

Briefing Document: The Fall of the World: The War of the Nations Lesson 11

May 10, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document analyzes the prophetic events surrounding the final conflict of the world, often referred to as the "War of the Nations." Based on the study of Daniel and Revelation, the text outlines the rise of the "willful king" (the Antichrist), his military conquests in the Middle East, and the gathering of global armies at Armageddon. Key takeaways include the identification of the four major participating armies, the supernatural preparation of the battlefield through the drying of the Euphrates River, and the ultimate, decisive victory of Jesus Christ. The conflict concludes not through conventional warfare, but through the power of Christ's spoken word, leading to the total defeat of the Antichrist's forces and the establishment of His sovereignty.

The Rise and Conquests of the Willful King

The final world conflict centers on a figure known as the "willful king," identified as the Antichrist. The narrative follows his military movements as he establishes dominance in the Middle East.

- **Identification of the King:** While some interpretations vary, the context of Daniel 11 suggests that the "he" who enters and overwhelms countries is the willful king. This figure is the central theme of the prophecy.
- **The Initial Conflict:** The King of the South and the King of the North launch attacks against the Antichrist. This indicates that the world's armies are initially coming to fight him, not necessarily Israel.
- **Regional Dominance:** The Antichrist enters "the glorious land" (Jerusalem) and conquers surrounding territories, including Egypt. He gains control over the treasures of gold, silver, and precious things.
- **The Escaped Nations:** Scripture notes that Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon escape his hand. A possible explanation for this is that these nations have historically been "natural enemies" or anti-Israel, leading the Antichrist to leave them unconquered.

The Gathering of the Global Armies

The conflict escalates as four major military forces converge. The most significant late-stage arrival is the "Army of the East."

The Army of the East

- **The 200 Million:** Revelation 9 mentions an army of 200 million. While some point to the size of the modern Chinese military as a fulfillment of this number, another interpretation suggests these may be demonic forces released at the Euphrates River.

- **Drying the Euphrates:** Under the sixth bowl judgment, the Euphrates River is dried up to prepare the way for the "kings from the east." This allows this massive force to move toward Jerusalem without the obstacle of the great river.

The Demonic Influence

- **The False Trinity:** Unclean spirits resembling frogs emerge from the mouths of the Dragon (Satan), the Beast (Antichrist), and the False Prophet.
- **The Great Deception:** These spirits perform miracles to deceive the kings of the entire world, gathering them to the battle of the "great day of God Almighty."

The Battlefield: Armageddon

The final staging ground for this war is *Armageddon*, the Hebrew name for the Valley of Megiddo.

- **Geographic Scope:** The battlefield extends beyond a single valley, stretching approximately 200 miles from Megiddo in the north to Edom in the south. This area includes the Valley of Jehoshaphat, also known as the "Valley of Decision."
- **The Scale of Carnage:** Scripture describes the intensity of the fighting before Christ's arrival. The blood is prophesied to rise as high as a horse's bridle (approximately five feet) for the entire 1,600 furlongs (200 miles) of the battle area.
- **The Shift in Focus:** Initially, the nations fight among themselves for power. However, upon Christ's return, their attention shifts as they unite to make war against Him.

The Final Victory of Jesus Christ

The "War of the Nations" concludes not with a long-standing stalemate, but with a swift "wipeout" by Jesus Christ.

- **The Return of the King:** Christ returns on a white horse, called "Faithful and True." He is followed by the armies of heaven, also on white horses and clothed in fine linen.
- **The Weapon of Victory:** Christ does not use nuclear weapons or conventional hardware. He defeats the nations with a "sharp sword" that proceeds from His mouth—His spoken word. *And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15).*
- **The Fate of the Deceivers:** The Beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet are captured alive and cast into the lake of fire.
- **The Supper of the Great God:** An angel standing in the sun calls all the birds of the air to gather and eat the flesh of the defeated kings, captains, and soldiers.

The Binding of Satan

Following the destruction of the earthly armies, Satan is removed from the world stage.

- **The Bottomless Pit:** Satan is chained and placed in the "bottomless pit" (also referred to as the abyss).
- **Future Release:** He remains there during the thousand-year millennial reign before being released for a final short period to deceive the nations once more.

Key Terms and Pronunciations

Term	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Bema ¹	BEE-muh	The judgment seat or raised platform where rewards are given to believers.
El Shaddai ²	el shah-DIE	A Hebrew name for God meaning "God Almighty" or "The God who is more than enough."
Gehenna ³	guh-HEN-uh	A Greek term (derived from Hebrew) used to describe a place of final fiery punishment or hell.
Sheol ⁴	shee-OHL	The Hebrew term for the place of the dead or the grave.

¹ *Bema* is a Greek word referring to a judicial seat. ² *El Shaddai* is a Hebrew title highlighting God's warrior function and sovereignty. ³ *Gehenna* refers to the Valley of Hinnom, used metaphorically for eternal judgment. ⁴ *Sheol* is used in the Old Testament to describe the temporary abode of souls.