

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
16:17-21

OUTLINE

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MAIN POINT

This is the final of the Bowl Judgments

-  Declaration that “it is done” by God
-  An earthquake that takes down a third of Jerusalem, strikes Babylon, and the Gentile cities
-  Will see more about Babylon in the following chapters
-  Hail strikes the Earth Dwellers
-  Still no repentance

The consistency of God and His judgments in Scripture

-  Typological analysis
-  Historical precedent

The continuing lack of repentance

-  Not a knowledge problem, but a heart problem
-  An issue of pride?
-  An issue of love of sin over all else

THE VISION



THE SEVENTH ANGEL (V. 17A)

The angel

-  As with previous angels in the Bowl Judgments, there is no indication of it going out
-  No indication of it returning or doing anything but pouring
-  Rapid-fire portion of the judgments

The Air

-  Needed for life at a fundamental level
-  Follows the earth (v. 2), the sea (v. 3), fresh water (v. 4), and the sun (v. 8)
 -  Final portion of the Elements as seen in Greek thinking
-  Debatable if this relates to **Ephesians 2:2**
 -  Possible if one views this as attacking the powers behind the World System
 -  No immediate textual evidence for this
 -  See these Powers and their judgment later
 -  These seem broadly directed at judging Man in rebellion
-  Greek = *aer* and means “the air, particularly the lower and denser air as distinguished from the higher and rarer air; the atmospheric region”
 -  Seems to indicate the literal air which we breath
 -  Same word as in **Ephesians 2:2**, but it is used seven times in the New Testament and it always means “air” with the possible exception of **Ephesians 2:2**

A GREAT VOICE (V. 17B)

The voice of God

-  Same as v. 1
-  Further defined by “from the throne”
-  First saw this in **Chapter 4**
-  Mentioned in connection with the Temple in Heaven, and only also done in **Revelation 7:15**

The Message

-  God commanded the judgments to be unleashed
-  The judgments have now reached their conclusion
-  Greek perfect tense indicates that “it is done” not that that specific moment, but extends to the final end statement in **Revelation 21:6** (Thomas v2, p. 273)
 -  One starts the “done” and the other bookends it
 -  This encompasses what we read here, and will see in the following chapters
-  This last plague culminates the description of the dark side of how the new creation will come into existence (Sweet via Thomas v2, p. 273)

STORM THEOPHANY (V. 18)

📍 The end of a series

📍 Have seen these before (Revelation 8:3-5; 11:19)

📍 Shows God's punishment (Isaiah 29:6)

📍 Here it comes after the judgment is proclaimed, instead of before as with the other two

📍 Note also the relation in these to the Temple

📍 The Holy Law was broken and a temple was made to deal with it, and if one rejects the provision of God, then there is nothing left (c.f. Hebrews 10:28-29)

📍 Also seen in Revelation 4:5

📍 Earthquake is greater than those in Revelation 6:12 and 11:13

📍 Not just a sign of God's displeasure, but part of the judgment as a whole

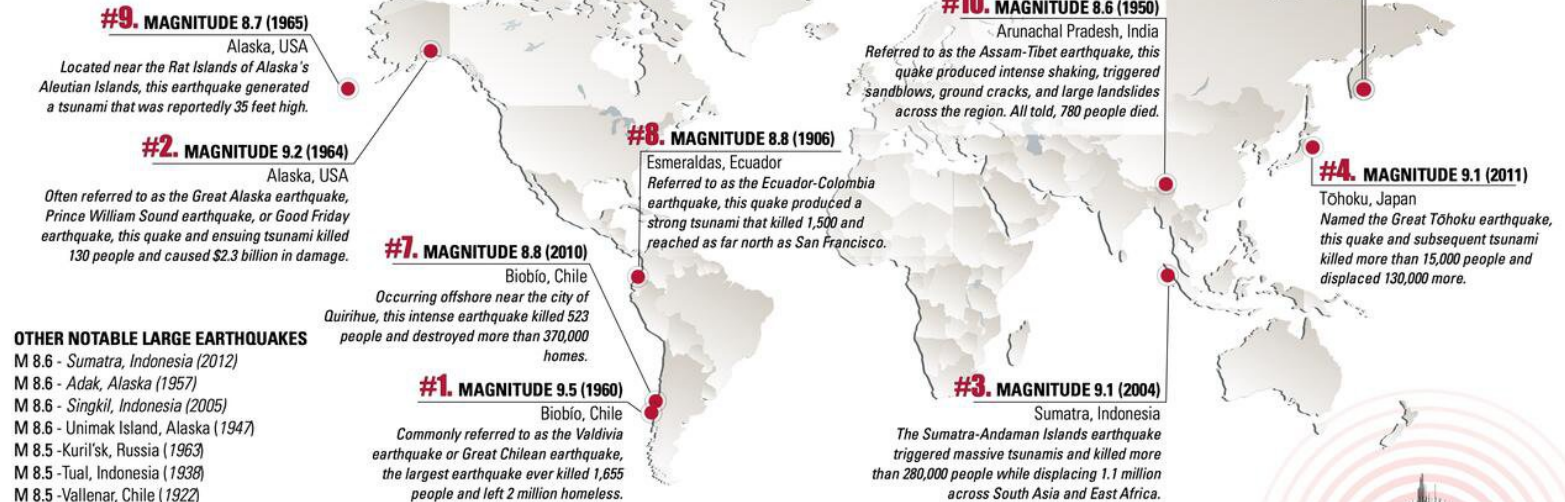
📍 This is worse than everything that has come before

📍 Specifically related to a point in the Tribulation and not related to present or past events

📍 Exact scope and extent are not mentioned, only that it is worse than everything else



10 LARGEST EARTHQUAKES EVER RECORDED



U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

SOURCE: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/science/20-largest-earthquakes-world-1900>

UPDATED: Nov. 2025

BABYLON COMES BEFORE GOD (V. 19)

The Great City: Babylon or Jerusalem?

-  **Babylon:** Referred to as “great”, but that is “the great” not a “great city” *per se*. Further, it is possible that Babylon would be mentioned three times in the same verse, but given that different things seem to happen to the given cities, this seems remote (c.f. Thomas v2, p. 275).
-  **Jerusalem:** Referred to as “the great city” in Revelation 11:8. Some geographic upheaval will be needed to bring about the changes for Zechariah 14:4. Possible that happened previously, but we are told there was a specific division of the city, which fits more strongly with what is needed before Jesus’s Second Coming.

Other cities

-  This earthquake impacts the rest of the cities as well
-  Damage is worse in those areas; not divided in three parts, but destroyed
 -  The problem of cities throughout history
-  These events may be simultaneous to the destruction of the armies of the First Beast in **Revelation 17:12-14** as earthquakes and invasions often go together (e.g. **Isaiah 13:13-14**; **Haggai 2:21-22**), but that is not strictly necessitated by the text

Babylon

-  The following verses in **Chapter 17** tell us what God “remembered” about Babylon
-  Already told us this judgment was coming in **Revelation 14:8** and figured it in **14:14-20**
-  The real judgment for Babylon is still yet to come; the Earthquake was only the first part (Thomas v2, p. 276)
 -  First part is here
 -  Second part in **Revelation 17:16**
 -  Third part in **Revelation 19:18-21**

MOUNTAINS RUNNING AND HAIL FALLING (V. 20-21)

Continuing impacts from the earthquake

- Destruction of mountains
- The Greek implies that they were swallowed up by the sea (Thomas v2, p. 276)
- A foreshadowing of the completion of this in Revelation 20:11; 21:1-2
- Can only see this a literal based on the context of the passage, the use of this idea in Scripture, and the general geographic changes that must precede the return of Jesus (e.g. Zechariah 14:4)

Hailstones

- Similar to Exodus 9:23-24 and Revelation 8:7
- Weight is between 108-130lbs.
 - The specific weight lends credence to the idea that this is literal and not symbolic
- Used to show the judgment of God in Joshua 10: 11; Job 38:22-23; Isaiah 28:2, 17; Ezekiel 13:11-13; 38:22-23 (per Thomas v2, p. 277)

Note the reaction

- They continue to blaspheme God
- Whatever deception there is, they are not confused on this point
 - Know who God is, what He requires, that they have not followed His laws, and that these judgments are because they decided not to follow Him
- These actions also imply that the men do not die (Thomas v2, p. 276)
- Similar to Revelation 9:6

WHO	WHAT
GOPALGANJ HAILSTONE	1.02 KILOGRAM(S)
WHERE	WHEN
BANGLADESH (GOPALGANJ)	14 APRIL 1986

According to the World Meteorological Organization, the heaviest hailstones on record weighed up to 1.02 kg (2 lb 3.9 oz) and are reported to have killed 92 people in the Gopalganj area of Bangladesh on 14 April 1986.

The heaviest hailstone to have been recorded in the Western Hemisphere, meanwhile, fell at approximately 23:00 UTC on 23 July 2010 in Vivian, South Dakota, USA; it weighed 0.88 kg (1 lb 15 oz), and had a diameter of 8 in (20.32 cm) and a circumference of 1 ft 6.2 in (47.3 cm). This exceeded the previous US hail records for both weight (1 lb 10.7 oz/0.76 kg; 3 September 1970 in Coffeyville, Kansas) and diameter (7 in/17.78 cm; 22 June 2003 in Aurora, Nebraska).

TYPES ACROSS SCRIPTURE

The Seventh Plague in Egypt (**Exodus 9:13-35**)

-  The pride of Pharaoh
-  Demonstration of God's power
-  Type of the world and the powers behind it

Penalty for blasphemy was stoning (e.g. **Leviticus 24:23**)

-  The people in Revelation are clearly blaspheming God
-  God is, in a sense, following out the Law
-  Stoning was a group activity (e.g. **Leviticus 24:14**)
 -  The seriousness of the sin
 -  Everyone acknowledged it and worked to get rid of it

Conquest of the Land under Joshua (**Joshua 10:22-27**)

-  Types in **Joshua** and **Revelation**
-  Significance that this is the last judgment?

LESSONS FOR US

God remembers Babylon and Jerusalem

-  The two thematic cities across Scripture
-  Both will eventually be dealt with
-  God's time, not ours

Prophecy as pattern

-  Jewish view of prophecy
-  The consistency of God (c.f. **Malachi 3:6**)
-  The patterns of God in Scripture

Serious study of the Word

-  Go beneath the wave tops
-  There are “hidden” things in there for us to find (**Proverbs 25:2**)
-  God rewards the diligent