

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 5/30-31/2022 *Revelation Chapter 16*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7th PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Revelation Chapter 16

Review – Introduction:

(Rev 15:1) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

- **That is an introduction to chapter sixteen.** The “seven angels having the seven last plagues. It is declared, “*for in them the wrath of God is complete*” or this is the climax. This is the culmination of the Great Tribulation period. This will bring to an end the time of man’s government. We have the final government of man in position. The antiChrist ruling over the western powers. It is during the reign of this king that the Lord of heaven will come and establish a kingdom that will never end! So, we are coming right up to the border of the glorious return of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ! This will complete the Great Tribulation period! This will complete the wrath of God!

- **In chapters seventeen and eighteen, there is some fill-in** as he gives us detail of the destruction of the religious systems of Babylon and the commercial system of Babylon. That will be details that will be filled in of events that have already transpired.
- **We have come and will come in chapter sixteen to the final great battle**, the Battle of Armageddon, the greatest gathering of humankind, of conflagration, the greatest tragedy in the history of redemption in all of history! The final conflict! It is during this conflict that Jesus Christ will return to the earth! He will set His foot upon the Mount of Olives and will establish the Kingdom of God upon the earth!

(Gen 1:1) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(Psa 2:1-7) Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, [3] "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." [4] He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. [5] Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: [6] "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." [7] "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

(Rev 10:6) and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer.

Revelation Chapter 16 – First Bowl - Loathsome Sores – vs. 2; Second Bowl – The Sea Turns to Blood vs. 3; Third Bowl - The Waters Turn to Blood – vs. 4-7; Fourth Bowl - Men Are Scorched – vs. 8-9; Fifth Bowl - Darkness and Pain – vs. 10-11; Sixth Bowl – Euphrates Dried Up - vs. 12-16; Seventh Bowl – The Earth Utterly Shaken – vs. 17-21.

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Rev 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

- John tells us that these are bowls of God's wrath that are to be poured out upon the earth.

First Bowl: Loathsome Sores – vs. 2

Rev 16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth* (on the wicked men, basically what is left of human kind!), ***and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

- ***A foul and loathsome sore!*** This seems to be a running, ulcerated type of sore, of which there is no cure, causing great pain. It could be a flesh-eating virus that people have already contracted in some places, this flesh-eating virus, a foul and loathsome sore. We notice the beast could not heal his worshippers who had the sores.
- **This judgment will not be on just the third part of men this time**, but upon all the men destined for hell. They had preferred the mark of the beast to suffering for Christ, but they will suffer now.
- **We read in the Book of Zechariah that those that come against Jerusalem**, that this is the punishment wherewith they will be punished. (***Zec 14:12***) *And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.*
- **Also, in (Deu 28:15, 27)** *But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: [27] The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.*

Second Bowl – The Sea Turns to Blood - vs. 3

Rev 16:3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a

dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

- **In the trumpet judgments, the second judgment fell upon the sea** and one third of the animals of the sea or the fish or whatever, one third of them perished in the trumpet judgments. This kills everything in the sea! You will not want to be living in Newport Beach or Huntington Beach when the sea turns to blood and all of the life forms within the sea die and begin to float up on the beach. The stench of it will be something horrible. There is nothing worse than sea life that is rotting.
- **It is almost inconceivable, the results of the sea dying.** The sea with its salt content is really sort of a great purifier of the pollution of the earth. The salt within the sea, of course, is a preservative of the waters. We are dumping all kinds of stuff into the seas. From time to time, the bacterial count of the water so high that portions of the beach has been closed, as they try to find out the source of the sewage leaks. But when the salt no longer has that cleansing or purifying effect upon the pollutants, the sea life dies. The sea becomes blood, as of a dead man! What a horrible thing that will be! Consider what it will mean to the production of oxygen. It is estimated that Marine algae produce up to 80 percent of Earth's oxygen - more than all of Earth's plants and trees combined!

Third Bowl: The (fresh) Waters Turn to Blood – vs. 4-7

Rev 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

- **The fresh water supplies of the earth.** The streams, the lakes supernaturally turning to blood. Can you imagine the effect that that will have upon the inhabitants of the earth in that day? Water is basic for life. When the fresh water supplies are polluted to the extent that there will be a real scarcity of water, *becoming blood as of a dead man.*

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

- **Now here is an interesting thing.** When this particular judgment takes place, John said, *I heard the angel of the waters saying,* The angel who is in charge over the waters. He says, *You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.* As he sees this judgment, he declares the righteousness of God in the judgment!

Rev 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.

- **God is pouring out His judgment upon the earth that has rejected His Son Jesus Christ.** A Christ rejecting world, who has abused and killed the prophets that God has sent. The world that is in open rebellion against God, shedding the blood of the saints. When God turns the water into blood, the angel more or less says, Right on! How fair! They have shed the blood of the tribulation saints and now You have given them blood to drink! That is what they deserve!

Rev 16:7 And I heard another (not one of the seven) from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

- **Back in chapter six under the fifth seal, there were those souls** that were under the altar, and they were saying, (Rev 6:10) *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* They were given white robes and were told to wait a short season until the full number were killed even as they were killed. They are crying for entrance into heaven, but they are told that they have to wait for a short season. There are more that are to be killed. It would seem that the voice of these who have been martyred, cry out at that time also, declaring, True and righteous are Your judgments." That is one thing that you can be sure about! God's judgments will be righteous! God will not be unfair! He will reward every man according to His works!
- **During the time of the great rebellion against God,** headed by this man of sin, we find that he has power to put to death those that refuse to worship him or worship his image or take his mark. There probably will be millions that will be martyred during that time. Men who have enough sense not to worship him, not to take his mark and not to worship the image that they make of him. He will shed a lot of blood, the blood of those who refuse to enter into his rebellion against God. Thus, when God

turns the fresh water supplies to blood, the acknowledgment of the righteousness of God's judgment!

Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched – vs. 8-9

Rev 16:8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch (the) men with fire.

- **It is possible that the sun will go into a supernova.** There are other scriptures that refer to the sun actually increasing in intensity seven times and the moon, of course, will be seven times as bright as it reflects the sun. The possibility of a supernova. Or the possibility that God will move the earth a little closer to the sun. It is a very interesting thing the position of the earth in relationship to the sun. It is just the right distance to sustain life upon the earth! Any closer and the radiation of the sun would fry men a lot quicker. Any further the earth would be a refrigerator. It is just the perfect distance. Now if God would move the earth towards the sun, again the greater radiation and the greater intensity of heat that would come from the sun upon the earth. We know that the planet Venus, the temperatures get so hot that the water is all dissolved into gases and life is impossible. God has placed us at the right distance.
- **We read an interesting prophecy in (Isa 24:20) *The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.*** That is perhaps a change of orbit that will bring the earth closer to the sun and it would have the same effect of this earth becoming superheated from the sun.
- **Possibly it will be the removal of the protective atmosphere** which now blocks much of the harmful sun's radiation.

Rev 16:9 And (the) men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

(Mal 4:1) For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up, Says the LORD of hosts, That will leave them neither root nor branch.

- **They did not repent!** At this point, wouldn't you think that the people on the earth would begin to repent and cry out to God for mercy? But what happens? ***They blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory!***
- **We read in (Rom 2:5-6) *But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, [6] who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. If God has dealt with you and the dealings of God in your life have brought you to Jesus Christ, rejoice!***
- **The judgments of God are going to turn the hearts of men against God!** In the midst of these judgments, three times in this chapter, we find them blaspheming God because of the things that are taking place here on the earth. "They did not repent and give Him glory!" Their hearts have become so hard that the ministry of Almighty God is no longer softening them! **(Gen 6:3a) And the LORD said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh.**

Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain – vs. 10-11

Rev 16:10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

- **The fifteenth chapter talks about the seven last plagues and how that there is a parallel** between the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians and these seven bowls of God's judgment. There is also a parallel between these judgments in these seven bowls with the seven trumpet judgments. Only, the trumpet judgments are not as severe. With the trumpet judgments only a third part of the ocean is affected and a third part of the fresh water supplies. In the bowls of God's wrath, it will be complete! All of the fresh water supplies and all of life in the oceans.
- **God makes a separation.** Now with the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians, we remember that Egypt was covered with darkness. They had to have little lamps during the daytime. But that darkness did not extend into the area where the Israelites were living. God made a separation there.
- **Here God is going to pour out this darkness or cause the darkness in the kingdom of the beast.** There will be this strange and unusual darkness in the kingdom of the beast in his throne and "his

kingdom became full of darkness as they gnaw their tongues for pain.” Imagine being in all this pain and it is completely dark all around!

Rev 16:11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

- **Man is not led to repentance through this suffering!** They chewed their tongues from their pain! Just think of the intensity of the suffering that is caused by these bowl judgments! But the sufferings do not turn men from their wickedness!
- **Notice two things. God is righteous in pouring out the bowls of wrath.** We know that Jesus is the judge. He is in charge of handing out the punishment.
- **Yet mankind is not led to repentance through this suffering.** We read of this prediction in (*Rom 2:4-5*) *Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, **not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?** [5] But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,* “ And here it is—the righteous judgment of God.
- **Despite all these evidences of God’s power, man continues** to harden his heart, refusing to repent and actually blasphemes the God of Heaven!

Sixth Bowl – Euphrates Dried Up - vs. 12-16

Rev 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

- **The River Euphrates has been called the great divide between the East and the West.** East of Euphrates, the eastern part of the world. West of Euphrates, the western part. It has been referred to historically as the great divider of the earth. It is a river that comes from the mountains of Turkey, flowing about eighteen hundred miles, being navigable for around twelve hundred miles. It is a great river and the source of life for the fertile Babylonian plains. God is going to dry it up!
- **It is interesting how close to the Euphrates River both of God’s judgments were** – at the Flood of Noah and at His final wrath being poured out here in the Great Tribulation.
- **It could be that this will be the effect of the sun having seven times the intensity** that the glaciers there in the high mountains of Turkey will be melted. Remember during the first part of this period of time, the seven years, when the two prophets of God, the two witnesses shut up heaven that it does not rain for three-and-a half years of drought.
- **However, God does it, the River Euphrates will be dried up to prepare the way** for the kings of the East. We do read here in the next few verses how God is going to basically gather together the nations of the world for this final conflict, the Battle of Armageddon. Drawn into this battle will be the kings of the East, the tremendous population, the majority of the people of the world live in the East—probably China, India, Japan. They will move towards the West to meet in this final gigantic battle.
- **In the Book of Daniel as it speaks of the antiChrist, of his ruling over the western nations,** it does speak of him beginning to move into Africa. His forces are coming into Africa to conquer this great continent. No doubt in order to have the vast natural resources that exists in Africa. After he has passed through Egypt with his troops and he is moving through Ethiopia, it says, (*Dan 11:14*) *“Now in those times many shall rise up against the king of the South. Also, violent men of your people shall exalt themselves in fulfillment of the vision, but they shall fall.* They will meet in the Valley of Megiddo where God will gather together the nations and the people of the nations for this final great battle.



Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon,

out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

- **The trinity of evil! The dragon, Satan, his man, the antiChrist** and the false prophet. These “unclean spirits, demon spirits coming out of their *mouths like frogs*.”

Rev 16:14 *For they are spirits of demons (fallen angels), performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*

- **Performing signs.** These are supernatural wonders, designed to deceive the kings into invading Israel. Their impact will be so great that the unclean spirits are able to induce the kings to make the journey in spite of their sores, the intense heat, drought, and darkness.
- **The kings of the earth.** No longer just the eastern confederacy, but now all the world begins to gather in Israel for the final, climactic battle. (*Psa 2:3*) *"Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.*
- **The battle of that great day of God Almighty.** The battle of Armageddon! It is the great war with God and Christ. The war will end when Christ arrives!

Rev 16:15 *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."*

- (*1Th 5:4*) *But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.*
- (*Rev 3:2*) *Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.*
- Nowhere does the Bible say that Jesus is coming as a thief to the church, but to the unbelievers.

Rev 16:16 *And they (He) gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

- **"They" gathered them together.** The Satan controlled beast and false prophet will think they are gathering all the nations together, but, actually, it is God! (*Joe 3:2*) *I will also gather all nations And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. (Zec 14:1-2a) Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. [2] For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.*
- **Armageddon, or the Mountain of Megiddo.** There in the northern part of Israel or the central part of Israel, just east from Haifa, you have the Esdraelon Valley in which many of the great wars in history have been fought. This is where the vast hordes will be gathered for this final conflict, the battle of Armageddon. This is where (*Rev 14:20*) *And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs, or about 180 miles.*
- **It is interesting that verse fifteen just does not seem to fit the flow from verse 14 to verse 16.** It appears to be another parenthetical, which has been the pattern between the sixth and seventh seals and bowls. This is such a monumental and horrendous event that defies the imagination of men. It boggles our minds to conceive of perhaps billions of people gathered to fight. It just is overwhelming so that as this horrible event is being described.
- **This parenthetical from the Lord gives a word of encouragement to His people.** As they are looking, as we are looking at these events, the events of these seven bowls, the final plagues that will bring the culmination of God's wrath and judgments upon the earth. Again, Jesus is saying, *Behold, I am coming as a thief* (unexpectedly, not to the church, but to those rejecting Christ). *Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments.*
- **A warning and a promised blessing!** The warning which God gives of this great and decisive trial, to engage His people to prepare for it! It would be sudden and unexpected, and therefore Christians should be clothed, and armed, and ready for it, that they might not be surprised and ashamed. We must watch and be ready at all times! This is the third promised blessing in Revelation.
- **Over and over again as Jesus was describing to His disciples the signs of His coming and the end of the age.** We remember Matthew 24 as they were passing through the temple grounds, the disciples were remarking on the size of the stones that Herod had used in building the temple. Jesus said to His disciples as they were walking and looking at these huge stones, (*Mat 24:2*) *And Jesus said to them,*

"Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down. That seemed like an impossible prediction. When they got over to the Mount of Olives, the disciples said, Lord, when is this going to happen? (Mat 24:3) Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

- **There are dual signs that they are asking for. Signs of the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem and the time of His coming, the end of the world** as far as world governments are concerned when He comes to establish God's kingdom upon the earth. So, if you do not recognize that they are asking for dual signs, the destruction of the temple and of His coming, you can get mixed up in the prophecies of Matthew 24, as Jesus begins to tell them the signs of the destruction of the temple and the signs of His coming and the end of the age.
- **But having given them the signs of His coming and the end of the age, He of course deals with the Great Tribulation period** that is coming. A time of great trouble, He said, such as the world has never seen before or will ever see again. That is what we have been reading about here in Revelation. Since we got into chapter six, we have been reading about this time of Great Tribulation such as the world has never seen before or will ever see again.
- **Having given these signs to His apostles, He then said, (Mat 24:32-33)** *"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. [33] So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!"*
- **Throughout the Old Testament, the nation of Israel in an allegory was likened unto a fig tree.** The fig tree was sort of scripturally, a symbol of the nation of Israel. Jesus is saying, When you see the fig tree begin to bud forth and put forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.
- **We have seen the birth of the nation of Israel in May of 1948**, which was the sign that things are wrapping up. From that time, we have been moving towards the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. We see, as Jesus said concerning the last days, that evil days will wax worse and worse. Jesus also predicted that in this period of time, because the iniquity of the world will abound. The love of many will wax cold.
- **Today man has greater accessibility to filth than he has ever had in the history of man.** The X-rated videos, the Internet, and all of the opportunities to fill your mind with pollution. And men are filling their minds with that pollution.
- **Jesus said, As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of man.** We read concerning the days of Noah that everyone was doing that which was right in his own eyes. That the imagination of man's heart was only evil continually. We are coming to that place again where the imagination of man's heart is only evil continually! We are getting into the realm of virtual reality in the computer age and all of the potential for evil that the virtual reality will bring. So, the imagination of man's heart being only evil continually. We have been moving more and more in this direction. The world is on a spiral down! Evil days are waxing worse and worse.
- **It appears that the many earthquakes that God is giving us wake up calls** for those who are listening. The Bible tells us of the great earthquake that is coming. What we have seen are just localized earthquakes. But imagine something like that, only of greater intensity, the whole earth shaking, the whole world shaking! All of the major cities shaken. The time has come for us to get very sincere and diligent about the things of the Lord. So, as these things are being detailed for us, the Lord speaks up, saying, *"Behold I am coming a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.*
- **We are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ.** Blessed is he who keeps his garments. Who keeps his trust and faith in Jesus Christ! So, the nations are gathered together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon or Megiddo.

The Seventh Bowl – The Earth Utterly Shaken – vs. 17-21

Rev 16:17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air (aimed at Satan, prince of the power of the air), ***and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"***

- ***(Rev 15:1) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.***
- ***It is done!*** - This is the voice of our Lord! He is announcing "This is it!" Finished! Fulfilled!

The judgments are complete! The time of man's rebellion is over! The time for the Lord to come and establish God's kingdom upon the earth, the new earth, the new age, the time has come! ***It is done!*** The rebellion against God is over! The kingdom of darkness! It is over! The time has come! That glorious day! Hallelujah!! Hallelujah!!

- ***It is done!*** **The statement itself has a ring of permanence and finality** about it. Whereas the "*It is Finished (tetelestai, a different word)*" of Jesus on the cross in *John 19:30*. emphasized the idea that the atonement has been "paid in full." That finished work has ongoing benefits to all who will believe in it. This finished, completed, work of judgment is over and done! There are no benefits to its recipients. Armageddon has finally come. The world is in ruins! Evil and wickedness have been destroyed and removed!

Rev 16:18 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.

- **An earthquake, which will be unparalleled in the history of man.** There have been severe earthquakes throughout history. But they have been just a little shaking compared with the earthquake that is coming.
- **The Lord said, (Heb 12:27) Now this, "YET ONCE MORE," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.** It will be such a violent earthquake that the whole earth will go into violent shaking! The major cities of the earth. Can you imagine what this violent quaking will do to Los Angeles? We saw what happened in the Northridge earthquake a few years ago. That was just a minor little tremor compared with what is coming. An earthquake such as has never been before!

Rev 16:19 Now the great city (Jerusalem) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Rev 16:20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

- **There will be a tremendous, cataclysmic, upheaval.** Some have suggested the possibility of the polar axis of the earth being shifted once again. Physicists have estimated that somewhere around every five thousand years or so, there is a shift of the polar axis, having concluded from the strata. They believe that the last polar axis shift perhaps took place around five thousand years ago, which would pretty much correlate with Noah's flood. It is possible that great flood could have been caused by a polar axis shift where new mountains would be thrust upward, where the ocean floors would be changed and as areas would sink, the waters would come in, forcing again the great weight of the water, forcing down the platelets and others being thrust upwards. Mountain ranges being formed, the whole geographical changing of the surface of the earth.
- ***Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found! (Isa 40:4) Every valley shall be exalted, And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; [5] The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.***

Rev 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

- **Great Hail – megas chalaza – Each hailstone about the weight of a talent, weighing one hundred pounds or more!** We have seen how hailstones the size of golf balls have left dimples on cars that were parked in the open. But can you imagine such hailstones of say, eighty to one hundred pounds, each? They would come right through the roof. They would level this place. There is no roof that could stand up to that kind of assault.
- **There fell upon man the great hail out of heaven,** every hailstone about the weight of a talent, about a hundred pounds each!" and men fell on their knees and cried out to God for mercy? No! You would think so, wouldn't you? You would think that they would be saying "Uncle" about now.
- **But instead, Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was**

exceedingly great. What will it take to turn a person's heart from their sin? Again, we see that judgment does not produce repentance, but it is the goodness of God, which leads to repentance! (2Co 7:10) *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

- **Once more the picture is of a tortured, blaspheming humanity,** that holds to its devilish allegiance, refusing to recognize the authority of God that it might come to Him and be blessed. Since the law of **God provided that blasphemers should be stoned with stones until they died, we see in the last moment of earth's civilization, God Himself upholds His law and stones blasphemers with hailstones!** How fitting! True and righteous are Your judgments!

Are you watching? Are you ready?

- **How important it is, that we realize that the Lord is coming for those that are ready!** Jesus likens His coming to a wedding where the virgins have gathered with the bride, and they are waiting for the groom to come. Concerning the foolish virgins, it says, (Mat 25:5) *But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*
- **In the eastern culture, especially in the Galilean culture, of those days** and it has continued in some areas up to the present day, but in those days, weddings were a tremendously important occasion.
- **In the Galilean culture, of which all of Jesus' disciples knew very well, the date of the wedding was set by the father of the groom.** Only the groom's father knew the date and hour that his message would be given to his son, "Go get your bride! How familiar and awesome this is with regard to the hour and date of the Rapture! (Mat 24:36) *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.*
- **There were extensive preparations for both the groom and the bride for the wedding,** which would take place in the one-year betrothal period. Both needed to be prepared and to be ready for that hour of which would be set by the father of the groom. There was much joyful anticipation for that wedding day to come, which could occur at any hour, day or night. For sure, neither the groom nor the bride would want to miss it! According to the custom, before the groom would come, he had to send a fellow in front of them crying out, Behold the bridegroom comes! Go out to meet him.
- **Jesus gave the parable taking this typical wedding customs, saying,** "There were ten virgins, five were wise, five were foolish. They were all slumbering and sleeping. The cry went forth, Behold the bridegroom cometh! The virgins awoke and they found that some of them, five of them found that their lamps had gone out. They said to the wise virgins, Give us a portion of your oil so we can get our lamps going. They replied, We cannot do that because we might not have enough for ourselves and you. You had better see if you can buy some. While they were gone, the groom came and they that were ready, went in.
- **For anyone not ready, the door was shut!** When the other virgins came back, they knocked on the door and they said, Open to us. The Lord said, Sorry, we do not know you. That was the custom. If the wedding party or guest were not ready once they went into the wedding feast, the door was shut! It was not opened again to further guests.
- **The importance of being ready and that is the parable that Jesus used** in light of His coming for His church. Back to verse fifteen, (Rev 16:15) *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."*
- **Watch for if the good man of the house had known in which hour** the thief was coming, he would have been watching. Watch, keep your garments spotless from the things of the world lest you be caught unprepared for the Lord to return.
- **It is very serious business. We are living in the last days.** Tragically, there are those that have been caught up in the worldly pressures and they are not watching. They are not ready. They will be found naked when the Lord returns. There are many indications that they will not be taken in the Rapture. People who have gone back to the beggarly elements of the world. Those who have been once delivered, have tasted of the things of the heavens and the gifts of God who have turned back. What a tragedy in these last days as we are coming down to the wire that there are so many people that are unprepared for the Rapture of the church. Jesus is coming for His bride!
- **God help us because when the door is shut, at the Rapture of the church, the only entrance will be by coming out of this Great Tribulation** period. But you will be facing a world that is

experiencing the judgment of God against sin. Then, salvation will be something incredibly difficult. It will be by martyrdom at that time. The deception will be so much greater than ever before! *(Mat 24:24) For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.*

- **If you do not have the strength and the grace to live for God now with the power of the Holy Spirit, how do you think you will ever have the strength to die for Him at that time?** It is much easier to live for Him now rather than to count on dying for Him then.
- **May God help us. Time is short!** Let us live for Jesus Christ!
- **Oh, my God, He will not delay – He will come through – ALWAYS!**

CLOSING SONG:

"ALWAYS" - Kristian Stanfill (4:24)

My foes are many, they rise against me, But I will hold my ground I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm My help is on the way, my help is on the way

*Refrain: Oh, my God, **He will not delay** My **refuge and strength always** I will not fear, His promise is true My God will come through always, always*

Troubles surround me, chaos abounding My soul will rest in Him I will not fear the war, I will not fear the storm My help is on the way, my help is on the way (Refrain)

*I lift my eyes up, my help comes from the Lord (4X)
From You Lord, from You Lord*

*Oh, my God, **He will not delay** My **refuge and strength always** I will not fear, **His promise is true**
My God will come through always, always Oh, my God, **He will not delay** My **refuge and strength always,**
always*

CLOSING PRAYER:

For next week, read Chapter 17!