When Christ was "caught up to God and to his throne" (Rev 12:5-6), there was no place for Satan and his angels in heaven. So in the vision he was cast out and confined to earth.

This vision signifies the victory and power of Jesus Christ. It is not the battle of Armageddon, but it is connected.

**Rev 14:19-20**

This is a vision of the wrath of God represented as a great wine press. The grapes of "the vine of the earth" were trodden in this winepress outside the city, but it was blood that flowed out.

The blood came "up to the horses' bridles over a distance of 1600 stadia".

This vision signifies the fullness of the wrath of God against those who choose to be his enemies.

**Rev 17:14**

"They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them, because he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and with him will be his called and chosen and faithful followers." Another reminder that, as insane as it seems, the enemies of Christ have the temerity to make war against him!

**Rev 19:19-21**

Later John sees the Beast and the kings of the earth assembled to make war against the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:11-16). How tragic that the earth's kings are out to make war against their King instead of fighting with him!

**Rev 20:7-10**

This vision shows the evil armies moving in to attack the army of God. But it's a complete fiasco — "fire came down from heaven and devoured them".

We might have expected a battle with a bit of to and fro, a bit of touch and go, a bit of suspense about who is going to win. But there is no battle of Armageddon, no battle of Armageddon at all!

After all their preparations and gathering for battle, they do no more than march to the city and surround it.

They thrust no sword. They fire no shot. Fire comes down from heaven and devours them.

*The battle of Armageddon didn't happen.*

Are you disappointed, or are you relieved?

**The Real Battle**

The passages we have discussed describe visions of the forces of Satan making war on Christ.

In each case Satan and the powers that he manipulates in this world are crushed by the wrath of God.

Some people think of these visions as describing physical battles, one between the Satan and Michael in the long distant past, and the other between Satan and Christ in the very near future.

In fact, these visions symbolise a spiritual battle (but a real battle nevertheless) being waged in everybody's present life and experience, including yours and mine.

That the war will not go on indefinitely. A day is coming when the age old conflict between Satan and Christ will be over once and for all.

Will you then be celebrating victory with the followers of the Lamb? *(More over page)*