

I. Introduction

The final judgment in each of the seven seal judgments, the seven trumpet judgments, and the seven bowl judgments presents a vision of the ultimate judgment that will come upon the world at the time of the Lord's Second Coming. Through today's passage concerning the seventh bowl judgment, let us examine what the Lord desires to reveal to us about the nature of the final judgment that will take place when He returns.

II. Main Body

1. The Completion of Judgment upon Satan (16:17)

The pouring out of the bowl into the air signifies a direct attack upon Satan. The voice that says, "It is done" carries the same meaning as Jesus' declaration among the Seven Last Words from the Cross, "It is finished." The latter signifies that the way of salvation has been completed, whereas the former signifies that God's judgment has been brought to completion.

2. The Significance of Lightning, Voices, Thunder, and the Great Earthquake (16:18)

The lightning, voices, thunder, and earthquake were prepared before the throne of God (4:5). They are manifested through the prayers of the saints (8:5), and they are ultimately realized in the judgments of the seven trumpets (11:19) and the seven bowls.

3. The Destruction of the Great City, Babylon (16:19-21)

The great city, Babylon, represents everything in the world that opposes, persecutes, and tempts God's people. When God's final judgment comes upon the world, the world will be divided, shaken, and brought to complete destruction. God will remember all of Babylon's sins, and He will make Babylon drink the cup of His fierce wrath. The disappearance of the mountains and islands signifies that every refuge and source of security upon which humanity has relied will ultimately disappear.

4. The Judgment upon the Woman Sitting on the Waters (17:1)

The woman, or the prostitute, represents the comprehensive system of this world—including political powers, economic systems, false religions, culture, entertainment, ideologies, and the media—that exists apart from God, opposes Him, and seeks to prevent people from drawing near to Him. In other words, she represents the system of the world that stands in opposition to God (John 15:18-19; 16:33; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; Romans 12:2).

The fact that the woman sits upon the waters signifies that she exercises influence and authority over peoples and nations (17:15).

5. Three Meanings Revealed in the Name of the Woman (17:5)

1) "Mystery" (17:4): Although she appears outwardly beautiful, splendid, and attractive, she is inwardly filled with everything that is corrupt and abominable.

2) "Babylon the Great": This refers to a human-centered, secular civilization that seeks prosperity and success apart from God.

3) "The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth": This refers to all the systems and influences of the world that oppose God and lead people away from Him.

6. The Meaning of the Expression "the Great Prostitute"

The prostitute seduces a man and leads him toward destruction (Proverbs 3:3-6; 7:21-27).

In the same way, when sports, hobbies, entertainment, or any other aspect of life causes us to drift away from God and become more devoted to the things of this world, they can function as the "prostitute" in our lives.

7. The People of the World Committed Fornication with the Woman (17:2)

The people of the world committed fornication with the woman, meaning that they became entangled with and devoted themselves to the corrupt systems and values represented by her. The woman was also "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus" (17:6).

8. The Woman Rides the Beast (17:3)

The world cooperates and forms alliances with political powers, using them to persecute and tempt the church and the saints.

III. Conclusion

Bible Memorization	A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world— the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life —is not from the Father but is from the world. (1John 2:15-16)																				
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Sharing Questions																					

1. Based on today's sermon, please share one new insight you gained or one truth through which God especially spoke to your heart.
2. Describe what happened when the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. Also, explain what this event signifies.
3. Explain what the woman of Babylon (the harlot) in Revelation 17 represents. Why does God refer to her as a "harlot"?
4. The woman of Babylon is given three titles: "Mystery," "Babylon the Great," and "the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth." Explain the significance and meaning conveyed by each of these titles.