

## WHY CHRISTIANS CANNOT BELIEVE EVOLUTION

Jon Gary Williams

What of the Christian's outlook on evolution? Is it possible for the Christian to believe in the theory? In addition to rational, scientific reasons for rejecting evolution there are some other solid Biblical reasons why the Christian must reject it.

- ◆ The Bible teaches a *fiat* creation, that is, a creation by the command of God. ("God said..." Gen. 1:3,6,9,14,20,24; compare Psa. 33:6; 148:1-5; 2 Cor. 4:6) However, evolution denies this, saying that the earth came about by a slow, purely materialistic process.
- ◆ The Bible record reveals that the first plants and animals were created full grown (Gen. 1:11,12,20-25). Evolution denies this, teaching that the first life forms were quite small and incomplete.
- ◆ The Bible states that plants and animals only produced "after their kind" (Gen. 1:11,12,21,24,25). However, evolution, by its very nature implies that plants and animals must produce offspring *not* after their kind.
- ◆ The Bible says there was one original man (Gen. 2:7,8; Mt. 19:4; 1 Cor. 15:45-47). However, evolution says that by the time man became man he was an entire race.
- ◆ The Bible plainly teaches that woman was taken from the side of man (Gen. 2:21-23). However, evolution teaches that woman evolved along side man.
- ◆ The Bible presents man in the image of God and reveals his decline and fall (Gen. 1:27; 3:1-24). Man, then, began at the highest point and fell to the lowest depths. Evolution, on the other hand, has man beginning as a small mass of protoplasm and out of this climbing to the greatest heights.
- ◆ In the Bible man is said to have an immortal soul (Mt. 10:28; Ecc. 12:7). However, evolution pictures "early man" as not much more than mere beast and hardly a candidate for possessing a soul. Did God at some point just "zap" souls into mankind or did the soul also evolve?
- ◆ If evolution is true then there was no first man, no fall, no sin, no punishment and no redemption. This makes void the redemptive plan of man's salvation from sin by the blood of Christ (1 Jno. 1:7). Evolution, therefore, nullifies the Christian system.
- ◆ The Bible teaches that all things were created through Christ (Jno. 1:3; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2). It would be interesting to hear evolutionists explain how Christ worked through the evolution process. But again, such an idea is absurd.
- ◆ Under no circumstance can the Christian believe the philosophy of evolution. The two concepts are separated by a vast gulf.

(Excerpt from *The Other Side of Evolution* by Jon Gary Williams)

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## BULLETIN BRIEFS

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### PRESENT DAY "ARMAGEDDON"

**Jim E. Waldron**

Note: The battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:16) is the symbolic name of the spiritual battle fought between God, Christ, His angels and Christians in the latter part of the 1st century against the beast-like government of Rome and the pagan cults (called the false prophet) of the Empire. From the founding of the church of Christ on Pentecost in May 30 A.D. until the summer of 64, the government of Rome had been a reasonable government that had often protected the saints against their persecutors (Acts 17:7-9; 18:12-16; 21:31-32); but from July of that year Nero, under the influence of the Devil, turned the government into a beast that persecuted God's people severely over the next thirty-five years. As we are told in Revelation chapter 13:2, it was Satan (symbolized as a dragon) who turned the Roman government into a beast. The work of God and His forces in the battle was to restructure the Roman government into being a better canopy of peace under which Christians could spread the borders of Christ's kingdom.

The book of Revelation was written explicitly to the saints in the churches of the last decade of the first century (Rev. 22:16); and they were told four times (Rev. 1:1,3; 22:6,10) that the purpose was to reveal things that were *to shortly* take place. Thus if we learn the principles applied by our Lord to peoples and nations in that time then we can apply the same in our time. This is the manner that we understand other books of the New Testament, e.g., the book of Romans, which was written explicitly to the saints in Rome (Rom. 1:7), but implicitly to us. Jesus said, heaven and earth would pass away, but His words would not (Matt. 24:35).

It is time that we as New Testament Christians look at our own land and see the hand of Satan turning this free land into a beast. This I

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say due to the gross evils found across this beautiful country, e.g.,

- ◆ 3,500 little innocents are ripped from their mothers wombs every day by the abortion mills run by Planned Parenthood and other slaughter houses around the nation;
- ◆ Political leaders are boldly endorsing and voting to uphold this evil that God hates (Pro. 6:16-17), even affirming without blushing that they will back judges that will continue the evil;
- ◆ The weak, the elderly, the depressed, the maimed and the infirmed are being euthanized in Oregon and the merchants of death want a law in all fifty states that will allow the same;
- ◆ The supreme courts of California and Massachusetts have declared it to be legal for sodomites to marry and the new governor of New York has stated that such perverted forms of matrimony will be accepted by his state.
- ◆ Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely: Politicians are using tax dollars to buy votes — (needless to say the souls as well) – of men and women. The Roman Emperors used bread and circuses to buy power; today it is done by all manner of handouts. And people love to have it so (cf., Jer. 5:30-31).

The book entitled *The Lamb/The Lion* is a commentary on the book of Revelation based on 576 questions on the text. Here are some of the questions that pertain to the battle of Armageddon so that you may consider how the events of the last part of the first century compare to ours today. You may have a copy of the whole by writing to P.O. Box 123, Dunlap, TN 37327.

413. **To what does the battle of Armageddon apply?** It applied to the defeat of Imperial Rome as a beast and the false prophet, which was the pagan religious system. The defeat was not in a physical battle, but was a spiritual crushing of the beast-like government in order that a reasonable government could replace it. A summary of the battle and its final outcome is described in Revelation 19:19-21.
417. **What did the noises, the thunderings, the lightnings, and the great earthquake (16:18) symbolize?** Earlier (8:5) the same four symbols “noises, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake” were also linked together. There (question 211) we noted these things symbolize God's use of His created forces to warn men to respond to the entreaties of His people. In this text they are symbolic of heaven's forces on the corrupt society that led to a great upheaval in it. See question 357 where it was noted that Babylon in the Revelation symbolizes the all-pervasive, seductive, corrupting, ungodly and immoral **society** and **culture** associated with the govern-

ment, religion and economy of the Roman Empire in the last decades of the first century.

The earthquake was symbolic of the restructuring, which God was going to bring upon the vile, cruel, ungodly and opulent society, which would cause its people to stop brutalizing His servants and to create in the masses a more open mind for things better than gross materialism. As we noted earlier, the Jews in Thessalonica used a similar figure of speech when they declared that Paul and his companions had “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17: 6). In Isaiah's proclamation against ancient Babylon he used similar language: “the earth will move out of its place” (Isaiah 13: 13). In this manner he described the enormous changes in that great city and society, which took place after it fell to the Persians under Cyrus the Great on October 16, 539 BC.

The city being divided into three parts is indicative of the kinds of divisions that did and do occur when God's word begins to take effect in a society. Jesus said He had come to bring this kind of division (Luke 12:51-53). It happened time and again as Paul and other disciples spread the word in the first century (Acts 13:45-48; 17:5-8; 19:21-41).

“The cities of the nations fell.” Here is a beautiful prophecy of the gospel claiming the cities of the “nations” (Greek, *ethnos* – Gentiles) for Jesus Christ following the fall of the beast. After the Roman Empire was restructured into being a reasonable secular government the messengers of Christ went everywhere taking city after city in the name of the Lord. In other words the beast-like government was so changed that it became a canopy of peace under which the servants of Christ could serve Him gladly.

493. **What was the outcome of the battle of Armageddon?** This text (19:20) gives the outcome of the battle, which was first spoken of in 16:16. This particular spiritual war raged between God and the forces of Satan over a period of three and one half years (See 11:3; 13:5; 15:8; 16:1-11). The outcome of the battle was that the beast-like government was captured and the false prophet with him. The date that marked the downfall of the beast-like government was January 25, 98. For it was on that date a strong army man, Trajan, was raised up over the Empire.

494. **Who was the false prophet spoken of in chapter 19?** The false prophet is another symbol of the pagan religions or cults of the Empire; the major actor in that group was the chief priest of the sect of Capitoline Jupiter. The false prophet was first described as the second beast in 13:11. There he was pictured as a lamb with two horns that spoke like a dragon. Jesus in Matthew 7:15 reminded His disciples that false prophets wear “sheep's clothing,” which is also a symbol of the “smooth words and flattering speech” of false teachers (See Romans 16:18).

495. **What happened to the beast and the false prophet?** The two of them were cast into the lake of fire. The capture of these two took place at the end of the apostolic age, thus the casting of them into the lake of fire is a description of their being cast down to flames of torment (Greek – *tartarus*, II Peter 2:4) in hades (Luke 16:23-24; cf., Matthew 11:23). This casting of the beast and false prophet (actually those who made up those two) into “the lake of fire” at the end of the apostolic age was like Sodom and Gomorrah going down to hades at the time of their destruction (Genesis 19:24). Those two cities were “set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

496. **What happened to "the rest" of those who had served with the beast and false prophet?** “And the rest of them were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse” (19:21). Here is a verse that is most powerful in revealing how the book of Revelation is to be explained. This shows that the battle of Armageddon was spiritual warfare. This sword is the word of God out of Jesus' mouth, which is a symbol of the gospel being preached by His servants. The “rest” refers to the kings and their armies (kinglets, petty rulers, clients, hangers on and their followers) that supported the beast-like policy of the Roman government. Their being killed by the sword means their conversion to Christ and/or their being put in a position of not being antagonistic or a real hindrance to the gospel. This is the cleaning up operations that took place in the years following the fall of the beast-like government on January 25, 98.

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