

# ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES

Startling Presentation of Coming Events.

## PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite in Common Cause—Powerful Influence Preparing for the Battle of Armageddon—A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until the Messiah Takes Control.



Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 3.—The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together unto a place called in the Hebrew tongue 'Armageddon'."

*(Revelation xvi. 16.)* The speaker said:

Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battle field in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error, right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used truly symbolic figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revealment. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 30)—none who are out of heart having with God—but only the wise of the people—the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request and because I believe it is due time to be understood. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do indeed constitute a terrible arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

**The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet.**

Our context tells us that three huge spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth. They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retinues of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid

league—Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them, will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their henchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons," represented by the "frogs," will lead many subtle people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval restraints will be considered necessary for self-preservation—for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Revelation xiii, 2) represents the Papacy. But fewer still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii, 15) in our context given another name, "the False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation, nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I, for one, will be very glad to consider any, when which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

**"Unclean Spirits Like Frogs."**

The symbolisms of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to symbolically represent certain

doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look, it swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief power, used to croak.

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed—all will croak in harmony. "All will tell of dire results that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life, if their counsel be not followed. However conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as everything *else*, at the mouths of these "frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Caiaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Caiaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of Justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croaking of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation. In their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is Justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great Earthquake." An "earthquake" in symbolic language, signifies social revolution, and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.—Matthew xxiv, 21.

**The Lord Will Gather Them.**

The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that *He* shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc. will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael (the Godlike One—Messiah) stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness; and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "verily thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely. As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive or object prompting them.

The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very nondescript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle-class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah's Kingdom. These will bid the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy," to which they have done well to take heed, "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn."—II Peter 1, 19.

The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the kings and princes, financial, religious and political, which will then hold sway. Besides, the masses have no sympathy with anarchy. They realize truly that the worst form of government is better than none. The masses will seek relief through the ballot and peaceful re-adjustment of earth's affairs for the elimination of evil, for

the placing of monopolies and utilities and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the hitherto upholders of law shall become violators of the law and resisters of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well-meaning masses to desperation; and anarchy will result when Socialism fails.

**The Cloud's Silver Lining.**

Horrible would be this outlook for the future did we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a glorious outcome! Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millionaires and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that would have been too soon for the Divine purpose, because Messiah's Kingdom is to be the great Thousand-Year-Sabbath of the world's history. God in kindness veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon would immediately precede Messiah's taking to Himself His great power, and beginning His reign.—Revelation xi, 17, 18.

**"Send Them Strong Delusions."**

St. Paul wrote prophetically of our time, that it would be one of serious trial and testing to many professing to be Christians. The reason for this he states—they received not the Truth in the love of it. (II Thessalonians ii, 10, 11.) They preferred their own erroneous theories, the Apostle explains, and therefore God will give them over to a "strong delusion," and let them believe the lie which they preferred, and let them suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be in the condemned host, "fighting against God," because of their lack of love for the Truth.

It is sad to say that we all as Christians have been laboring under a thorough delusion respecting God's Plan. We have claimed that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power, and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ's Kingdom. All the while we thoughtlessly repeated the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as in Heaven." We knew that the Redeemer said that He would come again to make us His Bride and joint-heirs; but we ignored the Scriptures. We were drunk, as the Scriptures symbolically say, "all nations were drunk" with the false doctrine. It is this false doctrine that will constitute the "frog" spirit which soon will begin to croak and to prepare for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captaincy of Satan and his associated fallen angels. By Divine grace Jesus has already "instead, death for every man," and the merit of that sacrifice must, eventually, grant Adam and his posterity a full, fair opportunity for the attainment of everlasting life. All who thus seek the Divine program and are walking in the light may know something at least respecting the "times and seasons." These brethren "are not in darkness, that that day laid that battle of Armageddon should overtake" them "as a thief" —unawares.

**Armageddon Not Yet but Soon.**

For forty years the Armageddon forces have been mustering for both sides of the conflict. Strikes, lockouts and riots, great and small, have been merely incidental skirmishes as the belligerent parties crossed each other's paths. Court and Army scandals in Europe, Insurance, Trust and Court scandals in America, have shaken public confidence. Dynamite plots, charged by turns on employees and on employers, have further shaken confidence and tended to make each distrustful of the other. Bitter and angry feelings on both sides are more and more manifest. The lines of battle are daily becoming more distinctly marked. Nevertheless Armageddon cannot yet be fought. Other matters intervene, according to prophecy.

Gentile times have still two years to run. The "Image of the Beast" of our context must yet receive life-power. The Image must be transformed from a mere mechanism to a living force. Protestant Federation realizes that its organization will still be futile unless it receive vitalization—unless its clergy directly or indirectly shall be recognized as possessed of apostolic ordination, and authority to teach. This the prophecy indicates will come from the two-horned beast, which we believe, symbolically represents the Church of England. High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties, await this vivifying of the Image. This may come soon, but Armageddon cannot precede it, but must follow—perhaps a year after it, according to our view of the Prophecy.

Still another thing intervenes: Although the Jews are gradually owing control of the land of Canaan, and although reports say that already nineteen millionaires are there, nevertheless prophecy requires an evidently larger number of wealthy Hebrews to be there before the Armageddon crisis is reached. Indeed we understand that "Jacob's trouble" in the Holy Land will come at the very close of Armageddon. Then Messiah's Kingdom will begin to be manifested. Thenceforth Israel in the land of promise will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur of prophecy. Through its Divinely appointed prince Messiah's Kingdom, all-powerful but invisible, will begin to roll away the curse and to lift up mankind.

# WAR REMINISCENCES

## STORY OF DECATUR BATTLE

Interesting Account is Related of Hot Time at That Important Stronghold in Alabama.

In the National Tribune of May 21 Sergeant Ashley V. Newton, Co. D, 3d Mich., in "Colored Troops at Decatur," says that at Nashville his regiment got a rush order to proceed to Decatur to reinforce General Milroy, who was being closely pressed by Forrest. General Milroy was not at Decatur; neither was Forrest, writes Will A. McTeer, adjutant, 3d Tenn. Cav., and acting assistant adjutant general, First Brigade, Fourth Division, Cavalry Corps, Maryville, Tenn., in the National Tribune. Gen. Robert S. Granger was in command of the military district of north Alabama, with headquarters at Decatur and Huntsville. Col. C. C. Doolittle, of the 18th Mich., was in command of the post at Decatur.

Comrade Newton says: "We found the bridge burned, but General Milroy had provided for our coming by erecting a pontoon bridge."

"Our Cavalry Brigade reported to General Granger for duty, arriving at Decatur July 10, 1864, and the bridge was destroyed before that time, and the pontoon was erected then, and appeared as if it had been there for months before. It appears that it was placed there by General Sherman when on his way from Memphis to Chattanooga."

Further, Comrade Newton says:

"The Confederates seeing us, emphasized their objection by rushing a six-piece battery down to the bank of the river within easy range of the bridge, and they would have mixed things up very seriously for the 3d Mich. but for the timely intervention of two companies of colored troops that were sent by General Milroy to distract their attention in another direction."

I was acting assistant adjutant general of the Cavalry Brigade and on the line of battle. Hood (not Forrest) attacked us, October 26, 1864.

In General Granger's report to General Thomas he fixes his whole force at Decatur at 1,750, and with the 29th Mich. added, which had just arrived, and 350 absent on patrol duty, there were only 2,000 men to defend Decatur. Every available man was placed out on the line, and then we could not reach around more than half way in front of our works. The only reason that the first day's fighting was not one of the greatest battles of the war was because there were not men enough to make it so.

There were no colored troops there that day, but in the night we were reinforced by the 14th U. S. Colored Inf., commanded by Col. (afterwards General) J. T. Morgan.

The 3d and 29th Mich. reinforced us while engaged in the hottest part on the first afternoon. I remember distinctly their coming, and as they went out on the line the appearance of the bright, new uniforms was in decided contrast to our own worn and dingy clothing.

The Confederates were using a battery at a lively rate with deadly effect, but it was nearly a mile from the river and not in range of the bridge at all. On the 27th the enemy threw up some pits on the bank of the river, about a mile above Decatur and nearly a half mile from where the battery was first used by them on the first day. On the morning of the 28th a detachment from the 18th Mich. and with the 29th Mich. (according to my journal 47 men) made their way down the river, succeeded in fanning the Confederate rifle pits, made a gallant charge from their rear, in which a number of men were killed and wounded, and brought in 120 prisoners.

I stood on the upper porch of the Decatur hotel when Colonel Morgan came in front with the 14th regiment of colored troops (not two companies), and they piled their knapsacks, leaving one man to the company as guards. I noticed Colonel Morgan holding in his hand a small hatchet, and also a number of the officers had hatchets. They started out in the open field, marching in excellent order to within rifle range of the Confederates, when they fired a volley, then raised a yell and charged.

The affair did not last much more than 20 minutes, but the work was bloody. They drove the Confederates from their support with the bayonet. The guns were spiked, and the colored boys had to fall down along the water's edge under the bank of the river, while the enemy ran along above them and shot down on them.

In his report of this charge, General Granger says: "We lost 40 killed and wounded," and up to that time our loss amounted to 80.

In the forenoon of October 29 the enemy began to withdraw, and I was at the place where this battery had stood, and it was a place of blood without a doubt. Prior to this charge Capt. Albert F. Beach, Battery A, 1st Regt. Art., had taken two sections of his guns up on the north side of the river, opposite the Confederate battery, and they fought an artillery duel across the river, and Beach succeeded in blowing up two of their caissons, which killed quite a number of them, and this was evident on the ground.

# Bronchiline

A safe, pleasant remedy for Coughs, Colds, and all Bronchial affections. It relieves congestion and soothes without containing anything in the nature of an opiate. Has been in use for more than twenty years, and in that time, has been used and endorsed by leading Physicians in all sections of the United States.

BRONCHILINE is the ideal expectorant. We are not asking you to experiment with some new remedy. Call for BRONCHILINE and take no substitute.

A trial will convince you that BRONCHILINE is *the best*.

Keep a bottle in your home—two sizes 25 and 50 cents.

**Ohio County Drug Co.**

INCORPORATED HARTFORD, N. Y.

PETER NEAT RICHARDSON CO.

DRUGGISTS

DRUGGISTS