

## ARMAGEDDON

### Its Location

Armageddon means "the mountain of Megiddo." Actually Megiddo is not a mountain but a plain approximately 20x14 miles today. The ancient fortress city of Megiddo stood at the head of a pass which lead to the plain. Megiddo is the western portion of the valley of Jezreel or Esdraelon. It has been the site of many battles. At Megiddo Barak and Deborah overthrew the Canaanite Jabin (Judges 5:19); Ahaziah was slain by Jehu (2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicles 35:22); Saul and Josiah were killed there. Solomon rebuilt and fortified Megiddo (1 Kings 9:15).

### The War

Armageddon is the climax of wars which will be fought in the last part of the tribulation. A probable order of these is this:

- (1) the overrunning of Egypt, Daniel 11:40-43;
- (2) while the king of the north is on his way to meet antichrist in Palestine, the battle of Ezekiel 38-39 occurs, but God destroys his army supernaturally;
- (3) when antichrist comes he finds no enemy from the north, only the coalition of armies from the east which are heading for Palestine, Revelation 16:12);
- (4) the armies of the west (antichrist's) and the armies of the east meet in Palestine and the ensuing battle engulfs the whole land, Armageddon and Jerusalem being centers of the battle (Zechariah 14:1-4; 14:12).

### The Drying Up of the Euphrates River (Revelation 16:12)

The Euphrates is one of the longest rivers in Asia flowing approximately 1,780 miles from the mountains of Turkey to the Persian Gulf. (By comparison the Mississippi is about 2,350 miles long). From 300 to 1,200 yards wide and 10 to 30 feet deep, the Euphrates is scarcely fordable at any point along its banks or at any time of the year. It has always formed a formidable boundary between those who lived east and west of it. It is the eastern boundary of the land God promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:18). Four demons are bound in this river (Revelation 9:15).