

***Session 13 The Seven Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15-16) (Psalms 45 marching through the land releasing the bowls – all of the bowls are in Habakkuk 3)***

**I. THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TRUMPET: THE CONTEXT FOR THE 7 BOWLS OF WRATH**

***Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ...17 You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry (Psalm 2), and Your wrath has come, and the time...that You should reward Your servants...and should destroy those who destroy the earth."*** (Rev. 11:15-18)

Amos 3:7: God does nothing unless He tells His prophets first...It must be declared, via His prophets...This is the reason for dreams, visions, etc...they're given as divine information, and as warnings, to be proclaimed by prophets. (Dream about the destruction of Phoenix area, dream about Jesus in the winepress, dream about missile being launched from NY, dream about the "tornado of tornados", dream about dream about an explosion of the space station and the moon turning red, dream about the guy with one big eye, ... This has to do with the 7 thunders in Rev, and the prophetic end-time utterances via the end-time prophets.

(07-17-05 "only 1% of humans actually enter into the inner chamber")

Jesus is described as a "Prophet like Moses"...Moses is the pattern – Jesus touches down on the Mt of Sinai, as the "Burning Bush, then goes to Egypt, just like Moses, and tells Pharaoh (Anti-Christ) "let My people go"...Look at Moses and all the God did through him for end-time interpretive understanding of Revelations, etc. ....All the activity currently going on in heaven is about mobilizing the host of heaven and earth to receive Jesus as Lord and King and His leadership over the world (to rule the earth)...This is about governance...It's about us ruling and governing with Christ, after He returns and sets up His Kingdom, which is what all of the activity in heaven and earth is about right now

- A. The 7th Trumpet begins the time when the empires of this world will come under Jesus' leadership (through Apostolic governance), when the saints are rewarded and when God destroys those who destroy the earth. The 7th Trumpet initiates the events related to the Rapture (Rev. 11:15-18). The timing of the Rapture and the Marriage Supper are curiously absent in Revelation. Why? They are a process that occurs over time instead of being one event that happens one afternoon.
- B. This sets the stage for the third and final numbered judgment series referred to as the 7 bowls of wrath. (Rev. 15:1-16:21). The 3 numbered judgment series are the three groups of judgments (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls of wrath) as described in Rev. 6-19. They are the judgment activities on the Antichrist in the Great Tribulation (3½ years) ending the Armageddon campaign (Rev. 19:11-21).

- C. The bowls are the 3rd judgment series that is followed chronologically by Jesus' Second Coming to Jerusalem to end the Armageddon Campaign (Rev. 19:11-21). Jesus will release the 7 bowls in a way that parallels Moses releasing the ten plagues of Egypt. The bowls of wrath recall the plagues in Egypt released by Moses against Pharaoh (Exod 7-12).
- D. To understand the seven bowls, we must understand the nature of the events related to the Rapture and the Second Coming of Jesus. I think of it as a 3 stage process that includes many events instead of it being only one event that happens one afternoon. In the first stage, Jesus comes across the entire earth in the sky to rapture of saints (Rev. 1:7). In the second stage, He comes across the land (Isa. 63:1-6) using the first 5 Bowls to destroy the resources of the Antichrist's worldwide empire. In the third stage, Jesus re-enters Jerusalem (Mt. 23:39) and releases the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl that contributes to judging the armies of the Antichrist and delivering Israel at the Battle of Jerusalem.
- E. When ancient Israel was backed up to the Red Sea, Moses stretched forth his rod and the waters parted and God's people escaped by way of the Red Sea and the armies of Pharaoh were then drowned in that very sea. Again, Israel will have their back "against the sea" in seeming defeat before the advancing forces of the Antichrist (as the End-Time Pharaoh).
- F. The unsaved remnant of Israel will be rescued as Jesus splits the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:3-5).  
*Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. 4 and in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives...and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two...making a very large valley...5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley... Yes, you shall flee...thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. (Zech. 14:3-5)*
- G. This is meant to parallel Moses parting the Red Sea. The Jews in Jerusalem will make their exodus escape thru a valley in the very mountain that Jesus prophesied would move by faith (Mk. 11:1, 23).  
*For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart...those things he says will come to pass... (Mk. 11:23)*
- H. Jesus comes to rescue the city of Jerusalem that is surrounded by the armies of the Antichrist (Zech. 12:1-9; 14:1-5). Jesus will come in person to fight the final battle in the Armageddon campaign which will be in Jerusalem. Then the armies of the Antichrist will be drowned in the "sea of the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl of wrath."
- I. There will be three types of people on earth at the time of Rapture. There will be the redeemed who will be raptured. There will be the reprobate who took the mark of the Beast, therefore, they are soon to be judged and killed. There will be the resisters (unsaved survivors) who refused to worship the Antichrist and take his mark.

## **II. SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 15-16) – THE 3RD JUDGMENT SERIES**

- A. In heaven there is agreement concerning the 7 bowls (Rev. 15:1-4).

*I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: 7 angels having the 7 last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2 I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the Beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:1-4)*

B. There are great works (15:3) of the great God on the great day of wrath (6:17). Eight different aspects are described as great. John speaks of great heat (16:9), the great river Euphrates (16:12), the great day of God Almighty (16:14), the great earthquake (16:18), the great city (Jerusalem, 16:19), great Babylon (16:19), and great hail from heaven (16:21) as an exceedingly great plague (16:21).

C. In heaven there is preparation concerning the 7 bowls (Rev. 15:5-8).

*Behold, the Temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6 And out of the Temple came the 7 angels having the 7 plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the 7 angels 7 golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. 8 The Temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the Temple till the 7 plagues of the 7 angels were completed. (Rev. 15:5-8)*

D. The commission to the 7 angels is in the heavenly Temple (Rev. 16:1)

*I heard a loud voice from the Temple saying to the 7 angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." (Rev. 16:1)*

1. God commissions the seven angels to pour out the bowls of wrath. My view is that the bowls unfold quickly because one command releases all seven bowls to be released without separate commissions like the seals.
2. I view them all happening after the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet which occurs 1,260 days after the abomination of desolation. The loud voice (for emphasis) is from the heavenly temple (Rev. 16:1, 17). This is referred to by Isaiah (Isa. 66:6)

### III. FIRST BOWL: LOATHSOME SORES TO ANTICHRIST WORSHIPPERS (REV. 16:1-2)

*The first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. (Rev. 16:1-2)*

A. The sixth plague of Egypt was sores or boils

*Take...handfuls of ashes...let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 It will become fine dust...and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt..11. The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. (Ex. 9:8-11)*

- B. Satan chose boils as the way to strike God’s servant (Job). God will use boils on Satan’s kingdom.  
*Satan...struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. (Job 2:7)*
- C. Moses warned the people that rebellion toward God would bring God’s judgment of severe boils.  
*The LORD will strike you...with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. (Deut. 28:35)*
- D. These sores will be foul which means revolting or horrid and having an offensive odor (as foul meat is rotten or putrid). These sores will also be loathsome in being so painful that men will loath and abhor them. Only the Antichrist worshipers receive these sores. There is no historical fulfillment of these prophecies.
- E. Only during the seals and trumpets does John mention believers having a divine seal of protection (Rev. 7:3; 9:4). John did not mention a seal of protection with these bowl judgments (which are the most severe judgments in history) because the saints will be with Jesus on earth for most of this transitional 30 day period.  
*From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the Abomination of Desolation is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to 1,335 days. (Dan. 12:11-12)*
- F.

#### IV. SECOND BOWL: DESTROYING ALL THE SEAS WITH BLOOD (REV. 16:3)

*Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. (Rev. 16:3)*

- A. The seas became something like the thickened blood of a dead man. The stench will be unimaginable.
- B. There will be complete destruction of marine life as compared to 1/3 destruction (second trumpet)
- C. The sea, like the Euphrates River (Rev. 16:12) is literal in Revelation (Rev 5:13; 7:1, 2, 3; 8:8, 9; 10:2, 5, 6, 8; 12:12; 14:7; 16:3; 18:17, 19, 21; 20:8, 13; 21:1) unless it says it is not (Rev. 13:1; 17:1, 7-9, 15). For those who take the sea as being symbolic of the nations, they must answer when every living creature “in the nations” died.

#### V. THIRD BOWL: POISONING ALL THE EARTH’S FRESH WATER (REV. 16:4-7)

***The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." 7 I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (Rev. 16:4-7)***

- A. The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) and the third bowl are similar. The third trumpet made the waters bitter resulting in people dying. The world will be in a terrifying panic with all of the drinking water defiled.
- B. There will be occasions when water will flow miraculously, like it did from the rock with Moses in the wilderness. People who cry out to God and especially the captives of Israel returning from the nations, will experience supernatural water supply. The OT prophets often prophesied of the miracle of streams flowing in the desert and on mountains tops.
- C. The first plague of Egypt struck the Nile killing the fish making it impossible to drink the water.  
***Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. There shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt... 21 The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. (Ex. 7:19-21)***
- D. God judges the drinking water to repay those who were accomplices to killing the martyrs. The two angelic prophetic oracles in this passage, agree that it was right for God to release these judgments (Rev. 15:3-4; 19:2). God gives us the reason for this terrible judgment on the Antichrist's worldwide empire. ***God answers blood with blood*** (Rev. 16:6). Divine justice pours out blood because they did. God makes them drink the very thing they thirsted for— blood.
- E. We agree with the angels and proclaim what they proclaim. Namely that, God's judgments are "true and righteous" – they are not too severe. The principle of judgment: God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone's free will in training the future rulers of the earth. The remaining judgments of the bowls are punitive in stopping the Antichrist's terrorizing of Israel and going forth as one last appeal to the unsaved resisters of the Antichrist to turn to Jesus.
- F. The title the angels emphasize points to the God of eternity or the big picture. This is the only place that we can understand God's judgments.
- G. The altar is the place intercession has power to change history.
- H. One can interpret the blood of the saints as literal, but the blood of the rivers as symbolic. Blood is literal in every instance throughout Revelation (Rev. 1:5; 5:9; 6:10, 12; 7:14; 8:7, 8; 11:6; 12:11; 14:20; 16:3, 4, 6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2, 13).

- I. There is an angel with power over waters (ocean, rivers, streams). Different angels have different assignments in God's world. Revelation speaks of angels over winds (Rev. 7:1), the angel over the bottomless pit (Rev. 9:11), the angel over fire (Rev. 14:18), and the angel over water (Rev. 16:5).

**VI. FOURTH BOWL: SCORCHING HEAT AND FIRE FROM THE SUN (REV. 16:8-9)**

*The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (Rev. 16:8-9)*

- A. The fourth bowl releases power over the sun to make it more intense. The fourth trumpet was opposite in making the sun less intense, even taking the light away and giving men darkness. This judgment affects the sun, but it is not at all the same judgment.
- B. This is a supernatural act of burning men by the sun, not a natural one. In other words, God has power over this judgment. This is God's act not the Devil's.
- C. Men blasphemed God and refused to repent revealing the mystery of lawlessness (v. 11, 21). These men are demonized and thus accuse God's character in this instead of taking responsibility for their sin. They acknowledge God's power and role in this judgment. They understand that God is the source of this terrible judgment. He has power over it.
1. Yet they have no revelation of their sin as the reason the righteous God releases the heat. They did not repent (9:20-21; 16:9, 11).
  2. The people weeks earlier seemed to repent in context to the Jerusalem earthquake Rev. 11:13.

**VII. FIFTH BOWL: DARKNESS ON THE ANTICHRIST'S GLOBAL EMPIRE (REV. 16:10-11)**

*The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the Beast (Antichrist), and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11)*

- A. The fifth bowl like the other bowls focuses on the Antichrist's governmental structure. The Antichrist's throne is his seat of government as referred to in Rev. 13:2. The Antichrist has a specific geographic governmental center. His throne seemed invincible (Rev. 13:4). The Antichrist is manifest as helpless before Jesus as was Pharaoh (Ex. 10:21-23). God will turn all the lights out in the Antichrist's empire. The Antichrist's authority is worldwide, thus we know that this darkness is worldwide.
- B. The darkness is natural, but with spiritual power in demonic activity heightened in the darkness (9:2). The unsaved remnant of Israel will probably have light during this time.

C. The Antichrist's worldwide senior leaders gnawed their tongues because of unceasing pain. They will be filled with a spirit of hopelessness and despair. The darkness brings pain because of heightened demonic activity. They experience pain with the darkness (Rev. 16:10) as well as with sores ((Rev. 16:2). This is unprecedented darkness and pain will cause chaos in the nations.

D. The ninth plague of Egypt caused darkness for three days.

*Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt." 22...there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. 23 They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. (Ex. 10:21-23).*

E. The people blaspheme God (Rev. 16:9, 11). Their blasphemy shows the fullness of their hidden hatred of God. As God's judgments increase, their hatred and blasphemy will also increase.

### VIII. SIXTH BOWL: DEMONS LURE THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON (REV. 16:12-16)

*The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the East might be prepared. 13 I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the Beast (Antichrist), and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 They gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)*

*These will make war with the Lamb... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings (Rev. 17:14)*

*I saw the Beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. (Rev. 19:19-21)*

A. The sixth bowl is the assembling of the nations to come to Jerusalem to fight Jesus not the Jews. Jesus is on the ground at this time.

*The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...with power and great glory. (Mt. 24:30)*

B. The kings of the earth saw the supernatural sign of the Son of Man in the sky, but wrongly interpreted it as a demonic sign of a false messiah coming to disrupt the kingdoms of the earth. Thus, they join their efforts with the Antichrist's to fight a common enemy. Both armies are accustomed to supernatural activity, thus the Antichrist's armies believe they will win against a supernatural foe. Many false christs have appeared to deceive many (Mt. 24:5, 11), so the nations see Jesus as another powerful deceiver.

C. Israel will witness the bowls of wrath just as they witnessed the ten plagues of Egypt. As Israel witnessed the destruction of the Egyptians in the sea, so Israel surrounded by the nations will see Jesus execute God's judgments.

- D. The sixth bowl has wrath in allowing men to be seduced into the final battle of the Armageddon campaign. The demon spirits succeed in recruiting the kings of the earth to the cause that mutually threatens them all. The unclean spirits deceive the governmental leaders of the earth with supernatural signs (Mt. 24:24; Rev. 13:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:9-10). The demons deceive, yet it falls into God's higher purposes to expose the heart of the nations (Rev. 17:17).
- E. The demonic frogs are sent to the kings of the earth with miracles because of the supernatural sign of Jesus in sky. The kings of the East join the Battle of Jerusalem to battle against Jesus, not merely the armies of Israel. They will not come to Israel because they will be threatened by a small poorly armed Israeli army. Israel's army will undoubtedly not be allowed to build up their military while in a peace covenant with Antichrist (Dan. 9:27; Isa. 28:15-18).
- F. Demons will deceive the kings of the earth to come to Armageddon. God will dry up the Euphrates River up to allow them to be convinced and to allow their armies to come against Israel.
1. The kings of the East will need to be convinced with miracles to join this battle. Why would the Antichrist prioritize this? Why would the kings of the East deploy hundreds of thousands of soldiers at billions of dollars to fight a weak Israeli army? Why would they suddenly be motivated to help the Antichrist (whom they had not formed an alliance with)?
  2. Why did the Antichrist need supernatural miracles to motivate them? The answer is that the kings of the East and the kings of the whole world came to Israel to fight Jesus not the Israeli army. They will think of Jesus as a human Jewish king with demonic powers who can be defeated. In other words, they will view Jesus in the way that we view the Antichrist.
- G. The kings of the earth will feel threatened by this Jewish King who is reportedly raising an army and marching up to Israel from Edom with great victories because of His unusual power. The kings of the earth will understand that Jesus clearly has supernatural power, yet they assume that it is demonic power that can be defeated. The Antichrist convinces them with demonic miracles that defeating Jesus is necessary and doable and thus they gather to make war with Jesus. The nations will make war against Jesus with the same mind set that the Church has in warring against the Antichrist, viewing him as having a supernatural dimension, but one that will surely be defeated.
- H. Jesus interjected that He was coming as a thief (Rev. 16:15). This is primarily directed to the Body of Christ to understand before the broad Day of the Lord activity starts. The Church will not be taken unaware after the 19 judgment events of the 7 seals, the 7 trumpets and the first five bowls. Jesus is pausing in His revelation to John before giving him the final event in the Great Tribulation. It is a sober dramatic pause as in Rev. 15:8 since the mystery of God in full judgment is to be complete.
- I. The dried up river will probably be interpreted by the kings of the East as a miracle done by the hands of the Antichrist. It emboldens them to charge on to Jerusalem to aid the Antichrist. The Euphrates was dried up so that the way for the kings might be prepared to join in the battle (v.14, 16). Isaiah prophesied that God would dry the Euphrates (Isa. 11:15).

- J. The sixth bowl is poured out on the Euphrates river which is the eastern boundary of the ancient Roman Empire as well as the land promised to Abraham (Gen. 15:18; Deut. 11:24). The city of Babylon will be rebuilt on the Euphrates river. (In the sixth trumpet, the four angels who kill a third of mankind are bound at the Euphrates river, Rev. 9:14).
- K. Jerusalem is the place of the final battle to end the Armageddon Campaign (Joel 3:1-2, 9-17; Zech. 12:1-8; 14:1-3, 12; Zeph. 3:8).
- L. In Rev. 16:13-16, the kings of the East are motivated by demonic miracles.
- M. From the mouth of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet are three unclean spirits like frogs. their "mouths" are emphasized to point to the words of these three that entice the governments of the earth. The Antichrist has a dynamic speaking gift (Rev. 13:2, 5, 6; 17:3; Dan. 7:8, 11, 20, 25; 11:36). Three unclean spirits are released as they speak to the masses.
- N. Rev. 16:15 Jesus personally speaks to His people as He did to the Church in Sardis (Rev. 3:3) and at Laodicea (Rev. 3:18). Jesus warns His people that things will get so out of hand that anyone not fully for Him will get deceived in siding with those against Him. Spiritually being shamed with nakedness speaks of the shame of revealing ones hidden compromise to all (Isa. 47:3; Ezek. 16:37; 23:24-29; Hosea 2:10; Nah. 3:5).
- O. Jesus warns that the broad Day of the Lord pressures would start suddenly (His coming as a thief) so they must now develop a root system before all the crisis begins. He who watches and keeps his garments – to actively encounter God and to do deeds of righteousness before the labor and danger is inherent in staying steady. Rev. 3:18 points to the possibility of a believer being naked and filled with shame.
- P. In Rev. 16:16, they gather to place called in Hebrew Armageddon. Gentile believers (churches of Asia Minor) needed John to interpret Hebrew words for them (Rev. 9:11). The transliteration of Harmagedon or Har Magedon, means the Hill or Mount of Megiddo or Armageddon (in English). Hebrew (har) means "hill-country," thus, Har Magedon is the "hill-country of Megiddo." Megiddo is a town in the valley of Esdraelon which is in the Plain of Jezreel. The plain of Megiddo is the military staging zone. The 200 hundred miles (Rev. 14:20) from the far north of Israel to Bozrah is the focus of the Armageddon Campaign.

#### IX. SEVENTH BOWL: WORST EARTHQUAKE, 100 POUND HAIL STONES (REV. 16:17-21).

*Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city (Jerusalem) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the*

*mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. (Rev. 16:17-21)*

- A. The seventh bowl is poured out into the air. The air is necessary for the sustaining of life. The bowls grow in intensity as they start with sores (16:2), the food and sea trade (16:3), the drinking water (16:4), the scorching heat (16:8-9) then darkness and gnawing pain (16:10-11), then demonic allurements into international war (16:12-16).
- B. The loud voice of God comes from the Throne which is in the Temple in heaven.
- C. "It is done" echoes when Jesus on the cross cried out, "It is finished" on the cross (John 19:30).
- D. A thunderstorm breaks out with spiritual and natural manifestations at the conclusion for each of the three numbered judgments (Rev. 4:5; 8:3-5; 11:19).
- E. The greatest earthquake ever destroys part of Jerusalem, Babylon and the cities of the nations. The city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) will be restored and will be one of the Antichrist's headquarters.
- F. The great earthquake will come on God's enemies in the End-Times (Isa. 29:5-8). The earthquake and hail bring men's hatred to the surface yet again. John wants us to be clear that no earthquake in history will be the "big one." This great earthquake is such as has not happened in history. The earthquake sequence in Revelation (Rev. 6:14; 8:5; 11:13; 16:18-20) ends with the last one as the big one (Isa. 2:10, 19, 21; 13:13; 29:6; Ezek. 38:19; Hag. 2:6, 21; Zech. 14:4-5; Heb. 12:26-27).
- G. There are two great cities in Revelation. All history from God's point of view is a tale of two cities – Jerusalem and Babylon. Jerusalem is also called the "great city" (Rev. 11:8) in God's End-Time purpose. Babylon is the great city (Rev. 14:8; 17:18). However, the specific reference to Babylon also in the text makes clear that it is distinct from the other great city.
- H. Jerusalem will be struck hard by an earthquake so that one tenth of the city falls (Rev. 11:13), making three distinct areas of Jerusalem. The Antichrist's leaders are in the city.
- I. Babylon the great was remembered before God to give to her the cup of the wine of the anger of His wrath. There are different stages in Babylon's judgment (Rev. 17:16; 18:8). The 10 kings burned the Harlot religious system in the middle of the 7 years and replaced it with the Antichrist religious system based in part of the city of Babylon that was not permanently destroyed. Thus Babylon's offense before God went to another level of severity. Babylon was burned then re-established as one of the Antichrist's headquarters, then utterly destroyed by God in seventh bowl as Berlin was destroyed in May 1945. Rev. 14:8 speaks of the double fall of Babylon. Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city (Rev. 14:8). Rev. 17-18 describes the two falls of Babylon, with the first in middle of week and the second fall at end of the Great Tribulation.

- J. The cup of the wine of the anger of His wrath uses both of the common words for God's wrath (thymos, anger) (orge, wrath). Rev. 14:8-10 prophesied this outpouring of wrath on Babylon.
- K. In Rev. 16:20, the last earthquake causes every island to flee (sink in the ocean) and the mountains to not be found. The earthquake will impact every city on earth as great sky scrapers collapse causing fires.
- L. From heaven falls 100 pound hailstones (weight of a talent). The people hide in shelters that were being shaken by earthquakes. God uses hail in His judgments (Josh. 10:11; Isa. 28:17; Ezek. 38:22-23). Hail was used by God in the seventh plague with Moses (Ex. 9:23-24). Hail also was released in the first trumpet (Rev. 8:7).
- M. Men blasphemed after both the fourth and fifth bowls (Rev. 16:9, 11) even knowing the God sent them. Men do not blaspheme God for being hit with symbolic or figurative hail.
- N. The next events following the bowls are recorded in Rev. 19:11-21.