

Revelation 16:17-21

The Seventh Bowl – World Wide Destruction

Verse 17

And the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air –

The air may represent Satan's world system as he is called "*the prince of the power of the air*" in Ephesians 2:2. Chapters 17 – 19 detail the final judgments on his religious, political, and economical system.

And a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne

The temple – Representing the presence of God

The throne – Representing the authority of God!

It is done – This is a single word in the Greek and it indicates a completed action. This word is repeated in Revelation 21:6 where God declares He is making all things new.

Jesus cried "*It is finished*" when He died for our sins.

The Father cries "*It is done*" when He finishes the outpouring of His wrath.

If men will not receive the Savior's finished work they will receive the Father's finished wrath!

Verse 18

Flashes of lightning...sounds and peals of thunder...and a great earthquake... - Notice that this phenomenon occurs at the last seal (8:5), the last trumpet (11:19), and here at the last bowl!

A great earthquake – This final earthquake is described as "*so great and so mighty!*" There has never been another like it.

Verse 19

And the great city was split into three parts – This could refer to Babylon, Rome, or Jerusalem. Most likely it is Jerusalem as this same designation is used in Revelation 11:8.

And the cities of the nations fell – This earthquake is so great that it has a worldwide effect.

And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath – Babylon is the special object of God's wrath because of what she does and represents. Babylon's fall is detailed in chapters 18-19. The fall of Babylon is the central teaching of the seventh bowl.

Verse 20

And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found – It appears this earthquake will begin to prepare the earth for the Edenic conditions that are prophesied to characterize the Millennium. These changes preview the final disappearance of the old creation in preparation for the creation of a new heavens and earth.

Verse 21

And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men – Hail is often seen in Scripture as an instrument of divine judgment. Note Joshua 10:11, Job 38:22-23, Isaiah 28:2, 17, Ezekiel 13:11-13, etc.

And men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe – Just as in the days of the plagues of Egypt, the hearts of earth dwellers will be hard and unrepentant.