

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

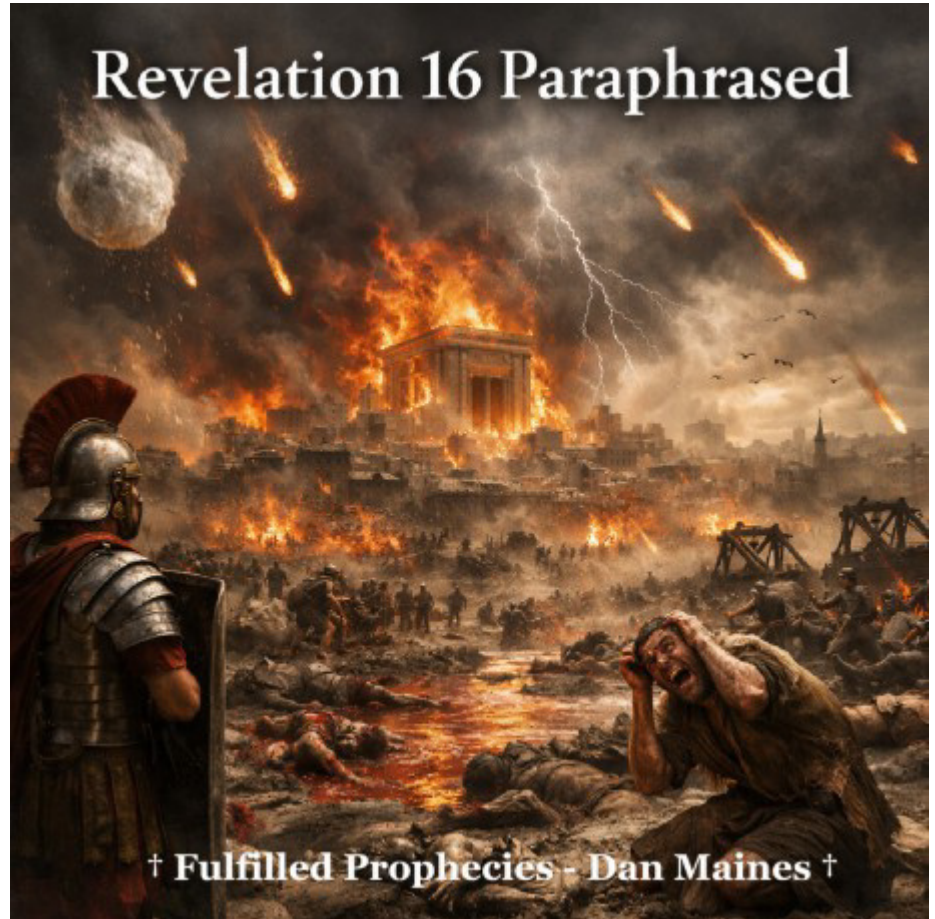
>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Revelation 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 16 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation 16 describes the pouring out of the final judgments against the apostate system that rejected Christ and persecuted His people. These bowls are not random disasters in a distant future. They are covenant judgments falling on the same generation that rejected the Messiah, just as Jesus warned.

† Jesus had already foretold a time of great distress upon that generation. Matthew 23:36 says All these things will come upon this generation. Revelation simply reveals how those judgments unfolded during the events leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† The imagery echoes the plagues of Egypt. Just as God judged Egypt for oppressing Israel, He judged Jerusalem for rejecting and killing the prophets and the Messiah.

Revelation 16:1

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, Go and pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath upon the land.

† The voice coming from the temple shows that these judgments are covenant judgments connected to Israel's own sanctuary. Judgment begins with the house of God (1 Peter 4:17).

† Jesus warned that wrath was coming upon that generation. Luke 21:22 says For these are days of vengeance, so that all things which are written will be fulfilled.

† The bowls symbolize the completion of judgment. Earlier trumpet warnings were partial, but now the full measure of wrath is poured out.

Revelation 16:2

The first angel went and poured out his bowl upon the land, and painful and infected sores broke out on the people who carried the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

† The sores recall the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 9:8-11). Just as Egypt was judged for persecuting God's people, Jerusalem

now faces similar covenant plagues.

† Those with the mark of the beast represent those aligned with the Roman imperial system and the corrupt priestly leadership who collaborated with Rome.

† Josephus records terrible diseases and suffering during the siege of Jerusalem, confirming the intense conditions that matched the imagery of judgment.

Revelation 16:3

The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.

† The sea often symbolizes the Gentile world or the nations. The imagery reflects massive bloodshed spreading throughout the Roman world.

† The Jewish war brought death across the region, especially around Judea and the Mediterranean.

† The language echoes the Nile turning to blood (Exodus 7:20), showing that covenant rebellion brings covenant judgment.

Revelation 16:4

The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

† The rivers and springs represent the sources of life being turned into instruments of judgment.

† Blood imagery reflects the guilt of shedding the blood of the prophets and the saints (Matthew 23:34-35).

† Jerusalem had become the city that killed the prophets, and now the judgment mirrors the blood they had shed.

Revelation 16:5

Then I heard the angel of the waters saying, You are righteous, the One who is and who was, because You have judged these things.

† God's justice is being affirmed. These judgments are not cruelty but righteous justice.

† The phrase who is and who was reflects God's eternal authority over history and covenant dealings.

† God's judgments throughout scripture always demonstrate His righteousness when His covenant is broken.

Revelation 16:6

For they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.

† Jesus said Jerusalem was guilty of the blood of the prophets (Matthew 23:37).

† Revelation identifies the reason for the judgment. The city that killed the prophets would face divine retribution.

† This is covenant justice, the punishment matching the crime.

Revelation 16:7

And I heard the altar saying, Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.

† The altar represents the place where the martyrs cried out earlier for justice (Revelation 6:9-10).

† Now their prayers are answered as God brings judgment upon those responsible.

† God's judgments always vindicate the faithful who suffered persecution.

Revelation 16:8

The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fierce heat.

† The sun often symbolizes ruling authorities. Scorching heat represents oppressive political turmoil and suffering.

† During the Jewish war the land experienced intense famine, chaos, and violence that devastated the population.

† The imagery also reflects prophetic language used by Isaiah and Joel to describe national judgment.

Revelation 16:9

People were scorched by the fierce heat, yet they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues, and they refused to repent and give Him glory.

† Even under judgment many refused to repent. This reflects the stubborn resistance Jesus encountered during His ministry.

† Hard hearts under judgment mirror Pharaoh's response in the Exodus story.

† The refusal to repent confirms that the judgment was deserved.

Revelation 16:10

Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened, and people chewed their tongues in pain.

† The throne of the beast refers to the Roman imperial authority that dominated Judea.

† Darkness symbolizes the collapse of power and the chaos surrounding the Jewish war.

† The Roman civil wars after Nero's death in AD 68 brought instability across the empire.

Revelation 16:11

They cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, but they still refused to repent of their deeds.

† Instead of repentance, the response was continued rebellion.

† Scripture repeatedly shows that hardened hearts resist even clear judgment.

† This confirms that the destruction of Jerusalem was the inevitable result of persistent rejection of God's warnings.

Revelation 16:12

The sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river Euphrates, and its water dried up so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

† The Euphrates was the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire.

† Drying up symbolizes the removal of barriers allowing armies to advance.

† Roman legions came from the eastern provinces to surround Jerusalem during the war.

Revelation 16:13

Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast, and from the mouth of the false prophet.

† The frogs recall the plague of frogs in Egypt (Exodus 8).

† These spirits represent deceptive propaganda and false religious influence driving people toward war.

† The dragon represents Satan, the beast represents the Roman ruler, and the false prophet represents the corrupt religious leadership.

Revelation 16:14

They are spirits of demons performing signs and going out to the kings of the whole world to gather them for the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

† The gathering of armies describes the buildup to the final conflict surrounding Jerusalem.

† The Jewish revolt drew massive Roman military response from across the empire.

† This battle represents the climax of covenant judgment.

Revelation 16:15

Look, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays alert and keeps his garments, so that he won't walk around naked and be exposed.

† Jesus had already warned His disciples about His coming judgment. Matthew 24:43 compares it to a thief in the night.

† Staying alert refers to spiritual readiness and faithfulness.

† Those who followed Christ escaped Jerusalem before the destruction.

Revelation 16:16

They gathered them together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

† Armageddon symbolizes a decisive place of judgment, drawing from Old Testament battle imagery.

† It represents the gathering of forces leading to the fall of Jerusalem.

† The term reflects the climax of God's covenant judgment.

Revelation 16:17

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came from the temple throne saying, It is done.

† This marks the completion of judgment.

† The phrase It is done mirrors the finality of God's redemptive and judicial plan.

† The old covenant order was about to pass away.

Revelation 16:18

Flashes of lightning, rumblings, thunder, and a massive earthquake followed, greater than anything that had ever happened since people were on the earth.

† Earthquake imagery symbolizes political and covenant upheaval.

† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 was the greatest national catastrophe in Jewish history.

† Prophets often used earthquake language to describe the fall of nations.

Revelation 16:19

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered Babylon the great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of His fierce wrath.

† The great city refers to Jerusalem, identified earlier as the city where the Lord was crucified (Revelation 11:8).

† Babylon represents the apostate system opposing God's kingdom.

† The cup of wrath echoes Old Testament imagery of divine judgment.

Revelation 16:20

Every island fled away, and the mountains could no longer be found.

† Islands and mountains symbolize political powers and stable institutions collapsing.

† The destruction of the temple and priesthood marked the end of the old covenant system.

† The prophetic language reflects the complete removal of the former order.

Revelation 16:21

Huge hailstones, each weighing about a talent, fell from heaven upon people, and they cursed God because of the plague of the hail, because the plague was extremely severe.

† Hailstones were another plague seen in Egypt (Exodus 9:23-25).

† Josephus records massive stones hurled into Jerusalem during the siege by Roman siege engines.

† The imagery perfectly fits the historical events of the war.

Historical References

† Josephus describes famine, disease, and massive destruction during the siege of Jerusalem in *The Wars of the Jews*.

† Tacitus recorded the chaos and devastation surrounding the Jewish revolt and the Roman military campaigns.

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem before the destruction, fulfilling Jesus' warning.

How It Applies To Us Today

† God's warnings should never be ignored. Jerusalem's destruction proves that God keeps His word.

† Christ reigns now, and His kingdom cannot be shaken even when earthly systems collapse.

† We live in the fulfillment of the kingdom promises, not waiting for them but walking in them.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Did these bowl judgments happen in the future?

A: No. Jesus said the judgment would come upon that generation (Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34). The events leading to AD 70 fulfill these prophecies.

Q: What is Armageddon in the fulfilled perspective?

A: It represents the gathering of forces leading to the destruction of Jerusalem during the Jewish war (Revelation 16:16; Luke 21:20).

Q: Why are the plagues similar to the plagues of Egypt?

A: Because God was judging a covenant-breaking nation just as He judged Egypt (Exodus 7-12; Revelation 16).

Q: What does the phrase It is done mean in Revelation 16:17?

A: It announces the completion of the covenant judgment that Jesus said would come upon that generation. The old covenant system centered on the temple was finished. Hebrews 8:13 says When He said, A new covenant, He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

Q: Why do the plagues in Revelation resemble the plagues of Egypt?

A: God was showing that the same kind of covenant judgment that fell on Egypt was now falling on Jerusalem for rejecting the

Messiah. Exodus 9:23-25 shows hail and plagues falling on Egypt, and Revelation 16 repeats that imagery to show divine judgment on a rebellious nation.

Q: What does the great earthquake symbolize in Revelation 16:18?

A: In prophetic language an earthquake represents the collapse of a nation or covenant system. Hebrews 12:26-27 explains that God would shake heaven and earth so that what can be shaken would be removed. The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in AD 70 marked that great covenant shaking.

Q: Why do people continue to curse God instead of repenting during the plagues?

A: Scripture shows that hardened hearts resist even clear judgment. Just as Pharaoh hardened his heart during the plagues of Egypt, many in Jerusalem refused to repent even when judgment was falling. Luke 19:41-44 shows Jesus warning that they did not recognize the time of their visitation.

Q: What does the hail in Revelation 16:21 point to historically?

A: Josephus recorded that Roman siege engines hurled massive stones into Jerusalem during the siege, stones that weighed about a talent. This historical detail closely matches the imagery of giant hailstones falling from heaven during the final judgment of the city.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Revelation 16; Matthew 23:36; Matthew 24:34; Luke 21:22; Revelation 11:8

† Josephus, The Wars of the Jews

† Tacitus, Histories 5

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.