

72. The Book of Revelation—16:17-19

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(3-9-22)

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Tonight, in our study of the Book of Revelation we will be continuing in Chapter 16.

As we have said, this Chapter contains the 7-Bowl Judgments—which are the last and most cataclysmic of all the previous judgments.

These will lead directly to the return of Jesus Christ, the Battle of Armageddon, and the establishment of God's Kingdom upon the earth.

So far in our study of Chapter 16 we have covered the first 6 bowl judgments—

Seventh Bowl—The Greatest Earthquake Ever

Revelation 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air...

As we have said, the 7-Bowl Judgments are the last in a 'trilogy' of seven judgments (7-seals, 7-trumpets, and 7-bowls) that are poured out upon the earth and the earth-dwellers (i.e., followers of the Antichrist).

Revelation 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ 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!"

The seventh bowl judgment is poured out upon the air.

Last week we explored the possibility that this might be alluding to some kind of nuclear bomb detonated in the air (atmosphere).

But this does bring to mind Paul's description of Satan as "*the ruler of the kingdom of the air*"—

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV)

² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.

Now that's very interesting to me that the Bible calls Satan the—'*controlling influence*' or '*the governing entity over the air.*'

One author explained it this way—

"...as the air pervades our environment yet is invisible to us, so Satan and his angels invisibly surround us, invade our minds, and manipulate the actions of the human race, leading us toward greater and greater disobedience."

Now I believe that is true, but I also think that in our day and age the devil has found a new and very powerful way to use the 'air' to influence and manipulate the minds and actions of people around the world.

And that is through modern mediums like radio and television that broadcast using the—'airwaves.'

The first radio broadcast was in 1895; and the first television broadcast was in 1928—and even though they both didn't reach their full potential for several years—they have had a tremendous impact on the dissemination of information to those living on this planet.

Today Satan is using newer mediums to communicate his lies and propaganda to the world like the Internet and Cable T.V.—while still very much using radio and TV.

Before these *newer* mediums for broadcasting Satan's deceptions—there were people who were called 'Mediums'—those who were themselves the channels of communication between the earthly physical realm and the spirit realm (who, by the way, are still around today).

And so, I think in part that verse 17 is talking about a judgment that will be poured out on one of the most powerful channels of communications the devil has for disseminating his lies throughout the world—the airwaves (which include Satellite communications).

These and other mediums have become notoriously corrupt, wicked and demonic (think of the *mainstream* media and now *social* media)—and this will especially be true under the totalitarian government of the Antichrist.

Under his worldwide authoritarian regime, all free speech will be shut down (no more Christian and/or conservative radio and television)—only state sponsored broadcasts will be allowed over the airwaves (and over all other mediums)—which means only the Antichrist's propaganda will be heard.

This is no doubt why the Lord dispatches an angel to preach ('broadcast') the everlasting gospel to every person on the earth (Revelation 14:6-7).

It is because He is by-passing the normal media channels which have been taken over by the 'state' (by the Antichrist's global government)—a state broadcast media that will no doubt call itself something along the lines of: '*The Ministry of Truth*' (right out of Orwell's '1984').

Everything else will be labeled '*lies*' and '*misinformation*' that must be stopped and it's purveyors and perpetrators punished and possibly executed for the crime of broadcasting '*dangerous misinformation*' (anything negative about the Antichrist and his government).

Revelation 16:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ 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!"**

This voice is not identified for us—but I personally believe that it is the voice of none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself—the Righteous Judge of all the earth!

Jesus Christ, the great Judge of heaven and earth, announces that the judgment of the Great Tribulation is now concluded—**"It is done!"**

Remember, as we have said, if something in the future is an absolute certainty—it is often spoken of in the *past tense* by the writers of the New Testament (and here by the Lord Jesus Himself).

Technically, all of the seal, trumpet and bowl judgments are done—all that is left is for Jesus to return to the earth and wipe out His enemies in the Battle of Armageddon before He establishes His Kingdom.

Let me say that the Battle of Armageddon is where Jesus wipes out the armies of Antichrist—those who have gathered in the Valley of Megiddo to do battle with Him to keep Him from establishing His Kingdom upon the earth. (Revelation 19)

At that time, He will take the Antichrist, and False Prophet and cast them alive into the Lake of Fire—(Revelation 19:20).

But understand—these will not be the *only* rebels who followed the Antichrist on the face of the earth that Jesus will judge at His coming.

Let's look at Daniel 12 and I'll explain:

Daniel 12:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Once again, this is a reference to when the Antichrist goes into the temple in Jerusalem, stops the sacrifices to the God of Israel (the True and Living God), puts his image into the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshipped as God (Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4).

This event will officially begin the last half of the Tribulation Period (known as '*great tribulation*'—Matthew 24:21).

However, as we have pointed out numerous times in our study of Daniel—the number of days from when the Antichrist sets up his image in the Holy of Holies to when Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom is 1260 days (Revelation 12:6)—(I have mistakenly said it was Revelation 11:6).

And yet here in verse 11 of Daniel Chapter 12 it says that—“...*from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up [till Christ returns], there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.*”

- How then can the additional 30 days (1,290 compared with 1,260) be explained?

Furthermore, the passage goes on to say—

Daniel 12:12 (NKJV)

¹² Blessed *is* he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

This is an additional 45 days beyond the 1,290 days mentioned in verse 11.

- So how do we explain the extra 75 days from the time Jesus returns to the official start of the Kingdom?

Although Daniel does not explain these two extra periods of time (30 days and 45 days), most evangelical scholars believe that between the Second Coming and the start of the Kingdom Age—a couple of judgments need to take place.

One will be the '*judgment of Israel*' ("Jews"—Ezek. 20:34-38); and the other will be the—'*judgment of the nations*' ("Gentiles"— Matthew 25:31-46).

- It is possible that these two judgments could account for the extra 75 days (Israel = 30 days? Gentiles = 45 days?).

These two great judgments are designed to purge from the earth all remaining unbelievers—both Jews and Gentiles who worshipped the Antichrist and took his mark.

These will be separated from true believers (both Jew and Gentile) who will be alive on the earth when Jesus returns—

Matthew 13:47-50 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, ⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Although these judgments will be handled quickly—it will still require some time.

By the 1,335 day (75-days after the Second Coming)—these great judgments will have been accomplished and the Millennial Kingdom will officially begin.

Those who make it to the 1335 day of this period are obviously those who have been judged worthy to enter the kingdom (true believers in Jesus)—hence, they are called "**blessed.**"

The Judgment of Israel (Jews)—

Ezekiel 20:34-38 (NKJV)

³⁴ I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. ³⁶ Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD. ³⁷ "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I *am* the LORD.

The Judgment of the Nations (Gentiles)—

Matthew 25:31-46 (NKJV)

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and

you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.' ⁴¹Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these ['My brethren'], you did not do *it* to Me.'

This passage is a little more complicated than the one in Ezekiel.

It's important to notice that Jesus mentioned three groups in this parable—*sheep*, *goats*, and then those whom He calls '*My brethren*'.

- The first two groups, the *sheep* and the *goats*, refer to Gentiles who will be alive on the earth when Jesus returns at His Second Coming.
- The *sheep* represent believing Gentiles and the *goats* represent unbelieving Gentiles.
- The third group ("*Jesus' brethren*") is a reference to faithful Jewish believers in Christ who will be persecuted unmercifully by the Antichrist and his followers during the Tribulation Period.

This could be a reference in particular to the 144,000 Jewish believers that become powerful evangelists during the Tribulation Period for Jesus (Revelation 7 and 14).

These, of course, will *not* receive the "mark of the beast" on their forehead or right hand (Revelation 13:16–17)—which means they will not be able to buy or sell—so how will they survive?

Apparently, they survive through the loving kindness of Gentiles believers in Christ who will care for them during this time—much like believers did for the Jews in WWII. (Cory Ten Boom's family)

When we say this is the judgment of the *nations*—understand we are not saying that Jesus will judge America, Germany, Italy, Japan etc. at that time—but individuals (Gentiles) within these nations.

The Greek word for 'nations' in verse 32 is *ethnos*—the word we get our English word 'ethnic' from.

An ethnic group is defined as those people who share a common ancestry, cultural heritage, homeland and language—and again, in this context it is referring to Gentile ethnic groups.

And so once again, Jesus Christ, the great Judge of heaven and earth, now announces that—the combined judgments of the 7-year Tribulation Period have been fulfilled as He declares—"**It is done.**"

That pronouncement is similar to Jesus' final words from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

One author put it this way—

“God’s judgment of Christ on Calvary provided salvation for repentant sinners; the judgment of the seventh bowl brings doom to unrepentant sinners.”

There is one final judgment left—the Great White Throne Judgment. (Revelation 20:11-15)

Revelation 16:18 (NKJV)

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.

This seems to be the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah—

Isaiah 24:19-20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. ²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts...

The first effect of this ‘**great and mighty earthquake**’ was that—the ‘*great city*’ was split into three parts.

The **great city** cannot be ‘Babylon’, as some think, because—it is distinguished from “*Babylon the great*” mentioned later in verse 19.

A comparison with 11:8 clearly identifies the ‘**great city**’ as Jerusalem—

Revelation 11:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

The massive earthquake will **split** Jerusalem into **three parts**, beginning a series of geophysical alterations to the city and its surrounding region that will conclude when the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

Zechariah 14:4–10 describes these changes in detail:

- *The Mount of Olives will split in two, and a new valley running east and west will be created (Zechariah 14:4).*
- *A spring of water will flow year-round from Jerusalem to the Mediterranean and Dead Seas (Zechariah 14:8), causing the desert to blossom like a rose (Isaiah 35:1).*
- *Jerusalem will be elevated, and the surrounding region flattened into a plain (Zechariah 14:10).*

Thus, the purpose of the earthquake as it relates to Jerusalem is not to judge the city—but to enhance it in preparation for the Kingdom of God to be established with Jerusalem as its capital!

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell...

Someone has said that *“God made the country—but man made the cities.”*

There is something evil about cities (even though aesthetically they can be quite beautiful)—even from the first time they are mentioned in the Bible:

Genesis 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And Cain [murderer of his brother Able] knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son--Enoch.

The name **‘Enoch’** means *“dedicated”, “initiated”, or “instructed”*.

The question is—*“dedicated, initiated or instructed”* into what? I believe into the rebellious, self-willed ways of his father Cain.

The fact that Cain named the city he founded after his son and not after God says a lot. It seems that Cain wanted a city for him and his family to live in that would be dedicated to his way of thinking and living.

This city would be the antithesis of the city of God where the righteous will someday live—

Psalm 46:4 (NKJV)

⁴ *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.*

Psalm 87:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ His foundation *is* in the holy mountains. ² The LORD loves the gates of Zion More than all the dwellings of Jacob. ³ Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God! Selah

Cain, the first rebel against God on the face of the earth—wanted his family to grow up in and live in a godless city. In other words, he wanted his family to be a secular family—a family without God. And because of it, his family would go on to be the opposite of the godly family that would descend from Seth.

Now don’t confuse Cain’s son Enoch, who was ungodly, with the Enoch that was a descendant of Seth.

That Enoch was a very godly man who walked with God in close fellowship—so much so that God ‘took’ him (raptured him) before the Flood.

The Enoch that Cain bore was just the opposite—in fact we can see the effect Enoch’s upbringing had on him in the way he named his son:

Genesis 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ **To Enoch was born Irad...**

The name **Irada** literally means *“urban citizen” or ‘city dweller’*.

Cain built a godless city, and his son Enoch was instructed and indoctrinated by his father into His father’s ‘religion’ (secular humanism)—and when Enoch had a son, he called his name *“city-dweller.”*

It reminds us how the godless upon the earth in the book of Revelation that God judges are called ‘earth-dwellers’.

We can see the detrimental effects that this godless, secular way of life had on the succeeding generations of Cain:

Genesis 4:18 (b)
... and Irad begot Mehujael...

Mehujael literally means "blot out that Yah is El"—in other words, "*wipe out the name of God.*"

There are many with this name in our country today who want to wipe the name of God away from public life—they want a totally secular society.

Genesis 4:18 (c)
... and Mehujael begot Methusael...

Methusael literally means "*They are dead who are of God.*"

In other words, "*Those who believe in God are dead*"— they are worthless, irrelevant, "*as good as dead*" in the sense they have no meaning in modern culture.

Genesis 4:18 (d)
... and Methusael begot Lamech.

The name **Lamech** may mean, "*Poor*" (bankrupt morally and spiritually);

Although some suggest it could mean "*Conqueror*"—which could explain why he killed a man with little justification—he felt he had to deal with and conquer anyone who ‘dissed’ or opposed him.

Today he would no doubt be a gangbanger.

But getting back to how God is going to judge cities as one of the final judgments of the Great Tribulation Period. There are those who regard all cities as godless places where sin and vice are the most rampant—and a lot of that is true.

Most of the major cities in the world are run by leftist, progressive thinking leaders who embrace godless ideologies like Marxism, Socialism and Communism—these are rebels against the true and living God—just like Cain and Enoch (and Nimrod who built a city and tower...Gen.11).

Thomas Jefferson who wrote to James Madison in December of 1787 said something that is very interesting on this subject:

"I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. When they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe."

One author who quoted Jefferson on the corrupt nature of cities said,

"The larger a society grows, the more centralized the ruling authority gets. And the more centralized the authority becomes, the less accountable to people it is, and thus more tyrannical it becomes.

We see this playing out in Canadian cities right now. Police and other authorities have concentrated power to the point where they've lost any fear of citizen reprisal and have become tyrannical. Gone is even the sad excuse

by police of, "I'm just doing my job," or, "I'm just doing what I've been ordered."

Here in America, the larger the city, the more corrupt it becomes – and the more tyrannical. More people means huge sums of money in the coffers of relatively few city leaders. It means a relative few people control a very large population, which means a greater disconnect between the two. This is a recipe for lawlessness, corruption and tyranny we see in virtually every major city in the U.S.

It's not like this is some new-age theory or discovery—Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, in 340 B.C., wrote, "*for law is order and good law is good order – but a very great multitude cannot be orderly.*" It's the same point made by...[Thomas] Jefferson...

And the corrupt left knows this all too well, as they attempt to rid us of rural and even suburban America, by means of manipulating zoning laws, as well as flooding our already crowded cities with illegal immigrants.

Sadly, the only way back, short of breaking America into two separate nations or civil war, is to somehow return to small-town America, where leaders are directly accountable to much smaller populations, and where once again, "*good law is good order.*" In other words: decentralization. Perhaps the anti-federalists were right all along."

In the Kingdom Age it could be that the only city will be Jerusalem—and the rest of the world will have no other cities but will be rural and agrarian (have an agricultural not industrial economy).

It could be that during the Millennial Kingdom we will all live in a world of 'Mayberry's—small towns and not large cities.

Small towns where everyone will know everyone else and the whole town will be family!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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