

TEXT Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 19:11-21

SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURES Zechariah 14:3-5; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 14:20

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to relate that at the Revelation of Christ, Jesus returns to earth with His saints following the Marriage Supper. At this time the armies of the Antichrist gather to fight against Christ and His saints at the Battle of Armageddon and are defeated.

KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him. — Revelation 1:7

KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. — Revelation 1:7

ANSWER
TITLE:

SEARCH
TITLE:

Chapter Nine
The Revelation of Christ
and Armageddon

REFERENCE INFORMATION

In the Battle of Armageddon, armies from all nations will gather in Palestine to war against God. In their rage, they will especially ravage Jerusalem and destroy a great part of Israel’s population (Revelation 16:14-16; Zechariah 12:3). At this point, the heavens will open and Christ will be revealed with His army of saints. He alone will wreak vengeance and judgment upon His enemies. A 200-mile carnage will result, concentrated in a place called Armageddon. That battlefield, the plain of

Esdraelon (Greek for Jezreel), was famous for two great victories: of Barak over the Canaanites, and of Gideon over the Midianites. It was also the scene of two great disasters, the deaths of Saul and Josiah. It signifies in Revelation a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked. As the site of perhaps more bloody encounters than any other spot on earth, it is an appropriate place for the scene of the great conflict pictured in Revelation 16.

YOUR OPENER

The Revelation of Christ and Armageddon

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RESPONSES

1. Similarities mentioned may be that Mt. Olivet is the location of both occurrences, saints were and will be present, and Christ departed and will appear in a cloud. Discuss with your class the probable feelings of those who witnessed and will witness either of these two dramatic events.

2. Help the students realize that all sinners will experience guilty feelings and will mourn because they were not ready to meet Christ. All sinners, rich or poor, moral or immoral, will hide themselves and will cry to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us . . ." Emphasize that those who have not prepared will be filled with the torment of guilt and fear of the final judgment to come.

3. He is riding — a white horse
His eyes are like — a flame of fire
On His head are — many crowns
His clothing was — dipped in blood
His name is called — The Word of God
Out of His mouth goes — a sharp two-edged sword
On His clothing was written — KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS
His feet were — like fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace
His countenance was like — the sun shining strongly
In summary, help your students compare the humble life of Jesus' first time on earth, with the majesty and power which will accompany His Second Coming to earth.

Something big is about to happen. Jesus Christ is coming for His Church. Once He has come and taken them to be with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the full fury of the Great Tribulation will break upon our world with the Antichrist as the world ruler. Then the climax of the Tribulation will take place when Christ returns with His saints at the time of the Battle of Armageddon.

1. Jesus' ascension into Heaven is recorded in Acts 1:9-11. In Zechariah 14:4,5 and Revelation 1:7 we read of the coming of Jesus Christ as King. Note here some similarities between Christ's ascension and His return to govern the world.

2. After reading the text in Matthew 24:29-31 and Revelation 6:15-17, describe how the sinners will react to the Revelation of Christ.

3. Using Revelation 1:13-16 and 19:11-16, describe the manner and appearance of Jesus Christ as He leads His heavenly army to meet Satan's earthly army in the Battle of Armageddon. Complete the following statements:

He is riding
His eyes are like
On His head are
His clothing was
His name is called
Out of His mouth goes
On His clothing was written
His feet were
His countenance was like

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

4. What does Revelation 19:19 predict?

5. Where is this great battle to be fought? See Revelation 16:14,16.

6. What characterized the armies which followed Christ from Heaven? See Revelation 19:8,14.

7. During the battle, what happened to the Beast and the false prophet?

8. What happened to the army of the Antichrist?

9. Who came with Christ when He came back from Heaven?

10. How can we qualify to be a part of Christ's army when He comes back to earth to destroy the Antichrist and rule for a thousand years? See Revelation 3:5.

20

4. The verse predicts that the Beast (Antichrist) will gather together with the kings of the earth in preparation for a great battle.

5. The battle will be fought at a place called Armageddon. This is believed to be Mount Megiddo, the valley of which is called Jezreel. It is mentioned several times in Scripture. Discuss with your students some of the other famous battles that have taken place at this location. Gideon vs. the Midianites (Judges 6:33); Josiah vs. Necho (II Chronicles 35:20-24); Israel vs. the Canaanites (Judges 5:19). Conclude your discussion by bringing out that, as those Scriptures refer to the defeat of Israel's enemies, it seems fitting that the victory of Christ and the armies of Heaven over the Antichrist and his armies should take place here.

6. They were clothed in fine linen, which is the "righteousness of saints." Ask your students what the significance of the white linen is, leading them to the understanding that no sin will enter Heaven.

7. They were cast alive into the lake of fire. A discussion should bring out the thought that the Beast and false prophet were actual personages, and not political entities, as some have suggested. The point should be made that this was, for them, the second death. They will never return from the lake of fire.

8. They were killed with the sword from Christ's mouth. Discuss with the class that all things are under God's control. Those who serve Satan may think they can do as they please, but sooner or later the Law of God comes into force. "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

9. The armies which were in Heaven. Using the answer to this question, discuss with your students the privileges and rewards of the raptured saints. Not only will they enjoy the Marriage Supper, they will return with Christ as the conquering army to rule and reign with Him for a thousand years.

10. We qualify by being an overcomer. Have the students look at Revelation 3:5 as a supplement to verse 14 of our text. They should see that the overcomer is one who has had his sins washed in the Blood of the Lamb and has been living a life free from sin. Wrap up the lesson by pointing your students toward the importance of preparing while there is still time.

YOUR WRAP-UP

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Have you ever visited a cave—or been shut in a room or a closet—where there was no light? How long would you like to be in a place with no light? Yet verse 29 of our text says that the sun will be darkened and the moon will give no light. Add the thought of darkness to the terrors of those times and events and imagine the panic.

What do you think is meant by “powers of the heavens” mentioned in verse 29?

Compare Christ’s coming at the time of His birth, with His coming as described in Revelation 19:11.

Who are His “elect” mentioned in Matthew 24:31?

Who are the “armies of heaven” in Revelation 19:14?

What is the Battle of Armageddon and who will be at this battle?

In our ANSWER story, what outstanding event did Nick witness and how did it affect him? How do you think you would have felt in his place?

THINGS TO DO

Illustrate to your students different ways that can be used to catch everyone’s attention: A flash of bright light! A loud, booming noise! A sudden and prolonged hush! Loss of power so there is no light! God’s Word tells us that when Jesus returns to earth following the Marriage Supper, every eye shall see Him. He will be revealed and everyone will know Him. His appearing will be more dramatic than anything we can imagine.

Use a simple paper-doll figure to represent a “saint.” (Or draw an outline on posterboard.) Add pieces of “fine raiment which is the righteousness of the saints.” Talk about what Christian qualities might be a part of this “fine raiment.” Ask your students to name a few of the qualities: Honesty, Faithfulness, Love, Faith, Goodness.

Label each part of the raiment with words suggested by your students.

Using question number 3 in SEARCH, make a set of 3x5 cards for your students to match, such as:

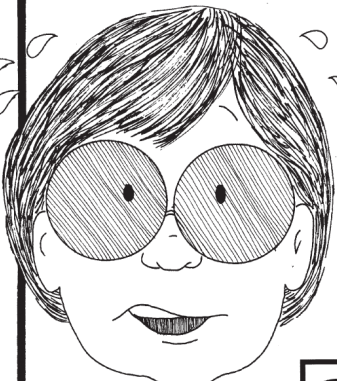
He is riding / a white horse

His eyes were like / a flame of fire

Bring pictures of other great wars, and statistics of how many were killed in each conflict. Compare this to the Battle of Armageddon.

Answers for ANSWER

Good Against Evil



A Battle! That means war! The Battle of Armageddon will be a mighty war between good and evil.

The word-find below contains several words taken from this lesson’s text. As you find the words, try to remember how Nick felt when this battle took place. How would you feel?

SUN
WAR
FOWL
KING
LORD
MOON
BEAST
CLOUD
CROWN
FLESH
GLORY
JUDGE
LINEN
MOURN
SWORD

TRIBE
ANGELS
ARMIES
HEAVEN
NATIONS
TRUMPET
ALMIGHTY
MIRACLES
BRIMSTONE
TRIBULATION
LAKE OF FIRE
WHITE HORSE
FALSE PROPHET
MARK OF THE BEAST

B	R	I	M	S	T	O	N	E	R	O	S	P	E	L	Y
K	B	E	A	S	T	D	U	V	L	H	S	E	L	F	I
N	P	K	Q	H	E	A	V	E	N	L	M	M	P	A	K
T	Q	U	I	G	G	N	Z	V	C	L	O	U	D	L	S
S	O	X	T	N	O	G	K	D	K	Y	U	L	X	S	D
A	R	S	R	V	G	E	O	B	R	U	R	I	V	E	E
E	T	R	I	B	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	N	O	P	W
B	R	K	B	Y	K	S	O	U	T	V	L	E	A	R	E
E	U	V	E	U	B	U	Q	R	O	C	B	N	L	O	R
H	M	Q	W	K	Q	Z	Y	X	Y	R	X	Z	M	P	I
T	P	I	A	O	V	O	V	K	Q	O	O	I	H	F	
F	E	S	R	O	H	E	T	I	H	W	O	U	G	E	F
O	T	Y	X	A	Z	O	Q	U	O	N	K	V	H	T	O
K	O	U	K	R	C	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	R	E
R	V	O	F	O	W	L	X	V	P	N	O	X	Y	U	K
A	R	M	I	E	S	Q	E	O	U	P	Q	O	K	O	A
M	B	J	U	D	G	E	V	S	W	O	R	D	V	Z	L