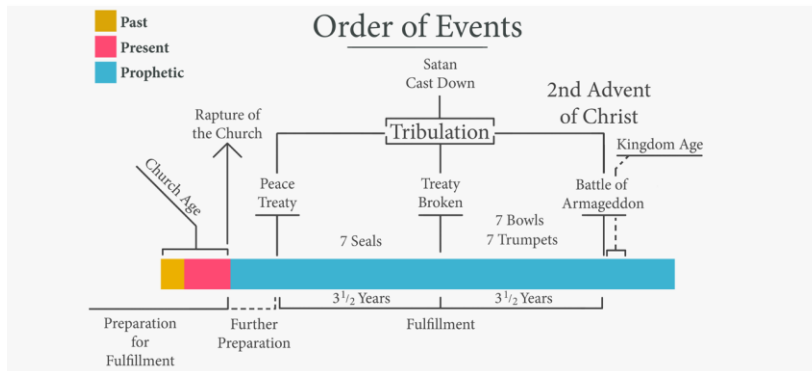


Revelation 16:17- Rev.17 – Seventh Bowl And Judgment



Rev. 16:17-21: *“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done.!” And there were...”*

- These verses are the seventh bowl judgment. God’s wrath is ending.
- God is the One speaking out of heaven in vs. 17.
- Lightning and thunder that all the world will see, and without a doubt the worst earthquake in history (vs. 18) and I believe it is worldwide. The entire earth is shaken. Imagine the fear people will feel.
- The “great city” (some think this is Jerusalem or whatever city the antichrist is ruling from, known as Babylon) will be split into three parts, and other cities will crumble from this earthquake (vs. 18). We know for certain that Jerusalem is shifted north and south at Christ’s Second Coming (Zech. 14).
- There are those who see what is happening to Jerusalem as a way of preparing for the Messiah’s millennial reign. See Zechariah 14:4-8. There is the belief, and it has Biblical support that Jerusalem does not face the same judgments that other cities of the world will (Ps. 125:1-2; Micah 4:1-2).
- Babylon (the city, political, economic, religious system of the antichrist) will be judged by God (vs. 19).
- Islands will sink into the ocean (vs. 20) or are shifted and mountains collapse (vs. 20). The word for “flee” means “to run away, vanish” so either the islands move, or they sink. Both are possible.
- The topography of the planet is being changed at God’s final bowl judgment. Jerusalem may be during the millennium the highest point on earth. Jerusalem, right now, is 2,474 feet above sea level. Jerusalem could be referred to as the highest place because during the millennium Jesus will rule from there.
- Hailstones, from heaven, weighing 100 pounds, will fall on the earth (vs. 21). People who believe Revelation was fulfilled by the end of the first century see these stones to be the ones hurled by Roman catapults against Jerusalem in 70 A.D. But the hail stones of vs. 21 are literal, falling from heaven.
- Note the response of the people in vs. 21. They will curse God.

Rev. 17:1-6,9,18: *“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated...”*

- We will talk about the beast, the other world rulers, Babylon in greater detail and its destruction. Today, though, we will deal with some of this to get started.
- One author notes that Babylon is the most talked about subject in Revelation. There are 42 verses of the 404 that mention Babylon, 11% of the book.
- The “waters” of vs. 1 represent the people of the world (vs. 15).
- The views on who Babylon is differ. Here are a few thoughts:

A) Babylon will be rebuilt, and the antichrist will rule from there. It will be the main city of the government of the world. We will talk about this later in more detail.

B) Babylon represents the political, economic, and religious system that is put in place by the antichrist. Some think it represents all three or one or two. Views differ on what and who Babylon is as we shall see in Rev. 17 and 18.

- There is no doubt that there is some type of unholy alliance political and religious. We know that because of the place of the false prophet during the tribulation period.
- Vs. 1 calls this individual or system “the great prostitute.” Some see it as the false religious system of the world. Or, as noted, the religious, political, and economic system that will interwoven during the reign of the antichrist.
- Vs. 2 seems to indicate that the world rulers bought into the false religious system in play during the tribulation. This may have been done to increase various ruler’s power and popularity. A wedding of politics and religion.
- I think “false teaching” is seen here as being accepted by the world. It could also include immoral lifestyles which many false religions practice today.
- When we come to vs. 3 the focus is on figuring out who the woman and the beast is? Let’s begin with the woman:

A) Her clothing represents what some would see as outward beauty but there is a spiritually dead heart. She is connected to the antichrist (Rev. 17:3).

B) Vs. 18 tells us that she is a city or is represented as such. The issue becomes what city it is. Vs. 9 mentions that this city sits on seven hills. Some therefore claim that it is Rome, and is the capital of the coming false empire, and religiously, is a center according to some. A city built on seven hills was also a way to speak of the grandeur of a city. Constantinople was regarded the same.

C) Note what vss. 5-6 say about the false religious system in place in the tribulation. Vs. 5 tells us that she held in her hand a cup full of obscenities and impurities. This pictures the character and life of this false religious system, opposed to everything that God is. It also says that the name written is a “name of mystery.” A religious system coming out of a city is quite possible.

D) Vs. 6 tells us that this religious system is devoid of any true believers and will attempt to kill those who believe in Christ during the tribulation. It may also be a picture of what has happened throughout church history. This stunned John.

E) We know that Babylon was the source of false religion in the ancient world (Gen. 10-11). Much of this thought is connected to sources outside the Bible. The influence of early Babylonian religion was evident from history.

F) Vs. 16 tells us that this false religious system will be destroyed by the antichrist. At some point of the tribulation period, and I could see this happening when the antichrist claims to be God, false religion is no longer needed. The false prophet is still around. At this time, all power, religious, economic, etc., is given to the antichrist.

G) Throughout history governments have used religion to strengthen their power and control over people, sometimes until they are no longer needed.

- The woman is a city, so we need to go into more detail. We will discuss the beast and the other things in Rev. 17, but we now turn our attention to Babylon, who is connected to the woman. This expands beyond just our verses here in Rev. 17.

A) Some believe the city of Babylon is rebuilt at some point and be a major center of the antichrist's rule on earth. This may be tied to Rev. 18. There is the thought, though, that Babylon will never be rebuilt, that it has been destroyed and will stay that way. Passages such as Isa. 13:19-22 speak of its desolation.

B) If the city is to be rebuilt, there is much work to be done. Babylon may refer to a literal city but not at the same site as it was in the ancient world.

C) Some see Babylon as a reference to the entire political, religious, and economic system under the antichrist, false religion, and corrupt governments, along with, in some thinking, centered in a city of Babylon. A city and a system.

D) Babylon represents the "super church" (Hitchcock). But the great woman is a city, not just a religious system, though religion is part of the end times.

E) Some believe Jerusalem is Babylon. Those who hold this view believe that all of Revelation was fulfilled by 70 A.D.

Practical Application:

- God's plans will come to pass. As we see the future of the world, it reminds us of the need to live the Christian life and share Jesus with others.
- We already see things being laid out for the future world ruler and even today false religions are growing. We must be discerning, even within the Christian church, because many are teaching questionable doctrines.