

“WHEN EVERY ISLAND FLEES”

Revelation 16:17-21

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INTRODUCTION

We are now prepared for the outpouring of the seventh bowl on the earth. God has just described the preparations for the great battle of Armageddon. In this passage we see the final judgments preceding the second coming of Christ. The three different series judgments described in Revelation become progressively worse – even though some of them such as this one described the same or similar incidents mentioned earlier.

The earth as it appears at the time of Christ’s coming will be much different from the earth that existed prior to the beginning of the seven year tribulation. Man has experienced many horrific cataclysms over the years.

But nothing like this 7th Bowl judgment!

- I. THE OBJECT OF THE BOWL (v. 17)—“upon the air” (the entire atmosphere surrounding the Earth)
- II. THE OBSERVATION OF THE BOWL (17b)—“It is done!” [loud voice from the throne]
After the crucifixion of our Lord He cried out, “It is finished!” He had accomplished the work of redemption. In this place God now proclaims the final accomplishment of the necessary judgments in order to reclaim complete control over the earth and to establish the kingdom of his Son on earth. The seven-sealed book had now been completely opened and fulfilled.
- III. THE EFFECTS OF THE BOWL (vv. 18-21)
 - A. Lightning, thunders, sounds (see 8:5 at the 7th seal; 11:19 at the 7th trumpet)
 - B. Earthquake (see 6:12 under the 6th seal; 8:5—7th seal; 11:19 at 7th trumpet)
 1. Its Description (18b)
 - There had never been another earthquake like this one since man was created on earth.
 - “So great an earthquake and so mighty.”
 2. Its Results (19-20)
 - a. Division of the “great city.” [evidently Jerusalem]
 - b. Destruction of the cities of the nations—they all “fell.”
 - c. Remembrance [in order to punish] of Babylon “the great”—in power, corruption, longevity, and rebellion against God
 - Therefore it is **before God** that Babylon is remembered.
 - She is given “the cup” of the wine of His fierce wrath.”
 - Cf. the “cup” she had given to the nations to drink (14:8).
 - God’s wrath is against sin and rebellion.

- It is fierce—the culmination of centuries of sin and rebellion—literally “the wrath/fury of His anger.”
- d. Removal of the Islands and mountains (20; cf. 6:14—moved, but not destroyed)
- The picture is of horrific fear and trembling that literally dissolves the islands and mountains.
 - Nothing, no matter how strong and significant, can stand before the outpouring of His wrath.
 - The mountains are so thoroughly destroyed that “they were not found.”
- C. Hailstones (21a)
1. “Huge”—about one hundred pounds each [the weight of a talent]
 2. Their origin—“came out of heaven.”
 3. Their destiny—“upon men.”
 4. Their results—do we even have to ask?
- IV. THE RESPONSE TO THE BOWL JUDGMENT (21b)
- A. Blasphemy of God
 - B. Because of the “Plague” of the Hail
 - C. Because its plague was “extremely great”—severe.

CONCLUSION

“It is done!” But before we see the vivid description of our Lord’s return, first John shows us a more detailed picture of the “Great Harlot” Babylon upon whom His wrath descends (chapters 17-18).

How sad that the wicked on Earth are so hardened that even after this judgment instead of repenting, they blaspheme God.

But, God is not harmed by their blasphemy, and His plan is not thwarted or slowed down.