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Israel is critical to the Great Tribulation. In fact, it is the signing of a covenant peace treaty between the leader (Antichrist) of the “Federated States of Europe” and Israel that actually starts the Tribulation—Daniel 9:27.

The Great Tribulation is specifically called the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7), which again clearly links it to Israel. **The Tribulation will be used by God to accomplish three things for Israel: 1) National regathering; 2) National repentance; 3) National refocus on Jesus Christ (Matt. 23:39; Hos. 5:15-6:3; Joel 2:12-32).**

Event #3 - There will be a major battle called Armageddon (Rev. 16:16).

At the time of the Antichrist and the Tribulation, a major battle will be fought in Israel’s land the likes of which has never been seen before. The Antichrist will actually be headquartered in Israel (Dan. 11:41, 45) and nations will come up against him.

There will be a great army that will move toward Israel’s land that will come from the south and will include Africa and Egypt (Dan. 11:40). There will be a great army that will come from the north that will include Russia and others that will align themselves with Russia such as Iran (Dan. 11:40). At the same time, when the Antichrist is dealing with this, there will be a major move from China. It is predicted that a 200 million man army will come from the east to take over Israel (Rev.9:16). So at this point in time, as Dr. Walvoord said, “the land of Israel will be the major battleground” (*Armageddon, Oil and the Middle East Crisis*, p. 180).

What most will not understand is that this is not just another world war; this is being orchestrated by God with Israel in view. Revelation 16:13-14 informs us that demonic force will actually gather together the nations of the world for a final battle that will occur just prior to the coming of Jesus Christ. The world’s armies will be gathered at a specific place called, in Hebrew, Harmagedon (Rev. 16:16).

The Hebrew “harm” is a word that means mountain and the word “Megiddo” refers to a location in northern Palestine. The valley is 14 miles wide and 20 miles long and this will be a major spot for the final battle. Armies will be moving toward this spot from all directions.

By this point in the Tribulation, millions have already died. This will be the spot of the final battle in which God will pour out His final wrath. God Himself will intervene and destroy all these armies (Isaiah 34:1-3, 6).

Many believe that the description given in Revelation 14:20, which specifically mentions a judgment outside the city of Jerusalem, gives an overview of Harmagedon. It has been computed that the actual radius around Jerusalem is about 200 miles. Dead bodies and blood will literally be stacked up for 200 miles that are as high as horses’ bridles. Ezekiel predicts that it will take 7 months for all people of Israel to clean up the bodies (Ez. 39:11-15).