



**“IT IS DONE!”**

Revelation 16:17-21

**Sooke Baptist Church**

Sunday, August 29, 2021

9:30 am, In-person  
also on Facebook and YouTube

**03:00**

Coffee/Question:

Nelson Mandela said, “It always seems impossible until it is done.” Describe a time when you were able to bring about the impossible. How long did it take? What obstacles did you have to overcome?



Revelation 16:17-21

The seven bowls of wrath purposefully point the reader back to the book of Exodus and to the judgments God brought upon Egypt for the harm they had done to the family of Abraham and for the idolatry they committed.

The seventh bowl plague points us to the plague of hail. Let me remind you of what happened long ago.

Exodus 9:23-26

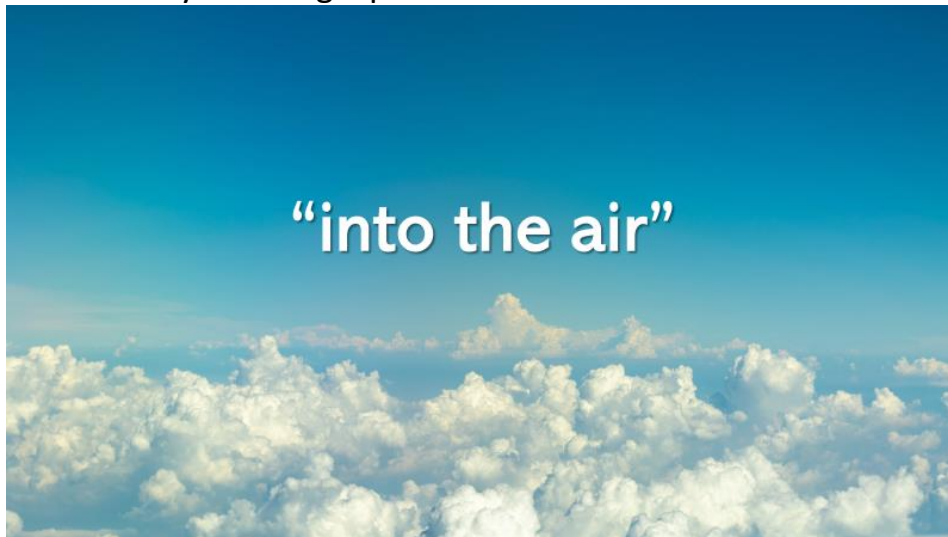
...the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So, the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; <sup>24</sup> hail fell, and lightning flashed back and forth. **It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.** <sup>25</sup> Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both people and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. <sup>26</sup> The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

The plague of hail in Egypt was unprecedented... it was the worst storm ever to strike the land.

**The seventh bowl plague will also be unprecedented.**

It too will be the worst calamity that has ever happened on the earth.

Verse 17 says the angel poured out his bowl...



As the air blankets the earth, covering every square inch, so the judgment of the final bowl will impact the entire earth.

I remind you... in the vision of the sixth bowl... the kings of the whole earth, led by the unholy trinity of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet... gather to war against God.

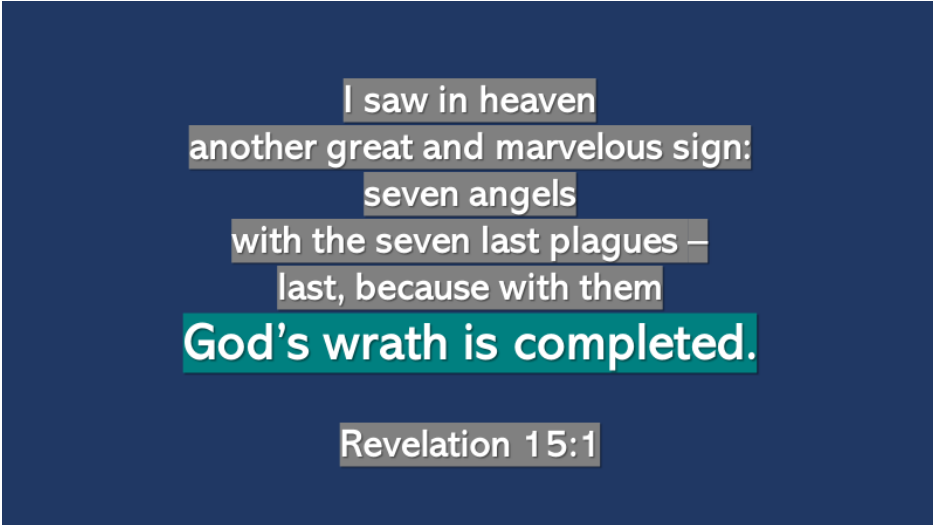
It is this act of obstinate defiance that precipitates the pouring out of the seventh bowl, and the pronouncement made by God from his throne...



**“It is done!”**

What is done?

Look back at Revelation 15:1...to what the Scripture said at the beginning of the bowl judgments.



I saw in heaven  
another great and marvelous sign:  
seven angels  
with the seven last plagues –  
last, because with them  
**God's wrath is completed.**

Revelation 15:1

With the pouring out of the seventh bowl, look at v.18 - the flashes of lightning, the rumblings, the peals of thunder, the severe earthquake, look at v.21, the huge hailstones... God completes his wrath by bringing judgment upon Babylon the Great.

Why does move against Babylon the Great?

For the same reason God brought judgment upon ancient Egypt – for its maltreatment of his people and for its idolatry.

Let me remind you of some important details regarding Babylon.



The city and its empire fell in 539 BC.

- When the book of Revelation speaks of Babylon it is not speaking of a geographical location in Iraq where the ancient city of Babylon once stood.
- Nor is the book of Revelation suggesting that as the last days come to an end, the ruins of ancient Babylon will be rebuilt and that once again it will be the leading city of the world.

**Babylon the Great... is a code name...** for any nation/any empire/any civilization... which is thoroughly man-centered... including what it worships...gods who are in mankind's likeness.

God has to deal with Babylon because... as we shall see in the next two chapters of the Revelation... the worldview of Babylon... corrupts and perverts and ruins. If God were not to act in loving wrath to expose and judge Babylon the Great, then he is not and cannot be God.

Look again at the collapse described in v.18-20...

Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings,  
peals of thunder and a severe earthquake.

No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind  
has been on the earth, so tremendous was the quake.

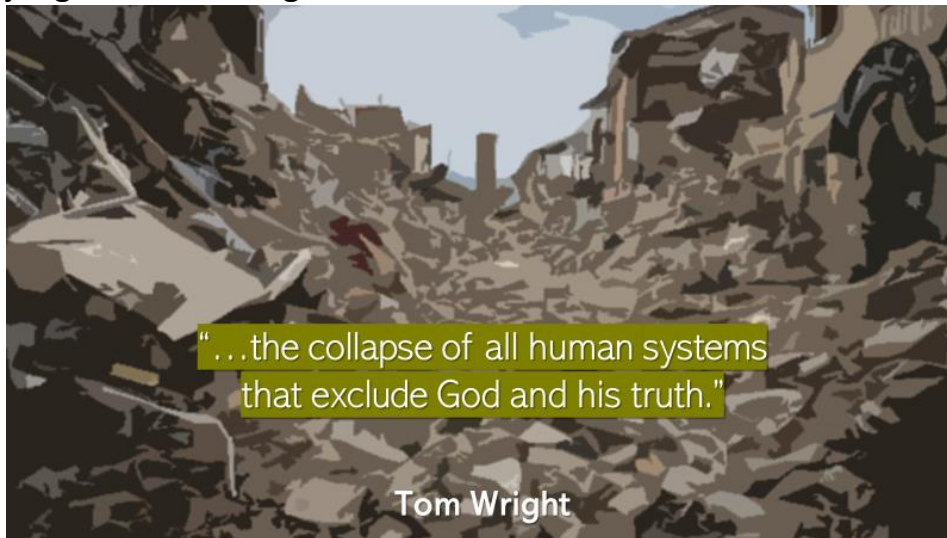
The great city split into three parts,  
and the cities of the nations collapsed.

God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the  
cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Every island fled away  
and the mountains could not be found.

From the sky huge hailstones...fell on people.

Keeping in mind that Babylon the Great is not a city, but culture that is man-centered, culture that excludes God ...Tom Wright says, this helps us to understand that Babylon's devastation illustrates for us... that God's final judgment will bring about...



The wording in Revelation 16 carries echoes of what the heavenly messenger said to Daniel in 12:1, regarding the end of this age...

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.

But at that time your people – everyone whose name is found written in the book – will be delivered.

Daniel 12:1

With this shaking and fracturing of Babylon, God will bring into the open...



... the lies ... upon which Babylon is built.

Have you ever built a house of cards?



From God's perspective this is what human culture without God is like.

Do you remember the nursery rhyme... Humpty Dumpty?

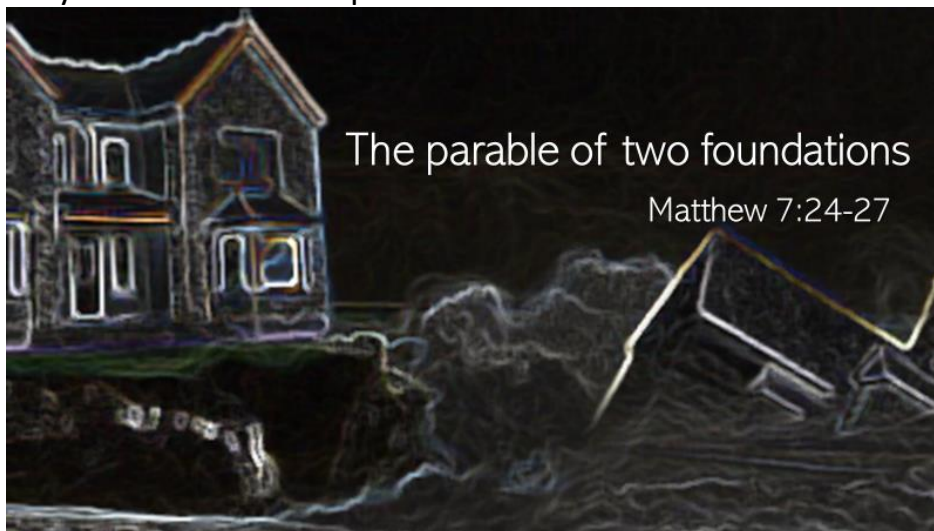


## Humpty Dumpty

**Humpty-dumpty sat on a wall  
Humpty-dumpty had a great fall  
All the kings' horses and all the kings' men  
Couldn't put Humpty back together again.**

From God's perspective this is the story of human culture without God.  
It will fall and be shattered... and it will not be able to be put back together.

Do you remember the parable of the two foundations?

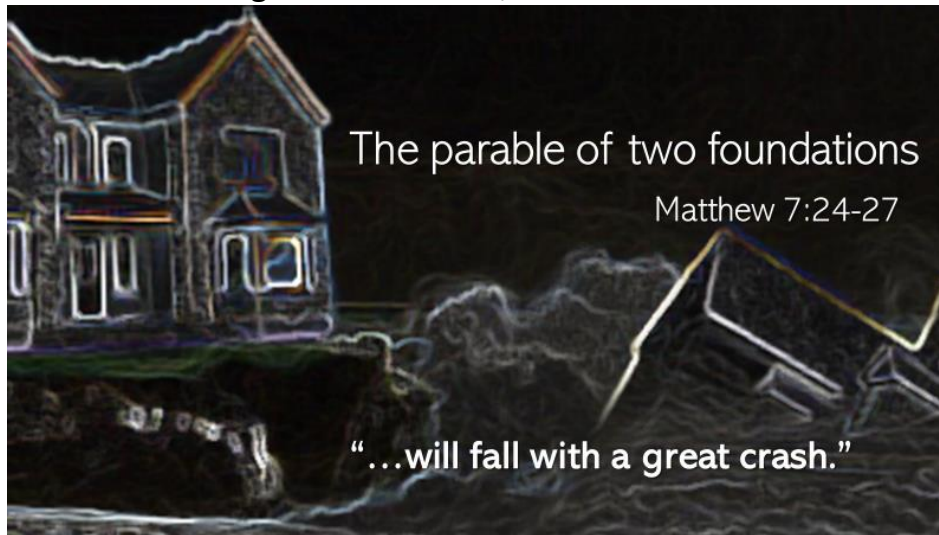


## The parable of two foundations

Matthew 7:24-27

One man built a house on a foundation of rock.  
Another built his house on the sand.  
Life without God is like building a house on a foundation of sand.

Jesus said that when the rain comes down, and the streams rise, and the winds blow and beat against the house, such a house...



Babylon the Great... human culture without God... will be shaken by the seventh bowl judgment... and great will be its crash.

There have been other historic collapses.



- Of nations and empires... the Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Roman, Mayan, Mongol, Byzantine empires to name a few.
- Of economies...the Long Depression was a worldwide price and economic recession, beginning in 1873 and running through to 1896; the Great Depression of the 1930's and the Great Recession of 2007-2009.
- Of morality...



What our passage says is that the collapse that takes place when the seventh bowl is poured out will be unlike any other collapse.  
In what way?

Historically when there have been other great collapses, people have rebuilt.  
But when the seventh bowl is poured out.... there will be no recovery.  
This age will end.  
The reign of sin, death and darkness will be over.

There are two primary points of connection to our lives.

1. **Regarding God's judgment** – here I reference Darrell Johnson.

a. Judgment is horrible.

In the language he uses, God means for us to feel the horror of sin's outcome.  
The wages of sin is death...

a. Judgment is horrible.

b. Judgement is justified.

God's wrath is not arbitrary, nor fickle.

J.I. Packer says.... "Nobody stands under the wrath of God, save those who have chosen to do so."

How does a person choose wrath?

By repeated choices to reject God's Savior Jesus Christ.

- a. Judgment is horrible.
- b. Judgement is justified.
- c. Judgment follows an extended time for repentance.

**Look at these two verses in Revelation 16... and then 2 Peter.  
We've repeatedly read of the severe mercy of God.**

16:9 - ...they cursed the name of God who had control over these plagues,  
but **they refused to repent and glorify him.**

16:11 - ...[they] cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores,  
but **they refused to repent of what they had done.**

But the same can be said of God's patience... it is beyond what we would expect.

16:9 - ...they cursed the name of God who had control over these plagues,  
but **they refused to repent and glorify him.**

16:11 - ...[they] cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores,  
but **they refused to repent of what they had done.**

2 Peter 3:9, **"he is patient with you,  
not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."**

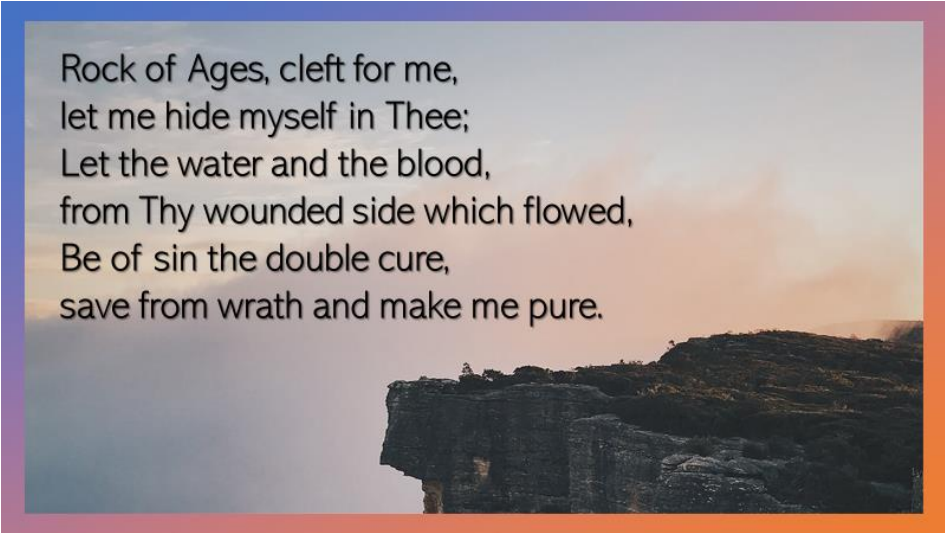
- a. Judgment is horrible.
- b. Judgement is justified.
- c. Judgment follows an extended time for repentance.
- d. God's judgment always is appropriate to the sin committed.

It will not be less, but neither will it be more.

- a. Judgment is horrible.
- b. Judgement is justified.
- c. Judgment follows an extended time for repentance.
- d. God's judgment always is appropriate to the sin committed.
- e. God's judgment is just.

There is a hymn entitled, "Rock of Ages."

It speaks of Jesus, who as 1 Thessalonians 1:10 says, "rescues us from the coming wrath."



Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
from Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
save from wrath and make me pure.

God's Spirit using God's word convinces a person... not only of their sin, and of coming judgment, but to put their trust in his Savior, to be clothed in the righteousness of the One who paid in full their sin debt, the One whose Spirit makes them pure.

2. Regarding God's cry from the throne.

<u>From the cross</u>	<u>From the throne</u>
<b>“It is finished”</b>	<b>“It is done”</b>

The phrase, “It is done,” 16:17, uses the same Greek verb that Jesus used when he cried out from the cross, “It is finished.” John 19:30

GK Beale says that this is not an accident.

“Jesus’ cry from the cross... set in motion the breaking in of God’s kingdom in this present time.

But what Jesus began... will reach fulfillment when he cries out a second time... from the throne.

This second cry will not only be the final redemption of God’s people, but the decisive and final judgment of God’s enemies.” p.352

<u>From the cross</u>	<u>From the throne</u>
<b>“It is finished”</b>	<b>“It is done”</b>

Jesus’ church, the people of God... we live in between these two cries.

What this means is that no matter how formidable “Babylon the Great” may seem... or how impossible the situation that confronts us may be... or how great is the trouble we find ourselves in... these words of Jesus are intended to encourage us... to live boldly in the time and in the place where God has asked us to live.

What Jesus began will be finished.

Every promise of God will be fulfilled... for he is true and faithful.

### Life Connection/Question

- Try to put in your own words what it mean for you to find refuge in the God of wrath.
- How do you think the Holy Spirit wants to use the truth in this passage to grow your faith?
- Try to explain how a simple three word phrase, “It is done!” inspires you to live with courage.

**03:00**

### **The Blessing**

May God the Father bless us;  
may Jesus Christ take care of us;  
may the Holy Spirit enlighten and enliven us all the days of our life.

The Lord is your defender and the keeper of your body and soul,  
both now and for ever, to the ages of ages.

(Æthelwold c 908-984)