

The Winepress of God's Wrath

The definition of the winepress

And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. - Revelation 14:20

The winepress of the wrath of God will be a literal event, ending the Battle of Armageddon. Just as Moses led the children of Israel into the Red Sea, drowning the Egyptians that followed, so at the end of the age, the Lord will open up a large valley starting at the Mount of Olives. The children of Israel will run into this valley followed by their enemies. *“And blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs”*. (180 miles)

Why do Christians not ponder the winepress?

Because of the size and scope of this event, it deserves our consideration. Then, why do most Bible studies on the Battle of Armageddon ignore it? Do we not believe the Bible plainly documents it? Does believing in a [pretribulation rapture](#) make the studying of events during the tribulation superficial? In that day Millions will wish they had believed the Bible, learning, after it is too late, the same lesson as the Egyptian charioteers.

A Biblical description of the winepress

Zechariah 14:1-5

- 1. Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.*
- 2. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*
- 3. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*
- 4. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*
- 5. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.*

According to Zechariah, Israel will lose the battle (Zechariah 14:2); the situation will look more hopeless than it did Moses when he was penned in at the edge of the Red Sea.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? - Exodus 14:10-11

There will be one difference, this time when all seems lost, the children of Israel will finally recognize their Messiah. It will be at this time, when all seems lost, the mountain will cleave in half and the children of Israel will "flee to the valley of the mountains". While Zechariah chapter 14 does not state that the armies of the world will follow after Israel. The Bible does hint at how it will end in many other passages.

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. - Revelation 14:19-20

AND

*And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the **earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.**
- Revelation 12:15-16*

Moses and Egypt are allegories

According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I show unto him marvelous things. - Micah 7:15

As Micah said, at the end of the age God will duplicate many events that happened during the children of Israel's exodus out of Egypt. For instance, God will duplicate the plagues of Moses. God will plead for the world to leave his chosen people alone and finally he will destroy the wicked.

Here are a few other passages of scripture that indicate God will do a miracle similar to Moses leading the people through the Red Sea.

*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and as **his rod was upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt.** - Isaiah 10:24-26*

AND

And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt. - Isaiah 11:16

AND

*Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, **Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock?** where is he that put his Holy Spirit within him?*

*That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, **dividing the water before them**, to make himself an everlasting name?*

***That led them through the deep**, as a horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble? As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, **to make thyself a glorious name.** - Isaiah 63:11-14*

AND

*The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; **and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.** - Amos 8:7-8*

AND

*And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: **and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.** - Amos 9:5*

AND

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. - Revelation 14:19-20

Three verses later in Revelation, after this winepress, they sing the song of Moses. “*I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea*”. For those who wish to look this verse up, it is in Exodus 15.

***And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God**, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. - Revelation 15:3-4*

Timing of the event

The winepress of the wrath of God, or the earth swallowing up the wicked is the last event at the end of this age. It is also the first event at the Lord's second coming.

*The Lord said, I will bring again from Bashan, I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea: **That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same.** - Psalm 68:22-23*

AND

*Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? **I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.** Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the wine vat? **I have trodden the winepress alone;** and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. **For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.** - Isaiah 63:1-4*

The size of God's wine press

I will also water with thy blood the land wherein thou swimst, even to the mountains; and the rivers shall be full of thee. - Ezekiel 32:6

In Revelation 14, John describes the blood coming out of the winepress for a distance of one hundred eighty four miles. The depth of blood coming out of the winepress will reach up to the horses bridle.

*And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, **by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs [184 miles].**
- Revelation 14:19-20*

Many Bible commentaries believe the Apostle John was only speaking allegorically because there is too much blood to imagine. However, after doing some calculations, it appears the winepress may be too small. Therefore at the end of the age, the punishment of the wicked includes other plagues than just the winepress alone.

Could the blood come up to the horses bridle for a length of one hundred eighty four miles? Here are some calculations concerning the armies coming up to the valley of Armageddon at the end of the age. Zechariah said that God "*will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle*" (Zec 14:2). For our calculations however, we will only look at the two hundred million soldiers that are under the kings of the east. These numbers come from Revelation chapters 9 and 16:

*And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and **the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.** - Revelation 16:12*

AND

*[A voice from before God said] to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates [...] And **the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.**
- Revelation 9:14-16*

Calculating size -

- Two hundred million soldiers spread out over one hundred eighty miles (the length of the winepress) equals:
 - Eighty seven thousand people per mile, which equals:
 - About two hundred and six soldiers for every foot of the winepress.
- An adult male has about five quarts of blood.
 - Two hundred and six soldiers times five quarts equals 1,030 quarts of blood.
 - If each barrel equals 55 gallons, this is four and a half barrels for each foot of the winepress.

These gruesome calculations consider only the troops under the kings of the east. Add to this the armies of Europe, Russia, Africa, North and South America and we can see that the winepress may to small.

*Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: **for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.***

*Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; **for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.***

***Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision:** for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. - Joel 3:12-14*

Lessons to be learned

We are not listening to God

If Pharaoh had listened to Moses, he would not have lost his army in the Red Sea. In the same way, if we were listening to God, or believed God when he speaks the winepress could not be filled up with blood.

Moses gave Pharaoh plenty of signs, therefore he was without excuse. We have been given plenty of signs. Are we going to listen?

***Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken,** ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.*

***For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations,** and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.*

*Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, **and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.***

And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree. - Isaiah 34:1-4

AND

*And I will bring distress upon men, that **they shall walk like blind men,** because they have sinned against the LORD: **and their blood shall be poured out as dust,** and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's*

wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. - Zephaniah 1:17-18

God is angry with the nations

First: God is angry with the Jews for breaking their covenant.

Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. - Isaiah 31:6

It is actually this great tribulation period and the world's armies at the Battle of Armageddon that brings Israel to her senses and causes her to turn *unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted.*

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. - Zechariah 12:10

Second: God is angry with the nations for their treatment of Israel during the last three thousand years.

and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.
- Isaiah 34:7-8

AND

*Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; **he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth.*** - Jeremiah 25:30

AND

I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. - Isaiah 14:25-26

AND

*The sun and moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. Thou didst march through the land in indignation, **thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.** Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah. - Habakkuk 3:11-13*

Third: God is angry is with the world for its treatment of his saints.

*Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath. The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: **he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.** - Psalm 58:9-10*

Finally: God has had enough of the world's rebellion against him. He has given us and would continue to give us good things; however, as it is written, we have hated Him without a cause.

*And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. **Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host,** and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. - Daniel 8:10-11*

AND

*These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. **These shall make war with the Lamb,** and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. - Revelation 17:13-14*

AND

*And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: **and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.** - Revelation 19:14-16*

Conclusion

Have you ever wondered what Pharaohs' army was thinking when they chased after Israel into the Red Sea? Did they hesitate? Did each soldier march in blind obedience? Were they in such a rage that they did not think at all? If Pharaohs' army was foolish to follow Israel into the Red Sea the first time, how do we describe the army that follows after Israel the second time?

No less than eleven prophets King David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Zechariah and St. John speak of this event and yet, none of the wicked will understand.

*For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, [1st Ch 14:8-17] that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act. **Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong:** for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth. - Isaiah 28:21-22*

If you need to find out what God expects of you you can take our [Two Question Test](#) or email me at jeff@the-gospel.org, I will be glad to help.

This study was written by [Jeff Barnes](#).