**TIMELINE OF THE NIGHT:**

**Chapter 16: Give a handout explaining the 7 bowls, 5 truths..etc and have a discussion (15 mins)**

**Chapter 17: Link to the chat about chapter 18**

**Chapter 18: Inductive Bible Study (1 hour)**

**Prayer in pairs: pray about Vancouver/ 7 marks of Babylon (15 min)**

**Overtime: 15 mins**

**Revelation 15-16New International Version (NIV)**

**Seven Angels With Seven Plagues**

**15** I saw in heaven another great and marvellous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed. **2** And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God **3** and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and marvellous are your deeds,

Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations.[a]

4 Who will not fear you, Lord,

and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship before you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”[b]

**5** After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. **6** Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. **7** Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. **8** And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

**The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath**

**16** Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

**2** The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

**3** The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

**4** The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. **5** Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

“You are just in these judgments, O Holy One,

you who are and who were;

**6**

for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets,

and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

**7** And I heard the altar respond:

“Yes, Lord God Almighty,

true and just are your judgments.”

**8** The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. **9** They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

**10** The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony **11** and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

**12** The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. **13** Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **14** They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

**15** “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

**16** Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon.**

**17** The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” **18** Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. **19** The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. **20** Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. **21** From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds,[c] fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Section bookended by “wrath” and “finished/done”

The scenes in revelation are all symbols, an “audio-visual” presentation of what the end times will be like

**First observation: Opening of the “temple of the tabernacle of testimony”**

First reason of specificity: OT stone tablet 10 commandments—> God’s moral laws

Second reason of specificity: place to meet the living God. Bowls = holiness to evil and impurity

Angels that come out of the TTT show that these angels pour out a “pure and sinless wrath”

**Second observation: this scene emerges from the presence and character of the Holy God**

**Third observation: connects to previous scenes of 7 in Revelations.**

7 trumpets, 7 seals, 7 bowls = 7x3 = 21 events

parallels between the bowls and the trumpets

1) First bowl/trumpet affect the earth

2) Second bowl/trumpet affect sea

3) Third bowl/ Trumpet affect river

4) Fourth bowl/ Trumpet affect sun

5) Fifth bowl-throne of evil. Fifth Trumpet-pit of evil

6) Sixth bowl/Trumpet- river Euphrates

Notice the change of the fractions in the series of 7’s

* 7 seals ¼ (the fourth horseman has “authority over a fourth of the earth” Rev 6:8)
* 7 trumpets 1/3( “a third of the earth is burned” Rev 8:7)
* 7 Bowls no more fractions. Total judgement

Q: How can 7 seals and 7 trumpets be different perspectives of the same event when the 7 trumpet come from the 7th seal being opened?

* 7 seals → perspective of the suffering church
* 7 trumpets→ perspective of the world being called to repentance
* 7 bowls → perspective from the throne of God

**Fourth observation: literary technique of recapitulation**

Every time, the 7th of the series of 7 ends in a “restart” (the seven seals lead to silence, the

trumpets lead to the coming of the kingdom, the seven bowls lead to the final ending “it is done”

Also in the 7 bowls, there is no longer a “warning” as there are no fractions of destruction seen

**Fifth observation: content of the bowls**

1. Bowl 1: Sores on the earth. Similar to Egypt plagues

2. Bowl 2: Sea becomes like blood

3. Bowl 3: Rivers and springs of water become like blood —> b/c the forces of the anti-Christ

shed the ‘blood of Christ’s people

4. Bowl 4: Sun scorches people

5. Bowl 5: Judgement on the throne of the beast

6. Bowl 6: Judgement on the river Euphrates—> dried up so that kings can come from the East

(the great unknown) frogs are a symbol of evil spirits.

7. Bowl 7: Into the air, into the atmosphere—>(16:17-21) signalling total judgement against the

evil trinity the dragon and the two beasts)

**Armageddon = Mountain of Meggido**

A battle was fought on the “plains” of Meggido (a location sixty miles north of Jerusalem, near Mount Carmel) between King Josiah of Judah and King Neco of Egypt. Judah was defeated and Babylon won but now there is a reversal where Rome—> stands for the last resistance of the anti Christ before the new creation “but this battle is never fought” the new Babylon will lose because Christ returns and triumphs.

**Five truths:**

1) Judgement is horrible. It is total and severe

2) Judgement is Justified (“They deserve it,” say the angels. “They are worthy.” (16:6)

3) Judgement comes only after time for repentance “They did not repent” (16:9)

4) Judgement is consistent with sin (16:6)

5) Judgement is just (16:7)

**Revelation 17-19New International Version (NIV)**

**Babylon, the Prostitute on the Beast**

**17** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. **2** With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

**3** Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. **4** The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. **5** The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

babylon the great

the mother of prostitutes

and of the abominations of the earth.

**6** I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. **7** Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. **8** The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

**9** “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. **10** They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. **11** The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

**12** “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. **13** They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. **14** They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

**15** Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. **16** The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. **17** For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled. **18** The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

**Lament Over Fallen Babylon**

**18** After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. **2** With a mighty voice he shouted:

“‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’[a]

She has become a dwelling for demons

and a haunt for every impure spirit,

a haunt for every unclean bird,

a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

**3**

For all the nations have drunk

the maddening wine of her adulteries.

The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,

and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

Warning to Escape Babylon’s Judgment

**4** Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“‘Come out of her, my people,’[b]

so that you will not share in her sins,

so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

**5**

for her sins are piled up to heaven,

and God has remembered her crimes.

**6**

Give back to her as she has given;

pay her back double for what she has done.

Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

**7**

Give her as much torment and grief

as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

In her heart she boasts,

‘I sit enthroned as queen.

I am not a widow;[c]

I will never mourn.’

**8**

Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:

death, mourning and famine.

She will be consumed by fire,

for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Threefold Woe Over Babylon’s Fall

**9** “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. **10** Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“‘Woe! Woe to you, great city,

you mighty city of Babylon!

In one hour your doom has come!’

**11** “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— **12** cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; **13** cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

**14** “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ **15** The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn **16** and cry out:

“‘Woe! Woe to you, great city,

dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,

and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

**17**

In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. **18** When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ **19** They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

“‘Woe! Woe to you, great city,

where all who had ships on the sea

became rich through her wealth!

In one hour she has been brought to ruin!’

**20**

“Rejoice over her, you heavens!

Rejoice, you people of God!

Rejoice, apostles and prophets!

For God has judged her

with the judgment she imposed on you.”

The Finality of Babylon’s Doom

**21** Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence

the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,

never to be found again.

**22**

The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters,

will never be heard in you again.

No worker of any trade

will ever be found in you again.

The sound of a millstone

will never be heard in you again.

**23**

The light of a lamp

will never shine in you again.

The voice of bridegroom and bride

will never be heard in you again.

Your merchants were the world’s important people.

By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

**24**

In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people,

of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

**Rev 17:1-19:10**

Implications for discipleship in the city?

**Observations:**

→ The angel calls this woman a harlot who is sitting on a beast. We also saw a woman in Rev 12 who was clothed with the sun.

→ The beast is full of blasphemous names. It has seven heads and 10 horns. Same beast appears in Revelation 13 (Came out of sea with 7 heads and 10 horns who was sent by the dragon to try to kill the woman’s son). Dragon also has 7 heads and 10 horns (12:3)

→ This woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and not wine.

→ The woman is carried by the beast and reigns over many waters which are “peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (17:15)

→ 7 heads are 7 mountains and 7 kings. 10 horns are 10 kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour (17:12)

→ The lamb overcomes simply by showing up! (17:14)

→ The beast eventually turns on the woman (Rev 17:16-17). Evil turns against evil. What they sowed they will reap.

**Babylon**

→ Derived from the word Babel. Goes back to tower of Babel story where people tried to build a society without God. Babylon is a code word for humanity attempting to build a city without God

* **History**
* King Nebuchadnezzar exiled the Israelites from their home and the temple is destroyed (586 BCE)
* King Cyrus of Persia returns the people to Jerusalem and the temple is rebuilt
* Thus begins the revival and removal of idols
* The exile and the Second Temple Period were times of uncertainty for the Israelite people as they had no king and had many doubts about the future of their nation
* Many prophecies in the Book of the Twelve are concerning the Day of the Lord and the eventual judgment of the nations

In OT, Nineveh, Tyre, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome are all Babylon.

Rev 17:9-> 7 heads of beast who carries Babylon as 7 mountains. In the context of when the book was written, people would have thought of Rome because they were built on 7 hills.

→ Other interpretations: Babylon could represent old Jerusalem. They rejected God and decided seek the wealth of the Roman empire. “How the faithful city has become a harlot (Isaiah 1:21)

**Rev 17:10-> “five have fallen, one is , and the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while”**

Approaches to look at this verse:

1) Treat them as 7 kingdoms. 5 kingdoms from Biblical history would be Egypt, Ninevah, Babylon, Persia and Greece. 6th would be Rome, 7th could be collection of anti-Christ kingdoms. 7th is the beast and anti-Christ himself.

2) 7 kings as 7 great leaders of Rome. Page 301

3) 7 ings as a picture of the whole. The beast is the power behind all 7 - the power behind the whole history of Babylon 7= number of completeness which could symbolize the whole of Roman history. 10 Kings could represent “the totality of the powers of all nations on earth”

→ Babylon falls “in one hour” (17:12, 18:10) Babylon fell pretty quickly

**7 Marks of Babylon**

1) Left living God out of equation until disaster strikes. God’s will grace, presence, and purpose does

not matter until people are in trouble.

2) Sensuality (Rev 17:2,3 +18:3,9) corruption with sexual immorality. Today’s world where

everything is sensualized and celebrated because of it.

3) Injustice “people” are not valued as what is glorified → the gold and silver, is built on the

injustices/oppression that people face.

4) Worship of products materialistic goods that are idolized→ clothes, technology, etc

5) Violence bringing about freedom, security, end of conflict with weapons and war

6) Deception and counterfeit (17:8) parody on death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

7) Idolatry (18:7) woman took on blasphemous names of the beast