

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #48
8/01/2007

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 3

We have highlighted twelve specific aspects the **Seventh Bowl Judgment**. Before we turn our attention to the last two aspects of the final judgment and focus on verse twenty-one it would be helpful to consider some related matters.

We need to recognize how the final verse in Chapter sixteen relates to the entire **Seven Year Tribulation Period**. This verse describes not only the last event in the **Seventh Bowl Judgment**, but also **the very last event of the Tribulation Period** which is the last event on this earth prior to the victorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the final and climactic event in this time of judgment we can expect that these last aspects of the Seventh Bowl Judgment will be like an exclamation point to this entire scenario, and it is just that!

We would do well to remind ourselves of **the unique characteristics of the Bowl Judgments** before we proceed. The use of the word **"bowl,"** prompts thoughts of a container for God to use as He dips the **"bowl"** down into hell, fills it with a sample of what the wicked ones face in their eternal destiny and then pours it out upon the earth. The seven **"bowls"** of this judgment give a realistic presentation of hell.

These unique characteristics are (1) **accumulative**, meaning that the effects do not have an ending, but continue and have added to them the effects of the **"bowls"** that followed. They are (2) **ascendative**, meaning that the torment each succeeding one ascends in severity and is more devastating and traumatic than the one it follows. They are (3) **fulfilling**, meaning that God has given either verbal prophecies, or smaller samples of them predictively, or done both, and that they fulfill what He has many times told man is going to happen.

To these previously recognized characteristics we can now add two more. (4) **They have an ominous finality to them**. When they are done God is finished with this earth as it is known today. Life will never be lived here again as it has been! (5) **They are preparatory**, meaning that God uses them to prepare this earth for His millennial kingdom on this earth. We can recall a well-known prophecy associated with our Lord's coming. It did not fit His first coming, but it is now appropriate: *"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain"* (Isaiah 40:4) because that is one result of the **"great earthquake."**

When all of the factors are considered it seems that God uses this last of the judgments to prepare this earth for its new assignment which is to be the location of our Lord's 1000-year reign in His earthly kingdom of which He

**The Twelve Aspects of
Seventh Bowl Judgment**

- 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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often spoke when He came the first time. We will see more about this later. Now, we turn our attention to this last verse of Chapter sixteen as we focus on what it tells us.

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.

Ever since Chapter six presented the first set of judgments, called the **“Seal Judgments,”** with the Four Riders of the Horses introducing the judgment of God, death has been a common result of these judgments from God. It began with **“the Rider of the Fourth Horse, the Pale Horse,”** representing death: **“And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth”** (Rev. 6:8). If, at the time of the Tribulation Period, the population of the earth is no smaller than it is today, then we can conclude that one-fourth of 7 billion people died as a result of that judgment and the number of initial deaths would be at least 1.5 billion.

Then, we find the next specific number of deaths mentioned in relationship to the **Sixth Trumpet Judgment** in the ninth Chapter. We are told what happened when the Sixth Angel sounded his trumpet that released fallen angels (demons) from the **“great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men”** (Rev. 9:15). Just these two references would indicate a death total of half of the earth's population, or about 3.5 billion people. It is logical to assume that many millions more, though an undetermined number, die from the various other judgments. By the time we get to the final set of judgments, the **Bowl Judgments**, the accumulative total of deaths would be staggering and number in the billions, leaving only a fraction of those alive when the **Tribulation Period** began.

God does not tell us how many men die as a direct result of **“the great earthquake,”** but it is an extremely large number since it destroyed every city in the world, except for Jerusalem, as well as destroying every mountain and island. We learned from Zechariah 14:1-4 that this **“great earthquake”** is closely associated with the time Jesus gathers His enemies to fight against Him and Jerusalem at **“Armageddon”** (Rev. 16:16). Previous to the Bowl Judgments of Revelation sixteen, God gave a preview of what appears to be this same time in Chapter fourteen. There He describes the destruction of a large number of His enemies and it seems to be at this same time:

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“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. ... And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of and six hundred furlongs” (Rev. 14:14-15,18-20).

According to the calculations of Dr. Henry Morris on pages 277 and 278 of his book, **The Revelation Record**, this amount of blood would extend for a distance of 180 miles and be about five feet deep and over a mile wide and imply the deaths of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of the Lord's adversaries. This is almost certainly associated with the events described in Zechariah fourteen as well as those described here in Revelation which are a part, both of the Bowl Judgments and our Lord's victorious return as pictured in Revelation nineteen. With the assimilation of these references regarding the death toll it is safe to say that untold billions of people die during this time of judgment.

Among the Lord's enemies who survive the various judgments prior to what we are told in 16:21 there will be many millions more killed by these **“hailstones”** from the skies. Though these **“hailstones”** are unlike anything ever seen on this earth, like the previous **Bowl Judgments**, God has frequently presented predictive indications of what He does here. We are told that each of them **“weigh a talent,”** which would be somewhere between 100 and 130 lbs.

As He so often does, God gives us a description of something so awesome that it challenges our minds to comprehend all its ramifications. Any group of such things falling out of the sky of such size and weight would utterly destroy anything it hit. The statement in verse twenty-one indicates that these **“hailstones”** are plural, so it is not just one or two, but many, falling and hitting everything and everyone below.

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There would be no man-made structure which could provide a safe shelter for men to hide. The crumbling of structures and the panic of men would cover the earth. Being added to the devastation wrought by the **“great earthquake,”** and likely almost concurrent with it, while men are scrambling away from the falling debris produced by the earthquake, they are pummeled by these **“hailstones”** from the skies.

Previously, several times, God cast **“hailstones”** down upon His enemies as instruments of judgment,. In the **“seventh plague”** upon Pharaoh (Exo. 9:13-27) God rained down **“hail”** upon Egypt killing many men and animals, but He exempted and protected the children of Israel who were in Goshen. At that time, it was unprecedented, with nothing like it ever having happened before in Egypt, but it was limited in scope and duration. However, it should have served as an unforgettable warning to the enemies of God of what He could and would do. In another example, in Joshua, chapter ten, when the kings of the Amorites attacked the Israelites, God used **“hailstones”** as weapons to defeat them. Then, at least once before this in the **Tribulation Period**, God used **“hail”** as an instrument of judgment. It happened when **“the first angel sounded”** his trumpet, **“there followed hail and fire mingled with blood”** (8:7). However, that judgment was limited in both its scope and damages. This time it is different.

God uses these awesome **“hailstones”** from the sky to give a resounding and emphatic end to His judgments. It seems clear that they destroy anything that has managed to survive the previous judgments. About the only effect this final judgment has upon sinful man, besides destroying all that he has, is to further harden his wicked heart against God. As has been the case before, the more men see the clear evidence of the hand of God in judgment, the more they respond with hatred and anger: **“and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”** It is clear. There is a point at which the heart of a sinner can be so vile and hard that he will not, even cannot, come to the place of repentance of his rebellion against God and accept God's salvation from his deserved punishment. All that such seem capable of doing is verifying the justness of God in sentencing them to an eternity of punishment they had dared God to give them!

Can there be anything worse than what we have seen? The answer is **“Yes.”** We shall yet see worse things yet, worse than anything we have thus far seen.

Chronologically, the next words we shall read from this Revelation of Jesus Christ are found in Revelation 19:1 where God says, **“And after these things”** as He refers us back to the events described in Revelation sixteen. Before we get to Chapter nineteen we will study God's explanatory interlude in Chapters seventeen and eighteen where He amplifies on the judgment for Babylon.

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.