

Gospel Power



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:16)

The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

**Anderson
church of Christ**
5900 Highway 207
Anderson, Alabama

Visit Us On The Web
Anderson-church.org

Men Priviledged To Serve:
Sunday, November 26th

Bible Classes

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading (Lev. 11:24-31)
..... Daniel Clemmons
Prayer
..... Brad Hammond

Morning Worship

Song Leader
..... Phil Pressnell
Prayer
..... Eddie J. Hammond
Lord's Supper
Presiding Rocky Rose
Assisting Ronnie Phillips
Serving Hunter Cox
..... Jimmie Lovell
..... Michael Word
..... Corey Goode
Closing Prayer
..... Joanthan Keenon

Evening Worship

Song Leader
..... Jim Phillips
Bible Reading (Lev. 11:32-40)
..... Rodney McCrary
Prayer
..... Aric Bulter
Lord's Supper
..... Rocky Rose
..... Ronnie Phillips
Closing Prayer
..... Jimmy Glass

Volume XIII

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“Armageddon” and “Hell”

Clark Dugger

Today, many believe and teach that there will be one last horrific battle fought here upon the earth between good and evil known as the battle of Armageddon. It is a battle that will occur just prior (or subsequent) to the 1000 year reign of Christ on the throne of David in the Temple in Jerusalem. Interestingly enough, like the 1000 year reign, Armageddon is mentioned specifically in only one chapter of the Bible, Revelation 16:13-16. This reference describes a scene in which frogs come forth from the mouths of creatures to do battle for the devil, the result of which is a war in which there are 200,000 horsemen and a river of blood 200 miles long. Sounds ridiculous doesn't it? Well, it is.

To begin with, we must remember that while most view the book of Revelation as a book of prophecy, it is in reality, a book of history, for it deals with “things which must shortly take place” (Revelation 1:1). Not only so, these events were “signified,” that is, written in signs or symbolic language. Consequently, Christ reveals a vision to John concerning real events that were to happen in the lives of first century Christians masked in a cloak of figurative language. Understanding this, the language of Revelation 16 describes a real conflict between good and evil that existed in the first century as Rome persecuted faithful disciples of Christ.

Exactly what is Armageddon (Har-Magedon)? The Hebrew word “har” was used loosely to refer to “hill” or “hill country.” The hill of Megiddo was approximately 70 feet high in John's day in the vicinity of the Carmel range. It was here, in the Valley of Jezreel where a number of famous battles were fought that historically

stood as a battleground between the forces of good and evil. It was here that Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites (Judges 4:15), Gideon defeated the Midianites (Judges 7), and Saul was defeated by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:8).

It needs to be recognized, however, that in speaking of Armageddon, or the hill of Megiddo, that John is not alluding to a literal place. Instead, Armageddon stands symbolically for the battleground where Satan and his army are destroyed and overcome by Christ. The entire message of Revelation was intended to encourage Christians to remain faithful in the midst of enormous pressures to worship the emperor of Rome. John wrote to inspire first century disciples to endure horrific persecution intended to force them into emperor worship. Armageddon describes this battle. So when Rome fell and false emperor worship ceased, the battle of Armageddon was over.

To understand this, consider that the use of geographical points to emphasize spiritual truths is a common Biblical phenomenon. For instance, the word “hell” (gehenna in Greek) relates to the Hebrew gehinnom, which was the valley of Hinnom just south of Jerusalem.

It was in this valley the Jews offered their children as burnt sacrifices to pagan gods. Because of its connection with such events, Hinnom eventually became the city dump of Jerusalem in which fires burned constantly in an attempt to destroy the refuse. Consequently, because of its connection with suffering and pain and constant burning, gehenna became a symbol for the final punishment of hell.

It is just as absurd to believe that there will be a literal battle of Armageddon fought in the Valley of Jezreel as it is to believe that on the Day of Judgment God will cast the wicked in the literal valley of Hinnom just south of Jerusalem. The fact is, those fires went out centuries ago.

-via *The Proclaimers*; Tyler, Texas.

Abraham's Obedience

Gilbert Alexander

Have you considered what God said to Abraham and how Abraham responded? God told Abraham to leave his native land and to go to a land that God would show him. Abraham obeyed (Genesis 12:1-9; Hebrews 11:8). God told him to look in all directions in that land and to walk in it through its length and width, “for”, He said, “I give it to you.” Abraham believed what God told him, and he built altars to the Lord in the places where he sojourned (Genesis 13:14-18; 12:7,8). God told Abraham that his descendants would be as the stars of heaven in number. Abraham “believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Genesis 15:1-3). Abraham was childless and growing old, yet he believed in the promises of the Lord. God even gave Abraham a sign to assure His promise of Abraham’s possessing the land (Genesis 15:7-21), a promise that would not be realized until the fourth generation.

God repeated His promises and made a covenant with Abraham with this condition: “Walk before Me and be blameless” (Genesis 17:1-9). Circumcision was given as a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham, and Abraham and all his males were circumcised that very day (Genesis 17:23-27). God had confidence in Abraham’s continued obedience – the basis of the covenant. “For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him” (Genesis 18:19).

A great test of Abraham’s faith was given in command to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering (Genesis 22:1, 2). Abraham rose early in the morning and set out to do as he was commanded. He did not falter, even though all

human reasoning would cry out against his taking the life of his heir. He believed that God could raise Isaac from the dead, if necessary (Hebrews 11:17-19). Now hear God's word to Abraham: "By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son – blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven... In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (Genesis 22:16-18).

Do you see how faith worked with his works, and by his works his faith was made complete? (James 2:21-24).

Hence, Abraham was justified when he by faith obeyed God. What is your state before God?

-via *Susquehanna Sentinel*; Marietta, Pennsylvania.

"How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God...For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84:1,2,10).

How wonderful it would be if all professed followers of the Son of Heaven today were motivated by such lofty sentiments relative to "the house of God, which is the church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15)! Be honest, now: Does grass grow on your path to "the house of God"?

- via *Christianity Magazine*; Vol. 16 No. 1; January 1999

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Is There "Grass On Your Path"?

James W. Adams

Preachers returning from evangelizing the natives of Africa tell of the unusual devotion of their converts. Each convert had a separate place in the bush where he went to pray. The well worn paths to these places testified to the degree of their devotion was betrayed by the grass which grew on his path (Bible Truths Illustrated, p. 223).

This comports well with the beautiful sentiments expressed by the Sweet Singer of Israel:

News and Notes

THE SICK: *Virginia Lovell* is doing better and is hoping to be at services today ... *Ronnie Phillips* has been sick and unable to be at services this past week... *Jerry Best* was sick and unable to be at services on Sunday, but was better and able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ... *Mike Rogers' mom, Alice Rogers*, is to have surgery this week in Birmingham... *Angie McCrary's father, Buford Shook*, was admitted to the hospital in Florence this past Wednesday, room 558... *Steve Gatlin* has been struggling with kidney stones this past week, but is doing better now ... *Charlotte Hall* is to continue her chemo treatments on Monday... *Myrtie Williams* is at home and not able to be out ... *Jack Tucker* is not able to be out ... *Larry Johnson* is confined at home ... *Faye Hammond*

is at home ... *Judy Williams' mother, Flossie Kazzaire*, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter*, is in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

TUESDAY CLASSES: Remember the Tuesday night class at 7:30 p.m. In these studies we are looking at the *Kingdom of God* with emphasis on Premillennialism. This week's study will be concerning the second coming of Christ *Bill Hall* is teaching the classes.

GOSPEL MEETING: The Eastside church in Athens is having a gospel meeting beginning today and it will continue through Tuesday evening. The speakers and service times will be as follows: *Sunday- 10:00 a.m. Bobby Hudson; Sunday - 3:00 p.m. John Gibson; Monday - 7:00 p.m. Eddie Littrell; Tuesday - 7:00 p.m. Jeff May.*

OUT OF TOWN: *James and Freda McConnell* have been in Florida on vacation.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight will be the time for Communication Group four to meet. If you are in Group four, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance week of Nov. 19th*
Sunday:

Bible Classes 112
 Morning Worship 130
 Evening Worship 100

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 96



What? Young Adult Home Bible Study
When? Sunday, December 3rd, after our evening service.
Where? At the home of Aric & Andrea Butler
Subject? Searching For Truth About The Church

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Michael Clemmons (256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode (931) 565-3391

Deacons

Jimmy Glass (256) 247-0571
 Mark McIntyre (256) 233-1953
 Phil Pressnell (256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose (256) 247-0011
 Larry White (256) 247-0988
 Brian Word (931) 565-3799

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