

It Is Done (again)

Revelation: How It All Ends

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Bible Text: Revelation 16:17-21
Preached on: Sunday, September 15, 2013

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Revelation 16:17. I'm actually going to go ahead and back up to verse 14,

“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. 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.”

I think it's pretty clear that right in the beginning that it is done. This must be the end of something, the end of what? The end of the great tribulation and I'll show you that just here in a minute but before I go on to the next slide because I'm probably not going to come back to this exact passage, I want you to notice that “kings of earth” is in that brownish color. Listen to the phrase “kings of the earth.” We should see that again later on in other passages, “kings of the earth.” Battle and Armageddon: “Battle,” “Valley,” “Armageddon” and then I'm going to add a fourth word to it, possibly “pit” would all be related. That's in kind of a purple tone. “Them,” again, referring back to, that's a pronoun for us English people out there, “kings of the earth.” “Great voice”: anytime we see the word “voice” I'm going to see if it's the same word “voice” and is it referring to the same people speaking or is it a voice of a trumpet because trumpets have voices too so we'll come back to “voice.” Then finally, every time you see something that is “finished, done” and “the Lord's day” it's going to be in red. Can we catch that? Alright, let's see if we can catch on.

There is the layout there and I think there's a pink color in there I haven't talked about yet so: red, the end of the great tribulation; blue, the voices of heaven; the great earthquake and hail will be in green; kings of the earth in a brownish color. The great city of Babylon which I'm going to show you another passage and I thought I taught this lesson before but I'll probably throw this in there because the verse comes up again, how I think Babylon is Jerusalem. Then battle of Armageddon in purple; the effects of the destruction in orange, the effects, the things that happen afterward.

Timing, well, timing is everything. When is this taking place because there is some chronology to it? What is that chronology? Back in verse 7 of chapter 10 of Revelation it says, "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." Again, there are a couple of different keys there: it's in the seventh angel; it's when the mystery of God should be revealed when God shows up, he's going to reveal his mystery; and then last of all, it's the same one that he declared to his servants and to his prophets. Now, there weren't a whole lot of prophets, I mean, there were prophets, of course in the New Testament, but I think this even goes back as far as the Old Testament so we're going to look at an Old Testament passage. Was there ever a prophecy of the end of the great tribulation in the Old Testament? What do you think? Yes. There definitely was some prophecies of that.

Let's look back and then a little bit more forward in Revelation, chapter 15:1 and then I'll skip to verse 8, "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." We see a lot of the number seven in the book of Revelation because seven would be like the number of? Does anybody remember? Completion, so it's complete when we hear seven. We're on the seventh vial or seventh bowl in the seventh angel with the seven last plagues. We must be nearing the end, the last, it is done again. For in them is filled up in the wrath of God so this is when the wrath of God comes. The end must bring a great battle or some kind of judgment. Verse 8, "And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Just a quick review. All the sevens we've had in the book of Revelation so far including some more: seven churches, seven spirits, seven stars, seven lamps, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven applause, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven thousand, seven personages, seven heads, seven crowns, seven vials, seven mountains, seven kings. Almost all of those words are in our passages today. Almost all the sevens are mentioned so I know if I mention all the sevens I must be at the end of whatever the sevens brought.

Here is some color coding here: blue voices; green thunders, earthquakes, lightning; And there were voices, this is back in our passage so you can follow along with me in Revelation 16:18,

"18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake,"

which I talked about when we talked about the sixth seal which we'll go back to that in just a minute,

"such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great."

Now, there is more than one earthquake that's mentioned in the book of Revelation: there is an earthquake just like there was an earthquake when Jesus was crucified and there are lots of earthquakes in the Bible but I think this one puts a special clarification on it in the second part of that, "such as was not since men were upon the earth." I mean, we talked about Noah's flood being the worst flood that had ever happened and the worst one still to this day and the way God reminds us of that, we talked about the rainbow is his bow in the sky to show us that he's not going to do that again in the same way. Will there still be floods? Sure, they're a flood and this flood and maybe even a great flood but not the greatest flood of all time. Well, we've had earthquakes before. What was it, two years ago we had one here. We didn't really feel it; it was kind of vibrating but it was closer up to DC and I told my Dad that and he said, "Oh, that was just the judgment of God," so we've got to be careful when we talk about an earthquake, this is *the* earthquake, earthquake of earthquakes. The Bible says King of kings and Lord of Lords, this is earthquake of earthquakes.

Keeping with our theme, where else can we find those voices from heaven and the great earthquake and hail? Let's look at the seventh trumpet. We studied that already back in chapter 11:15. It says, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world," and I probably should have underlined that one in green, I missed that one, "are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." I'm not going to go into the Hallelujah chorus but that's where it comes from. But those great voices sounded when? After the seventh angel so at the end, there are voices sounding and those voices are coming from, in this case, from heaven. I mean, I don't know, are these the saints? Are these the angels that worship God? Are these people that have already died and gone to heaven? I don't know but great voices are coming from heaven and they're saying this, "The kingdoms of this world is become the kingdoms of our Lord." So, all of a sudden this old earth that's falling apart, has a great earthquake and a great hail which we'll talk about in a minute, are destroyed and they're becoming now at the end, becoming now the kingdom of our Lord. Becoming.

Chapter 11:19, just a couple of verses down the row, it says, "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." Sounds like the verse we just read. There has to be voices and there has to be an earthquake and specifically it uses the adjective "great" hail, not just a regular hail, great hail. Well, it does say "an earthquake" so is this the same great earthquake? I'm going to tell you why I think it is because of the word "great" in front of "hail" because it has to have these things: it has to have a voice; it has to have lightning, thunderings, earthquake and great hail. Same part that we talked about in Revelation 16:18.

Let's keep reading. Back to Revelation. This is going to be a short lesson today with just a lot of color coding and I want to flip back through all the slides when I'm done and see if I can catch along the trend here, see if we're talking about the same thing. Revelation 16:19, follow along with me in your Bibles,

“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.”

Destruction coming – we'll stop right there and think about that – from God that he's seemingly forgotten when he says it brings it to remembrance. Now, do you have to forget to remember something? No, of course not. God doesn't forget things but he's now bringing it to the front of his attention that, “I've let it go so long. Now I'm going to give them all of my wrath. Now, in the end, I'm going to give them all my wrath.” Who is he going to give it to? The great Babylon, the great city and it's going to be divided into three parts. How do you divide a city? Is it with the people, the politicians, the leaders? Is it with the people themselves are actually divided or portioned out in the land? Or is it the land itself that's getting chopped in half and into three pieces? We need to figure that out. Look at verse 20,

“20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

If I took a great earthquake and I shook something really hard, the mountains are going to fall down; they're going to become level. Think about it: if you build up a nice big mud tower and then you shook it really hard, eventually it's going to flatten out. And every island is going to flee away, this goes back to my science mind and I start picturing plate tectonics and things like that. Now, I know it says “theory of plate tectonics” for you science majors out there. We don't know necessarily because we can't pick up the earth and see, “Oh yeah, the whole earth is moving.” No, we can't prove that but at the same time, we know that Hawaii started over here somewhere and that's how they got the first island of Hawaii, that's like a hotspot. Then the whole plate seems to have moved and then they got a second island and a third island and a fourth island. The tallest of the islands, if I'm no mistaken, is the one that it's currently on, the plate as it moves and that's because that mountain is still erupting. Is it Mauna Kea, I think, volcano is still erupting. That hotspot, because it keeps building up more, that's a really tall mountain but if there was a catastrophic earthquake, greater earthquake than ever had ever existed and the plate ran away quicker than it ever has in the past, would that cause the islands to flee? Would that cause the islands to move from their original location? I think so. I think that's logical. Any kind of catastrophic event that's happening with an earthquake would cause an island to at least appear like it moved but it wouldn't be in the same place it was originally. It would get knocked over by a tsunami or whatever it would be.

So, let's go back to what we were trying to say before. When I divided it into three pieces, did it sound like a political thing? No. Did it sound like people were separated? No, I think verse 20 kind of clarified it for us. What did it sound like? Did the land get divided? Yes. Okay, so this is a physical land division into three pieces at least and that's just in this Babylon. Is it world round or is it every island fled away and the mountains were not found anywhere? That's the question you've got to ask yourself: is this local or is this worldwide? Going back to this, we saw “kings of earth” in the last one; “cities of the nations fell,” that would sound kind of like a political part; and “great earthquake and hail,” haven't seen the hail yet going back. Great city, great Babylon, how does that relate

to Jerusalem? Is there a way that I can connect the two for you? Can I say that this great Babylon, this future city that hasn't existed yet – well, there was a Babylon once – is it the same Babylon getting rebuilt? Or is it a current city renamed Babylon? Or is it just a whole new thing somewhere else that we never thought of before? Let's see if we can make a connection.

Fall of Babylon. I think it's Jerusalem and I'll tell you why: in chapter 11, verse 8, we read this passage the last time I taught and “their dead bodies shall lie in the street of that great city,” “dead bodies” referring to the two witnesses. They're going to lie in that great city and since we're in the same book, we're going to assume that John is going to use the same language: great city, great city, it means the same thing in both places hopefully. “Which is spiritually called Sodom,” so this city could be Sodom but it's spiritually called Sodom. Spiritually, it's also called Egypt and Egypt has always been referred to in the Bible as a wicked place where the heathen lives, the Gentiles, they're not the Jews. So it's spiritually called Sodom and Egypt and it's where the Lord was crucified. Was the Lord crucified in Sodom? No. Was the Lord crucified in Egypt? No. Was the Lord crucified in Babylon? No. I know where the Lord was crucified. Where was Jesus crucified? Jerusalem, so I think we've got a lot more specific right in that verse.

Maybe this fall of Babylon is Jerusalem but let's just make sure, always want to double check, test it as many times as you can. Chapter 14, verse 8, it says, “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations,” kings of the earth, that's the brown color, kings of the earth, “drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Is wrath coming to the kings of the earth in the other verses we read? Okay, so there's wrath with Babylon, with the kings of the earth, with whatever this great city is. In chapter 17, verse 18, we haven't gotten to it yet but if you read Pastor Bill's email, I think we're going to go past it because 17 and 18 talk a lot about what we've already talked about in a different way and we've referenced those verses, here I'm going to reference it again. It says, “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city.” Whoever this great whore is, they refer to it as this fornicator, this horrible image, you will say, or sign of whatever bad things are happening on the earth is that great city. And it says, “which reigneth over the kings of the earth,” so it's definitely going to be Babylon; it could be Jerusalem; and it's spiritually called Sodom and Egypt.

Kings of the earth. Let's dwell on the kings of the earth. That's going to come back. See if there's any more passages in Revelation that refer to this great earthquake that can give us a little bit more light on the situation so we can be a little bit more transparent and a little bit less translucent. Remember how he always tells you the difference between the two of those?

Sixth seal language. I taught this. It's amazing how God works. I feel like I'm reteaching the lessons that I've already taught because as I randomly every 4, 5, 6 weeks come in, it's referring back to a lesson that I taught before because God works it out that way. I didn't do that. Chapter 6, verses 12-17 and I'd like you to turn there because it's kind of a long passage. It's probably easier to follow along in your Bibles than it is with me. “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, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth,” I have it in green because I think “stars of heaven falling to earth” is a lot like something else falling to earth. Now, you could argue that, you know, comets can fall and meteors can fall and then there's ice that comes out of clouds, that would be hail but I'm going to say in this case, they're related one and the same. Comets have ice in them; meteors can freeze; and hail can come out of a cloud like weather. So, I'm going to say one and the same because of the size of them which we'll find in a verse back a little bit later.

Back to where we were in verse 13, “And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs,” so untimely figs would be the kind of figs that the fig tree doesn't want. In autumn time, leaves do what? They fall. We call it “the fall” because it's autumn time and we talked about this in science: it's because the cork develops between the leaves and the tree still lives but the tree doesn't need the leaves anymore and so it sheds its leaves and it's not an evergreen so it must be a deciduous tree and so on and so on and so on. The point of that is: God's using an illustration of a fig. A fig tree doesn't need its leaves; space doesn't need meteors. It doesn't serve any meteorological purpose to have a comet floating around through space so just like the fig tree gets rid of its leaves, so will space get rid of debris and where will it fall? Here. And it's all going to fall on one little itty bitty city in all of the world? I think not. I think not. “Even as it is shaken,” and the word “shaken” kind of is another idea of earthquake, “when she is shaken of a mighty wind.” Wind is another illustration sometimes of the Holy Spirit so I definitely think God is involved with this.

Verse 14, “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.” Have we heard that language before? Say yes. Okay, so, just making sure. “Every mountain and island moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth,” there's that phrase again, “and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains,” but not because they were trying to avoid this from happening. I want to make that clear right there. It's not like they're running from it to get away from it. You know, you can say you can never run from the presence of the Lord, there are other things you can't run from. You can't run from an earthquake. I don't care how fast you run, you're not getting away from the earthquake and even hail falling out of the sky is not really avoidable. Not going to happen. Hail falls really fast and before it hits you, you're not going to notice and after it hits you, you will notice. So they're trying to get away from all of this but they're not getting away from it because it says in the next verse,

“And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Hide us from God because he's judging us. Oh they knew where it was coming from. They knew who was in control at this point. You've heard that there are no atheists in fox holes? This is the same concept; they know exactly what's happening even though they're heathen. And we've read before that the devils know who God is and they tremble. That doesn't make these people saved. They know who God is and they're trembling; they are afraid. And it says, so much that

they're hoping that the little cave they're in falls on them. They're hoping. They're hoping that the rocks will just be suicidal and just kill them on the spot so they don't have to deal with this anymore. Is it kind of a fearsome thing to be running around with hail falling and earthquakes? Yes. They just want it to be over and we'll read later on what they do about it: they just curse God and that's significant too.

Verse 17, "For the great day of his wrath is come," in red. Is come. It is finished. It is done. That's when it's going to happen, when all of these things go wrong and this is the specific eventually that islands are moving out of their places, the kings of the earth are upset, the great earthquake and stars of heaven fell. "Who shall be able to stand?" That's all sixth seal language. It sounds a lot like the passage we just read.

Please go back to chapter 16.

"21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven."

Great hail. And if it's coming out of heaven, I wouldn't say it's coming out of the clouds. Heaven is usually referred to "beyond the clouds, beyond the sky," so this is coming out of the space.

"every stone about the weight of a talent:"

We don't normally speak in talents today. How many talents do you weigh? I don't know. Let me just throw it out there: I weight two talents, at least from my research because talent could be anywhere from 80-150 pounds. So 80 pounds, "Yeah, that's not a bad sized hail; 150 pounds, that's not a bad sized hail." None of these chairs weigh 80 pounds and if I threw one of them at you, you'd probably run or at least try to dodge it in some way so I'm thinking a great hail with a stone weight of a talent or 100 pounds approximately is a big deal.

"And men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail."

They said it was God's fault and it was. Was their theology wrong? No, God did it. They blasphemed God, they took his name in vain and said that he is a horrible God "for the plague thereof was exceedingly great." I heard a commentator say that this just goes to show if the Holy Spirit isn't working in you, even a catastrophic event is not going to change your mind. It doesn't matter. Remember the story of Lazarus where the rich man that died and was in hell and burning said, "Just rise somebody from the dead to go and tell my brothers and then they'll believe," and the answer was, "No they won't. If they don't believe the prophets I've already sent, if they don't believe the words that have already been written in the Scriptures," which they didn't have Scriptures yet but they had scrolls and things like that, "if they don't believe what I've already done, they still won't believe." And it's true even here. Though they know God through a gigantic hailstone at them and shook the whole earth, that was God doing it, it doesn't matter, "I will not trust in him. He is not my God. He is not my Savior."

That's sad. It's exceedingly sad and it makes me want to share the gospel more; it makes me want to tell more people. You might say, "Oh well, then what's the point of telling them if they won't believe?" Because that's how God works. God said they won't even try to believe if they've never heard, unless a preacher tells them. Well, we're all the preachers in this case. No, not at a pulpit but we are the ones sharing with them the gospel.

"And the plague thereof was exceedingly great." Understatement of the century. The end of the great tribulation: voices from heaven, probably the saints, saying how good God is with a great earthquake and great hail, kings of the earth cursing God, the great city of Babylon, probably Jerusalem but still it affected the whole world, battle of Armageddon is what I'm going to cover next or the valley of Megiddo and the affects of the destruction was that the mountains were flattened and the islands ran away.

Last point and then I'll be done and take some questions, not that I can answer them but I'll try. But battle of Armageddon. Where does that come into play? We read right in the passage before back in chapter 16, verse 14, it says, "to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Do you see that verse? And then in verse 16, it says, "And he gathered them," referring to the same people, "into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." So God is gathering all the kings of the earth, all the people that are against him into one place and that would be the valley of Megiddo or what we'd call today the battle of Armageddon at the end of the great tribulation.

Let's read this verse from Isaiah because I said that there is probably an Old Testament prophecy that relates to what we're talking about and this goes all the back to Isaiah. You can see it in your own Bible if you'd like, it's Isaiah 24:17 or you can just follow along with me on the screen. "Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise," wow, that should have been in blue, "of the fear shall fall into the pit," so some people are just going to head towards the pit. Fear and the pit might just come upon the others, "and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit," whatever it is, "shall be taken in the snare." You get out of the pit, you're still going to get hit with all the bad things that are happening; you're still going to get caught in the trap, that's what a snare is, it's a trap, "for the windows from on high are open," that should have been green because the sky opened, "and the foundations of the earth do," what? "Shake." Shake, quake, earthquake. "The earth is utterly broken down," it sounds like a mountain falling flat, "the earth is clean dissolved," it sounds like a tsunami washing over an island, "the earth is moved exceedingly," quaking, shaking, moving. "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage." I'm a little lost in the cottage illustration but I know how a drunk acts.

Look at verse 20, "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard," I know how that looks, "and shall be removed like a cottage." I guess if you're thinking the whole ball and chain thing swinging through, knocking over a building is going to be a lot harder than moving a cottage. I guess that's what they were going for there but, you know, it's been 2,000 years since this has been written down plus, probably closer to 3,000 years. Moved like a

cottage. How do you describe it back then? Well, you remove it like a cottage. “And the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones.” Who are they? Well, “the ones that are on high.” Who are they? Well, they're “the kings of the earth.” Have we had that phrase before? “The kings of the earth, upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit,” again, I should have made that purple, “and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.” So, they're going to battle, they're going to fight, they're going to toil in strife in this prison or valley or pit and then they're going to be visited. “Then the moon shall be confounded,” I've read that before, black as sackcloth, “and the sun ashamed,” it's going to go dark. The moon goes red, the sun is like sackcloth. “When the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.” I'll come back to that.

Is this talking about the same event? Is this still “it is done”? Is this still the end of time? It's a little bit older language but I think there was enough key words in there to kind of relate it to and maybe you don't agree with me. That's okay. If you say that the pit is not the same as the valley of Megiddo, if the pit is the bottomless pit that we talked about later, it still serves the same purpose. They're being gathered to be put into the bottomless pit which we would refer to as hell. These people are not heaven-goers but then I'm kind of lost on the illustration where it says if they come up out of the pit. Well, they're not going to come out of a bottomless pit and they're not going to come out of hell but at the same time, when they get out it says that their still going to be hit with the snare, the hail, the destruction, the earthquake, all the many things that are going on.

“That's Old Testament. The Old Testament doesn't apply to us.” Joking. “The Old Testament, it's not significant to today.” I hear that all the time so let's go New Testament. Matthew 24, please. Matthew 24:29 says, “Immediately after the tribulation,” after, it is done, in the end, “of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.” Is this the same event we've been talking about? “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn,” tribes of the earth, kings of the earth, nations, all the political people in charge, “and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,” maybe not the same sound that we heard before but some great sound of a trumpet, “and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

The end of the great tribulation, voices from heaven must be coming down, there must be a great earthquake and a great hail, kings of the earth will be cursing God because they still don't believe. It's going to take place in the great city of Babylon, probably Jerusalem, this battle, in the battle of Armageddon or the valley of Megiddo and the effects of the destruction will level mountains and make islands run away.