

EP136 Revelation 16 verses 17-21

In our last podcast, we examined a **PROMISE**, for those who are now staying awake, now keeping their clothes on, so they may not now walk about naked, and a **WARNING** for those who don't. Jesus comes in our now and wants us to let Him in to every area of our life as He wants to dispossess or thief those things within us that fight against Him being our **I AM**. He wants to steal our guilt, our shame, our fear, our judgment, and condemnation, as well as all our pathetic attempts at religious repentance. He wants us to choose to be clothed in the garments of **Yahweh Tsidkenu, Yahweh our Righteousness**.

We also studied the hidden code within the **Code**, revealing a mystery that was only uncovered through a diligent search of the **Codex**. We learned that "*Har-Maggedon*" (which is transliterated in our Bibles as "*Armageddon*," literally means the mount of gathering or the mount of gashing. And it points to one place, Jerusalem. The spirits of demons will gather the spiritual rulers of this world, and all their armies, to Jerusalem for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. You have heard it said that "**X**" marks the spot, in this case "**X**" is Jerusalem, the mount of gathering – the mount of gashing.

Now let's pick back up with the seventh and final vial of **Yahweh's** wrath that is poured out upon the earth.

Bowl 7: It is Done!

Revelation 16:17-21

Then the seventh angel poured out his vial upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the Sanctuary from the throne, **now** saying,

"It has been done."

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

The great city was split, by choice, into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was caused to be remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrathful anger.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were caused to not be found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds {talents}, **now** came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the wound of the hail, for great **now** is the wound extremely severe.

The God of Enough

*"Then the seventh angel poured out his vial upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the Sanctuary from the throne, **now** saying, 'It has been done.'"* There is an amazing attribute of God of which many people are not aware, and that **He is the God of enough**. He always says enough. Whether it was with the

flood, the judgment of nations detailed all throughout the **Codex**, and even in the individual judgment He brings on His people, there is always a point where He says, “enough.”

In this instance, His purpose is to purify the earth, and when the sacrifice of humanity has been made, he brings it all to a close by saying, “*it has been done*,” His purposes have been completed.

Seven vials picture the “*complete*” exhausting of the wrath of God (according to the **Code**, seven is the number representing “completion”). No more is needed. Therefore, when this seventh vial is poured out upon the air, a loud voice came out of the “*Sanctuary*” (the “*naos*,” the holy place) and from **Yahweh’s** throne, now saying, “*It has been done.*”¹

Even though we might expect it, the Greek word that is used for this phrase “*It has been done!*” is not “*tetelestai*” (which means, “it is finished” or “paid in full”). Rather, it is the word “*ginomai*” which means: “**to cause to be.**” This verb is in the *perfect active indicative*, hence, “*It has been done.*”

This means that God previously caused it to be finished (it had been determined) and now it is finished. In other words, none of this was a reaction, but the systematic fulfillment of a predetermined plan, **Plan-A**. “**Enough**” was always **Plan-A**. “*It has been done*” was declared sometime in the past and it finally comes to fruition at this time, and that is a statement of fact (hence, the *indicative* mood).

God set a limit to His judgment. This time of reckoning was not an out of control fit of anger. As with all judgment which God brings into our lives, it is perfectly measured and fixed from before time. Unlike what most of us believe, His judgment is **NEVER** a reaction to our behavior or to our sin. We never catch Him off guard and force some sort of sudden reaction from Him. After all, He is the **Alpha** and the **Omega**, the **Beginning** and the **End**. He knows all things before they happen.

This declaration, “*It has been done*,” gives us confidence that He is just in His judgment. He knows exactly what He intends to accomplish with everything He does. It is all purposeful, planned, intentional, and comes to be exactly as He purposed, planned, and intended. This should bring us comfort in our day-in-and-day-out lives.

For those on the earth, “*It has been done*” must be the best words they have ever heard. The effects of this seventh vial are about to be unveiled, and they are terrible, but to know that there is an “**enough**” is beyond amazing.

With this voice coming from the throne, we know this is the voice of the Lion, the Lamb, the Lord our God Almighty.

Earthquake

Revelation 16:18

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

¹ “saying” is rendered in the *present active participle*

Yes, the rendering of that was a bit awkward with all the “*by choice*,” references, but it is critical that we capture the proper Greek “*voice*” which ascribes responsibility to the action. In each of these instances, the verbs are all in the *aorist middle indicative*, indicating there was a choice by the one doing the act.

What we should take away is that nothing is random when it comes to God and His **Plan-A**. All is planned, all things result as a choice He made to bring lightning, thunder, and earthquake, and even the placement of men upon the earth. God is the one who is responsible, He made a choice, and that is a statement of fact.

This final vial is poured out upon the air, and it is like a grand finale of disaster. It has all the requisite fanfare of lightning, sounds, and peals of thunder. It is as if the Lion of Judah is roaring from the heavens and the whole world shakes and trembles in fear.

All this celestial activity is initiated from the Sanctuary, the holy place, of God’s temple in heaven. And then there comes a great (“*megas*”) earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.

This is the third great earthquake. One has been unleashed with the final event associated with each series of judgments. The first occurrence happened when the Lamb broke the **7th seal**. An angel threw the gold incense burner filled with fire from the altar in heaven down upon the earth. Thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and there was a terrible earthquake.² The second occurrence happened when the **7th trumpet** was blown. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and roared, there was a great hailstorm, and the world was shaken by a mighty earthquake.³ Now, with the pouring out of the **7th bowl of wrath**, we have the greatest of all earthquakes: “... *so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.*”

According to the **Code**, three is the number representing *perfection* and seven represents *completion*. The seventh of each major series of judgments (7-7-7) is God’s calling card, so to speak, of complete authority over all of creation as He enacts a perfectly complete judgment (3 sets of 7).

And since this earthquake is so great that none can compare to it, we can be sure that it will cause great changes in the landscape of our world. Things will not be the same. Much that was thought to be solid and secure and in place will be shaken, loosened, and removed.

Hebrews 1:10-12

You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are **now** the works of Your hands; they will in the **future** choose to perish, but You **now** remain; and they all will in the **future** be caused to become old like a garment, and like a mantle You will in the **future** roll them up; like a garment they will also in the **future** be caused to be changed. But You are **now** the same, and Your years will not in the **future** come to an end.⁴

² **Revelation 8:1-5**

³ **Revelation 11:19**

⁴ See **Psalm 102:25, 26; Isaiah 51:6; Hebrews 13:8**

Hebrews 12:25-13:1

You are **now** commanded to behold it that you may not choose to refuse Him who is **now** speaking. For if those did not escape when they choose to be refusing him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who is **now** warning from heaven.

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He chose to have promised, **now** saying, "YET ONCE MORE I in the **future** SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN."

This expression, "Yet once more," **now** signifies the transposition of those things which have been caused to being made to be caused to **now** be shaking, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be caused to **now** be shaking may remain.

Therefore, since we are **now** receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us **now** show grace, by which we may **now** offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is **now** a consuming fire.⁵

Haggai 2:6-8, 21-23

For thus says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts), 'Once more in a little while, **I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry. 'I will shake all the nations;** and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,' says **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts).

Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, '**I am going to shake the heavens and the earth. 'I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.'**

Isaiah 2:12-21

For **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of hosts) will have a day of reckoning against everyone who is proud and lofty and against everyone who is lifted up, that he may be abased. And it will be against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, against all the oaks of Bashan, against all the lofty mountains, against all the hills that are lifted up, against every high tower, against every fortified wall, against all the ships of Tarshish and against all the beautiful craft.

The pride of man will be humbled, and the loftiness of men will be abased; and **Yahweh** alone will be exalted in that day, but the idols will completely vanish. Men will go into caves of the rocks and into holes of the ground before the terror of **Yahweh** and the splendor of His majesty, **when He arises to make the earth tremble.**

In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, in order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs before the terror of **Yahweh** and the splendor of His majesty, **when He arises to make the earth tremble.**

⁵ See **Haggai 2:6**

The Great City

Revelation 16:19

The great city was split, by choice, into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was caused to be remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrathful anger.

We addressed this phrase, the “*great city*” in **Revelation 11:8** where we are told that the two witnesses will be killed in *the great city*. We do not have to guess at its meaning because this *great city* is also mystically called Sodom and Egypt.⁶ **Sodom** is a picture of spiritual adultery or fornication, and **Egypt** is a picture of oppression and domination. Understood collectively, the persecution of God’s holy ones comes through the power of an empire which is founded upon a religious ideology.

All we must do is examine the **Codex** to discover that the “*great city*” is symbolism, a mystical name, just as the Spirit said. This reference is used a total of eight times in **Revelation**.⁷ In each of the passages, it refers to the oppressive apostate religious system, that is quite tyrannical in its mechanisms, that overcomes and subdues the two witnesses.

Other identifying references to this *great city* refer to “*Babylon*” (**Code** for the apostate religious system) and to the woman who rides the Beast (the spirit behind the religious systems of the world, upon which the Beast rises to power). The Spirit just comes out and says that this woman **now** is the *great city*, which is **now** reigning over the kings of the earth.⁸

THERE ARE NO SYMBOLIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE “GREAT CITY” AND THE LITERAL CITY OF JERUSALEM (OR ANY OTHER LITERAL CITY).

THE SYMBOLIC CONNECTION IS TO “MYSTERY BABYLON,” THE APOSTATE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM THAT RULES IN THE WORLD OF MEN, AND TO THE WOMAN WHO RIDES THE BEAST, THE SPIRIT THAT IS BEHIND THE RELIGIONS OF OUR WORLD, SPECIFICALLY THE RELIGION OF CHRISTIANITY.

3-Part Division

“*The great city was split, by choice, into three parts and the cities of the nations fell.*” This shaking, trembling, and quaking causes this *great city* of religious apostasy to be split into 3-parts, perfectly broken by the hand of God, by His choice. Because of this 3-part division, the cities of the nations fell.

⁶ See **Revelation 11:8**

⁷ **11:8, 16:19, 17:18, 18:10, 18:16, 18:18, 18:19, 18:21.**

⁸ **Revelation 17:18**

It would be mere speculation to guess the specific divisions, much less the implications of this 3-part division as the **Codex** does not provide information on this matter. But we know this is a perfect division resulting from both a spiritual and a physical shaking.

With that said, it is likely that God is dismantling the 3 pillars that comprise this *great city*: religion, wealth, and great institutional authority. Perhaps God is separating them so that this city falls and remains fallen: *fell, fell, Babylon the great*.

BABYLON was Remembered

"Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath." God remembers all that Babylon has done to His people, and He ensures that she drinks of the cup of His wrath. This is a clever play on words which will become clear in the next chapter. In short, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, caused those who dwell on the earth to be made drunk with the wine of her immorality. The peoples of the earth drank from her cup, and now she will drink of **Yahweh's** cup of the wine of His fierce wrath mixed twice as much for her.

What is bizarre, however, is what, or better said, who God uses to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

Evil vs. Evil: Babylon's Judgment

In **Revelation 17** and **18**, we get a glimpse of the tools of evil which God will use to judge evil, to judge this woman Babylon who has led the nations into spiritual apostasy. We won't dig into the details now, but we should look at the text.

Revelation 17:15-18

And he **now** says to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot **now** chooses to sit, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will in the **future** hate the harlot and, in the **future**, will make her caused to being desolate and naked, and in the **future** will choose to eat her flesh and, in the **future**, will burn her up with fire.

For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will in the **future** be caused to be fulfilled.

The woman whom you saw **now** is the *great city*, which is **now** reigning over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 18:21-22

Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, **now** saying, "So will Babylon, the *great city*, in the **future** be caused to be thrown down with violence, and will not be caused to be found any longer.

Geographical & Spiritual Upheaval

"... and the cities of the nations fell." We do not know what is meant by *"the cities of the nations fell."*

It could be a statement on their spiritual standing, or it could just be a literal physical obliteration resulting from the great earthquake. And then again, it could be both. Either way, there is far more going on in this final devastation than meets the eye.

With the signs in the skies and the upheaval of the earth, Jesus is changing the fundamental construct of our ecosystem as He prepares the earth to be healed. Shortly after this time, all creation will join God's children in freedom from death and decay. We are told that all creation longs and groans for that day of release.⁹ Yes, in the time immediately following the tribulation and this war of the great day of God the Almighty, the earth will be fundamentally different, altered, and its transformation will include a change in the base nature of animals.

Isaiah 11:6-9

In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know **Yahweh**.

Isaiah 65:18-25

Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more. No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young! In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards. Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by **Yahweh**, and their children, too, will be blessed. I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, **Yahweh**, have spoken!

You see there is a lot more going on with this final bowl than just wanton destruction; it is also about **Yahweh's** plan for the redemption of the earth. Therefore, what is fallen needed to fall and what God raises up, will be unmovable. God is concluding His judgment of those marked for death and He is purifying those who are marked for life. At the same time, He is redeeming creation and changing the fundamental construct of our atmosphere, the earth, and all the creatures of the earth. When He is done, it will all be

⁹ ***Romans 8:19-21***

different. Can you imagine? It will be absolutely fascinating, a world unlike any of us has ever experienced.

Revelation 16:20

And every island fled away, and the mountains were caused to not be found.

It seems that the first 2 earthquakes shook things to such an extent that the 3rd earthquake finished the task, and, in so doing, the configuration of the earth is fundamentally altered. Every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. This 3rd earthquake is going to change the landscape. Mountains will be crushed, and the islands of the earth will move from their current positions, just as if they were fleeing. This will be cataclysmic as God prepares for a time of redemption.

Moreover, as we have learned, mountains are **Code** for systems of belief, and islands would be smaller branches of those belief systems. Thus, this judgment might just have a physical and a spiritual impact. With this being a judgment that is in part targeted at apostate religion (Babylon the great), perhaps this is saying that all other systems of belief will be shaken, leveled, and no one will be able to hold to them any longer. Even the smaller branches and denominations will flee in the face of the reality that Jesus is the Lord God Almighty. They will know that they have believed a lie, and that their religion or system of belief is impotent and capable of nothing.

Hailstones

Revelation 16:21

And huge hailstones, about the weight of a talent {one hundred pounds}, **now** came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the wound of the hail, for great **now** is the wound extremely severe.

Distinct from the earthquake and the general geographical and structural upheaval resulting from this final vial, this very last statement about the hailstones has a dual meaning. Being rendered in the *present* tense, "**now** came down" and "*for great now is the wound,*" we know first and foremost that this is dealing with our now. In fact, if it were not for a specific verse in the **Codex**, we would have to conclude that it is **only** applicable to our "now" and is not associated with the final vial but inserted by the Spirit for some other reason. But the Spirit made sure that the careful student would discover that these hailstones are even now poured out and will, at the end of days, also be poured out as part of the final judgment.

Yahweh once asked Job, "*Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail, which I have reserved for the time of distress, for the day of war and battle?*"¹⁰

We know the pounding of these hailstones is a literal event and not just a metaphor because the **Codex**

¹⁰ **Job 38:22-23**

speaks to this in many places. Throughout history, God often used hail as a battle technique.¹¹ In the seventh plague which fell upon Egypt, God used hail to destroy Egypt's crops.¹² In the conquest of the Promised Land, God killed more of Joshua's enemies by a plague of hail than the Israelites killed by the sword. And we know that God was fighting on Joshua's behalf because Joshua's troops were kept safe from the plague of hail.¹³

In addition, when God brings the nations to the mount of gathering the mount of gashing (Harmagedon), **Yahweh** makes this statement about the demonic spirit Gog and his armies,

Ezekiel 38:21-23

I will call for a sword against him on all My mountains," declares **Yahweh** God. "Every man's sword will be against his brother. With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with **hailstones**, fire and brimstone. I will magnify Myself, sanctify Myself, and make Myself known in the sight of many nations; and they will know that I am **Yahweh**.

It is hard to imagine what this will be like, but we can be sure that with hailstones each weighing one hundred pounds that they will fall at a velocity that will just rip through anything and everything. The only place to hide would be a cave, but even then, all the mountains have collapsed, and it will be hard to find even a cave in which to hide.

Just think about the moral effect of this pounding. It will be devastating. There will be no hope. As such they continue to curse God and refuse to relent of their pride, rebellion, and hatred. Perhaps this is the reason the hail was sent in the first place, because of their impertinent cursing of the Lord.

Leviticus 24:15-17

And speak to the people of Israel, saying, whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. Whoever blasphemes the name of **Yahweh** shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

In the Levitical system (the Law), the community is to execute capital punishment, via stoning, on those who blaspheme the name of **Yahweh**. In this instance, and in like manner, the heavenly congregation does the stoning, with hailstones, to those who blaspheme the name of **Yahweh**.

It is Happening Now

*"And huge hailstones, about the weight of a talent {one hundred pounds}, **now** came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the wound of the hail, for great **now***

¹¹ ***Psalm 18:12-13; 78:47-48; 105:32; 148:8; Isaiah 28:17; Isaiah 30:30; 32:19; Ezekiel 13:11-13; 38:22***

¹² ***Exodus 9:13-35***

¹³ ***Joshua 10:11***

is the wound extremely severe.”

With the help of Job and Ezekiel, we are to understand this passage as communicating that there will be, in the **End Times**, a literal pounding by hail. However, since the *present* tense is used, there is a deeper meaning to this passage. It is also a metaphor, a picture which the Spirit wants us to understand.

In effect, God always brings a wound of hail, a pummeling, upon the nations and peoples that curse or blaspheme His name; it is always just a matter of time. And without exception, those nations fall. They get pummeled by their enemies and by crushing judgment (symbolized in the hail) until they can stand no further. The wound of hail is severe and always accomplishes His purposes.

The Spirit is letting us know that the judgment of the nations is not just reserved for the **End Times**. In those days, He will pummel the earth in judgment, restructuring the physical and spiritual landscape of the earth in preparation for His physical return. But he does the same now. He restructures the physical and spiritual landscape of the earth by pouring out His hail on the nations. In so doing He preserves the godly and restructures the political, spiritual, and social fabric of society.

Ask yourself, where is the Egyptian Kingdom? Where is Assyria? Where is Babylon? Where is Persia? Where are the empires of our history, the Akkadian, Grecian, the Roman, the Holy Roman, the Ottoman, the Han, the Qing, the Achaemenid, the Byzantine, the Mongol, the Inca, the Aztec, the Seljuk, Spanish, the Portugues, the French, the British, the empire of Japan, the Russian empire, or the Soviet Union? They have all been pummeled into oblivion and in so doing, God restructured the political, spiritual, and social fabric of society.

It may not always be readily apparent to us, but since this passage was rendered in the *indicative*, we know it is an unalterable statement of fact, “*And huge hailstones, about the weight of a talent {one hundred pounds}, now came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the wound of the hail, for great now is the wound extremely severe.*”

In this final judgment, this judgment of hail will bombard the earth. Mankind, the creatures of the earth, and all life will be pummeled over-and-over again. And it will be so severe and extreme that men will once again blaspheme God.

In our next podcast, we begin our venture into **Revelation 17**.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”