavens break open and Jesus Christ descends in His Second Coming, the opposing human armies turn to attempt to destroy the Lord.

It is "the battle of the great day of Almighty God." On that great and glorious day Jesus returns and begins to establish His rule over the earth as its rightful King.

Verse fifteen is apparently a direct quotation from the Lord:

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

¹ <http://www.mail-archive.com/mythfolk@yahoogroups.com/msg01234.html>

The thief comes suddenly and unexpectedly resulting in your being plundered. Similar warnings are given in Matthew 24 and Luke 12. Those who are not ready will suffer loss.

The church will not be on the earth at this time, nor at any time during the Great Tribulation. The apostle Paul assured the Christians at Thessalonica that the Day of the Lord could not overtake them as a thief (First Thessalonians 5:4).

There is a contrast between those overtaken by the Lord at His Second Coming and those who are prepared by faith. Often our salvation and its rewards for serving the Lord are compared to being given a garment that fits us for Heaven. Those who do not know Jesus are, comparatively speaking, naked at His coming. They are unsaved and will be ashamed.

As we've seen and said, there will be saints alive on the earth at the return of the Lord. Most Christians will be martyred but some will survive.

Revelation 16:16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

The plain there at Megiddo is fourteen miles wide and twenty miles long. Obviously it is not big enough for all the armies of the world to gather there. This is the central point of the battle. The armies are deployed over a two hundred mile area (14:20).

Jerusalem initially falls to the forces of the antichrist, prior to the return of the Lord. In Zechariah 14:2 we read,

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

But then:

Zechariah 14:3 Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

Joel 3:16 The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Zephaniah 3:8 "Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My indignation, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

Armageddon, as a word or concept, is likely to continue to grow in popularity. We will hear it used in titles and to describe events of a critical nature.

It's the hope of nonbelievers that we can pull ourselves out of the possibility of annihilation.

All the while God is calling out, reaching out, seeking out to save them.

Our hope is in the coming of our Lord to resurrect and rapture the church. The worlds hope after that should be in His Second Coming.