

Revelation 16

The background image is a dramatic, apocalyptic landscape. On the left, a bright, fiery eruption or volcano spews a column of fire and ash into the sky. The ground is dark and rocky, with a path of fire leading towards the viewer. In the upper right, a large, glowing, reddish-orange orb, possibly a sun or moon, hangs in a dark, cloudy sky. The overall color palette is dominated by reds, oranges, and yellows, creating a sense of intense heat and destruction.

**Bowl Judgments Poured Out
Armageddon
Babylon Destroyed
Earth Leveled**

You Are the Holy One!

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel
Let it be known today that You are God
We offer up our lives as a living sacrifice
Purify us with Your holy fire....Holy fire...

You are the holy One, Highly exalted One
We've come to worship at Your holy hill
You are the holy One, Highly exalted One
And we surrender to Your sovereign will
Oh Lord God of Abraham...

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel
Let it be known today that You are God
There is no other one like You, Come now and fill this place,
Be exalted in our praise,
Let it be known today that You are God...You are God...

For the Lord He is God, For the Lord He is God
And He shall reign forevermore, Evermore...

Oh Lord God of Abraham (3X)



Revelation 16

Seven Bowl Judgments

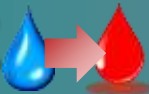


1



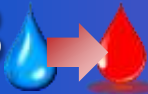
Sores on those who take the mark

2



Seas turn to blood

3



Rivers turn to blood

4



Sun scorches men

5



Darkness on beast's throne, pain

6



Euphrates dried up

7



Earthquake,
killer hail

*Made it through 5th plague
(bowl) last session...*




"For in them the wrath of God is complete."

(Revelation 15:1)

IT IS DONE!

Revelation 16

An angel with large, feathered wings, some white and some gold, is shown in flight. The angel is wearing a white robe and a dark hood. The background is a dramatic landscape with a river and a large fire. The text is overlaid on the image.

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.

Revelation 16:12

Revelation 16



- This sixth bowl is **preparation for Armageddon**, and is a striking parallel to the 6th Trumpet:

“Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; ...

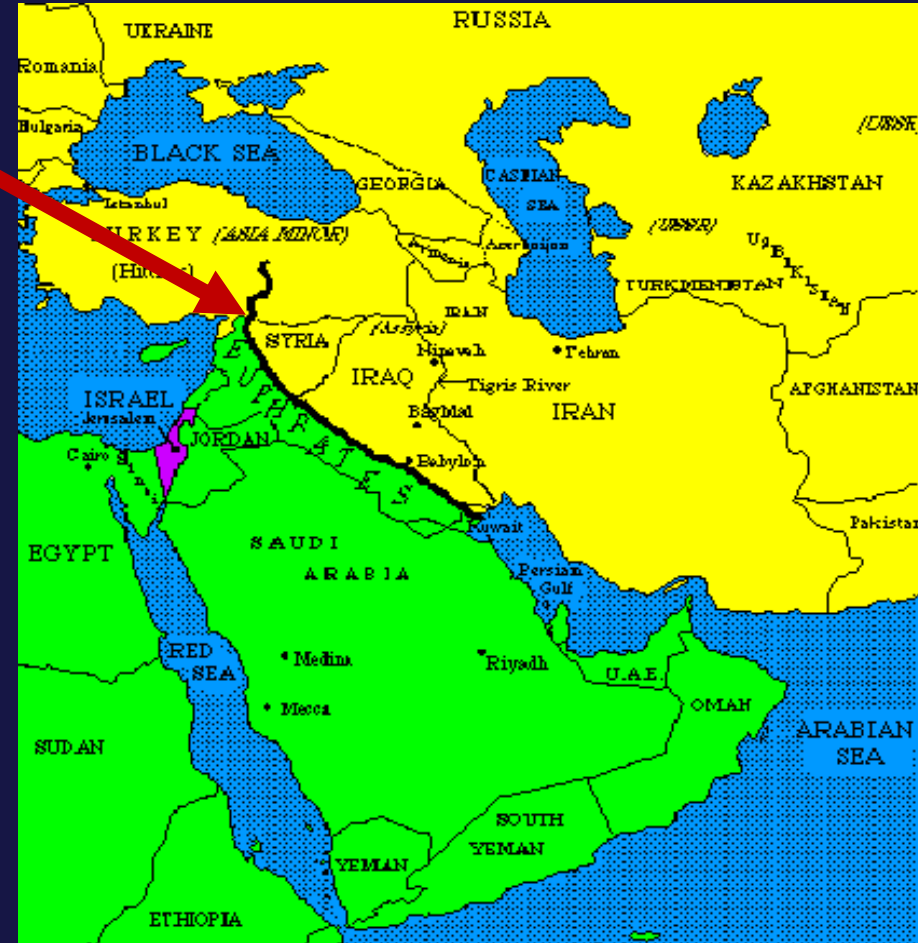
Revelation 16

... and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.” (9:13-21)



Revelation 16

- Euphrates River relatively unknown to most except for presence in news due to the wars in Iraq.
- Large river, nearly 2,000 miles long, anywhere from 900 feet to more than a ½ mile wide in places, and here in this passage **it dries up completely.**



Revelation 16

A few facts to consider about this river:

- Mentioned 25 times in scripture. Both the **cradle and the grave of all civilization.**
- Flows through Babylon.
- Is ***eastern most border*** of land God promised to Abraham.
- **Cyrus the Great of Persia** rerouted Euphrates river in order to walk under huge city walls of Babylon, and take the city without much of a fight. That night ended the Babylonian empire and began the Persian empire.

Revelation 16

- **Eastern border of Roman Empire.** Romans were fearful of Parthians who lived north of Euphrates.
- In ancient days **Euphrates provided protection** for Israel from invasion. If it dried up, protection was gone.
- Greatest part of mankind is north of Euphrates (*includes Europe, China, India, Japan, Russia, all of Asia, Persia, etc.*).
- **Israel's enemies said to be from north.** As this plague unfolds, mankind will be marching south into Israel.

Revelation 16

- **Drying up waters** frequent in scripture. God did it, and will do it, a number of times:
 - The **Red Sea** (Exodus 14:21, the exodus from Egypt);
 - The **Jordan River** (Joshua 3:17, entrance into the Promised Land);
 - will dry up **the Sea** (Jeremiah 51:36, future prophecy regarding destruction of Babylon);
 - All the **depths of the Nile** (Zechariah 10:11, regarding future downfall of Egypt)

Revelation 16

- “*kings from the east...*” **CAUTION!** “east” here literally two Greek words *anatole helios*. *Anatole* means the rising of light, or dawn, and is only east by implication. *Helios* is the sun.
- Phrase literally means **kings of the “rising sun” or “sunrising.”** Today Japan is known as the land of the rising sun.
- Does not mean these “kings” are from Japan, or even from the orient, *although they could be*. **Means direction from which these armies flood into Israel. A LOT of lands are east of Israel.** May be a confederate force of several peoples and nations.



Revelation 16

Drying up
Euphrates River

1

**This plague
has two
parts.**

This is all
preparation
for

Armageddon.

Demonic
activity to
prepare world
for war

2

Revelation 16

Copyright © Ted Larson 2003

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. **14** For they are spirits of demons, 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.

Revelation 16

- “*...unclean spirits...*” = demonic spirits.
- coming out of the mouths of each of the unholy, counterfeit trinity: dragon, beast, false prophet.
- Apparently human antichrist and false prophet inhabited and used by demonic forces, dragon. This **may indicate they speak lies and deceit to deceive the nations.**
- You’d have to be **totally deceived** in order to think you could war with God and win...
(the “vain thing” of Psalm 2)

Revelation 16

- “...*like frogs...*” Frogs long been symbols of demonic activity.
- In Persian lore they are the **god of evil**, an agent of plagues; in Egypt a frog was the goddess of resurrection and fertility (one of the gods the Almighty used against Egypt, and here)
- to the Jews they are **unclean** (an abomination) and demonic by tradition.



Revelation 16

⁹ 'These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat. ¹⁰ But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you. ¹¹ They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination. ¹² Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales—that shall be an abomination to you.

(Leviticus 11:9-12)



Revelation 16

- **“frogs”** βατράχοι *batrachoi*. Not used elsewhere. Properly translated *frogs*. A symbol, certain qualities of "spirits" same as frogs. Bochart (1600's commentator) **frog a symbol:**
 - (1) for rough, harsh, coarse voice;
 - (2) of complaining or reproaching;
 - (3) of empty loquacity (*talking too much*)
 - (4) of heretics and philosophers
 - (5) has origin in mud, lives in mud, symbol of those who are born in sin, live in pollution
 - (6) lives in water, drinks often, symbol of drunkards
 - (7) of impudence
 - (8) because frog swells his size, and distends his cheeks, a symbol of pride.



Revelation 16

- Goal of these “frog spirits” is to **speak lies** to leaders (deceive) of all nations of earth, and talk them into gathering in a specific place in order to make war against God.
- These leaders are not just the kings of the east. The verse says **“the whole world.”** The world’s armies will gather to the “battle of that great day of the God Almighty.”
- **This is it. The final confrontation between God and the Enemy. Choose sides now!**

Revelation 16

- Scripture says, *in so many words (!)*, **this gathering is a joke**. Psalm 2:1-3 states:
“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”
- What is **God’s response** to this gathering together for battle against Him? *“**He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.**” (2:4)*

Revelation 16

- The “**great day**” is the final culmination of the **Day of the Lord**.
- Have done study just on this phrase “**Day of the Lord**.” Term used frequently in scripture.
- Psalm 2 and Joel 3 deal *exclusively* with this day, and several other OT references.
- Varying opinions about how much actual time this “day” covers. Some say literal, 24 hours. Others say a period of time that includes final judgment (tribulation) through Armageddon.


Revelation 16

THE DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD



- Some say it is only Armageddon.
- OT review of use of this term says this “day” is ***near, full of darkness, full of anguish and distress, full of plagues, sudden, and the earth shakes and nations gather together against God.*** (and that’s just the beginning!)
- This is not a good day! It is the day of God’s wrath poured out on all unbelieving, and the final battle. *(An interesting study, but not here.)*

Revelation 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.

Revelation 16

- **“Behold...”** pay attention, now He comes! Words of Jesus.
- **Coming as a thief** means He is coming suddenly, without warning. The one who watches, keeps alert and is waiting for His return is blessed.
- **“...keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame...”** A phrase that has been and still is debated.
- ***What garments are referenced here??*** It is not identified. Is it the “**garment of righteousness**” that must “cover” us – the garment that makes us pure before God, by the blood of the Lamb? ***Does it imply our salvation?***

Revelation 16

- **We don't know.** If it means our salvation, then the word “keeps” *might imply that one could lose salvation*, but it does not necessarily say this.
- Merely means those caught *not watching* seen as naked, shamed, greatly embarrassed.
- Others believe does indeed reference salvation, and by this time of tribulation very few “believers” left, perhaps those who came late, or haven't come totally to Yeshua. Perhaps faith is wavering, or they haven't made a total commitment. *We just don't know.*)

Revelation 16

- Some even suggest this doesn't reference believers at all. Those watching for Him most likely believers and already wear the garment of righteousness. Those people are blessed.
- It is, then, ones NOT watching who lose garments, which had never been “cleansed” to begin with.
- At any rate, **most commentators do not believe this references the possibility of losing salvation**. It is more likely a **warning to be vigilant**, or all these things coming, especially arrival of the Messiah Himself, will take us by great surprise.

Revelation 16

- In reviewing dozens of commentaries on this verse, NONE of them made any reference here to losing salvation.
- **Commentary:** “I think this verse is a general word of encouragement addressed to believers in the Great Tribulation, in view of the context, but applicable to believers in the church age. If believers do not understand that Jesus Christ will return very soon, they may behave in ways that will be embarrassing when He does return, at the Rapture and the Second Coming.” (Constable)

Revelation 16


- Reviewing dozens of commentaries on this verse, NONE made reference here to losing salvation.
- **COMMENTARY:** This may be an allusion to what that Jewish officer, called the man of the mountain, (that is, of the Lord's house) used to do, when taking his round in the temple to examine the watch: if he met with any asleep, they were beaten by the provost, and had their garments taken away, and burnt; or, according to others, this officer had the liberty to set fire to their garments. Perhaps, in this case, the person might be obliged to appear in the fragments of his burnt garments the next day, which would be a great disgrace. (Coke)

Revelation 16



¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Revelation 16

- 
- *“They”* = demonic forces of the unholy trinity.
 - *“Armageddon...”* major study all to itself!
 - “Armageddon” = Greek rendition of **“Har Megiddo”** name of actual place, mountain, or hill, of Megiddo.



Sea of Galilee

G A L I L E E

Haifa

Nazareth

Atlit

Daliyat el-Carmel

Muhraga

Kishon Pass

Beth Shearim

Jokneam

Kishon River

Chesulloth Tabor

Mount Tabor

Endor

Jezreel Valley

Ophrah

Hill of Moreh

Megiddo

Shunem

Tel Jezreel

Ein Harod

Harod Valley

Tel Kedesh

Taanach

Mount Gilboa

Beit Alpha

Sachne

Beth Shean

Tel Rehov

S A M A R I A

Dothan Valley

Dothan

Salim

Abel-Meholah

Sanur

Jordan River



N

0 2.5 5 mi.
0 2 4 8 km

Revelation 16

- Word “Megiddo” literally means “*place of troops, or crowding of troops.*” **Many scriptural battles here:**
- **Barak/Deborah** defeated Sisera, Canaanites here (Judges 5:19)
- **Gideon** met Midianites at Megiddo (Judges 7:1-25);
- **Samson** won over Philistines (Judges 15);
- **Saul** died here in battle (1 Samuel 31:1-13);
- Pharaoh Necco killed **Josiah** here (2 Kings 23:39) and several others.

Revelation 16

- One of the more interesting mentions of Megiddo (*also Megiddon*) is in Zechariah, which speaks of Israel's acceptance of her Messiah:
"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. ¹¹ In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. (Zechariah 12:10-11)
- The question here is, does this refer to some old battle and the mourning in that place, ***or one still to come?***

Revelation 16

- Megiddo most famous of all battlegrounds in Jewish history.
- Titus and Roman army used this natural corridor, so did Crusaders in Middle Ages, as well as British General Allenby when he defeated the Turkish armies in 1917.
- Even Napoleon called this place an **“ideal battleground for all the armies of the world.”**
- Megiddo is well known, and well used, throughout history. Greek translation is **Armageddon**, come to be known as world’s last spectacular battle, the subject of many fanciful, fictional movies, books etc.

Nazareth

Mt. Tabor

Hill of Moreh



Megiddo and the Jezreel (Esdraelon) Plain

Looking ENE. Mt. Tabor is 11 miles from Megiddo



A natural battlefield...

A literal place, not a symbolic title for a great battle

JEZREEL VALLEY: Israel's breadbasket

Revelation 16

- Megiddo located on south rim of Esdraelon, also known as the **Plain or Valley of Esdraelon**, and the **Valley of Jezreel**.
- Many believe it is also Valley of Jehoshaphat referenced in Joel 3:12, seems likely (literally *“the valley of God judges”*).
- This area is also referred to as the **“valley of decision”** in Joel 3. This is indeed the final world battle before the Millennial Kingdom.
- It is helpful to **read the entire 3rd chapter of Joel**, and worth our time to do so here... *(listen carefully, we can learn a great deal about “Armageddon” from this passage...)*

Revelation 16 + Joel 3

¹“For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 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.

³ They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. ⁴ “Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head; ⁵ Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.

Revelation 16 + Joel 3

*⁶ Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem
You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them
far from their borders. ⁷ “Behold, I will raise them Out of
the place to which you have sold them, And will return
your retaliation upon your own head. ⁸ I will sell your sons
and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah,
And they will sell them to the Sabeans [from “Sheba,”
Ethiopians], To a people far off; For the Lord has spoken.”*

*⁹ Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war!
Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw
near, Let them come up. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into
swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak
say, ‘I am strong.’” ¹¹ Assemble and come, all you nations,
And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones
to go down there, O Lord.*

Revelation 16 + Joel 3

¹² “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. ¹³ Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow—For their wickedness is great.”

*¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.*

¹⁵ The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. ¹⁶ The Lord also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

*¹⁷ “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God,
Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”*

Revelation 16 + Joel 3

18 And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord And water the Valley of Acacias.

19 "Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence against the people of Judah, For they have shed innocent blood in their land.

*20 But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation. 21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; **For the Lord dwells in Zion.**"*

Revelation 16

- Lots of speculation about this place and name. Some say really means *Jerusalem*, though would seem unlikely to enable all armies of the world to gather. Other scriptures, such as reference to 1600 furlongs earlier in this chapter, seems to indicate not symbolic, but **real place where real battle takes place**. 1600 furlongs about length of entire corridor (*about 200 miles*).
- In John's time Megiddo relatively unknown, forgotten in history, but well known through OT scriptures. Signified place of great slaughter, terrible retribution for wicked, place of mourning. Megiddo had very bad reputation.

Revelation 16

- Only place in scripture this word (*Armageddon*) used, but many other references to Megiddo.
- **Few know the real meaning**, or terrible history, and terrible future it will see.
- Should note that while the world uses this term to mean a war to end all wars, actual word used merely to name place of this war.
- Might seem like whole world is gathering for war against God and against His people on their own, like they are in control. However, must remember all this is according to God's plan, and **HE is in control. He is Sovereign!!**


Revelation 16

- **Man's imagination has run wild with Armageddon. Everyone seems to know it means the last big battle of good and evil, or the final world war. There is no end to disaster movies and books and video games about this so-called Armageddon.**

Revelation 16

- This “war” has a **very anti-climactic end**, as we will see.
- Becomes supper for birds of the earth, and is over with one word, one “breath of his word” from Jesus.
- Actual event of this war is most likely not here at this moment, **it is in chapter 19**. Here, the world’s armies are merely *gathering for war*.
- **It’s not over yet**. There is one last plague to be poured out, even now.

Revelation 16



17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **“It is done!”**

Revelation 16



- ***“Poured out his bowl into the air...”***

Ephesians 2:1-2 tells us something interesting about the Enemy:

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...”

Satan is called “the prince of the air, or “prince of the power of the air...”

- This pouring out of the **final bowl of wrath is upon satan’s realm of power**. This is fitting.

Revelation 16

- Another voice from the temple (*last time mentioned*) announcing **“it is done.”**
- Reminds of first verse of previous chapter: “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.” (15:1)
- **God’s wrath is complete.** Only thing left is final disposition of Armageddon we read of later.
- Word for “done” is Greek *ginomai*, literally means **“accomplished.”** God has accomplished fulfillment of His prophetic plan perfectly.

Revelation 16

- Should bring to mind another English phrase **“it is finished”** - Greek *tetelestai* which means **“paid in full.”**
- Jesus uttered this from the Cross. *Payment for our sins was complete at that time.*
- One phrase provided payment for our eternal salvation. The other accomplished final last bit of God’s pre-ordained wrath on disobedient mankind.
- Salvation and wrath are both accomplished, and both announced when they are “done.”
- Would rather hear *“tetelestai”* than *“ginomai!”*

Revelation 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.

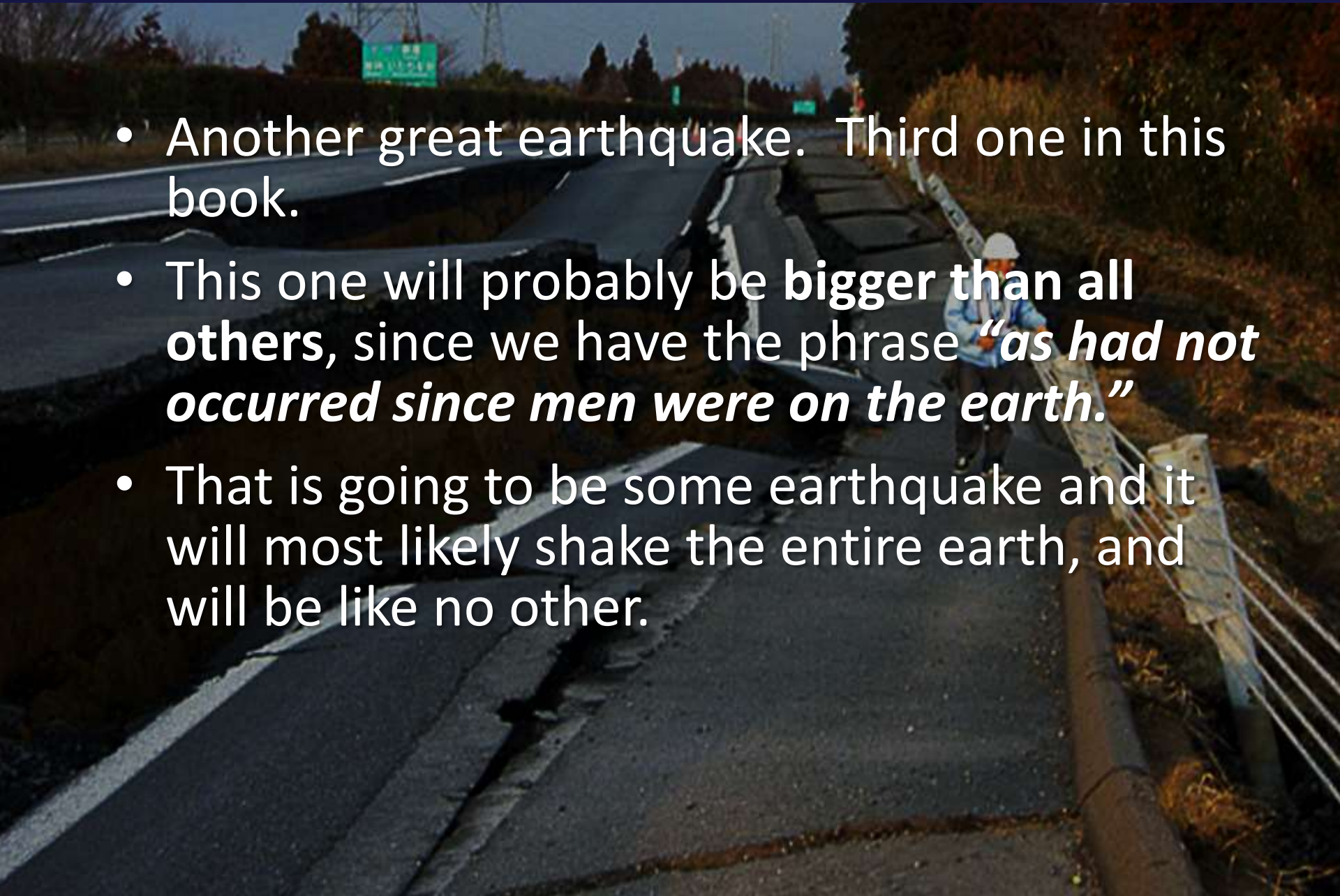
Revelation 16

- Noises, thunderings and lightnings **common in book of Revelation**, usually occur around God's throne or presence.
- Also seen at **Mt Sinai** when God appeared to give the Law. They are a **reminder of God's awesome nature and great sovereignty.**
- These here appear **to signal the final blows, judgments**, to earth before the second coming of Jesus – the imminent presence of God on earth.

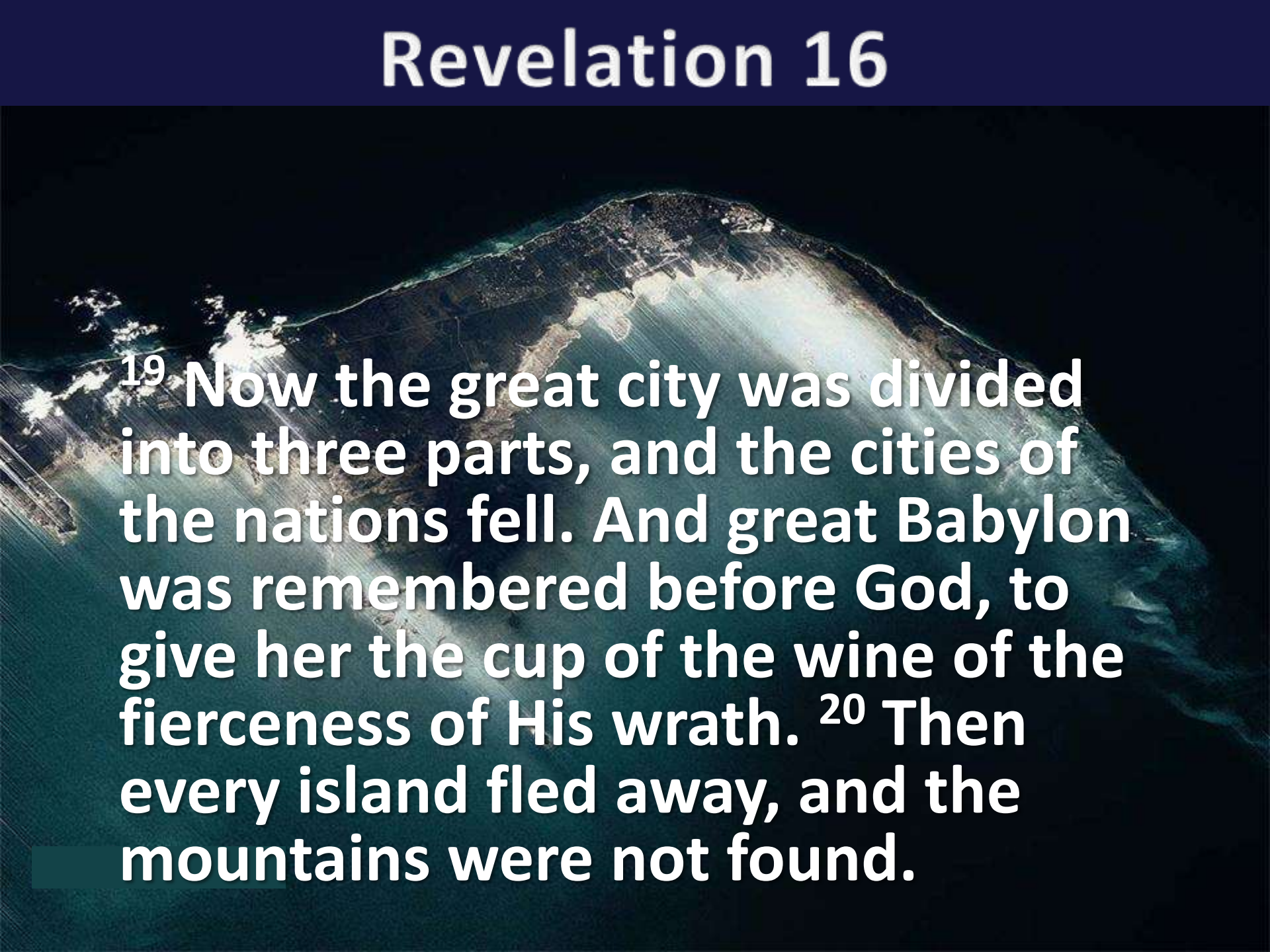


Revelation 16

- Another great earthquake. Third one in this book.
- This one will probably be **bigger than all others**, since we have the phrase *“as had not occurred since men were on the earth.”*
- That is going to be some earthquake and it will most likely shake the entire earth, and will be like no other.



Revelation 16

An aerial photograph of a city at night, with a bright light source illuminating the landscape. The city is divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations have fallen. The text is overlaid on the image.

19 Now the great city 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. **20** Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Revelation 16

- The big question here is “**what city?**” Many speculate Jerusalem, since Zechariah prophesied a huge earthquake that would change the entire topography of Jerusalem: *“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.”* (14:4)
- But this earthquake in Zechariah clearly associated with coming of Jesus to Jerusalem ***on his return to earth.***

Revelation 16

- City that appears in same context as this verse in question is Babylon, and the idea we are to get is that Babylon will be destroyed and is under the judgment of God.
- There will be more information about the destruction of Babylon in coming chapters 17 and 18.
- *The complete picture, however, shows **massive destruction everywhere**, which might indeed indicate what happens at the return of the Messiah. This could be Jerusalem, and it could be Babylon. It could be EVERY city on the planet (“all cities...”).*

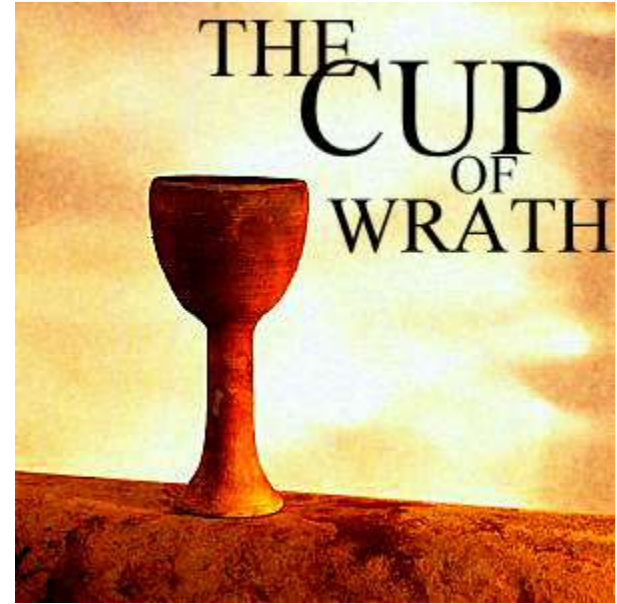
Revelation 16

- This earthquake is not limited to one “great city” whatever city that is.
- This **earthquake is worldwide**, affecting the “cities of the nations” which fall in the quake.
- Would seem appropriate that **when the feet of the Almighty touch the earth, the whole earth would shudder violently!**



Revelation 16

- Previously discussed “cup” of God’s judgment, here another reference of “*fierceness of His wrath.*”
- Most likely this earthquake’s epicenter is indeed **Babylon**, which will be completely and utterly destroyed as has been prophesied for thousands of years (*not yet completely fulfilled, more on this later*), but the whole earth will feel it and much will be destroyed.



Revelation 16

- This is not your typical earthquake. ***“Every island fled away and the mountains were not found.”***
- God is redesigning the earth here, destroying what man has corrupted. Mountains are leveled, islands disappear.
- Would seem that nothing could live through such devastation.
- *To occupy this planet, God will have some re-creating to do!*

Revelation 16

- Note...In chapter 6 the **6 seals of first judgments** presented as possible “overview” of entire tribulation period.
- **6th seal** is huge earthquake, has been called **“wrath of the Lamb.”** In this earthquake skies roll up and every mountain and island are affected: *“Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.”* (6:14)
- Seems logical (*quite possible*), these earthquakes are one and the same.
- Chapter 6, in *overview* sense, told us it was coming at end of tribulation. Now, in ch 16, it happens, at end of the tribulation.

Revelation 16

- We have no reason NOT to take these things very literally. However, some believe reference to islands and mountains really **symbolic for “republics and nations,”** meaning all human government falls here.
- Both likely true. The earth will be devastated, and there will be no more human government past this time.
- We know this from Daniel 2:44 - *“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”*

Revelation 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.



Revelation 16

- On top of worldwide devastating earthquake **one final blow**. God brings huge hailstones, big enough to kill, upon the earth and upon “men.”
- This one does not say it is upon only the “inhabitants of the earth” (unbelievers). *May be on entire earth, affecting everyone.*
- **“Each hailstone about the weight of a talent” like something from a horror movie**. Depending on measurement system (Greek, 86 lbs; Hebrew, 110 lbs; Babylonian, 125 lbs.) one VERY large hailstone, able to smash buildings and kill instantly. Only safety from this judgment would be an underground bunker.

Revelation 16

- OT penalty for **blaspheming**, what these earth “dwellers” do repeatedly in the face of God’s work, was stoning. How appropriate.
- God instituting OT Law as punishment against blasphemers of earth. **He is doing the stoning.**
- Hail used throughout scripture as a plague, and as judgment on Israel’s enemies.
- Appropriate verse: *“Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the **treasury of hail**, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?” (Job 38:22-23; God speaking to Job from the whirlwind reminding Him of His power and sovereignty.)*

Revelation 16

- If all literal, *and we have no reason to believe it isn't*, some very catastrophic, violent and totally devastating topographical changes happening on earth at this time. **The earth is a mess here.**
- This is to be expected, considering **Zechariah 14**. This is the culmination, ending and completion, of God's plan *immediately prior* to Millennial Kingdom. **Jerusalem will be raised up and all other places "turned into a plain," or flattened.**
- Precisely what is happening in Revelation 16.

Revelation 16

Just a sample of Zechariah 14...

¹⁰ All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses....

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.

(neutron bomb??)

Revelation 16

- Obviously quite a lot happening in this time. Last plagues, Armageddon, wrap up before Millennial Kingdom. Don't know if all happens concurrently or spaces of time.
- At this point, at the end of the Tribulation, and the final battle. **It won't be pretty.**
- Helpful to **read entire 14th chapter of Zechariah** (*in fact, the entire book, as we consider it one of the "Apocalyptic Triangle," along with Daniel and Revelation*) **Make this part of your personal study.**

Revelation 16

- Consider this verse again about the Lord's return:

“And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.”

(Zechariah 14:4)

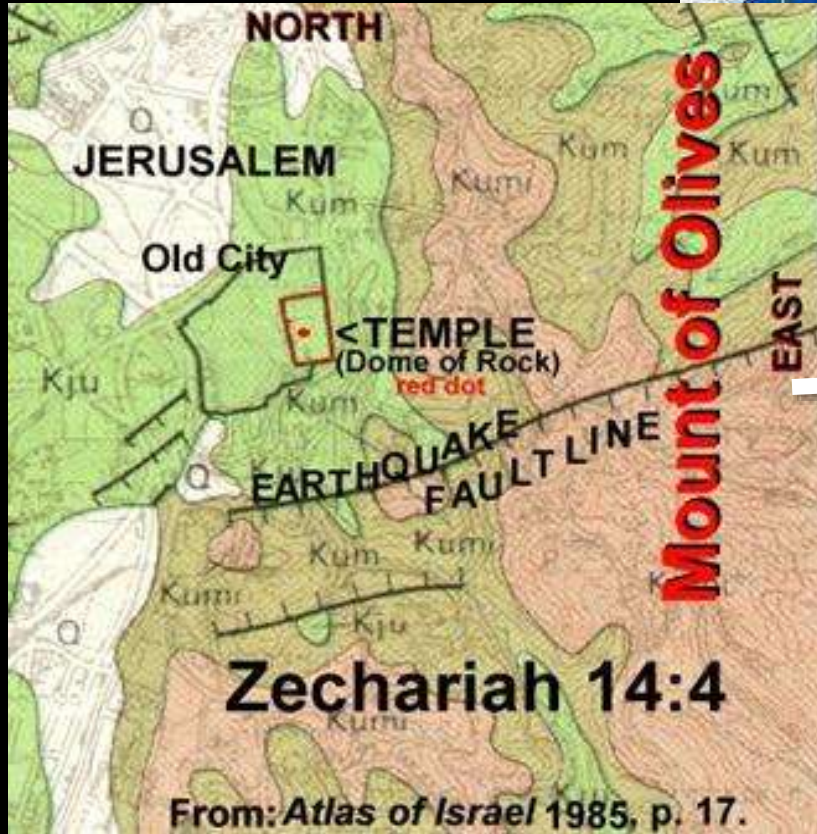


Revelation 16

COMMENTARY "...The cleaving in two of the Mount of Olives in Zechariah 14:4 is regarded by most commentators as being quite beyond a literal interpretation: and yet, a few years ago, The Illustrated London News gave some interesting drawings of the scene of the great volcanic eruption in the North Island, New Zealand. It will be remembered that the outburst of volcanic energy began by the explosion of Mount Tarawera, a mountain, which had no crater upon it, and showed no signs of recent activity. Tarawera was split in two by the sudden opening of a great chasm or line of craters four miles long, about 500 feet wide, and, in many places, 400 feet deep."

(Bullinger, E.W., The Apocalypse, © 1909) (Notice this was written over 100 years ago!)

Revelation 16



The Great Rift

Revelation 16

- All 7 plagues poured out in rapid succession, perhaps even all at once. With 7th plague, **IT IS DONE.**
- Still some “**loose ends**” to finish and relate in John’s vision: final judgment and destruction of Babylon, and actual return of Messiah.
- Both these events may take place at end of last plagues.
- Detailed in chapters 17, 18 (Babylon) and 19 (*the return of Yeshua and the Saints*)

The Aaronic Blessing: Birkat Kohanim

May the LORD bless you and keep you

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD make His face shine
upon you and be gracious unto you

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and
give you peace.

יְשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

