

REVELATION CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Dan Trotter
dantrot@gmail.com

Rev 02/12/07

- I. **Revelation 16:1 (NASB)** *Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth [land] the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”*
- A. “temple”
 - 1. emphasizing the divine origin of the wrath
 - B. “wrath”
 - 1. the utmost wrath is now about to come upon Israel
- II. **Revelation 16:2 (NASB)** *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth [land]; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshipped his image.*
- A. “sore”
 - 1. as if the mark had broken out in a deadly infection
 - 2. Deut 28:27,35 is fulfilled
 - a. ²⁷ "The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed. ³⁵ "The LORD will strike you on the knees and legs with sore boils, from which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.”
 - B. “people”
 - 1. those Israelites who said “We have no god but Caesar”
 - C. “mark”
 - 1. on the right hand or forehead (Revelation 13:16)
 - a. shows total subservience and economic dependence on the Roman Empire
 - D. “beast”
 - 1. the sea beast (Rome)
 - E. “image”
 - 1. the land beast (Israel) had made an image of the sea beast
 - a. indicating idolatrous worship of the Roman Empire
- III. **Revelation 16:3 (NASB)** *The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.*
- A. “blood”
 - 1. primary significance is symbolic, referring to uncleanness, blood, death
 - B. “dead man”
 - 1. not running in streams
 - a. rather, clotted, coagulated, and putrefying
 - C. “every living thing in the sea died”
 - a. there are actual parallels in history
 - i. Josephus, *The Jewish War*, iii.x.9
 - A/ thousands of Jewish rebels fled to the Sea of Galilee from the Roman massacre of Tarichaeae. Setting out on the lake in small, flimsy boats, they were soon pursued and

overtaken by the sturdy rafts of Vespasian's superior forces. Then, they were mercilessly slaughtered: "The Jews could neither escape to land, where all were in arms against them, nor sustain a naval battle on equal terms... Disaster overtook them and they were sent to the bottom, boats and all. Some tried to break through, but the Romans could reach them with their lances, killing others by leaping upon the barks and passing their swords through their bodies; sometimes as the rafts closed in, the Jews were caught in the middle and captured along w/ their vessels. If any of those who had been plunged into the water came to the surface, they were quickly dispatched with an arrow or a raft overtook them; if, in their extremity, they attempted to climb on board the enemy's rafts, the Romans cut off their heads or their hands. So these wretches died on every side in countless numbers and in every possible way, until the survivors were routed and driven onto the shore, their vessels surrounded by the enemy. As they threw themselves on them, many were speared while still in the water; many jumped ashore, where they were killed by the Romans... One could see the whole lake stained with blood and crammed with corpses, for NOT A MAN ESCAPED. During the days that followed a horrible stench hung over the region, and it presented an equally horrifying spectacle. The beaches were strewn with wrecks and swollen bodies, which, hot and clammy with decay, made the air so foul that the catastrophe that plunged the Jews into mourning revolted even those who had brought it about."

1/ "not a man escaped"

a/ cf. "every living thing in the sea died" (16:3)

IV. Revelation 16:4 (NASB) *Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.*

A. "rivers," "springs"

1. fresh water is the source of life

B. "blood"

1. what was clean and pure became foul and polluted (blood)

V. Revelation 16:5 (NASB) *And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because you judged these things;*

A. "angel of the waters"

1. the third angel with a bowl

a. he had poured out blood upon the waters

B. "Righteous"

1. the angel of the waters was praising God for his retributive justice

a. we should not in our humanitarian weakness be afraid to do the same

VI. Revelation 16:6 (NASB) *for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."*

A. "blood"

1. the murder of the prophets is why *the blood of the righteous* would be poured out in judgment on that "wicked generation"

a. **Matthew 23:31-36** "³¹ Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. ³² Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. ³³ Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? ³⁴ Wherefore, behold, I send unto

you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city: ³⁵ That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth [land], from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.”

B. “saints and prophets”

1. characteristic crime of Israel was the murder of prophets

a. Scriptures

- i. **2 Chronicles 36:15-16 (CSBBible)** ¹⁵ But the Lord, the God of their ancestors sent word against them by the hand of his messengers, sending them time and time again, for he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they kept ridiculing god's messengers, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the Lord's wrath was so stirred up against his people that there was no remedy.
- ii. **Luke 13:33-34 (CSBBible)** ³³ Yet it is necessary that I travel today, tomorrow, and the next day, because it is not possible for a prophet to perish outside of Jerusalem. ³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!
- iii. **Acts 7:52 (CSBBible)** Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They even killed those who foretold the coming of the righteous one, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become.

VII. **Revelation 16:7 (NASB)** *And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.”*

A. “altar”

1. the saints gathered around the base of the Altar itself

a. where the blood of the saints and prophets had been poured out

- i. **Revelation 6:9-11 (CSBBible)** ⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and the testimony they had given. ¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice: “Lord, the one who is holy and true, how long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ So they were each given a white robe, and they were told to rest a little while longer until the number would be completed of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters, who were going to be killed just as they had been.

B. “saying”

1. the prayers in vv 5-7 are “based on the song sung by the priests and Levites during the interval between the preparation and the offering of the sacrifice.” (J. Massyngberde Ford, *Revelation: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, 1975, p266)

a. Israel about to get roasted in its own Whole Burnt Offering

- b. **Revelation 16:5-7 (CSBBible)** ⁵ I heard the angel of the waters say, You are just, the Holy One, who is and who was, because you have passed judgment on these things. ⁶ Because they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets, you have given them blood to drink; they deserve it! ⁷ I heard the altar say, Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and just are your judgments.

- 4/ Farrar, p.555f
 - a. “It was not the least of the sign of the times that the space of one year saw wrapped in flames the two most hallowed shrines of the ancient world – the Temple of Jerusalem and the Temple of the great Latin god.”
- 5/ Tacitus, iii.83
 - a. “Close by the fighting stood the people of Rome like the audience at a show, cheering and clapping this side or that in turns as if this were a mock battle in the arena. Whenever one side gave way, men would hide in shops or take refuge in some great house. They were then dragged out and killed at the instance of the mob, who gained most of the loot, for the soldiers were bent on bloodshed and massacre, and the booty fell to the crowd... The whole city presented a frightful caricature of its normal self: fighting and casualties at one point, baths and restaurants at another, here the spilling of blood and the litter of dead bodies, close by prostitutes and their like – all the vice associated with a life of idleness and pleasure, all the dreadful deeds typical of a pitiless sack. These were so intimately linked that an observer would have thought Rome in the grip of a simultaneous orgy of violence and dissipation. There had indeed been times in the past when armies had fought inside the city... No less cruelty had been displayed then, but now there was a brutish indifference, and not even a momentary interruption in the pursuit of pleasure. As if this were one more entertainment in the festive season, they gloated over horrors and profited by them, careless which side won and glorying in the calamities of the state.”

B. “darkened”

1. “the lights are turned out”
2. familiar symbol for political turmoil and the fall of rulers
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **Isaiah 13:9-10** “[destruction of Babylon by Medes]⁹ Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.”
 - ii. **Amos 8:8,9** “[against Israel]⁸ Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt. ⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:”
 - iii. **Ezekiel 32:7-8** “[prophesied against Egypt] ⁷ And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light. ⁸ All the bright lights of heaven will i make dark over thee, and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God.”

X. **Revelation 16:12 (NASB)** *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.*

A. “Euphrates”

1. **Revelation 9:14 (CSBBible)** say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates."
2. Philip Carrington, *The Meaning of the Revelation*, 1931, p265
 - a. “...the return of Titus to beseige Jerusalem with further reinforcements”

- i. thousands of these troops came from the Euphrates
A/ Josephus, iii.i.3; iii.iv.2; v.i.6; vii.i.3
- B. “dried”
 - 1. ironic, just like Red Sea, and the Jordan, dried up to SAVE Israel
 - a. now, Euphrates being dried up to destroy Israel (Chilton)
 - 2. Israel is the new Babylon
 - a. Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon by turning Euphrates out of its course
 - i. he then marched up the dry riverbed and attacked
- C. “east”
 - 1. for an eastern kingdom to attack Israel, it has to eventually come across the Euphrates from the north
 - 2. why would Roman armies said to be coming from the “east”?
 - a. because of the way they were garrisoned before they entered Israel (DT)
 - i. the Roman garrisons were north and east, on the Euphrates river

XI. Revelation 16:12-14 (NASB) *And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the [sea] beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, [the land beast, apostate Israel] three unclean spirits like frogs; (v14) for they are spirits of demons, performing SIGNS, which go out to the kings of the whole world [KJV: “of the earth and of the whole world”], to gather them together for the WAR of the great day of God, the Almighty.*

- A. “false prophet”
 - 1. the Land beast of 13:11, cf. Rev 19:20
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **Revelation 13:11 (CSBBible)** Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth (land); it had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon.
 - ii. **Revelation 19:20 (CSBBible)** But the [sea] beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet, who had performed the signs in its presence. He deceived those who accepted the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image with these signs. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
- B. “unclean”
 - 1. in OT dietary laws frogs were unclean
- C. “signs”
 - 1. problem
 - a. how do the kings of the world see signs of Jewish false prophets?
 - i. answer: they saw it in John’s *vision*
A/ we might as well ask how did the kings of the world see *frogs!*
 - 2. we can only speculate about what signs John saw in the vision
- D. “kings”
 - 1. kings associated with RE
 - 2. Thayer
 - a. βασιλεύς (king) means “leader of the people, prince, commander” as well as king
 - i. this would mean that the leaders, the commanders, of the Roman army are coming to Jerusalem in AD 70
- E. “war”
 - 1. The Jewish War (AD 66-70)

F. “great day of God”

1. another name for Day of Judgment

a. at which time the wicked are destroyed

b. Scriptures

i. **Isaiah 13:6 (CSBBible)** Wail! For the day of the Lord is near. It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

A/ destruction of Babylon by Medes

ii. **Joel 2:1-2,11,31** “¹ Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand; ² A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations. ¹¹ And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the day of the Lord *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it? ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.”

A/ judgment on Israel “northerners”

1/ implies an Assyrian, Babylonian, or Persian invasion (bible.org)

iii. **Amos 5:18-20 (CSBBible)** ¹⁸ Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! What will the day of the Lord be for you? It will be darkness and not light. ¹⁹ It will be like a man who flees from a lion only to have a bear confront him. He goes home and rests his hand against the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰ Won't the day of the Lord be darkness rather than light, even gloom without any brightness in it?

A/ judgment on Israel

1/ probably by Assyria (Britannica)

a/ although Amos didn't specify the cause (Britannica)

iv. **Zephaniah 1:14-16 (CSBBible)** ¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, near and rapidly approaching. Listen, the day of the Lord — then the warrior's cry is bitter. ¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and total darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities, and against the high corner towers.

A/ judgment on Israel

1/ probably by Babylon

a. Zephaniah written about 630 BC

XII. **Revelation 16:15 (NASB)** (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”)

A. “thief”

1. destruction of Jerusalem came very quickly and unexpectedly

B. "naked"

1. allusion is to the officials on watch at the Temple
 - a. a special officer was assigned to go around the temple to see if officials on watch were awake
 - i. if they were not awake
 - A/ first offense
 - 1/ a beating
 - B/ second offense
 - 1/ his clothes were taken away from him and burnt
 - b. those guarding the (new covenant) temple were to stay awake

XIII. **Revelation 16:16 (NASB)** *And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Megedon.*

A. "Har-Megedon"

1. translation from Hebrew to English
 - a. "Har"
 - i. "mountain"
 - b. "Megedon"
 - ii. "Megiddo"
2. never was, nor never will there be, a literal Battle of Armageddon
 - a. because there is no literal Mountain of Megiddo
 - i. Megiddo is a plain, not a mountain
3. the "mountain of Megiddo" probably refers to Mt. Carmel, which is close by
4. the allusion
 - a. John wants to refer to Megiddo and Carmel in one breath
 - i. why Megiddo?
 - A/ because that's where unrighteous Israel under Josiah was defeated by Neco of Egypt
 - 1/ **2 Chronicles 35:20-25 (CSBBible)** ²⁰ After all this that Josiah had prepared for the temple, King Neco of Egypt marched up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to confront him. ²¹ But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "What is the issue between you and me, king of Judah? I have not come against you today but I am fighting another dynasty. God told me to hurry. Stop opposing God who is with me; don't make him destroy you!" ²² But Josiah did not turn away from him; instead, in order to fight with him he disguised himself. He did not listen to Neco's words from the mouth of God, but went to the Valley of Megiddo to fight. ²³ The archers shot King Josiah, and he said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded!" ²⁴ So his servants took him out of the war chariot, carried him in his second chariot, and brought him to Jerusalem. Then he died, and they buried him in the tomb of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. ²⁵ Jeremiah chanted a dirge over Josiah, and all the male and female singers still speak of Josiah in their dirges today. They established them as a statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in the Dirges.
 - 2/ Josiah killed during the battle
 - a/ Israel mourned for Josiah
 - i/ all the way down to Ezra's time
 - A) **2 Chronicles 35:25 (CSBBible)** Jeremiah chanted a dirge over Josiah, and all the male and female singers still speak of Josiah in their dirges today.

They established them as a statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in the Dirges.

ii/ used by Zechariah as an image of Israel's mourning over the Messiah

A) **Zechariah 12:10-11 (CSBBible)** ¹⁰ "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for him as one weeps for a firstborn. ¹¹ On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

1) Hadadrimmon was the place where Josiah was mourned

B/ John wants to emphasize that Israel will be mourning because of the Messiah

ii. why Carmel

A/ the false prophets of Jezebel defeated there

B/ John wants to emphasize the false prophets of Israel will be defeated

1/ at Christ's coming to Jerusalem

XIV. **Revelation 16:17 (NASB)** *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."*

A. "air"

1. options

- a. air is the abode of the "prince of the power of the air"
- b. where lightning and thunder to be produced (vv 18,21)
- c. DLT: Maybe because there wasn't anything left to pour it out on!

B. "throne"

1. God is in charge

C. "done"

1. cf. **Revelation 15:1 (CSBBible)** Then I saw another great and awe-inspiring sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues [seven bowl judgments]; for with them God's wrath will be completed.

XV. **Revelation 16:18 (NASB)** *And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.*

A. "earthquake"

1. seven times, five occasions, mentioned in Revelation

- a. **Revelation 6:12 (CSBBible)** Then I saw him open the sixth seal. A violent earthquake occurred; the sun turned black like sackcloth made of hair; the entire moon became like blood;
- b. **Revelation 8:5 (CSBBible)** The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
- c. **Revelation 11:13 (CSBBible)** At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.
- d. **Revelation 11:19 (CSBBible)** Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

- e. **Revelation 16:18 (CSBBible)** There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. And a severe earthquake occurred like no other since people have been on the earth, so great was the quake.
- 2. symbolic of the destruction of Jerusalem's rule
 - a. the *land* of Israel is being shaken
 - b. Scriptures
 - i. **Hebrews 12:26-29 (CSBBible)** ²⁶ His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens. ²⁷ This expression, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what can be shaken — that is, created things — so that what is not shaken might remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.
 - A/ the fire consumes the *old covenant Israel*
 - 1/ not the Christian, as is often supposed
 - ii. God, with a consuming fire, shook Jerusalem and destroyed it
 - A/ the old "heavens and earth" are removed
 - B/ as a result, we have received a kingdom that can not be moved
 - C/ note old rabbinic idea of the temple
 - 1/ the temple was "heaven and earth"
 - a/ Holy of Holies was "heaven"
 - i/ because God lived there
 - b/ the Holy Place was "earth"
 - c/ the bronze laver and the outer courts were the sea

XVI. **Revelation 16:19 (CSBBible)** *The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God's presence; he gave her the cup filled with the wine of his fierce anger.*

- A. "great city"
 - 1. old Jerusalem
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **Revelation 11:8 (CSBBible)** Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.
- B. "Babylon the Great"
 - 1. old Jerusalem
 - a. Scripture
 - ii. **Revelation 14:8 (KJV)** ⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."
- C. "three parts"
 - 1. **Ezekiel 5:1-12 (CSBBible)** ¹ "Now you, son of man, take a sharp sword, use it as you would a barber's razor, and shave your head and beard. Then take a set of scales and divide the hair. ² You are to burn a third of it in the city when the days of the siege have ended; you are to take a third and slash it with the sword all around the city; and you are to scatter a third to the wind, for I will draw a sword to chase after them. ³ But you are to take a few strands from the hair and secure them in the folds of your robe. ⁴ Take some more of them, throw them into the fire, and burn them in it. A fire will spread from it to the whole house of Israel. ⁵ "This is what the Lord God says: I have set this

Jerusalem in the center of the nations, with countries all around her. ⁶ She has rebelled against my ordinances with more wickedness than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries that surround her. For her people have rejected my ordinances and have not walked in my statutes. ⁷ "Therefore, this is what the Lord God says: Because you have been more insubordinate than the nations around you — you have not walked in my statutes or kept my ordinances; you have not even kept the ordinances of the nations around you — ⁸ therefore, this is what the Lord God says: See, I myself am against you, Jerusalem, and I will execute judgments within you in the sight of the nations. ⁹ Because of all your detestable practices, I will do to you what I have never done before and what I will never do again. ¹⁰ As a result, fathers will eat their sons within Jerusalem, and sons will eat their fathers. I will execute judgments against you and scatter all your survivors to every direction of the wind. ¹¹ "Therefore, as I live" — this is the declaration of the Lord God — "I will withdraw and show you no pity, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your abhorrent acts and detestable practices. Yes, I will not spare you. ¹² A third of your people will die by plague and be consumed by famine within you; a third will fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter a third to every direction of the wind, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.

- a. Ezekiel instructed to shave his head w/ a sharp sword and divide hair into three parts
 - i. fate of the hair
 - A/ 1/3 is burnt, 1/3 is struck with a sword, 1/3 is scattered to the wind
 - a/ **Ezekiel 5:12 (CSBBible)** A third of your people will die by plague and be consumed by famine within you; a third will fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter a third to every direction of the wind, and I will draw a sword to chase after them.
 - a/ 1/3 burnt hair → plague and famine
 - b/ 1/3 hair struck with sword → death by sword
 - c/ 1/3 hair scattered to the wind → exile
 - ii. old Jerusalem to be totally destroyed
 - A/ John is saying that old Jerusalem is going to be totally destroyed
2. possible historical reference
 - a. the three factions within Jerusalem during the siege (68)
 - i. the three factions listed
 - A/ John of Gischala
 - B/ Zealots (led by Eleazar)
 - C/ Edomites (Idumeans, led by Simon)
 - ii. Zealots thought Judean provisional government conspired with Vespasian
 - A/ so Zealots let in the Edomites
 - 1/ Edomites slaughter . . .
 - a/ forces of the provisional government
 - b/ the common people

D. “nations” (“Gentiles”)

1. another indication that the Great City is Jerusalem
 - a. because John distinguishes the cities of the *Gentiles* from the great city
2. what cities of the nations fell?
 - a. cities of the Roman Empire
 - i. Roman Empire intimately connected with Jerusalem in opposition to new covenant church
A/ they both eventually went down to defeat (DT)
 - b. Chilton
 - i. “Jerusalem...was the capital city of the kingdom of priests, the place of the Temple; within her walls sacrifices and prayers were offered up for all the nations. The Old Covenant system was a *world-order*, the foundation on which the whole world was organized and maintained in stability. She covenantally represented all the nations of the world, and in her fall they collapsed. The new organizations of the world was to be based on the New Jerusalem, built on the Rock.”
 - c. Harnack
 - i. 7% of RE was Jewish at the time of Christ
A/ so many Jews could only result from so much proselyting from Jerusalem
B/ implication
 - 1/ when Jerusalem fell, Jewish opposition in every city of the Empire went down, too
a/ so, cities of the nations would refer to Jews in those cities

XVII. **Revelation 16:20 (NASB)** *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

- A. “island,” “mountain”
 1. every false refuge disappears (Chilton)
 - a. **Revelation 6:16 (CSBBible)** And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb,
- B. this is typical decreation language (DT)
 1. representing fall of apostate Israel

XVIII. **Revelation 16:21 (NASB)** *And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds [= one talent][some translations: 75 pounds] each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extreme severe.*

- A. “hailstones”
 1. Josephus, v.vi.3, [referring to huge stone Roman missiles catapulted into the city] “The stone missiles weighed a talent [100 pounds] and traveled two furlongs or more, and their impact not only on those who were hit first, but also on those behind them, was enormous. At first the Jews kept watch for the stone – for it was white – and its approach was intimated to the eye by its shining surface as well as to the ear by its whizzing sound. Watchmen posted on the towers gave the warnings whenever the engine was fired and the stone came hurtling toward them, shouting in their native tongue: ‘*The Son is coming!*’”
 - a. note that the hailstones of 16:21 same weight as stones in Josephus

b. Hegisippus

i. James, Jesus' brother, publicly testified in the temple that "the Son of Man was about to come in the clouds of heaven"

A/ quoting Jesus' prediction that Jesus would come and destroy the temple

B/ for which they threw him off a wing of the temple and murdered him

C/ so the Jews were well aware of Jesus' prediction

1/ so, they were mocking Jesus' claim as the missiles came in

B. "blasphemed"

1. it is a myth that extreme suffering (necessarily) produces penitence

2. not only callous, but stupid

a. why would one blaspheme while 100 pounds rocks are falling on one's head?