

# The First Armageddon

## Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 2

### Study Guide

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## I. THE FIRST ARMAGEDDON

**KEY NOTE: The Ark of the Covenant represents God’s throne.**

### Revelation 16:16

*And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.*

### Exodus 15:17-18

*<sup>17</sup>You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. <sup>18</sup>The LORD will reign forever and ever."*

### Psalms 48:1

*Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His holy mountain.*

### Revelation 11:19

*Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.*

### **A. The Holy Mountain**

1. Armageddon means literally in the Hebrew, “the mountain of the assembly” (Revelation 16:16).
2. In the Old Testament, the mountain of the assembly was called the sanctuary mountain (or holy mountain) where the temple stood at the top of Mount Zion (Exodus 15:17-18; Psalm 48:1).
3. Inside that temple in Jerusalem (a copy of the Heavenly Temple) were two rooms: the first room was called the Holy Place with the candlestick, the table of bread, and the altar of prayer; the second room was called the Most Holy Place.

4. Inside the Most Holy Place was the Ark of the Covenant (Rev. 11:19).
  5. Inside the Ark of the Covenant was God's holy ten-commandment law.
  6. God was enthroned directly over the ten-commandment law of God. Therefore, God's throne cannot be separated from God's law.
  7. The battle of Armageddon is a battle for the law of God.
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#### Isaiah 14:12-13

<sup>12</sup>“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! <sup>13</sup>You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far north’;

#### Revelation 12:7-9

<sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup>but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent – who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

#### Revelation 16:16

And they assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armageddon.

#### Daniel 11:45

And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

### **B. Battle for The Holy Mountain**

1. The battle of Armageddon is the battle for the throne of God.
2. The attack on the throne of God is the attack upon the law of God and the holy mountain of the assembly. The name ‘Armageddon’ is taken from the Hebrew, which means ‘Mountain of the Assembly’ (Isaiah 14:13)
3. Attempting to overthrow God, Satan attacked the law of God in the beginning.
4. Isaiah 14:13 teaches us that Lucifer tried to exalt his throne over God's throne.
5. War began in Heaven when Satan tried to overthrow God's kingdom (Revelation 12:7).
6. Just before Jesus returns, the devil will claim the Holy Mountain of God as his again (Revelation 16:16; Daniel 11:45).

## II. THE FINAL ARMAGEDDON

### Revelation 16:13-14, 16

<sup>13</sup>And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup>For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

### A. The Battle of Armageddon

1. The battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16:16, in the sixth plague, is not the first Armageddon – it is the final Armageddon. The first battle was in Heaven concerning the Law of God.
2. The final battle before the second coming of Jesus Christ is described in Revelation 16:16 [see also Revelation 12:17; 17:12-14; 19:11-21].
3. It is the place where demons will gather again to make war.
4. It is a battle in which demons will gather to attack the Holy Mountain of God, and the war that started a long time ago will have its final fury here.

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### Revelation 13:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup>so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

### B. The Final Fury

1. The law of God and the testimony of Jesus will be attacked all over again in the Mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-17).
2. Demons will gather again to make war on the Lamb (Rev. 12:17).
3. The remnant church will conquer Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony in Christ Jesus (Rev. 12:11).

### III. THE CHIASM

#### Revelation 12 Chiasm

A: A woman clothed with sun, the moon, and the twelve stars. Rev. 12:1

B: The woman pregnant and in pain. Rev. 12:2

C: The red dragon. Rev. 12:3

D: The dragon sweeps away a third of the stars. Rev. 12:4

E: The dragon tried to devour the woman's male child. Rev. 12:4

F: The woman flees from the dragon for 1260 days into the wilderness. Rev. 12:6

G: The devil is thrown down to the earth with his angels. Rev. 12:9

**X: Proclamation of the kingdom of God and the victory over Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the testimony. Rev. 12:10, 11**

G': The devil has come down to the earth with a short time. Rev. 12:11

F': The woman flees from the dragon for 3½ times into the wilderness. Rev. 12:14

E': The serpent pours water after his mouth to sweep away the woman. Rev. 12:15

D': The dragon tries to sweep away the woman with a flood. Rev. 12:16

C': The Dragon was angry. Rev. 12:17

B': Anger against the woman. Rev. 12:17

A': The remnant of her seed having the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus. Rev. 12:17

## **KEY NOTE: The Cross of Christ is the victory for the first and final Armageddon!**

### **A. What is a Chiasm?**

1. A chiasm is a literary device in which words or ideas are repeated in reverse order with the same or similar words or ideas matching them in the same place on the other side.
2. A chiasm is like a mountain in its structure. The center or top of the mountain has the central truth or point of the chiasm.
3. In a chiasm, the two sides that lead to the center match each other. The steps along the way match the steps on the other side.

**DEFINITION:** *Parallel ideas on each side of a central point of truth.*

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### **Revelation 12:1-17**

#### **The Woman and the Dragon**

*<sup>1</sup>And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. <sup>2</sup>She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. <sup>3</sup>And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. <sup>4</sup>His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. <sup>5</sup>She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, <sup>6</sup>and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

#### **Satan Thrown Down to Earth**

*<sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”*

<sup>13</sup>And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. <sup>14</sup>But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. <sup>15</sup>The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. <sup>16</sup>But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. <sup>17</sup>Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea.

## **B. Chiasm of Revelation Chapter 12**

1. Revelation 12 is a literary chiasm and it reveals an important truth in the center. The chiasm starts in verse 1 and ends in verse 17.
2. On each side of the chiasm there is the law of God and the testimony of Jesus.
3. The chiasm describes the two Armageddons: 1. the part of the war at the beginning; and 2. the final engagement of war at the end. There was war in Heaven and there will be war on earth.
4. The center of the chiasm holds the central truth that the war was won by the cross of Christ.
5. At the center of the chiasm, we find the central truth that brings victory in the cosmic war between Christ and Satan.
6. The war started with an attack on the Law of God, and it will end with an attack on the Law of God.
7. The cross is the victory for both the first and the final Armageddon.

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### Daniel 12:3

*And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

### Psalms 89:37

*Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies.*

### Psalms 19:4, 7

*<sup>4</sup>Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun, <sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

### Galatians 4:26

*But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.*

## C. Unlocking Symbols in Revelation 12

1. In Revelation 12:1, the chiasm starts with a woman clothed with the sun, the moon under her feet, and twelve stars on her head.
2. In the chiasm, the **stars** match the remnant. Stars can represent angels in the Bible (Revelation 12:4). Sometimes stars can represent believers on earth who lead others to Christ (Daniel 12:3).
3. The **moon** matches the testimony of Jesus (Psalm 89:37). It represents the spirit of prophecy which comes from Jesus as His testimony to the churches in Revelation. (See the chiasm where the moon in 'A' matches the remnant that keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus.)
4. The **sun** matches the law of God (Psalm 19:4, 7). The law is the sun that provides light for the moon, which is the testimony of Jesus.
5. Revelation 12:1 matches 12:17 where the dragon is angry with the remnant of the woman's seed that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.
6. The chiasm starts with the woman who is pregnant, and ends with the remnant of the woman's seed left over at the end. It starts with the many and it ends with a few.
7. The woman at the beginning of the chiasm represents the Heavenly Jerusalem, which is Mount Zion (Galatians 4:26).
8. The pregnant woman is associated with the first Armageddon or mountain of the assembly in Heaven where war began.
9. Jesus came from the heavenly Jerusalem to save this world.
10. In Revelation 12:10, the woman accepts the church as part of the heavenly Jerusalem because of Jesus' victory on the cross.
11. After the cross, the woman also represents the church (Rev. 12:10-11).