

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF THE WRATH OF GOD!

Poured out upon the Earth!

Revelation 16:1-21

The information presented in the following twenty-one verses should cause all men to examine their relationship with the Almighty God. The events we are about to observe are both awesome and terrifying. In fact, the only consolation for the believer is that he will not be present when the forthcoming scenario actually takes place. By the time our study is concluded, we will understand and appreciate more than ever before, the words of the Apostle Paul in **Titus 2:13**: *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*. The final seven judgments of the Tribulation hour are about to begin.

I. SEVEN ANGELS PROCEED FROM THE TEMPLE—GOD’S WRATH Poured OUT UPON THE EARTH

Verse 1: And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

- A. The voice of Almighty God issues forth from the smoke-filled Temple.
 1. He directs the angels to carry out their duties.
 - a. Remember, God himself is sending forth these judgments.
 - b. His holiness has been offended. Mankind has worshipped a man—the Antichrist, the devil in human skin—even bowing to his image, *the abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15)*.
 - c. The true and eternal God is justly angry. He cannot allow this iniquity to go unjudged. There could be no further delay.
 2. In **Isaiah 42:8** Jehovah says, *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*
 3. Again, in **Exodus 20:4-6**: *Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*
 4. Because mankind, *en masse*, has grossly violated this commandment during the Tribulation period, the promised judgment must begin.

- B. As we closed *Chapter 15* we saw that nothing could stop the judgment that was forthcoming.
1. During the pouring out of the seven vials, God is inside His temple.
 2. God cannot be found until the seven angels complete their missions.
- C. The great voice then gives the command to pour out the vials to the last bitter dregs. These seven vials are to be poured out upon all the earth—not just on one locality, but every square inch of this earth.



II. THE FIRST BOWL: —“THE PLAGUE OF SORES”

Verse 2: The first [angel] went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

- A. In this verse, the first vial is poured out upon the earth. We know where and what the earth is, and there is no point in spiritualizing this statement. When the angel poured out his vial, a running sore came upon men who bore the mark of the Beast and upon them who worshipped his image. What a scene, as the first bowl is poured out and men become covered with ulcerated sores!

1. They had the mark of the beast (666), and now they have the mark of God—ulcers.
 2. These festering infections probably obscure the beast's number, if not completely obliterate it from existence!
- B. The first vial contained running, grievous sores. Can this verse be taken literally?
1. The plague is similar to one of past history: *And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains [ulcerated sores] upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians (Exodus 9:8-11).* This is going to make the horrible scenes of Egypt seem mild by comparison.
 2. What a terrible price men pay for not believing God!

III. THE SECOND BOWL—“THE PLAGUE OF THE BLOODY SEA”

Verse 3: And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

- A. I believe the vials will be poured out in rapid succession.
1. The sea will actually turn to blood just as the Bible tells us. There are those who read the Bible and then ask: “What does that mean?”
 2. The answer is clear: The Bible says what it means, and means what it says.
- B. There is no value in trying to explain away what is stated.
1. The sea became red with blood, all the living things of the sea will die and begin to decay.
 2. This is not what many say is just a changing in the color of the sea as it reflects the bright skyscape set ablaze with the explosion of nuclear blasts.
 3. The sea will turn to blood and no living thing shall survive the denaturing of God's creation now being judged by the creator Himself.
- C. Again history records a time when the waters turned to blood:

“Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. ⁽¹⁸⁾And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river. ⁽¹⁹⁾ And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. ⁽²⁰⁾And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. ⁽²¹⁾And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.”
(Exodus 7:17-21 KJV)

- D. If God did it once, He can certainly do it again.
1. He is the omnipotent,
 2. He is an all-powerful God.
 3. His promises never fail.

Pausing momentarily to review our studies, we recall that the **“second seal”** (**Chapter 6:3-4**) brought great bloodshed upon earth and the **“second trumpet blast”** (**Chapter 8:8**) caused a third part (⅓) of the sea to become blood.

In the verse presently under study, every sea creature perishes when the water is turned to blood. The result is an unbearable stench throughout the entire world as these organisms debase and decay. Think of it!

That which always symbolized life—*the life of the flesh is in the blood* (**Leviticus 17:11**)— That which symbolized salvation—*the blood of Jesus Christ* [**God’s**] *Son cleanseth us from all sin* (**1 John 1:7**)— now becomes a symbol of condemnation and death. But wait! There is more.

The third vial extends the destruction to all bodies of water throughout the world internationally.

Before I move on to the next passage I want to clarify and yet unveil yet another point with regard to the importance of understanding fully what God has brought to us in this latter-day unveiling. Surely we understand the great carnage revealed here in these scriptures; it, however, can never be overstated. The “as” in the verse of discussion is misplaced in the “Authorized Version.” The correct reading being *“became blood as of a dead man.”* The vivid image is of a dying creature wallowing, thrashing about in a pool of his own blood. The movement of the simple word “as” takes away from the vivid picture within one’s mind. I am not a sadistic person but I do believe we must have the **“full”** revelation of God’s Word, uninhibited by poor translation. We must be able to visualize fully God’s imagery when He states that the seas will wallow in blood and then see the inference to that image of a dying creature thrashing about in their own blood. So, under the second trumpet, ⅓ of the sea creatures died (**Revelation 8:9**). **SEE IT!** —As the dying sea creatures thrash about in the pools of their own blood along the shores of the seas, the stench and disease will be utterly horrible. See it as their life oozes out upon the shore. The small things do matter!

IV. THE THIRD BOWL—“THE PLAGUE OF THE BLOODY RIVERS AND WATER-SPRINGS”

Verses 4-7: ⁽⁴⁾And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. ⁽⁵⁾ And I heard the angel of the waters say, *Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shall be, because thou hast judged thus.* ⁽⁶⁾ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. ⁽⁷⁾ And I heard another out of the altar say, *Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.*

- A. When this angel pours his vial upon the earth, there will not be one drop of fresh water left. All waters will be changed, into blood.
- B. As the judgments come nearer the end, they become more severe, and they are world wide. All of this terrible thing will begin in Jerusalem, but it will spread to the four corners of the earth.
- C. *“Let them drink blood.” “They shed the blood of the saints; give them blood to drink. They are worthy, they deserve it.”*
- D. Every man will receive everything that is coming to him. There is a “pay day” for every person born on this earth.

By this time, one may have been tempted to believe that God is not just. To the contrary, God is always equitable, fair, and righteous in His dealings with men. **Genesis 18:25** declares, *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”* No man has all the facts in his possession. Thus, he must wait until he meets God face to face. Then and only then will he be able to make unbiased decisions.

Notice that angelic beings have different responsibilities upon earth. In our text, we see the angel of (or over) the waters justifying God's actions by saying, *Thou art righteous, O Lord* [the eternal one] *...because* [of thy judgments]. In effect, the angel is saying, *“The wicked beast worshipers who shed the blood of so many of Your saints and prophets may not satisfy their insatiable desire for blood by drinking it to their heart's content. They deserve what has happened to them. You have answered the prayers of Your saints under the altar”* (**Chapter 6**). As this message of vindication to the Almighty is concluded, a voice from the altar replies, *“Even so,”* or *“Amen.”* Justice prevails. God's judgments are true and righteous.

V. THE FOURTH VIAL “THE PLAGUE OF THE SUN'S HEAT”

Verses 8-9: *And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.* ⁽⁹⁾*And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues; and they repented not to give him glory.*

- A. In **Revelation 8:12** the heavenly bodies were affected... “One third” were blacked out. But here it is altogether different. The inhabitants of planet earth now experience the

greatest heat wave in history. Many of us remember what happened in the south during the summer of 1980. Crops were parched and great numbers of people died as temperatures consistently soared over 100 degrees. Now we see what happens when the sun is out of control.

1. The power of the sun is increased until the terrific heat and blazes of fire from the sun scorch and burn the backs of men, roasting them.
 2. What a horrible thought! God takes His mighty hand, pushes the sun so near the earth that the sun's rays scorch the backs of earth's inhabitants!
 3. God created the sun, and it would be but a small thing for Him to put it close enough to earth to scorch men.
- B. God, in this one of the last plagues, takes the beautiful, life-giving, earth-warming sun and turns it into a giant ball of tormenting fire. Can you imagine it? Can you picture it in your mind? It was predicted in **Isaiah 24:4-6** "*The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*"
- C. You would think that everyone on earth would fall on their faces and cry out to God to save them—but according to the word of God, those who are burned "*repented not to give Him the glory.*"
1. Instead of repenting, they blasphemed God for sending such plagues upon them. You know why?
 - a. They are sold under sin.
 - b. They knew the truth but refused to accept it.
 - c. They worshipped Satan rather than God.
 2. When men know God but refuse to honor or trust Him, God gives them up (**Romans 1: 18**). The most dangerous thing in this world is for a man to know the way of God, hear the way of truth, and boldly refuse to follow God in truth.

Before we move on to the next Bowl or Vial, I would like to expound on the matter of this heat wave.

The earth becomes so drastically hot during this judgment that God has to alleviate the suffering by shortening the daylight hours. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:22**, *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.* What did He mean? Many scholars have proposed the idea of the Tribulation period being abbreviated, but this is an impossibility because God's predestined program for the Tribulation totals seven years—or eighty-four months, or exactly 2,520 days. Since the scheduled timetable is already prophesied, not one day can be cut from the program. **Revelation 11:2** mentions 1,260 days

as one half of this period and no one can change God's plan. Therefore, we must find another explanation.

Is there a solution? Definitely! God shortens the daylight hours and lengthens the night seasons to keep millions alive. He accomplishes this by darkening the sun, as predicted by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ: *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened (Matthew 24:29)*. This statement harmonizes with *Revelation 6:12: And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair*. God's method of shortening the daylight hours hinders the sun's death purge of earth's inhabitants by reducing the amount of ultraviolet rays bombarding the planet. This act of mercy is for His people, the saved Tribulation saints, for He adds in *Matthew 24:22, But for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened*.

Once again we need to remember that the Church, the elect, the bride of Christ composed of all who are born again prior to the Rapture (*Revelation 4:1*), at home in glory all this time. The earthly group of Tribulation saints presently being discussed constitute the elect of *Romans 11:28*. They are also referred to as Jacobites, or Israelites, in *Romans 11:26*. These are Jews. They are not members of the bride of Christ, but rather those who constitute of the wife of Jehovah.

Mankind's reaction to the scorching with fire takes the form of further rebellion. Instead of repenting and appealing to God, He who has power to stay the plague (*verse 9*), the people aim a barrage of four-letter blasphemies at the Almighty. The human heart is exceedingly wicked and callous (note *Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"*) Even in the face of such agonizing judgment, repentance, restitution, and reconciliation, these are the farthest things from men's minds. Truly, they are hardened sinners. Now back to our outline!

VI. THE FIFTH VIAL "THE PLAGUE OF DARKNESS" & "NO PENITENCE FROM THESE JUDGEMENTS"

Verses 10-11: ⁽¹⁰⁾And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, ⁽¹¹⁾ And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

- A. You can see from this plague that all seven vials are poured out in rapid succession during a short period of time. The people still have their sores. They received their sores when the first vial was poured out. Now the fifth vial is poured out, and the sores are still with them.
- B. Get this picture if you can: First, men who have the mark of the Beast are covered with running, "grievous" sores. Next, the sea turns to blood and all life in the sea dies. Then, all the fresh water turns to blood and people have to drink it. To make conditions worse, the sun then burns men from the intensive heat. God then blacks out the entire universe, and people move about in gross darkness. Their pain is so unbearable they gnaw their tongues and curse God!
- C. The last time the entire earth was totally blacked out was when Jesus hung on the cross. He was paying the sin-debt. He took the sinner's place... outer darkness forever.

D. *Verse 11* is very needful and enlightening.

1. These people who are in such agony do not fall on their faces and beg God for mercy.
2. They curse God and blaspheme His name and they do not repent.
3. These people have been strong delusions, they have believe the lie, they are damned.

Before moving on to the *Sixth Seal* I would like to point out several things:

" First of all the fourth bowl or judgment produced unusual brightness through the scorching rays of the sun, then the fifth bowl unleashes darkness upon the very throne of the Antichrist and throughout his empire. With that in mind note the following.

- This could certainly be related to the shortening of the days and lengthening of the nights, as we have previously discussed.
- Whatever the darkness is, we take it to be literal as was the Egyptian plague described in *Exodus 10:21-23*: *And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may befall. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.*

" From the standpoint of the saints on earth this had to be a momentous day!

- They see the satanically–controlled or devil–incarnated leader humiliated internationally as the power of God is unleashed upon his seat of government. This scene is equated with the *“the day of the Lord.”*
- This day belongs to God— The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light (*Amos 5:18*). *Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like [militarily], neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations (Joel 2:1-2).*

- Who is the military colossus that produces such darkness and gloominess in the last days?

N Russia! *But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great [frightful] things (Joel 2:20).*

N The only nation in the world north of Israel with a barren area and two oceans surrounding it is the Soviet Union.

- N This is the same nation that comes against Israel from the north in *Ezekiel 38:15* and is known by the names *Magog, Meshech, Tubal, and Rosh*. How near it all appears!
- N In our text, the Day of the Lord has arrived. The wicked gnaw their tongues from pain, but continue blaspheming the God of heaven. Apparently, no amount of punishment for sin can change some people. As I noted in sub-section D-2 & 3, Page 216, they blaspheme God and do not repent. Don't let it happen to you!
- N As Christians we daily are afforded the opportunity to go to the Lord in prayer to seek the forgiveness of our sins. John says it best! (*1 John 1:9-10*) "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* ⁽¹⁰⁾ *If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*" Beyond this, do you have a friend or loved one who is walking in sin, who needs the Lord. Today is the day of Salvation! Before it is eternally too late let us seek the lost and bring the message of salvation before it is eternally too late!

VII. THE SIXTH VIAL OF WRATH—THE EUPHRATES LITERALLY DRIED

The vision of the seven last plagues presents a distinct series of events, giving details of the last great afflictions which fall upon the world, then quite given over into the Devil's hands. Thus far we have briefly considered five of these disastrous outpourings from the golden bowls. Two more remain and they have my undivided attention! Let's not forget to look to the Lord for help in understanding them.

The *SIXTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT* should be recalled in the light of the *SIXTH TIPPED BOWL*. There is a striking similarity. *Revelation 9:13-18*, depicts the sixth angel voicing his commands. As he does, four angels are loosed from the great river Euphrates—the area of present-day Iran, Iraq, and Syria. Wow! A total of two hundred million troops (*9:16*) appear in the Middle East from across the planet to be allies with all hatred aimed against Israel. As they arrive, they combined with the forces at hand (Muslims who continue their Jihad). This has to be the largest assemblage of military men in the annals of history!

In the text before us (*16:12*), we witness a miraculous drying up of the Euphrates River in order that the kings of the east might cross over unhindered. The word *kings* pictures the leaders of troops. They cross the Euphrates in order to participate in the greatest Mid-East confrontation ever—the Battle of Armageddon! Actually, the conflict is a fight against the Lord and His hosts and will be discussed in detail when we arrive at its explanation point—*Revelation 19:11-16*. Upon their arrival in the Holy Land, these oriental (*) kings or rulers join with the leaders of other nations for the war of wars as predicted in *Psalms 2:2-4*.

(*) Remember your Christmas carols, We Three Kings . . . of Orient are . . . {Just an afterthought}!

Psalm 2:2-4: *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.*

How near is Armageddon? Bear in mind that both **Chapter 9** and **Chapter 16** mention the Euphrates River as a focal point in this war. Keep your eyes on the Mid-East—especially Iran, Iraq, and Syria—in the days ahead. The Euphrates was jointly theirs when these nations were called Persia. Thus, Iran, Iraq, and Syria are a prominent identification point for the end-time war.

Between the sixth and seventh seal and trumpet judgments, we encountered parenthetical utterances. Now we find another parenthesis between the sixth and seventh bowl judgments. This we shall consider from *verses 13-16*, already quoted.

Verse 12: *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*

- A. This must be the literal river. The corroding faults crevices are literal!
 - 1. The sea streams and fresh water springs turned to literal blood.
 - 2. The heat and scorching from the sun are literal
 - 3. The darkness which covers the dominion of the Beast is literal
 - 4. This ensuing event is literal, however mysterious it may be.
- B. The Euphrates River has been a great dividing line for ages, dividing the countries of the east from those of the west in that part of the world.
 - 1. This river is 1780 miles long, from 300 to 1200 yards wide, and its depth ranges from ten to thirty feet.
 - 2. Most of the year it is even larger. It was the boundary of Solomon's kingdom. It is spoken of as the northeast limit of the land promised to Israel (**Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:4**).
 - 3. History testifies to the great hindrance this river has afforded to armies down through the ages. Isaiah refers to it where he says [**Isaiah 11:15** "And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river [the Euphrates River], and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod."] And we can conclude that the recovery of certain remnants of God's people are connected with this miracle.
 - 4. At the sounding of the sixth trumpet, the same great river was referred to as a bond or boundary to certain destructive powers, which were then let loose in dreadful inflictions upon the wicked populations of the earth. (**Revelation 9:13-21**)
 - a. Here it is referred to as a barrier in the way which brings destruction an army trapped with no where to go.
 - b. From time immemorial the Euphrates, with its tributaries, has been a great and

- formidable boundary between the peoples east of it and those west of it.
- c. It was the boundary of the dominion of Solomon, and is repeatedly spoken of as the northeast limit of the lands promised to Israel. (*Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:4*)
 - d. History frequently refers to the great hindrance the Euphrates has been to military movements; and it has always been a line of separation between the peoples living east of it and those living west of it.
5. In the time of the pouring out of the *sixth bowl* of judgment this river is to be mysteriously smitten and dried up, so that the kings from the sun rising may have an easy passage for their armies in coming to join the great internal crusade against the Lamb of God. Here we come to the outpouring of the bowl of wrath. It is a judgment though it seems for the time to be a favor for the enemy of God, but just for a short time!
- C. The drying up of this river will prepare the way and open the door to allow the gigantic eastern armies to cross the country and assemble around the Antichrist. Isaiah saw this day when he said, “*With His mighty wind shall He shake His hand over the river (Euphrates) and shall smite it in the seven streams and make men go over dry shod.*” Read *Jeremiah 51: 36* and *Zechariah 10:11*. At the drying up of the river, John sees something else.

VIII. THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS—THE ENTHUSIASM THEY AWAKEN

Verses 13-16: ⁽¹³⁾*And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.* ⁽¹⁴⁾*For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.* ⁽¹⁵⁾*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.* ⁽¹⁶⁾*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*

- A. **Verse 13** reveals three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouths of (1) THE DRAGON (*Satan*), (2) THE BEAST (*Antichrist*), and (3) THE FALSE PROPHET (*Head of the World Church*).
1. What we see, then, is an unholy trinity controlled by the power of evil spirits in an age of occultism, as explained in *Revelation 9:20-21*.
 - a. The symbolism of frogs (for the text says “like frogs”) speaks of uncleanness.
 - b. The plague of frogs in Egypt produced an obnoxious stench that filled the land with indescribable odors and filth (see *Exodus 8:14*).

2. Thus, the picture is clear. We can clearly see the counterfeit trinity—
 - a. THE *DEVIL*
 - b. THE *ANTICHRIST*
 - c. THE *FALSE PROPHET*
 3. The unholy trinity begins their work of deception!
 - a. They begin their great deception. This unholy trinity begins its work to copy the works of Christ, the true Savior, to deceive the world, their deception is great!
 - b. They produce supernatural miracles through the power of the devil and his demonic spirits.
 - c. They convince the kings of the earth that they are the true Trinity. They are perceived as Emanuel, God with us! The deception is complete.
 - d. Because of it, the kings willingly follow them to the Middle East for the great day of God Almighty, which is Armageddon. The entire situation reeks in God's nostrils.
- B. At this period of the reign of Antichrist, all the kings of earth have bowed to his commands and are allied with him in all-out war to crush the remnant of Israel who have refused to accept the false Messiah or to receive his mark.
- C. These spirits mentioned here have power to work miracles - satanic miracles - and through these miracles the multitudes who are following the Antichrist will be deceived.
- D. So the stage continues to be set for the great battle.
- E. In *Verse 15* John gives a solemn warning: "*Behold, I come as a thief...*" These are words like those given to us before the Rapture but these words apply to the remnant that are left in the Tribulation that would not bow before the Antichrist. Most of these have been killed, but a few live through it all. It is for these faithful ones that Jesus comes for just before the battle of Armageddon.
1. We see here a pause or lull before the storm. As noted, God says He will come as a thief, and again this proves that the Church is not present, for that day shall not overtake believers as a thief (see *1 Thessalonians 5:4*).
 2. The words of this verse constitute a final admonition to the Tribulation saints, telling them to watch for His coming and to continue walking in pathways of holiness. The terms *catcheth* and *garments* refer to slothfulness and carelessness, spiritually speaking. Let's prove this.

- a. In Christ's day, a one-piece garment was removed at bedtime. It was worn only during waking hours.
 - b. Here the Lord tells the final group or gleanings of Tribulation saints to watch, for in so doing they will be awake and clothed. The command is to be prepared. Preparation avoids their being found naked and ashamed.
 - c. The same is true for believers today. When Jesus comes, multitudes will stand at the Judgment Seat naked (without rewards) and ashamed, because they were not watching. Heed the warning of ***1 John 2:28***: *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
- F. **Verse 16** names the location of the great day of God Almighty: Armageddon or "*the mount of Megiddo*"—the place where numerous battles have occurred throughout history. Remember, in earlier studies Megiddo means Mount of Megiddo, which takes in the plain of Jezreel, the great valley that runs through the middle of the Holy Land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River. It is approximately 200 miles long and 10 miles wide. It has been the site of awful, bloody battles throughout history.
- G. They will be supernaturally removed from the earth, and those who have been killed will be raised and given a new body. Final judgment cannot be poured out until every righteous one is outside the range of God's fury, safe in his protective arms.

IX. THE SEVENTH SEAL—"THE SEVENTH BOWL OF WRATH"

Verses 17-21: ⁽¹⁷⁾*And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.* ⁽¹⁸⁾*And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.* ⁽¹⁹⁾*And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.* ⁽²⁰⁾*And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.* ⁽²¹⁾*And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

- A. The events which follow the pouring out of the seventh vial are without parallel in human history. Never has there been such a calamity, confusion, chaos, discord, agitation, upheaval upon this earth as will be when the seventh vial is emptied! The air will go into convulsions as it will be the first to be affected, and then the judgment moves down to earth. Many of the prophets foretold these days when the heaven would undergo terrific judgments. Read ***Psalms 102: 25-26 and Isaiah 51:6***.

- B. Note in **Verse 19** that the great city here is Jerusalem, for it is specially distinguished from the cities of the Gentiles, which are entirely ruined. Jerusalem is only partially destroyed, because now in part possessed and appropriated as the Lord's (**Revelation 11:1-2**). At the resurrection and ascension of the Two Witnesses, there was a great earthquake, when the tenth of the city fell (**Revelation 11:12-13**). Here there is a greater earthquake, and a much vaster effect. This is the time when mount of olives is to cleave in two from east to west, "...and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south," leaving a very great valley between the two parts. (**Zechariah 14:4**)
- C. Such an occurrence must necessarily affect the foundation and topography of the city itself. The earthquake rends Jerusalem into three parts.
1. The implication is, that great chasms divide it, and that great damage occurs to it.
 2. Zechariah tells of a trichotomy of the land at that time, in which two parts shall be cut off and die, and one parts shall be left. (**Zechariah 13:8-9**)
¹⁸⁾And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. ¹⁹⁾And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.
- D. In this final application to the holy city, this dividing of it into three parts affects the destruction of two parts, only one part remains standing.
1. Three miraculous Witnesses appear there in those last years; first Enoch (or Moses, whichever camp you stand); and Elijah, and then at last Christ himself.
 2. Although the first two witnesses were put to death, Christ is alive forevermore.
 3. The death of the two miraculous Witnesses is avenged on two-thirds of the city, and the one-third, which Christ has taken for His, remains standing, as His power and dominion stand. Multitudes of the population undoubtedly will perish amid these terrible commotions; but there is a refuge provided for those who acknowledge the Lord and call upon His name. NOTE:

(Zechariah 13:9) And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

(Zechariah 14:5) And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

- E. The destruction of Jerusalem is not so great when compared to the unprecedented destructive earthquake that befell the cities of the Gentiles. The cities of the Gentiles is literally broken into pieces so small that one would need to use fractions in their measurement.
1. The whole of earth is shaken terribly by this bowl of the wrath of God, and we are told of no city in all the world that escapes. Rome falls, Paris falls, London falls, New York falls, and wherever there are cities of the Gentiles they all fall, shaken down, overwhelmed, burnt up, under the terrible visitations of this great day of God Almighty. The Earth itself is changed. John beheld: *“And every island fled, and mountains were not found.”* He does not say that islands cease to be, or no mountains remain or exist afterwards; but there is a sudden movement of islands from their present places, and some mountains that now exist shall literally disappear. The earth itself is not going to be destroyed. The earth’s landscape will change dramatically. We will see new beaches and where there were rivers there may be desserts. To what extent and in what manner we are not told exactly. There was something of this change under the sixth seal, as the effect of the great earthquake there was discussed and it was little more than loosing of the mountains and islands from their places (***Revelation 6:14***).
 2. Looking upon this very event, to these very occurrences Jeremiah says: (***Jeremiah 4:23-26 KJV***) ¹²³*I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.* ¹²⁴*I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.* ¹²⁵*I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.* ¹²⁶*I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*
 3. O the death and ruin which shall then be wrought! Regardless of how well the buildings are engineered to survive the worst earthquake imaginable, it does not matter, man’s design will fail. Man’s attempts always fail.
 4. It is the end of this present world, and this is the way that it comes. *“And Babylon the great was remembered in the presence of God to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His anger.”* So it is that the world has taken the mark of the beast, man has sought after the beast with a lust for wealth, position and security in this latter-day economy.
- F. Our nation is readily doing it’s part to bring *Babylon the Great*” into existence within the timetable of the Antichrist. We are doing our part. Man’s concept of meeting his family’s need is being redefined daily and in doing so we make the necessary contributions to make Babylon our diaconomy, ie (economy, religion and government all rolled into one).

1. When this nation was founded it was the desire of our founding fathers to secure for their families freedom to worship God without incursion from the government or corrupt church leaders. What started out as basic needs has gradually been changing. That defining principle has been blurred and corrupted by the desires of the flesh. We now stand on the threshold of seeing Babylon's harlotry invading the hearts and minds of every family in our nation (the world) all in the name of **"providing for our family."**
2. **Are the children of America being provided for by their parents?** Let's be honest for the sake of my assertion. If we could, and I really mean, "IF" for this brief moment.
 - a. I know that fathers and mothers across this great nation go out of their way to provide for the needs of their children, on the whole. But are they providing the proper things in a manner of priorities?
 - b. There are more televisions, computers, video games and other non-essential items in the bedrooms of youth than there are Bibles and Biblical teaching aides.
3. I believe that this is a legitimate question, though not a popular one, that must be considered seriously. A question that involves not only their spiritual and moral deficiencies but health related ones as well.
 - a. This all lends itself to the argument that our society is aligning itself with Babylon, it's movement toward preparation for the Antichrist and the society he will usher in.
 - b. America is ripe, America is ready for him to come and harvest what has been prepared for him in advance.
 - c. We, the church, who will be leaving this world when Christ calls us home, we are helping in the overall societal design change that is being made in preparation for the false messiah.
 - (1) He is about to present himself to the world, a world that you and I have a role in. We are playing a part in it's preparation by our disobedience to the Word of God or in it's preservation by obeying His word and working to witness to the lost.
4. Think about it, can anyone state other wise? Perhaps you can but the evidence is profound and our children are hungry for the word of God and yet they have the word of computer programs, the internet, Sony Playstations, cell phones and the list goes on. Yet will all this they are profoundly deficient when it comes to the knowledge of the word of God. We are raising a generation, Generation X, for the unknown parameters scientist don't have.

- a. This generation is being prepared, by you, your children and my children, prepared, directly or indirectly, passively to embrace the coming messiah, the false messiah, Antichrist.
- b. **666**, is real, it is in all sincerity, the avenue of the digital generation, the explosion of knowledge we have all experienced in the past twenty, or so, years. Grasp this knowledge and become aware because the lives of all people depend upon the work of Christians daily.
- c. Salvation is yet available to all who will come to Christ. Understand one important thing before I move on.

Paul, the apostle made some imperative statements regarding the message of salvation for the lost. (**Romans 10:13-15**) ⁽¹³⁾*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* ⁽¹⁴⁾*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher [witness]?* ⁽¹⁵⁾*And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!* **DON'T DO IT.** I know what you're thinking. Preacher, that's the preachers job. If you really want to know the truth it is but alas, it is the job of all Christians. That word in the original language is best rendered as follows: ⁽¹³⁾*For, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* ⁽¹⁴⁾*But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?* ⁽¹⁵⁾*And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!* This word that people have used for years to excuse themselves from the task of leading people to the Lord Jesus Christ is best described as proclaim, to publish. In other words tell someone what has happened since you met Jesus. And what a wonderful account that would be. Having met Jesus one day knowing that before knowing Christ one's life surely would have ended with the assurance of eternity in hell but now to know that Jesus has saved us from sin, death, hell and the grave and given us life, citizenship in Heaven, adopted us into His family and what an abundant life it is. Surely a life worth talking about to anyone, anywhere, anyplace, and anytime! Now lets look at our adversary, the enemy of Christ, the Church and all that we are called to do as we refocus on the subject at hand!

Satan is *the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2)*. This is why *we wrestle...against* [evil spirits] *in high places (Ephesians 6:12)*. The seventh angel, in pouring out his bowl *into the air*, destroys the last traces of Satan's abiding place. Armageddon, as will be explained in **Chapter 19**, also destroys every nook and cranny where Satan has had a resting place. As this occurs, a voice out of the temple of heaven victoriously shouts, "It is done!" The twenty-one judgments are completed.

Interestingly, when Christ bore the judgment for our sins, He cried, *It is finished*. Now, as unregenerate mankind pays the price for their sin of not repenting and allowing Christ to bear their load, a voice from heaven again cries, *It is finished*. There will be no further judgments.

The seventh outpoured bowl produces thunders, lightnings, and the most devastating earthquake ever to occur upon earth. The Prophet Haggai undoubtedly predicted this when he stated: *For thus saith the Lord of hosts... I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations [Christ] shall come (Haggai 2:6-7)*.

One should be certain to note that the final bowl judgment does not bring about the end of the world. Instead, the Lord Jesus Christ returns at this time, establishes His earthly kingdom, and rules for one thousand years (**Revelation 20:4**). Still this is the end of civilization as we have known it. The destruction, as we have previously stated, divides the great city (Jerusalem) into three parts and causes every major city in all nations to fall. In addition, **every island flees away** and **mountains become dislocated**, even to the point of **disappearing into the oceans** (Tsunami anyone?). The worst judgment is reserved for Babylon, which receives the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. A detailed study of Babylon's demise will be conducted in **Chapter 18**.

The climax is the raining down from heaven of hailstones weighing from 86 to 120 pounds. The Greek talent weighed 86 pounds, the Troy talent 96 pounds, and the Jewish talent 120 pounds. Whatever measurement is used, this hailstorm will do more than dent cars and demolish homes. It will literally pulverize everything in sight. Which of these measurements of weight is meant we cannot say; but taking the mean or average of them all, or even the lightest, we have a weight equal to as much as a strong man can conveniently lift. Hail of a pound in weight is terribly destructive; but this would give us hailstones as large as the blocks of ice when the old ice wagons used to deliver ice before the invention of the home refrigerator-freezer. Such quantities falling upon houses would crash in the strongest of them, batter down walls, destroy ships, and leave but few places of safety for mankind to retreat to. Few can form a conception of the terrible character of a great hailstorm. Here is an account of one which occurred at Constantinople in the month of October, 1831 written by one who witnessed it:

"After an uncommonly sultry night, threatening clouds arose about six in the morning, and a noise, between thunder and tempest, and yet not to be compared to either, increased every moment, and the inhabitants of the capital, roused from their sleep, awaited with anxious expectation the issue of this threatening phenomenon. Their uncertainty was not of long duration; lumps of ice as large as a man's foot, falling singly, and then like a thick shower of stones, which destroyed everything with which they came in contact. The oldest persons do not remember ever to have seen such hailstones. Some were picked up half an hour afterwards which weighed above

a pound. This dreadful storm passed over Constantinople and along the Bosphorus, over Therapia, Bojukden, and Belgrade; and the fairest, nay, the only hope of this beautiful and fertile tract, the vintage, just commenced, was destroyed in a day! Animals of all kinds, and even some persons, were killed, and innumerable number are wounded, and the damage done to the houses is incalculable. The force of the falling masses of ice was so great that they broke to atoms all the tiles on the roofs, and like musket-balls, shattered planks.”

What would it have been like if the masses of ice had been fifty or one hundred times larger?

The stones thrown by Roman catapults against Jerusalem, noted by Josephus the Roman historian, were in the neighborhood of a talent (80-120 pounds). These jagged masses of ice, falling at terminal velocity, would come with such a force that make these catapults look like children's slingshots. To give you an idea of destructive force the force of the 16 inch guns on World War Two battleships blasted a projectile thirty miles that would leave a crater large enough to make a swimming pool and that pales in comparison to the force generated by these falling masses of ice. When the plague of hail fell upon Egypt, the only safe place was inside the home. Think about the combination of the great devastating earthquake that will drive people out into the open for fear of their roofs falling in upon them only to have the sky to be falling as the old children's tale goes. No shelter, where can people go? What can they do? People will be cut down by this dreadful artillery barrage from the heavens!

**Day of anger! Day of Wonder!
When the Earth shall rend asunder,
Smote with hail, and fire, and thunder!**

In spite of this plague, the inhabitants of earth continue calling God dirty names. No one having the brand of Antichrist ever repents. Such obstinacy in sin and guilt was unknown when the world was younger. When the hailstorm was upon Egypt there was something of relenting. Pharaoh confessed his sin, and asked Moses to intercede for him. For the moment, at least, he agreed to let Israel go. But here transgressors have come to the fullness their arrogance and pride. They are dead-ripe for the final judgment. They have learned well from their false messiah, the Antichrist, they have learned to curse God and die; and so they will— in finality they must die and suffer eternal banishment from God in a fiery hell. Even then they weep and gnash their teeth (see *Matthew 8:12*). Although weeping denotes sorrow, the gnashing of teeth depicts cursing. No wonder God's Word says that *the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever (Revelation 14:11)*.

May none of this ever be a part of your experience. Make certain you have gotten in on the first “*It is finished*” cry of Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary. Do not keep hesitating only to finally hear the “It is done” wail of judgment number *twenty-one (21)* [the last call has come this is the last one]. Judgment number *twenty-one (21)* is the finale. If you are keeping up with numbers then you might want to note that twenty-one, 21, is noted as the completion of God's judgments, $(7 + 7 + 7) = (21)$. God has now completed his judgment against Antichrist and all that is not holy 666, and it doesn't take rocket science to understand that the numbers just don't add up to perfection.

Friends and study partners, I am at a loss as to which I am most overwhelmed: whether at the

severity of Almighty God upon the finally impenitent, or at the unconcern, neglect, and hard heartedness of men, who, with all this dreadful outcome before their eyes, still proceed calmly on the very path which can have no other end. O how dreadful! Will man never learn?

Be admonished by beloved and be not deluded or discouraged by the impertinent indifference and un-wisdom of these evil times we live. Be sure that God is God, and that His Word must stand even though all that we know is in the process of dissolving before our eyes. Now is your golden opportunity. You can clearly see the end that is to come. You see with what forbearance and mercy the threatened thunder strokes of death are still held back, that men may hear and fear, and turn to Him and live. There is eternal security, if, with a true and honest heart, you will only believe what is written, and set your soul to obey and trust as He counsels and directs. It may cost you some sharp trials now, but it will bring you safety and salvation when the skeptical and blaspheming world goes down under the fierceness of His just and righteous anger. Overwhelmingly dreadful as the fore-showing is, there is no cause for despair if you will but take warning now. Only fix your trust in Jesus, and follow and obey Him in sincerity and in truth, and when His judgment strikes, it shall not be directed at you!

*Though mountains from their seats be hurled
Down to the deep, and buried there,
Convulsions shake the solid world,
Our faith shall never yield to fear.*

Let us cautiously proceed to **CHAPTER SEVENTEEN, BABYLON'S PLIGHT**