

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #47
7/25/2007

The Judgment of God, The Great Tribulation, The Great Day of God's Wrath
Chapter Sixteen - The Bowl Judgments
The Last Series of Judgments, The End of The Tribulation Period
The Seventh Bowl Of Wrath, The Last Judgment: Part 2

**The Twelve Aspects of
Seventh Bowl Judgment**

In this second lesson on the **Seventh Bowl Judgment**, and the tenth on the sixteenth Chapter of the book of **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, we will pick up where we left off in the last lesson. When we came to the end of that **tenth lesson** on this **sixteenth Chapter we had just begun to address the fifth of the twelve aspects of this Seventh Bowl Judgment**. For the sake of context the verses describing this **Seventh Bowl Judgment** are listed in the column to the right with the twelve aspects of this judgment so we can clearly understand where we are in our study.

Last week we began our consideration of this **fifth aspect of the Seventh Bowl Judgment** by quoting God's presentation of this judgment: **"(5) ...there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And (6) the great city was divided into three parts, and (7) the cities of the nations fell: (8) and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And (9) every island fled away, and (10) the mountains were not found"** (18-20).

The **fifth, sixth and seventh aspects of this Seventh Bowl Judgment are closely related**. The **fifth** aspect is the earthquake; The **sixth** aspect is the dividing of **"the great city into three parts;"** and the **seventh** aspect is the effects this **"great earthquake"** has on all of the cities of the world.

When we relate what we read here in Revelation 16 about this earthquake to what we read elsewhere in God's Word, specifically in Zechariah 14:2-3 (as referenced in the last lesson), we understand more. There we learned that God **"gathers all nations against Jerusalem to battle,"** to fight against Him at the battle of Armageddon. There the enemies of God, who are also the enemies of Israel, act out their boiling anger and savage nature as they **"rifle,"** plunder and spoil, the city, and **"ravish,"** assault, the women. The pent-up anger against God and Israel finally finds an opportunity to express itself, but only briefly for God has induced them to rush headlong toward Israel as they foolishly come to Him for their ultimate defeat and destruction. We shall read more of the implications of this when we focus our attention upon our Lord's return which seems to happen almost concurrently with, or at least immediately following, this **Seventh Bowl Judgment**. The two events seem to be so intertwined that, at times, it is difficult to totally separate them.

The **sixth** aspect describes the **"great earthquake"** dividing **"the great city into three parts."** We realize that it is very important for us to cross-reference God's Word and read what He said in Zechariah 14:2-3: **"For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city**

17 (1) And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came

(2) a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying,

(3) It is done.

18 And

(4) there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and

(5) there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And

(6) the great city was divided into three parts, and

(7) the cities of the nations fell:

(8) and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And

(9) every island fled away, and

(10) the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men

(11) a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and

(12) men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

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shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle” where He explains how the gathering of His enemies to Jerusalem relates to this **“great earthquake.”**

According to the reference in Rev. 11:8, our Lord identifies **“the great city”** as the place where Jesus was crucified, so we know that **“the great city”** in Rev. 16:19, is surely the city of Jerusalem and not Babylon or some other city. Besides the reference in Revelation 11:8, when we go to Zechariah 14:4 we see that God has given us more details describing the same event. In Zechariah 14 God focused on Mt. Zion, rather than the how the whole world is affected by the earthquake and tells us how this earthquake is used to prepare Jerusalem for its role in the Millennial Kingdom.

Consider Zechariah 14:4 where God tells us about Jesus' victorious second coming:

“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

We recognize that the statement in Revelation 16:19, telling us that the **“city was divided into three parts”** by **“the great earthquake”** differs a bit from the description in Zechariah 14:4. In Zechariah 14:4 we are told that, when Jesus comes in glorious victory *“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south,”* we are reading about the same event. It should be noted that the reference in Revelation to the **“great earthquake”** describes how it affects the entire city of Jerusalem while the reference in Zechariah describes what happens only to Mt. Zion. Additionally, the Zechariah statement describes God remaking this earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom.

What God tells us in Zechariah 14:7-9, as He describes the effects of the **“great earthquake”** clearly indicates this:

“But it shall be one day which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former

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sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."

Second, as a continuation of what we began in the previous lesson, we are thinking about this fifth aspect of the **Seventh Bowl Judgment**, the **"great earthquake."** The sixth aspect this **Seventh Bowl Judgment** focused on the effects the **"great earthquake"** has on the **"great city."** We now turn our attention to the seventh aspect: (7) **"the cities of the nations fell."**

Pause and think about that for a moment — an earthquake in the tiny country of Palestine, in the city of Jerusalem, devastates the entire world!

As we have seen, the judgments of this series of judgments, **the Bowl Judgments** are totally unprecedented. Nothing like them has ever occurred in this world and because of that we have enormous difficulty in having any comprehension of the awfulness of them. These bowls seem to be instruments or containers that God uses to dip down into hell and fill them with a sample of what awaits those who choose to go there. It is very common for people, even preachers, to dismiss the importance of and the things God has to say about hell. It certainly appears to this teacher that some people seem to think that if they deny its existence, it will not exist.

Only little children can be excused and tolerated when they play their fantasy games of "pretend" and act accordingly. There is something sick and irresponsible when adults live their lives in such a manner, particularly when they are so arrogant as to declare that God is not telling us the truth and we should not believe what He says. Some things may be dealt with as if they are fantasies and not have any significant impact upon one's life. However, for a sinner, who deserves God's wrath and righteous judgment, to do such a thing damns that one to an eternity of experiencing what he denies exists.

Consider just a few of the descriptions of this time which God gave us through His Old Testament prophets. About 800 years before Christ came, God gave the following description to us through the prophet Isaiah:

"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. THE EARTH IS UTTERLY BROKEN DOWN, THE EARTH IS CLEAN DISSOLVED, THE EARTH IS MOVED EXCEEDINGLY. THE EARTH SHALL

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REEL TO AND FRO LIKE A DRUNKARD, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth (Isaiah 24:17-21).

Again, about 500 years before Christ, God told us the following through the prophet Haggai:

“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts” (2:6-7) .

God has given us many other references to coming earthquakes, and how they affect this earth in other places in His Word, but for those who seem to prefer the information that men assimilate there is an overwhelming body of historical data available regarding earthquakes. Perhaps a few years ago this information was not accessible to the common person, but today all a person has to do is go to <http://www.usgs.gov/hazards/earthquakes/default.asp> on his computer and he will have data before his eyes that will startle him. He will learn that every month hundreds of earthquakes occur on this earth. Some of these are minor, some are major, but everyone is a sign from God pointing towards this one which is unlike anything this world has ever known.

A few earthquakes have devastated entire cities. Some have killed thousands. The effects of a few major ones have been felt a thousand miles away from the epicenter. The strongest earthquake ever to affect our country was the Alaskan earthquake in 1964, which measured 9.6 on the Richter scale, with its tremors felt as far south as some parts of the continental U.S. However, never has man known of an earthquake that has leveled all of the cities in a country. ***Certainly history knows of nothing that has ever affected the mountains and islands, aspects (9) and (10), of the entire world before, with one exception — Noah's Flood!*** When God opened up the bowels of the earth to bring forth their reservoirs of water for Noah's Flood, He totally rearrange the topography of this planet. The entire earth was turned upside down and traumatically changed.

However, usually the same people today who skeptically reject what God has to say about this judgment and the reality of hell, also reject what God has to say about Noah's Flood. No one but Noah and his family lived through that flood and they were only able to do so because God protected them in the

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safety of the Ark in a way similar to how He protects His church, by removing her from this earth. The wise person today will take God seriously, knowing He says what He means and means what He says. He has always known there will those who will foolishly reject His warnings and describes them in 2 Peter 3:3-12 as follows:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

God has given us clear and repeated warnings. Only a foolish man would fail to take Him seriously and, heeding His warnings, fail to act promptly responding to what He tells us in His Word about what is coming.