



## Correspondence

Comments on articles appearing in the magazine are always welcome, and should be addressed to the editor in whose section the article appears.

### The threshing of the nations

I fully concur with the comments of Brother Nigel Bernard concerning the two harvests of Joel 3 and Revelation 14 in which he applies the figure of the grain harvest to the overthrow of the Gogian invasion and the figure of the grape harvest to the overthrow of the European beast ([Apr. 2003, p. 121](#)).

Most will agree that Armageddon means 'A heap of sheaves in a valley for judgement', or something very similar. I would like to suggest that the figure of the grain harvest indicates the geographical location of the people who come out of the "north parts" to invade the land of Israel, as referred to in Ezekiel 38:6,15. It is interesting to note that wheat is by far Russia's most important crop; the wheat-producing area extends from Eastern Europe across to Kazakhstan and southern Siberia. This vast area under wheat, which incidentally produces nearly twice as much as the United States (*World Book Encyclopedia*), will ironically be threshed in Divine judgement as wheat is threshed (Rev.14:14-16).

We know that there will be a totally different judgment when the vine of the earth is gathered and cast into the great winepress of the wrath of God (vv. 17-20). The greatest wine-producing countries of the world are Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, who together produce nearly twice as much wine as the rest of the world put together (*World Book Encyclopedia*). We notice that they are all Roman Catholic countries, whose character is found in Hosea 1:2,3, where Hosea is told: "Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD. So he went and took *Gomer* the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son"—a fitting description of France and the other lands of the great harlot of Revelation 17. These countries are crushed in the winepress of God's wrath, as described in Revelation 14:17-20. This very severe judgment is also described in Daniel 7:11 and Revelation 18.

Thus Armageddon is connected with the grain harvest and applies to the time when the Gogian invader comes out of the north quarters and is

threshed as wheat. Later, judgement will come on Babylon the Great when her grapes are harvested for bruising and crushing in the winepress of God Almighty. This is the judgement for all those who have drunk of the wine of her fornication.

Armageddon could be classed as a political campaign, as its objective appears to be the seizure of land, particularly Israel, either to displace or to eliminate the Jewish people. The harvesting of the vintage is more of a religious war, as it has to do with the destruction of Babylon the Great, the great whore, whose judgement commences in Western Europe.

I am not sure whether we can class both judgements as Armageddon, presented in two phases, but we can agree that the growers of wheat will be threshed as wheat, fulfilling the meaning of the word 'Armageddon'.

Keith Worthington  
Pinetown, South Africa

### David entering the Divine presence

In my letter published under the heading "Who wrote Ecclesiastes?" (Jun. 2003, p. 227), I said regarding the incident recorded in 2 Samuel 7, "David had been asked to sit before the ark". In a footnote Brother Tony Benson queried if there was any Scriptural evidence for this.

The evidence is in 2 Samuel 7:18,19: "Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who am I, O Lord GOD? and what is my house, *that Thou hast brought me hitherto?* And this was yet a small thing in Thy sight, O Lord GOD; but Thou hast spoken also of Thy servant's house for a great while to come. And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?". David was not a priest ("Who am I . . .?"), nor was he a Levite ("what is my house . . .?"), yet God had brought him into the Divine presence. David *sat* before the ark. This was something an Aaronic priest was not allowed to do.

Moreover, David adds the comment: "is this the manner of man . . .?". The RV margin has "law" instead of "manner", and the original is *torah*. To paraphrase David: "Where in the law