

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

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Vol. 31 No. 1 January 2018 George L. Faull, Editor

Armageddon

By Terry Carter

Recently Nancy Pelosi was asked about the tax plan that the Senate had passed. She responded, "It is the end of the world...this is Armageddon".

This article is not about the tax plan or Nancy Pelosi. However, her comments got me to thinking about what we mean when we describe something as "Armageddon" and what the Scriptures mean by Armageddon.

The term, "Armageddon", is often used generically to describe an "end of the world" scenario or situation. We automatically think of it as a horrible disaster from which there can be no recovery. But is that really the way we, as Christians, ought to view the end of the world and Armageddon?

It occurs to me that the end of the world is disaster for those who love this present world and are worldly people. But for the Christian, the end of the world is actually something to which we can look forward. This is because we recognize the wickedness of this present world and look forward to a new Heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells.

"10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;" Il Peter 3:10-14 (NKJV)

The word "Armageddon" only appears once in Scripture in **Revelation 16:16**. There, it is the place where all the

kings of the earth are gathered to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

"14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty...16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." Revelation 16:14, 16 (NKJV)

But in **Revelation Chapter 19**, when the kings of the earth battle against the Lord, they are all destroyed. That is, God and His saints are victorious while His enemies, and the enemies of His people, are completely defeated.

This is not defeat for the saints, it is victory. It is not something to be lamented, it is something to be celebrated. One author called it the, "divine obliteration of God's enemies".

Maybe the next time you hear somebody say, "This is Armageddon", the proper response should be, "hallelujah, it is about time", or maybe in the words of John, "even so come Lord Jesus", **Revelation 22:20**.

To respond with sorrow may just indicate friendship with this world rather than a longing for the new world where righteousness dwells.