

# *A Tale of Two Wars !*

*Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war... Joel 3:9a*

There are many who say that the Rapture of the church and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ are one and the same event. There are still more who say the Gog-Magog war and the Armageddon battle are the same conflict. But, are they? There have been many Bible prophecy teachers who have done extensive studies on the Rapture and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus back to this planet and thus came to the conclusion that they are two entirely different events separated by at least 7 years. In the same way, we tried to do a comparative study on the war of Gog – Magog and the battle of Armageddon to see if they are the same war or two entirely different wars separated by a period of time like the Rapture and the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming are.

The differences we came up with after carefully studying the scriptures were so amazing that we felt we had to list all of them in a question/answer format so as to dispel or refute those who are saying that they are both the same war or battle. Here are the differences, which are many, so please study them for yourself:

Question 1: What are the reasons for these wars?

**Gog/Magog** – Russia and her allies come to take a spoil and a prey (Ezekiel 38:12 – 13).

**Armageddon** – Satan and the antichrist want every Jew exterminated (Revelation 12:13, 15-17).

Question 2: What is the timing of these two wars?

**Gog/Magog** – Timing is scripturally unclear, but since Israel is burning the weapons of war for seven years, this war takes place just before the great tribulation begins (Ezekiel 39:9).

**Armageddon** – At the very end of the great tribulation (Revelation 16:12-14, 16).

Question 3: What will the conditions be like in Israel at the time of these wars?

**Gog/Magog** – Israel will be at peace and dwelling safely (Ezekiel 38:8 – 11).

**Armageddon** – Israel has been under persecution by the antichrist and the false prophet for the past three and a half years due to him having put his statue in the holy of holies in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. Jesus said “When you see the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, then those in Judea flee to the mountains (Matthew 24:15-22).

Question 4: Who will be the leader of these armies that are invading Israel?

**Gog/Magog** – Russia. (Ezekiel 38:2 – 4, 7).

**Armageddon** – The antichrist (Revelation 19:19).

Question 5: What countries participate in these wars?

**Gog/Magog** – Russia (Magog), Iran (Persia), Turkey (Togarmah), Ethiopia, Libya, and only a select group of nations. (Ezekiel 38:5 – 6).

**Armageddon** – All the nations of the world (Zechariah 14:2, Joel 3:2).

Question 6: Where will these wars be fought?

**Gog/Magog** – On the mountains in northern Israel (Ezekiel 39:4).

**Armageddon** – In the valley of Megiddo, or Armageddon (Revelation 16:16).

Question 7: What happens to Jerusalem during these wars?

**Gog/Magog** – The invading armies never reach Jerusalem (Ezekiel 39:4-5).

**Armageddon** – The armies capture Jerusalem, ravish the women, and rifle the houses (Zechariah 14:1-3).

Question 8: Will the Israelis fight during these two wars?

**Gog/Magog** – They do not fight. God alone destroys them on the mountains of Israel with an overflowing rain, hail stones, fire, brimstone, and he causes every man’s sword to be against his brother (Ezekiel 38:21-23).

**Armageddon** – The Jews do fight. (Zechariah 14:14).

Question 9: How many of the soldiers that come against Israel will die?

**Gog/Magog** – Five-Sixths of all the men are killed (Ezekiel 39:2).

**Armageddon** – All the armies are totally destroyed by the Lord (Revelation 19:21).

Question 10: What happens to all the dead bodies after these wars have ended?

**Gog/Magog** – The whole house of Israel buries the dead for seven months (Ezekiel 39:12 - 13).

**Armageddon** – They are left unburied. (Jeremiah 25:30-33).

Question 11: Who eats all the carcasses of the slain?

**Gog/Magog** – Both the fowls and the beasts eat the dead (Ezekiel 39:4, 17).

**Armageddon** – Only the fowls eat the dead. (Revelation 19:17 - 18).

So, as you can see, these are two entirely different wars or battles, which ever you prefer to call them, fought at entirely different times. And, they are coming our way in the very near future. Even now, the clouds of war are forming in the Middle East, as Russia and Iran continue to pour thousands of troops into Syria. At the same time, Israel continues to bomb their camps in an effort to stop the Hezbollah from acquiring top of the line surface to air missiles supplied to them by Russia and Iran which have already downed 2 Israeli jets that we know of.

Satan, the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) is busy sowing his seeds of hate because he knows he is running out of time (Revelation 12:12) before Jesus comes back to rule this planet as the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's (Revelation 19:16).

Satan was defeated when Jesus rose from the dead three days after He was crucified (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), and he knows this! But, that is not going to stop him because he was the one creation that was made without fear (Job 41:33 – 34). Even after Jesus comes back (Revelation 19:11-14) and satan is imprisoned for 1,000 years in the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1–2), he attempts once more to defeat the Lord as soon as he is loosed – but to no avail (Revelation 20:7– 9). This reminds us of a story we once read:

The story told about a married missionary couple stationed down in a steamy jungle. One day an enormous snake, 8' – 10' long, slithered its way through their front door and into their house. Terrified, they ran outside and searched frantically for a local who might know what to do. Then, a machete wielding neighbor calmly went into their house and with one clean chop decapitated the snake.

When the neighbor came out of the house, he assured them that the snake had been decapitated but there was a catch, he warned. It was going to take a while for the snake to realize it was dead.

A snake's neurology and blood flow are such that it takes considerable time for it to stop moving, even after it has been decapitated. For the next several hours, the missionaries were forced to wait outside while the snake thrashed around smashing furniture and throwing itself against the walls and windows, causing much damage until its body finally realized that it no longer had a head!

At some point in their waiting, the missionaries had a mutual epiphany, or revelation. "Do you see it" asked the husband? Satan is a lot like that snake. He's already been defeated, but he just doesn't know it yet. In the meantime though, he's going to do a lot of damage. But never forget, that he's a goner.

This story helps us to understand how satan can continue to inflict so much trouble and pain on people when he has already been judged at the cross (John 16:11), but one day all of satan's thrashing, flailing and destruction will stop. Hallelujah!

Every human has two, and only two, choices concerning his or her eternal destiny. You can serve a living God who suffered horribly and died on the cross to pay the price for all of the world's sins (1 John 4:14), or, you can serve a being who hates you because you were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26 – 27) and wants you to burn in the lake of fire as he and his demonic angels will (Matthew 25:41). The choice is yours. Jesus and life, or satan and death (1 John 5:11 – 12). Make the choice now while there is still time (2 Corinthians 6:2), because once you die, it will be too late. Admit you are a sinner, be willing to repent of your sins, then receive Jesus into your heart (John 1:12) as Lord and Saviour of your life. If you do this, you will then become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). You will be born again (John 3:3) and heaven ready. Jesus loves you, and so do we!

Amen

(All scripture references taken from the King James Bible)

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