

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 37

THE SEVENTH BOWL

(REVELATION 16:17-21)



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Do you know what is the final Bowl Judgment of God that is released upon mankind?

It is an unprecedented shaking of the earth, a literal shaking where the greatest earthquake ever known in human history will destroy the cities of many nations. **This is the Seventh Bowl** (Rev. 16:17-21). Haggai 2:6-7 and Hebrews 12:25-29 tell us the heart of God and the reason behind this judgment. God, in His mercy, wants man to turn in repentance to the Desire of all nations, which is Jesus. But what was man's response when this happened? We will find out shortly...



The Seventh Bowl is the final judgment in the Three-Numbered Judgment series of the seals, trumpets and bowls. It is the **most severe and most effective** of all the 21 judgments.

The context of the Seventh Bowl is the Sixth Bowl where nations are deceived and the kings of the earth gather to war against Jesus. However, the Seventh Bowl is not the actual Battle of Jerusalem at the Valley of Jehoshaphat. It precedes the Battle of Jerusalem and **will be released when the armies of nations are marching en route to Jerusalem from Armageddon.**

The Seventh Bowl is the most severe judgment and there are two dimensions of this judgment that will shake the cities of the nations of the earth. The first dimension is **the greatest earthquake in human history** and the second dimension is **the release of huge hailstones** each weighing around 100 pounds (Rev. 16:18,21).

The cities of the nations will fall and collapse when this earthquake of unprecedented intensity happens. Jerusalem herself, which is the great city mentioned in verse 19, will be split into three parts. And the City of Babylon, whose likely location is around 50 miles south of Baghdad along the Euphrates River, will be totally destroyed. What's more, through this earthquake, the geography and topography of the entire earth will be totally changed and shifted (Rev. 16:20; Zech. 14:5-10)!



The Seventh Bowl will be **the most effective** judgment and will complete all the judgments of God. The voice of God the Father Himself declared with certainty and finality, ***“It is done!”*** (Rev. 16:17). This means that the plan of God will be totally fulfilled. Every judgment and wrath of God will have been released and completed. Every evil and wickedness will have been dealt with and removed.



God's voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne (Rev. 16:17). The temple of heaven is the place where the prayers of the saints ascend to and are collected. The throne of God represents the place where God's heart, His will and His power are being received or released. Hence this is the place where the prayer of the saints and the perfect will of God meet. When this convergence occurs, something happens!

At the Seventh Bowl, there are **3** things that are significant:



**1) THE SEVENTH BOWL IS THE ONLY BOWL
JUDGMENT WHEREBY THE CONTENTS
ARE Poured INTO THE AIR
(REV. 16:17)**

Although there are no details in this passage telling us what actually happens when the bowl is poured into the air, we could possibly gain some insight from Zechariah 14 which is set at the same time frame as the Seventh Bowl.

Zechariah 14:12-15 tells us that a serious plague broke out among those who are fighting against Jerusalem. This plague causes their flesh, their eyes and their tongues to literally dissolve!

**2) THE VOICE OF GOD THE FATHER
PROCLAIMING THAT "IT IS DONE!"
(REV. 16:17)**

3) THERE WERE NOISES, THUNDERINGS AND LIGHTNINGS THAT CAME FORTH (REV. 16:18)

Every time there are noises, thunderings and lightnings in the Bible, God is doing something huge and it signifies two things:

a. God is doing a major divine shift

A Biblical example of this is at Mount Sinai in Exodus 19. There were thunderings and lightnings that caused the Israelites to tremble, because God was about to give the ten commandments and make a covenant with the nation of Israel (Ex. 19:16; 20:18).

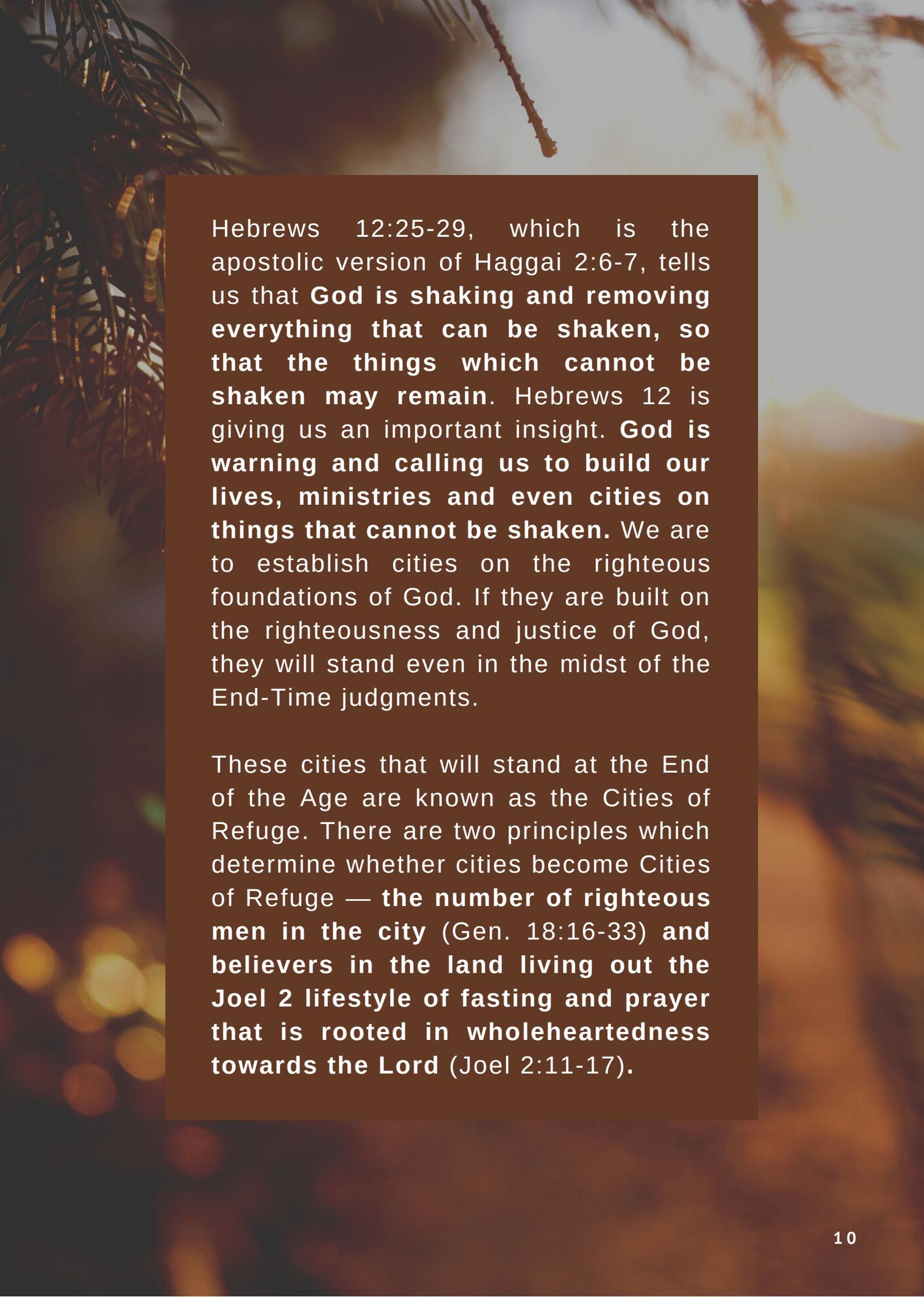
b. God is about to escalate and intensify His judgments

Every time God is about to escalate and intensify His judgments, there will be noises, thunderings and lightnings. This happened at the Seventh Seal when the trumpets were about to be released (Rev. 8:5) and similarly, at the Seventh Trumpet where the bowls were about to be released (Rev. 11:19).



Why does Jesus have to shatter cities and nations? He has to do so in order to inherit the nations. This is what Psalm 2:8-9 is saying. The phrase *“You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessels”* is a depiction of Jesus shattering the nations.

You see, Jesus is coming back for an inheritance that is righteous and holy. However, by this time, **the value system, the infrastructure, the structure and the system of nations and their societies will have been totally infiltrated and corrupted by the evil and perverse values of the Harlot Babylon.** Hence, Jesus has to first shatter the nations and then rebuild them. This is what Jeremiah 1:10 is about.



Hebrews 12:25-29, which is the apostolic version of Haggai 2:6-7, tells us that **God is shaking and removing everything that can be shaken, so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.** Hebrews 12 is giving us an important insight. **God is warning and calling us to build our lives, ministries and even cities on things that cannot be shaken.** We are to establish cities on the righteous foundations of God. If they are built on the righteousness and justice of God, they will stand even in the midst of the End-Time judgments.

These cities that will stand at the End of the Age are known as the Cities of Refuge. There are two principles which determine whether cities become Cities of Refuge — **the number of righteous men in the city (Gen. 18:16-33) and believers in the land living out the Joel 2 lifestyle of fasting and prayer that is rooted in wholeheartedness towards the Lord (Joel 2:11-17).**



The second dimension of judgment in the Seventh Bowl is the release of huge, 100-pound hailstones all over the earth, destroying the buildings, armies and infrastructure of the Antichrist and his allies.

Why hailstones? Deuteronomy 17:2-5 gives us a clue. It tells us that Israelites who worship other gods will be stoned to death. Similarly, the hailstones will be released upon those who worship the Antichrist and His image.

With this ultimate judgment, one would have thought that men would respond in contriteness and repent. Instead, they hardened their hearts even further and they blasphemed God (Rev. 16:21). In fact, this has been the consistent response of man in the bowl judgments. In the fourth bowl, they blasphemed God because of the great heat (Rev. 16:9). In the fifth bowl, they blasphemed God because of the darkness and the pain of their sores. In the sixth bowl, it was the global blasphemy against the Holy Spirit when nations of the earth gathered to war against Jesus.

What happened to the men in the Seventh Bowl can happen to us! 2 Thessalonians 2:7 tells us that the mystery of lawlessness is at work in our hearts. Let's deal with our hearts now, so that we get right with God and we can see from His perspective.

Indeed, may we be sincere and without offense, being found at the place of full agreement with God's heart, will and judgments, all the way until the Day of our Lord Jesus!





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