

## 20b REV

Let's continue our study now in Revelation chapter 16. I want to, apropos of nothing, direct your attention to this psalm that I have quoted a few times or alluded to a few times in the last few weeks. Psalm 24 is a psalm of David.

It's subtitled in the New King James, The King of Glory and His Kingdom. And this is the one I mentioned that has been put to music and there's a classic recording of it by George Beverly Shea. The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord, or who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, Selah.

Lift up your heads, O you gates, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates, lift up you everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory, Selah. Well, if you ever get a chance to hear that music, maybe I'll crank it out and we'll play it on Sunday. But this is the prelude, what we're studying right now, the purging justice of God and rendering the due to those who have afflicted the people of God.

Of course, in symbolic terms, God is dealing with a single generation in the 70th week of Daniel, but in symbolic terms, this is the type of retribution that is coming on all those who have rejected God, all those who have oppressed, suppressed the truth and unrighteousness, because the earth is the Lord's, the fulness of the earth belongs to the Lord, the world and those who dwell therein. But that second verse, he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the flood. I personally like the King James version of it better.

It says, he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the floods, because God... God can't establish anything on top of the sea, found it or establish anything on the floods. It's only God who can level that out and make it a glassy sea. It's only God who can take something so chaotic and so unmanageable and turn it into the foundation for something.

But those with clean hands and a pure heart are qualified to stand in his holy place and ascend into the hill of the Lord. It doesn't say that your heart has never been impure or that your hands have never been dirty. We know how to purify our heart.

We know how to wash our hands. This goes back to Psalm 51, also written by David, where he prays to God and says, have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness, according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. How do you end up with a pure heart? How do you end up with clean hands? It isn't by living a sinless life, because none of us can do that.

It is by claiming these promises. Blot out my transgressions, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

What is it that these people are not doing after the four bold judgments? No change of mind. No acknowledgment of sin. The same thing that I think Matt looked up on the break, the verse I was looking for at the end of the first lesson was Revelation 9.23. After six trumpets worth of judgment, people still don't change their mind.

They still don't acknowledge and repent. Any therapy program will tell you, talk to the AA people, read the big book, talk to a step program, go to any counselor, and they will tell you that people will not get over something until they acknowledge that they have a problem. There are countless examples in the celebrity world of people who have finally wised up and acknowledge that they have a problem, and they go to a clinic, or they get some help, and they get clean and sober.

And they will all, to a person, tell you that the time they have spent in sobriety are the best years of their life. I just saw Elton John interviewed last night on the Actors Studio, and he was totally messed up. I mean, that guy's messed up six ways to Sunday.

But he was hooked on drugs, he was on alcohol, he was doing cocaine during the day, and then he had to drink a fifth and a half of Jack Daniels at night to come down enough to sleep, and it was just this vicious cycle. And he actually went with a friend who was going in for help, and was kind of an observer for that guy, and wound up acknowledging that he had a problem. And he finally admitted, and he said, yes, I am a mess, and I need help.

And he went, and that was 15 years ago. And he said to God and the world in this interview that these last 15 years have been absolutely the best 15 years of his life. And you can tell he's not putting on.

And he freely admitted, he said, I was a mess, I was screwed up, and I had to come to the point of acknowledging that my fame, and my wealth, and my talent were meaningless when it came to this problem. It didn't do me any good. I couldn't get over it.

And he had to look outside himself for help. So the principle of humility is built into us. All of us have to recognize and have to be willing to change our minds.

The sad thing is there are changes of mind such as he has had that are temporal in nature and don't really do you any good in the spiritual realm. But this is what David expresses in Psalm 51. He acknowledges his transgressions and sins, and he says, blot them out, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin, for I acknowledge my transgressions, my sin is before me against you.

You only have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight, that you may be found just when you speak, and blameless when you judge. God is blameless when he judges. You have all of these ne'er-do-wells out there saying that the God of the Old Testament is some kind of horrible entity.

How could anybody worship him? You know, slaughtering, innocence, and so on. Rubbish. Rubbish.

Go back and study the Canaanite cultures that God sent the Israelites to go in and rub out, and also notice that unlike the Koran, which preaches violence and the expurgation of all non-Islamics from the planet as a general principle of life, faith, and practice, God in the Bible gave specific instructions to a specific people, at a specific time, to engage in a specific elimination of a grossly immoral, evil, cancerous population. And once that was finished, God didn't say now, whenever the mood strikes you, go wipe out a village, or go across the border and, you know, pillage and plunder and do great violence. The people of God were an instrument of justice, an instrument of preservation for the human race, and they did these actions at God's behest, according to his plan and purpose at a specific time.

It is not a general principle of Old Testament faith, of Judaism, or of Christianity, to do violence to anyone. And anyone who tries to say you worship a God of violence and mayhem is just betraying their gross, abysmal ignorance. Then go read the Koran, where you have violence against the infidel encouraged in chapter after chapter, surah after surah.

It's a whole different kettle of fish. So don't let anyone tell you, ah, you know, the God of the Koran, the God of the Bible is the same mean, violent God that just anybody that says that is ignorant in the extreme. God is a God of compassion, God is a God of mercy, God is a God of long-suffering and patience.

He reserves mercy for thousands of those that love him, but he also will judge. God is just when he speaks, Psalm 51, 4, and blameless when he judges. I emphasize this because these bold judgments are no light thing.

Worse than the flood, worse than the plagues, worse than anything you find in history. David says in verse 5 of Psalm 51, I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts and in the hidden part you will make me to know wisdom.

It's not what you say, it's not how you act, it's not what you claim, it's what you hold in your inward parts. It's the thoughts and intents of the heart that get judged. Only God can do that.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence.

Do not take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your deliverance, your salvation. Uphold me by your generous spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways and sinners shall be converted to you. Notice, it is personal cleansing and personal transformation that qualifies one and enables one to be a channel of blessing to others who can be converted. You can't make your mission in life to go fix somebody else.

We have to make it our mission in life to be cleansed, to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, to be restored to the joy of salvation, to be upheld by God's generous spirit. That's how we teach transgressors God's ways. It's not what you say, it's who you are.

It's not what you claim, it's what you hold in your heart as a steadfast spirit, possessing a clean heart. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my deliverance. And my tongue shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice or else I would give it. God is not interested in penance.

You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are what? A broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart.

These, O God, you will not despise. Coping strategy number three for dealing with chaos. What was number one? Sure hope the chaos doesn't hit.

What's coping strategy number one? You have to apply what you know. You have to draw conclusions. You have to put two and two together.

We have information. We can draw conclusions. We have to think.

You know, they talk about people who couldn't punch their way out of a wet paper bag. Well, heaven help us if we can't think our way out of a wet paper bag. We have to think.

This is one of the things you learn in, you know, pressure training programs. Keep the wheels turning. Don't vapor lock.

Don't seize up. Don't panic. When the pressure is on, you have to think.

Believers have to think word of God. What do I know? Well, if God was trying to kill me, I'd be dead. If I'm alive, God still has a purpose for my life.

He doesn't expect me to sit here and vapor lock. He expects me to think. As a man thinkest in his heart, so is he.

Principle number one, chaos management, keep thinking. Principle number two, remember who's in charge. God orders the chaos.

God imposes structure. Nothing happens without his permission. Nothing happens is not according to his plan.

This is a part of the plan. It was foreseen. It's known.

There is a purpose and there is a solution. There's a reason. Number three, a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

We have to be compliant. Our tendency is to say, wait a minute. Stop the train.

Stop the plan. Stop the problem. Stop the test.

This isn't what I signed up for. I signed up for physics and you're giving me a chemistry exam. I signed up for driver training and you're giving me potato peeling.

I didn't sign up for this. I'm in the wrong place. There's obviously been some mistake.

This is not my forte. I'm not cut out for this. Everybody does this.

You hear it constantly. We think it constantly. That is not compliance.

That is not what Mary said when Gabriel walked in and said, hey, guess what, you're going to be pregnant out of wedlock. How do you like them apples? What did Mary say? Let it be to me according to thy word. My soul magnifies God my Savior.

This is pretty troublesome news. You can foresee rocky times ahead. The family is going to be a tough audience, a tough crowd.

God says this is okay. Thankfully, we get the impression that Mary was from a family who were of like mind. You look at Zacharias and Elizabeth.

You look at Joseph and you get the idea. You look at the people at the wedding feast of Cana and you think, well, you look at Jesus' cousins, James and John, and you think, well, there were some people of faith in that periphery. But here's the point.

You do not desire sacrifice. You do not delight in burnt offering. It isn't let's go out and do

something magnificent.

Let's go set the world on fire for God. The sacrifices of God, what He's looking for, what pleases Him, broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart. A broken and contrite heart doesn't say, God, you screwed up.

This is not the right plan for me. It says, let it be to me according to your word. If this is the assignment, if I can reflect your glory in this situation, if I can be the man or the woman for this particular crisis, bring it on.

Not my will but thine be done. Broken and contrite heart. These, O God, you will not despise.

And the things that God does not despise, God honors. Do good in your good pleasure to Zion. Build the walls of Jerusalem.

We are individually Zion. We are the walls of Jerusalem. We are the temple of God.

You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering. Then they shall offer bulls on your altar. When God sees the broken and contrite heart, and this is the real sacrifice, everything you do is like a bull on the altar.

God is pleased with everything you do because it's coming from that heart. So what does this force us to do? When we get in circumstances, excess prosperity, excess adversity, excess challenge, something that just drags on and wears us down to the point where we're just out of patience, what do we do? A broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, looking for God's cleansing, looking for God's forgiveness, looking for God's generous spirit, and looking to be pleasing in his sight, we reach a place where we are enabled, and we are empowered, and we reflect the glory of God, and the things that we do are like sacrifices on the altar. It just doesn't get any better than this.

It's the fulfillment of the highest form of obedience and praise and worship. And that God does not despise. And this is the Hebraic, Semitic way of saying, God is going to look down and say, that's what I was looking for.

That's what I'm after. That's the one in 10,000 that I was trying to find. There's the one that has my word and keeps it.

That's the one that loves me. That's my overcomer. Start lining up the white stone, and the new name, and the hidden manna, and a place next to Christ on the throne.

Get that person a place to walk with Christ in white, because that's my overcomer. And all in the world we have to do is think our way through the chaos. Remember that God is in charge, and have a humble spirit, and recognize that God knows what he's doing.

The fact that we can't see it doesn't change the fact that he's got it figured out. It has a

purpose. It has a goal.

It has a finish. And it's all going to work together for good. And we just have to lash ourself to that mast and keep on going.

Well, we draw these conclusions looking at this utter chaos that God is pouring out on the world in Revelation chapter 16. We have seen the first four bowls. By the way, the people of God are still down here on the planet.

Everything in the sea is dying. All the water is going bad. The sky is going nuts, and there are scorching temperatures, and people are suffering radiation burns.

They're leaking with these pussy oozing sores from their Mark of the Beast. All the commerce system has gone haywire because the little doodads are shorted out. Nobody can buy and sell anymore.

And the Antichrist's whole little hegemony is unraveling. Everything is just going into the proverbial handbasket. And that's only the first four bowls.

In the midst of all of this, you would think that people might say, you know, this suspiciously matches the description of the inspired scriptures. I heard about this before the Christians left. But, what do people do? They shake their fist and curse God.

They do not repent and give Him glory. Notice in verse 9, they blaspheme the name of God who has power over these plagues. Who was talking to me about these people that were floating around in the ocean? Was that you Matt, telling me about that? About these people that, I don't remember what happened.

They, some kind of way, were stranded out in the ocean bobbing around. And after a few days, a guy stood up and just started shaking his fist and cursing God and railing. You know, people were starting to drink seawater and get sick and hallucinate.

One thing or another, this guy, you know, just threw his parched and cracked lips, stood up in the boat, just started cussing God out a blue streak. And this lady, who didn't particularly believe in God, but she said, you know, there's nobody on the horizon. There's nobody anywhere near.

If there was the slightest glimmer of the ghost of a chance that there is a God, He's the only one that can help us. And you stand up and curse Him. What are you thinking? You know, if we have any chance at all, it's God and you're, you know, snuffing out the last little wick of possibility here by giving Him all of this grief.

Well, look at this. They blaspheme the name of God. Who has power over these plagues? Now, what does that tell us? Power over these plagues.

Does the word plague sort of resonate? Let's think about this. The festering boils that

people suffer. Have we ever heard of this happening before? The turning of water into blood and the consequent death of things that live in the water.

Have we heard of this before? Somewhere in the vicinity of Exodus. First 10 chapters. The fifth angel pours out his bowl in verse 10 on the throne of the beast.

The kingdom becomes full of darkness. And they gnaw their tongues because of the plague. Have we ever heard of a plague of darkness happening before? Verse 12.

The sixth angel pours out his bowl on the great river Euphrates. The waters dried up. The way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

I saw three unclean spirits like, what? Frogs? This is apropos of nothing, but you remember the movie Jurassic Park? And they, you know, they found a mosquito and they got the blood that the mosquito had sucked out of a dinosaur. And they got the DNA for the dinosaur, but it was kind of corrupted. How did they fill in the gaps in the dinosaur DNA? What did they use? Frog DNA.

Amphibian DNA. Remember that's how they, all these that were supposedly women, someone just flipped over to the opposite sex because this is what amphibians do in some cases. Amphibian DNA.

Frog DNA. Well, the way of the kings, three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 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 battle the great.

So this is doctrine of demons. Frog talk. Frog tongues.

Flipping out. Frog talk. Demonic messages that go out and stir up the nations for the great, grand, climactic battle.

They are spirits of demons performing signs which go out to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to battle the great day of God Almighty. Then, out of nowhere, if you have a red letter edition, you have red letters here. In verse 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.

I am coming as a thief, blessed is he who watches. Who is he talking to here? There are people of God, there are Old Testament saints, still on the earth through the seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls, and the contents of the seven thunders that we don't know anything about. God's people are sometimes delivered out from judgment and adversity.

Other times they are preserved through it. Enoch walked with God and he was not, for

God took him. Noah, Hamshem, Japheth, and their wives did not leave.

They were delivered through. They spent 14 months in a little box full of animals. Two different types of salvation.

The church is like Enoch and is going to springboard out prior to the 70th week. The 144,000 servants of God go through. Some of them die, some of them don't.

Is God fair? Is God just? Will these people look back, say in year 392 of the Millennial Kingdom, and say, bless God, what a great plan he had for my life? Absolutely. There is not a person in the church, there is not a person in the 144,000, there is not a person in the ranks of the Old Testament saints that is not going to be praising God for his wisdom in placing them at the exact place in history that he placed them. You and I are going to be among them.

We are going to be on our knees thanking God and praising God that we had exactly the stuff on our plate that we have. Because we are going to be able to see from that perspective the perfect wisdom, perfect knowledge of God and the unique opportunity that he has given us. It is tough while we are going through it.

No discipline seems great while you are going through it. But most people who have been disciplined look back on it and say, thank you disciplinary agent. I am a better person for the discipline you gave me.

And it is going to be infinitely more so for us. Well, six bowls. I went rather lightly over the fifth bowl in verse 10.

The fifth bowl is poured out on the throne of the beast. And his kingdom became full of darkness. They gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and did not repent of their deeds. Now, symbolic terms here. You pour out judgment on the throne of the beast.

Who is the beast? We have our unholy trinity there. We have the beast from the sea. We have the beast from the land.

And we have the beast from the pit. This beast who has the throne is the Antichrist proper. This is the beast from the sea.

This is not the false prophet. This is the Antichrist himself. At the time of the fifth bowl, something is going to go very wrong with the rulership and the kingdom of the Antichrist.

Everybody has been singing his praises and going along with him. But his stuff is going to start coming unglued. And his kingdom is going to be full of darkness.

Now, most of the time, when things go bad, people blame the government. You look around now, you have lots of people throwing rocks at our president and so on. Oh, we have a Republican majority.

It's all their fault. But when things start going wrong in the kingdom of the beast, who does everybody get mad at? The God of heaven. Because of their pains and their sores.

What are their sores? The mark of the beast. Who gave them the mark of the beast? The beast. So who are they mad at when the mark starts oozing and pussing up and giving them all this horrible, running, infected sore syndrome? It's God's fault.

Now, what happened to the great atheistic society here? It's a myth, isn't it? They know there's a God. But they don't change their mind. And they blaspheme the God of heaven.

They're not mad at the beast yet. They don't direct their anger at the beast yet. They direct it at God.

And they do not repent of their deeds. They don't connect consequences with bad choices. This is the difference between smart people and unsmart people.

Smart people see cause and effect. I made this choice. Here's a bad effect.

I should stop making that bad choice. Unsmart people make bad choices, get bad consequences, and say, somebody has messed up my life. Boo on God.

Boo on society. Boo on my family. Boo on my boss.

Boo on my school. Boo on my friends. It's somebody else's fault.

Bad decisions have bad results. It's just that simple. And if you don't recognize it, you're not being objective.

So, fifth bowl goes and gets poured on the throne. The sixth bowl is poured on the great river Euphrates. Now, of the great rivers of the world, think of the great rivers.

What have we got? You've got the Amazon. You've got the Thames in England. You've got the mighty Mississippi and the Missouri here in the United States.

You've got some big rivers hither and yon. When's the last time anybody ever made any big deal out of the Euphrates? Did Livingston go see if he could find the source of the Euphrates? Does anybody care about the Euphrates? Why is one entire bowl of the judgment of God poured out on this rinky-dink river out in the middle of nowhere, do you think? The great river water is dried up so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. Who are the kings of the east? We don't know.

It's the first time we've seen them mentioned here. Last time I heard of kings from the

east, I was in the Old Testament looking at Daniel. But here in Revelation, this is the first time we've seen this.

So, what are we to conclude? Well, what was our first chaos management principle? Take what you know and apply it to the current situation. We need to pull in some information from other places. John is expecting us to understand who the kings of the east are because he just introduces them apropos of nothing.

Even if we didn't know anything about prophecy, what would we expect? East relative to what? Jerusalem? Israel? Who is to the east in John's day? Chaldeans? Babylon? What's east of Babylon? It's just east. It doesn't say the kings of China. It doesn't say the kings of Japan.

It doesn't say the kings of Russia. It doesn't say the Indians or the Soviets or anything else. It just says east.

So, they're going to come from the east and their way is prepared. Now, in the modern day, does a river like the Euphrates slow anybody down? Why does this river need to be dried up so that the kings of the east can come across? This is more than a physical impediment here. This is the lifeblood of the area that is about to be attacked.

And when this river is dried up, it doesn't just provide a path. It provides a path in many senses. Vital life-supplying resources are going to be missing in preparation for this great battle.

So, the three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet, the unholy trinity, all of this demonic talk comes out. And this incites opposition. This incites a gathering of all the kings of the earth.

Spirits of demons perform signs. They go out to the kings of the earth and the whole world to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. Then you have this reminder right in the middle.

And once again, the speaker is not named. It doesn't have to be. Behold, I am coming as a thief.

We already know who has said that. Joe the Buddhist may not know it, but we know it. And these tribulational saints are going to know it.

I am coming as a thief. One of the last things Jesus said before he left, before he went to the cross. I am coming as a thief.

Paul says, don't let that day overtake you like a thief. Coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked.

Now, there are two parts to this. Blessed is he who watches. What's the first thing we

lose when we get wrapped up in circumstances? We stop being alert to the spiritual issues.

The spiritual goals and values. We lose our vision in spiritual terms. And we might as well be a rank unbeliever.

We get angry. We get upset. We start manipulating the blocks that are around us.

One of the first things we do when we fail is we forget who we are and why we are here. We have to watch. Chaos management principle number four.

Be alert. Remain alert. Blessed is he who watches.

You've got to be thinking. You've got to be putting together the knowledge set that we've already got. You've got to be remembering that God is in control.

Nothing is out of control. It's all a part of the plan. You have to remember that humble and contrite spirit.

Be pliable. Be amenable. Go with the plan.

Do the function that's assigned. And be alert. Pay attention.

Who am I? Why am I here? Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments. Who's the most famous person in the Bible who lost his garment? Remember Joseph in the house of Potiphar? He's got the whole thing wired walking around there. He's the second in command.

Running the household. Running the businesses. Running the fleets of servants.

And all it takes is a careless moment. Got too close to Mrs. Potiphar. And lost his garment.

Runs away naked. Everything goes in the dumper. Next thing is he finds himself unjustly accused and in prison.

Wasn't watchful. Got careless. Lost his garment.

Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments. What are the garments for a believer? Old Testament or New Testament. What are the garments? Righteousness by faith.

We are clothed with righteousness by faith. Be alert and trust. Every time we meet adversity.

Every time we cope with challenge in faith. We've kept our garments. We've got that white robe of righteousness.

And we're wearing it. And we're covered. And we're good.

We're acceptable. We can go anywhere. We can walk right into the presence of God.

We are clothed. Watch. Keep your garments.

Otherwise you walk naked and are ashamed. You're either alert and clothed. Or you're surprised and naked.

Not hard to figure out which is the preferable way to be. They gather them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. There's a name to stir the soul.

There's a name to... Even the unbelievers are stirred to interest by Armageddon. They gathered them together to the place called. Who gathered whom? The frog demons gathered the kings of the earth.

They, the frog demons, gathered the kings to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. If you don't know anything else about Armageddon, what do you know? That is the place of destruction for the enemies of the people of God. They're going to be destroyed in the battle of Armageddon.

How did they get there? Listening to the frog demons. Listening to the wrong voices. Listening to the wrong ideas.

Accepting the wrong conclusions. The spirit of Antichrist is already at work in the world, isn't it? And there is a lot of frog demonology floating around. And we too can find ourselves in the veil of Armageddon.

Listening to the wrong message. Heeding the wrong voices. Accepting the wrong suggestions as to what is real.

Well, verse 17. Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. You know what's different about this? What happened between the sixth and seventh seal? Back in the earlier chapters.

Big pause. Big stoppage for other things. What happened between the sixth and seventh trumpet? We have three full chapters of goings on and visions and so on.

Look at this. We go from one verse to the next. Sixth bowl, seventh bowl.

God has got the throttle pushed up to full here, doesn't he? We're not waiting for anything now. Because all of these bowls are concentrated at the end of the week. They're gathered together at Armageddon.

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. And a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven. The second time of the two times that the voice comes out of the

temple.

From the throne saying, it is finished. It is finished. Do you remember the Greek for what Jesus said on the cross? His final words? Does anybody remember what that was? Tetelestai.

This is Gaganon from Ginnomai. Ginnomai means to come into being like through a process of birth or natural production. Tetelestai from Teleo means to be complete, to be perfected.

You're kind of at the end of a process. Ginnomai means to become. It has become is what it's saying.

It's not really saying it's finished. Tetelestai, it is finished. The process is complete.

Ginnomai, Gaganon, G-E-G-O-N-E-N here is the actual form. It's a perfect active indicative. You know the perfect means something has happened.

It has become is what it literally means. It has become. It has come into being.

It has been produced. It has been born as it were. So a completely different idea here.

It has become. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings. There was a great earthquake.

That's the big tack that goes through, the seals, the trumpets and the bowls. Such a mighty and great earthquake as has not occurred since men were on the earth. The great city is divided into three parts.

The cities of the nations fell. Great Babylon was remembered before God to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains were not found.

Great hail from heaven fell upon men. Each hailstone about the weight of a talent. What's a talent? If my recollection is correct, it's like 22 pounds.

This is not the kind of hailstone the insurance company is going to be able to cover. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of hail since that plague was exceedingly great. It's all God's fault.

Well, that concludes chapter 16. We'll pick up with chapter 17 next time. Father, thank you for illustrating for us through these passages the means by which we can, as believers always have and always will, cope with chaos.

We pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress these truths in our hearts. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.