Revelation 16:17-21

The Seventh Bowl: “It is Done!”

1. God’s Presence and Judgment
   1. The great voice: v17
      1. This chapter began with a great voice from the temple.
         1. Here in verses 17 it comes from the throne.
            1. The voice of God.
      2. “It is done!”
         1. The previous six plagues are completed.
            1. The last plague commences.
   2. Theophany: v18
      1. A theophany is an appearance of God. This can occur through natural signs.
         1. God descending and speaking to Moses in Exodus 19:16-20 is a theophany very similar to the one we see here in verse 18.
            1. Lightning flashes, thunder, violent shaking
         2. The earthquake
            1. In Revelation earthquakes are a sign of God’s judgments.

8:5; 11:19

* 1. The result of God’s judgment: v19
     1. Cities of the nations fall
        1. What do cities represent?
           1. Civilizations, culture, wealth, ambitions of the human race.

It all comes under the judgment of God.

* + 1. “Babylon the great”
       1. Identification
          1. Certainly Rome

Rev. 17:5 and 9

The seven hills.

Ancient Rome was known as the city of seven hills.

Peter uses Babylon as a term for Rome in 1 Peter. 5:13.

* + - * 1. Rome as a type/example for all future enemies of Christ and the church.

In particular, the political, economic, and philosophies, etc. that are under the dragon’s influence.

* + - * 1. Babylon

Because of Nebuchadnezzar’s destruction of Jerusalem and the resulting destruction of the city, the ancient city of Babylon serves a type/example of all enemies of God in the OT and NT era.

For John, Rome was the modern Babylon.

Rome conquest of Judea in 63 B.C.

Destruction of the Jerusalem temple by the Romans in 70 AD.

Roman persecution of the early church.

* + 1. Division in three parts
       1. This speaks of the totality of the destruction as a result of God’s judgment.
       2. Cities and creation
          1. Christ’s first advent

Luke 3:5

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,

* + - * 1. Christ’s second advent

His return which brings an end to this present world will alter creation radically, violently and completely.

This climatic change of the old earth opens the way for the creation of the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21-22)

* 1. Man’s tragic response: v21
     1. The people refuse to repent, instead they blaspheme God.
        1. “Their Faustian bargain has transformed them into blasphemers who carry out to the end the beast’s hatred of God.” (Robert Mounce; Revelation Commentary)