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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

For more information on Bible study materials contact:

It Is Written
 P.O. Box 0
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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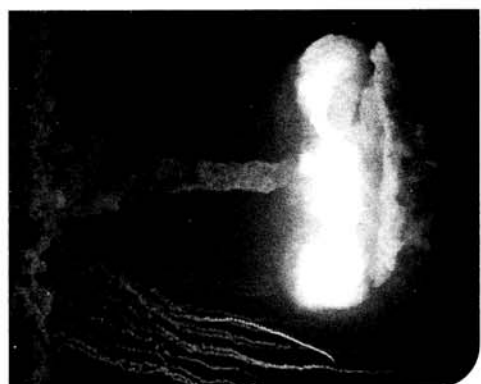
Certainty I

Armageddon and the Seven Last Plagues

Victory for the 21st Century



In 1945 William Ripley of *Believe It or Not* fame stood amid the ruins of Hiroshima, Japan. From that city devastated by the atom bomb, Ripley announced to his radio audience, "I am standing on the spot where the end of the world began."



Numerous wars during this century have gripped world leaders with the possibility that the end is near. Among today's prophets of doom are legislators, educators, sociologists, scientists, and environmentalists. Thousands are stunned with bewilderment regarding the future. They wander in a maze of confusion. God reveals through prophecy an outline of coming events for the informed Christian. According to Bible prophecy the crisis at the close is not merely a military struggle. It is the last battle in the long-standing conflict between Christ and Satan. The seven last plagues and the Battle of Armageddon focus on the end of human history and the coming of Christ. It is with this background that we enter into this Bible lesson.

God reveals through prophecy an outline of coming events.

ARMAGEDDON AND THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

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- 1. What great crisis will this world soon face?
Revelation 13:16, 17

The Bible answer: _____

- 2. If any individual worships the beast, what will he receive? Revelation 14:9, 10

The Bible answer: _____

- 3. What is the “wrath of God . . . poured out full strength”? Revelation 15:1

The Bible answer: _____

Because Satan hates God, he desires all men and women to receive his mark rather than God’s seal. When every human being has chosen between the mark of the beast and the seal of God, the plagues will fall. All who knowingly accept the allegiance of the beast, substituting a human decree for the divinely inspired commandments of God, will be recipients of the seven last plagues.

The Test	Close of Probation	Deliverance
Present Age	Mark of Beast Seal of God	Plagues poured out 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Sign of Christ’s Coming	A Time of Final Decision for All Humanity—God’s People Persecuted	God’s People Protected Wicked Afflicted
		Return of Jesus

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Revelation 16:2-15 lists the first six plagues:

1. Grievous sore
2. Sea of blood
3. Rivers and springs of waters as blood
4. Sun scorching people
5. Darkness on seat of the beast
6. Battle of great day of God Almighty

- ?** 4. After these six plagues are described, what announcement comes from heaven?
Revelation 16:15

The Bible answer: _____

This text is Christ's encouragement to His followers, urging them to persevere in light of His soon return.

These plagues are called the seven last plagues. Ten plagues fell on Egypt in Old Testament times. The first three fell on both the Egyptians and the Israelites; the last seven fell *only* on the Egyptians.

At end-time, the seven last plagues fall only on the wicked while the righteous, still on earth, are protected. Jesus comes as a thief after, not before, the plagues.

- ?** 5. Does God promise to protect His people during the plagues? Psalm 91:2-10

The Bible answer: _____

- ?** 6. What assurance does God give that He will feed us during this time? Isaiah 33:16

The Bible answer: _____

- 7. Where do we find our refuge or security in the time of trouble? Psalm 46:1, 2**

The Bible answer: _____

- 8. How will Satan attempt to unite all nations to destroy God's people in earth's last war? Revelation 16:14**

The Bible answer: _____

- 9. What is this battle called? Revelation 16:16**

The Bible answer: _____

The word "Armageddon" comes from the Hebrew "Har Megiddo," meaning mountain of assembly. During one of Israel's greatest crises, when it appeared that doom was certain, God intervened and sent reinforcements at precisely the right moment (Judges 5:19). During the last days of earth's history, infuriated by the plagues, the whole world will be turned into a vast battlefield as the wicked attempt to destroy God's people. It will appear as if their doom is certain.

- 10. As the whole world is mobilized to destroy the people of God, what divine act takes place? Revelation 16:17-21**

The Bible answer: _____

Once again, God will intervene. When the enemy is ready to pounce on God's people, like a lion stalking her prey to destroy it, God will powerfully manifest His hand to deliver them.

- 11. What marvelous announcement does the seventh angel make? Revelation 16:17**

The Bible answer: _____

It is done! Life's trials and heartaches are over. It is time for God to deliver His people.

- 12. How is this mighty deliverance described? Revelation 16:18-21**

The Bible answer: _____

In the last moments of time Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and finally and completely destroys Satan and his work. Christ's followers triumph; right conquers.

- 13. What is the glorious climax of the seven last plagues? Revelation 19:11-16**

The Bible answer: _____

Friend, the outcome of the battle is certain. No matter how discouraging the future appears, Jesus and His people will triumph. If you have not yet decided to place your confidence in Jesus by inviting Him into your life, why not do it right now before it is forever too late?

MY DECISION

- I desire to be on the winning side and be victorious in earth's last war. Just now I surrender my life fully to Jesus.