ARMAGEDDON AND CHRIST’S RETURN

I. The Meaning of Armageddon

SLIDE: # 1 Is this Armageddon?

Is nuclear holocaust the essence of Armageddon? Not necessarily!

SLIDE: # 2 The Campaign of Armageddon

Armageddon is not a single battle but a campaign that covers all Palestine.

SLIDE: # 3 Four Pictures of Tel Megiddo

The term comes from the Hebrew “Har Megiddo” [The Mountain (tel) of Megiddo] which has been focal point of many ancient battles on the plains in front of the city of Megiddo, in Israel.

SLIDE: # 4 A Map of the Invasion of troops from all over the world

Although LaHaye and Ice list the 8 stages in the Campaign of Armageddon, it does not appear to me, to be all that clear. What we do know for sure is that the remaining armies of earth gather in the Middle East. It is easy to imagine how armies of most world powers could easily be drawn into world war III over the Mideast. Today we have troops from Russia, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Britain, and a host of others already in the Middle East.

SLIDE # 5. REV 16:13-16 QUOTE

SLIDE # 6 Christ’s Second Advent occurs during that final war.
II. The 26 Events surrounding the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Advent.

1. Nations come against Jerusalem to battle –
   they are also there to fight against each other
   
   Zech 14:2

2. The Jews defending Jerusalem fight and are defeated –
   they lose the city— AGAIN!
   
   Zech 14:2

3. Women are ravished by the enemy soldiers and houses looted.
   
   Zech 14:2

4. Half of the population is exiled out of the city and half remains.
   
   Zech 14:2

   Israel cries out to God to save them - Suddenly the LORD answers!

5. But immediately after the tribulation of those days
   THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL FROM THE SKY
   
   Mt 24:29

6. The sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky,
   
   Mt 24:30

7. The light of the incoming invaders grows larger for 24 hours as the earth turns so that every eye sees him.
   
    
   Rev 1:7

8. All the tribes of the earth will mourn not in repentance but in doom
   
   Rev 1:7

9. They will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY**

   with power and great glory.
   
   Mt 24:30

10. This day of Jesus’ return will be totally unique in history

    Zech 14:7

11. The greatest earthquake the world has ever seen takes place

    Rev 16:18

12. Jerusalem itself is split into three parts

    Rev 16:19

13. Cities of the nations fall.

    Rev 16:19

14. The rebuilt city of Babylon is totally destroyed in a moment

    Rev 16:19

15. Islands simply sink into the ocean and completely disappear

    Rev 16:20

16. Mountains all over the world collapse

    Rev 16:20

17. 100 lb hailstones kill many

    Rev 16:21

18. Christ comes to judge all the wicked accompanied by the armies of heaven including angels and saints.

    Jude 14-15

    Rev 19:14

19. The feet of the Lord Himself stand on the mount of Olives

    Zech 14:4

20. The Mountain splits in two moving north and south creating a valley to the east through which the Jews may escape the city.

    Zech 14:5

21. Jesus Christ destroys the all armies gathered against Israel

    Rev 19:19-21

22. He destroys the beast and false prophet.

    Rev 19:20

23. When Israel sees who their deliverer from heaven really is – the whole nation will mourn.

    Zech 12:10

24. The saving blood of Calvary will then be applied to the people of Israel as a whole.

    Zech 13:1

25. Satan is bound in bottomless pit for 1000 years

    Rev 20:1-3

26. Resurrection of Tribulation and OT saints

    Rev 20:4-5

    Dan 12:1-2
III. THE JUDGMENTS AFTER CHRIST’S RETURN

IV A. The sheep and goat judgment Matthew 25

(Things to Come: 420-421)

1. It is a judgment on living Gentile survivors of the Great Tribulation not those raised from the dead.
2. It is a judgment to determine who lives to enter the earthly Kingdom.
3. It cannot be on the basis of their works that they are saved because that would contradict the rest of Scripture.
4. The works must be seen as revealing their faith and character
5. The works are the proof not the cause of their righteousness

Mt 24:14 the gospel of the kingdom will be preached to all the nations (ethnic groups) - so all will have a last witness.

Note: People are judged as individuals not as nations. (Pentecost p 420)
- People cannot be saved as national units but only as individuals
- These are the actions of individuals not of national political entities
- Scripture teaches that no unsaved person will enter the kingdom
  John 3:3, Mt 18:3 (unless you are converted and become as little children you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven).
- All other judgments in God’s judgment program are individual judgments
- The term “nations” is used of individuals in the following texts and therefore can be properly used of individuals here.
  Mt 6:32 the Gentiles seek (ethne)
  Mt 12:21 in his name the Gentiles will hope.
  Mt 20:19 deliver him (Christ) up to the Gentiles
  Mt 28:19 make disciples of all the nations (Gentiles) = INDIVIDUALS
  Acts 11:18 God has granted to the Gentiles repentance to life
  Acts 15:3 and Acts 26:20; Acts 28:28 etc.

B. The judgment of living Jews who survive the tribulation.
“All Israel” does not mean every living Jew who survives the tribulation because most scholars believe Ezekiel 20:33-38 is a judgment just before the Kingdom.
ADDITIONAL NOTES on the SECOND COMING

Titus 2:13 refers to the Rapture not the Second Advent of Christ.

The distinction LaHaye and Ice make in Titus 2:13 between the “blessed hope” and “the glorious appearing” of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ seems overdone and rather contrived in my opinion. They suggest that Paul is referring here to two separate stages in the 2nd Advent of Christ. The rapture is the “blessed hope” while the glorious appearing is Christ’s Second Advent. While I understand the general support for such a distinction, I question if this distinction can be maintained in this verse.

If the “blessed hope” and “glorious appearing” are two events then believers are supposed to be looking for both of them! How can that be if Christians are caught away at the pretribulational rapture? The dispensational argument for imminency then evaporates.

John Walvoord, in a Bib Sac article called “Premillennialism and The Tribulation,” says that the blessed hope and appearing of his glory both refer to the Pre-Trib Rapture. At the Rapture we believers see Christ’s glory, only at the 2nd Advent does the world see it!

In Titus 2:13, our future hope is described as “looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” While the appearing of the glory of Christ to the world and to Israel will not be fulfilled until the second coming to establish the kingdom on earth, the church will see the glory of Christ when she meets Him in the air. This is the express teaching of 1 John 3:2: “but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (AV) Again, it is difficult to make realistic a command to “look” for the glory of Christ if, as a matter of fact, the event is separated from us by great trials and persecutions which in all probability would cause our destruction.¹