

The Book Of Revelation Study 82

Revelation 16:17-21 (NASB)

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."

¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.

¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

²¹ And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, *came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague *was extremely severe.

The seventh bowl is the final outpouring of God's wrath on sinners on this present earth.

After it, Jesus will come and set up His millennial kingdom.

At the end of that thousand year period, there will be one final act of rebellion, which will be quickly crushed.

Revelation 20:7-10 (NASB)

⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

But that judgment will not take place in the world as we know it, for the earth will be changed dramatically before the kingdom arrives.

This final judgment of the present era will take place during the time when "the mystery of God is finished"

Revelation 10:7 (NASB)

⁷ but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

It is the last of the seven plagues which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished

Revelation 15:1 (NASB)

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

The seventh bowl will be the worst calamity in the world's history, the most complete and devastating catastrophe the earth will ever experience.

It's effects carry all the way to the establishment of the earthly kingdom of Christ.

Like the fourth angel, **the seventh angel** did not dump his bowl on the earth, but **poured it out upon the air**.

It's first effects were on the earth's atmosphere, as if God were cleansing the former domain of Satan and his demon hosts.

The earth, the sea, the waters, the sun, and finally the **air** are the targets of judgment.

As the angel dumped his bowl, **a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne**.

The voice is that of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth.

His solemn declaration "**it is done**" announces the climax of the final Day of the Lord that will spread doom over the entire globe

The perfect tense verb *gegonen* (**it is done**) describes a completed action with ongoing results. It is similar to Jesus' final words from the cross, "**it is finished**" God's judgment of Christ on Calvary provided salvation for repentant sinners:
The judgment of the seventh bowl brings doom to unrepentant sinners.

The pouring out of the seventh bowl dramatically affected the atmosphere; **there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder**.

Like the seventh seal (8:5) and the seventh trumpet (11:19) the seventh bowl is introduced with the imagery of a violent thunder storm.
Those earlier storms were mere previews of the mighty storm of wrath that now bursts upon the earth.

Though the seventh bowl was dumped on the earth's atmosphere, it will also have a devastating effect on the earth itself.

God will punctuate this final judgment against sinners with an earthquake, just as He did His judgment of sin at Calvary.

This earthquake will be the most powerful one ever to strike the earth;
John describes it as **a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, an so mighty**.

While there have always been and will continue to be local earthquakes, this **great earthquake** will be unique in that God will shake the globe, as prophesied in Haggai;

Haggai 2:6 (NASB)

⁶ **"For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land.**

Hebrews 12:26 (NASB)

²⁶ **And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."**

The shaking will be so severe that it will renovate and reconfigure the earth in preparation for the millennial kingdom, restoring it to something like its pre-flood condition.

The first effect of this **great and mighty** earthquake was that **the great city was split into three parts**. The city mentioned here cannot be Babylon, as some think, because it is distinguished from “Babylon the great, mentioned later in verse 9.

A comparison with 11:8 clearly identifies the **great city** as Jerusalem;

Revelation 11:8 (NASB)

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

The last phrase, where also their Lord was crucified” lets us know it is Jerusalem we are talking about here.

Jerusalem will be split into three parts

This will begin a series of geophysical alterations to the city and its surrounding region that will conclude when the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

Zechariah describes these changes in detail.

Zechariah 14:4-10 (NASB)

⁴ In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

⁵ You will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!

⁶ In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle.

⁷ For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

⁸ And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter.

⁹ And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

¹⁰ All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses.

What do we learn from this?

The mount of Olives will split in two, and new valley running east and west will be created. A spring of water will flow year around from Jerusalem to the Mediterranean and dead Seas. This will cause the desert to blossom like a rose.

Isaiah 35:1 (NASB)

¹ The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus

Jerusalem will be elevated

And the surrounding area will be flattened into a plain

So the purpose of this earthquake as it relates to Jerusalem is not to judge the city, but to enhance it. Jerusalem was judged earlier in the Tribulation by an earthquake, which led to the salvation of those who were not killed.

The physical changes will prepare Jerusalem for the central role it will play during the millennial kingdom, when Christ will reign there as King.

Unlike Jerusalem, which was enhanced by the earthquake, **the cities of the nations fell**, perhaps simultaneously with the defeat of Antichrist by the Lamb.

Naturally, such an earthquake will cause massive, widespread destruction.

Specially singled out is **Babylon the great, which, was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.**

As the capital city of Antichrist's empire, **Babylon** especially will be made to drink **the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.**

The downfall of **Babylon**, mentioned here in passing, will be described at length in chapters 17 and 18.

Now, the final effect of the earthquake, as noted above, is to prepare the earth for the millennial rule of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To that end the earth's topography will be drastically altered;

Isaiah 40:3-4 (NASB)

³ *A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.*

⁴ *"Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;*

This will complete the process that began during the sixth seal

The gently rolling topography of the world as originally created will be restored.

No more will there be great inaccessible, uninhabitable mountain ranges or deserts or ice caps.

The physical environment of the millennium will be, in large measure a restoration of the antediluvian (pre-Flood) environment

Henry M Morris in his study of Revelation says that this may leave Jerusalem as the highest point on earth, making it a fitting throne for the Great King who will rule there during the Millennium

Jeremiah 3:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ *"At that time they will call Jerusalem 'The Throne of the LORD,' and all the nations will be gathered to it, to Jerusalem, for the name of the LORD; nor will they walk anymore after the stubbornness of their evil heart.*

Those who somehow escape the devastation caused by the earthquake will face another catastrophe, one unprecedented in earth's history.

They will be pelted with **huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each**, that will hurtle down from heaven upon men.

The force of these hail stones is unimaginable.

The Greek term translated **about one hundred pounds** described the most weight a normal man could carry, anywhere from 90 to 135 pounds

The heaviest hailstones ever recorded weighed about 2 pounds:
These gigantic chunks of ice will be fifty times heavier.

They will be added to the devastation caused by the earthquake and crush humanity, who, because of the earthquake's power, have no adequate shelter.

Fixed in their impenitence, the survivors of the hailstorm **blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely sever.**

Incredibly, tortured, humanity defiantly remains hardened against God, a truth that should give pause to those who think that signs and wonders will convince people to believe the gospel.

Those who reject the Wonder, Glory, and Majesty of the Son of God, who spurn the gracious free gift of salvation, will not be convinced by any sign.

Luke 16:31 (NASB)

³¹ **"But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"**

It is **too late** for these hardened sinners; they have sold their souls to Satan;
They are totally committed to Antichrist's blasphemous, idolatrous, anti-God system.

Jesus called them children of wrath.

God's eschatological and eternal wrath is inevitable; no one can prevent or hinder it from coming.

But there is a way to escape it.

Romans 8:1 (NASB)

¹ **Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

They will not face Judgment, because their sins were judged when Jesus died in their place on the cross

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

²¹ **He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

1 Peter 2:24 (NASB)

²⁴ **and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.**