

THE REAL ARMAGEDDON—WHY? WHEN?

Note to the speaker:

Help audience to feel the urgency of the times in which we are living. Build their appreciation so that they can see Armageddon as a reality that will soon be upon us. Emphasize the need to act now and stay close to Jehovah's organization

WHAT ARMAGEDDON IS (5 min.)

There are many different ideas regarding Armageddon

At one time it was associated with violent social revolution (*jv* 140)

Some link the term with a natural disaster, such as an asteroid hitting the earth (*g99* 1/22 24, 26; *g99* 9/22 29)

Others regard it as a nuclear holocaust resulting from a war between nations (*w90* 5/15 3; *w86* 2/15 7; *g83* 12/22 3)

Armageddon, or "Har-Magedon," is found in the Bible only once (Read Revelation 16:14, 16)

This term means "Mountain of Assembly of Troops" and refers to the political forces amassed against God (*rs* 44)

The name is fitting because Armageddon is a world situation involving the troops and other supporters of all nations (*rs* 46)

It is the climax of "the great day of Jehovah" (*Zep* 1:14; *Joe* 2:11; *w96* 3/1 16)

Armageddon is God's war—a war fought between Jehovah God and the nations of the earth (*w90* 5/15 4)

Armageddon does not destroy the earth but rids it of wickedness

WHY ARMAGEDDON MUST BE FOUGHT (9 min.)

Jehovah, the Universal Sovereign, has the right to rule his creation

The nations have not accepted his Kingdom rule (*Jer* 25:31; *Re* 11:17, 18)

They have rejected his sovereign rule by means of his Son (*Ps* 2:2-6)

Jehovah must destroy the entrenched political opposition to his Kingdom (*Ps* 2:9; *Da* 2:44)

Satan and his demons are behind the rejection of God's rule (*Re* 16:13, 14)

Their influence pushes the nations to the world situation that results in war against God

The "dragon" is Satan in his role as leader over the nations (*Re* 12:9)

"Wild beast" refers to the entire political system by which Satan has dominated mankind (*re* 187)

"The false prophet" is the Anglo-American World Power (*re* 193-4, 230)

"Unclean inspired expressions" are demonic propaganda and remind us of the false promises made by false prophets (*1Jo* 4:1)

Throughout all history, people have given their support, even worship, to the Devil, in opposition to Jehovah (*Re* 13:4; *re* 191)

By means of the war of Armageddon, God's sovereignty will be vindicated (*Eze* 39:7; *w90* 5/15 5-6; *re* 234)

Leading the heavenly forces, Christ exercises his authority to execute those who refuse to support God's Kingdom (*Re* 19:11-16)

EVENTS THAT LEAD UP TO ARMAGEDDON (7 min.)

Prior to Armageddon, "the last days" begin as God's Kingdom starts its heavenly rule (*2Ti* 3:1; *Re* 12:7-12)

Jehovah's Witnesses have published much information to confirm that God's Kingdom began ruling in heaven in 1914

The "good news" of God's Kingdom must be preached in the entire earth (*Mt* 24:14)

This is now being done in over 230 lands

Soon the nations will turn on false religion and destroy her completely (*Re* 17:12, 16)

This will mark the start of the "great tribulation" (*Mt* 24:21; *w99* 5/1 17)

The climax of that tribulation will be Armageddon (*w94* 2/15 19-21)

Between Babylon's destruction and Armageddon, Satan makes one final attack to destroy God's people (*Eze* 38:10-16)

Their spiritual prosperity infuriates him, but Jehovah comes to their defense (*Eze* 38:21-23; *w90* 5/15 6; *dp* 283)

That marks the start of Armageddon (*w97* 3/1 14-15)

STAY AWAKE TO ARMAGEDDON'S APPROACH (15 min.)

Bible prophecy shows that Jehovah's "day" will come suddenly (*Re* 16:14, 15)

Just "as a thief" does, Jesus will come at an unannounced time as Jehovah's Executioner (*1Th* 5:2, 3; *Mt* 24:42, 44; *re* 231-2)

Destruction of Babylon the Great, the world empire of false religion, will come when she least expects it (*Re* 18:7, 8)

The rivalry between the king of the north and the king of the south is nearing its end (*dp* 280)

All that is left to be fulfilled are the final stages of their conflict (Da 11:44, 45)

Disturbing reports that originate with Jehovah will spur the king of the north on to his final attack (*dp* 282-3)

Both kings will meet their end at Armageddon (*dp* 285)

We should not think that Armageddon is far off because some lands have not been fully reached with the good news

There is no reason to expect that we will reach all people in all parts of the earth before Jesus arrives as Executioner (Read Matthew 10:23) (*w97* 8/15 14)

When the great tribulation begins, Jehovah's people will no doubt be at their busiest time of activity (*w76* 689)

Some of the remaining ones of God's spirit-begotten sons will still be on earth when the tribulation breaks out (Mt 24:22; Re 7:1-3; *w97* 8/15 14-15; *re* 116)

The small number of them still with us indicates that the end is close

While still alive and functioning in their united stand against God's people, the wild beast and the false prophet will be destroyed (Re 19:19, 20; *re* 285-6)

Following that, Satan and his demons will be abyssed, removed from all contact with God's Kingdom of righteousness (*re* 287-8)

WE MUST ACT NOW TO SURVIVE (5 min.)

Must not take attitude that Jehovah is delaying (Zep 1:14)

Before Jehovah's day comes upon us, we must take action (Zep 2:2, 3; *g83* 12/22 10-11)

"Seek Jehovah" for his guidance and mercy (Isa 55:6, 7)

"Seek righteousness" by bringing our lives into harmony with his requirements

"Seek meekness" by being humble and willing to make changes

Stay close to Jehovah's organization as information is progressively revealed to us on how to survive Armageddon

"Holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion" are essential (2Pe 3:11; *w97* 3/1 13)

Not knowing the exact time of Jesus' coming to execute God's vengeance keeps us vigilant (Mr 13:32, 33)

Gives us daily opportunities to prove that we serve Jehovah with unselfish motives

A GRAND FUTURE AWAITS US (4 min.)

An exciting event awaits Jehovah's people—the great tribulation will soon begin (*kj* 286)

All will know that Jehovah's Witnesses have not been a false prophet (Eze 33:33)

Armageddon is a good thing, for it will clear the way for eternal peace

Blessings will flow to Jehovah's people, its survivors, as they transform the earth into a paradise that will be free of pollution, pain, tears, and mourning (Re 11:15, 18; 21:3, 4)

If you survive, you can thank Jehovah every day for eternity (Isa 25:8, 9; *w94* 3/1 23)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)