

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn with me to Revelation 18

We are continuing our study through the book of Revelation –

Two weeks ago, when we covered ch 16 - we looked at the seven bowl judgments that God will use to judge those that reject the Lamb – the only way of salvation.

Next week, when we cover chapter 19, we are going to look at Jesus Christ triumphant return.

So between the last bowl judgment and the triumphant return of Jesus Christ – we have these two chapters that deal with the fall of the religious system (the false church) that is in place during the Great Tribulation period – we studied that last week and the fall of the economic system that the antichrist will establish during this time.

Let's pray...

If you look at the world today – and it really started within the last 20-30 years, there has been a big push for a one world monetary system – kind of like they have in Europe today with the Euro.

There has been a push for a one world government – no more passports; every country has to abide by the same laws.

One world religion – Hindu's should be able to worship alongside Muslims and Jews and Christians.

And really what is happening is that everything is coming together for the antichrist to come to power and take control over the world's political, religious and economic systems.

That is how he is going to be able to control the economic system and limit any business transactions to those that have the mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

[Rev 18:1-24 NKJV] 1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

In the beginning of chapter 17, John was shown a vision by one of the angels that had the seven bowls – and it was a vision of the harlot – the false church.

And toward the end of the chapter, the angel showed John what is going to happen to the false church as the confederation of rulers that will be under the antichrist – they will turn on the false church during the middle of the Tribulation because they have no more need for it.

Here in chapter 18, another angel shows up and he lights up the earth with his glory.

And I asked you to make a note that it says illuminated with his glory –

This angel – is so fresh – out of coming out of Heaven's throne room where he has been in God's presence receiving instructions from God regarding the judgment that is going to take place here.

And he shines up the entire world.

This is very similar to when Moses came down Mt Sinai with the 10 Commandments and his face shined from being in the presence of God.

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

Notice first how the angel refers to the economic system as Babylon the great – last week, the false church was referred to as Mystery Babylon.

Here it is Babylon the great.

Now, why does the angel say is fallen, is fallen?

Did he stutter?

No –

The reason that the angels says it twice is because it is something that both sure to happen, as well as something that is going to happen quickly.

We see a perfect example of this when Joseph explains the dream to Pharaoh.

(Genesis 41)

Pharaoh had a dream of seven fat cows – and then seven skinny cows come out of the river and eat the first seven cows.

So when Joseph explains to Pharaoh the meaning of the dream – he immediately repeats it.

It's coming and it's coming quickly.

Turn with me to Isaiah 13 –

[Isa 13:19-22 NKJV] 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert will lie there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches will dwell there, And wild goats will caper there. 22 The hyenas will howl in their citadels, And jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time [is] near to come, And her days will not be prolonged.”

Isaiah's prophesy here – is a twofold prophesy.

When the Medes and the Persians invaded Babylon, they didn't destroy Babylon, they actually moved in.

It wasn't until Alexander the Great and the Greeks – they completely destroyed Babylon. Never to be inhabited again.

It became a wasteland – only unclean animals lived there.

The same thing is going to happen to this economic system that is set up by the antichrist.

By the way – in the very next chapter – Isaiah 14, Isaiah prophesizes against the king of Babylon and at the same time against Lucifer -

3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

Last week, we saw that harlot corrupted the church with idolatry.

Here, the economic system will corrupt the world governments with greed.

They will become wealthier and wealthier at the expense of those that are less fortunate – and that is why the nations are going to flock to this type of economic system.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

God is calling on His people – Jew and believers.

To not get mixed up with this economic system

Remember, there is going to be a lot of pressure to do it.

And there will be many people who will refuse and pledge themselves to Jesus Christ and then many of those will face persecution and even execution.

Lot is a perfect example of this –

Remember that Abraham gave Lot the choice of where he was going to settle – and he chose to settle near Sodom and Gomorrah – for one reason only and that was \$\$\$.

Even though he knew that the people there were wicked.

And a few chapters later – he no longer is living outside Sodom and Gomorrah – he is a full time resident.

He is fully immersed there and embraced it – he doesn't even know that God is about to destroy the city that has brought him wealth.

He overlooked the wickedness because he was getting richer and richer and almost got caught up in the judgment that was reserved for them.

6 "**Render** to her just as she rendered to you, and **repay her double** according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her

torment and sorrow; for **she says in her heart**, 'I sit [as] queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

The word that is used here for render is the word for “to pay a debt” or “to give back what is due”

So the idea here is that Babylon is going to be judged in the same manner that she judged others.

It also says, repay her double –

In the Old Testament, the Law stated that the restitution for theft was that the individual had to pay double.

If someone took stole two of your goats and they got caught, they had to give you four goats as restitution.

So the idea here is that this economic system – much of the wealth that it is going to accumulate is going to be through dishonest transactions.

And because Babylon is so prosperous and stable, nobody will see the judgment that is coming.

8 "Therefore her plagues will come in **one day--death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong [is] the Lord God who judges her.**

Babylon's destruction will come quick and it will be complete.

When 9/11 happened, I remembered the stock market taking a big hit – it fell 7.1% the first day the market reopened and went down to 14% by the end of the week.

1.4 trillion dollars were lost in that week of trading.

What is going to happen here is a complete economic collapse. 100%

9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 "standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Some people believe that Babylon is a physical city – in the same way that New York or Shanghai would be considered the financial capital of the world today.

And they interpret verse 9-10 as this coastal city being completely destroyed.

And some have speculated that this might be done by nuclear weapons – that is why the kings here are standing at a distance as they mourn for her.

11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 "merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood,

bronze, iron, and marble; 13 "and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14 "The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 "and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

Those that profited from this economic system – they will mourn as well.

I want you to notice two things –

1. Those that are mourning, not one of the groups is saying, “Oh, those poor people in Babylon” No one is mourning the loss of people – they are only mourning the loss of business. It is all selfish and greed.
2. Everything that Babylon had to offer – not one thing mentioned here is a necessity – they are all luxuries. Because that is what Babylon specialized in – materialism.

17 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance

18 "and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What [is] like this great city?' 19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

The third group that is going to be mourning –

The UPS, Fed Ex and Amazon drivers.

They are mourning because with the collapse of Babylon – how are they going to be able to conduct business.

How are they going to be able to import and export goods???

I want you to notice the contrast between what is happening down here on earth – and what is happening in heaven during the same time.

20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and [you] holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

There is no mourning for the destruction of Babylon in heaven – instead - there is rejoicing.

Now, someone may say – that doesn't seem very Christ like – people high fiving each other in heaven as an entire city and its inhabitants burn –

Here is the thing church, heaven rejoices – not at the destruction in judgment – they are rejoicing at the righteous resolution that God's judgment brings.

God has finally taken care of the injustices done to His people.

[Rom 12:19-21 NKJV] 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

And summarizing what Paul says here –

Let God take care of it.

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw [it] into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

Turn with me to the gospel of Matthew.

Because Jesus spoke of this judgment.

[Mat 18:6-7 NKJV] 6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 "Woe to the world because of

offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

The world system represented by Babylon in Revelation 18 is worthy of the awesome judgment of God because she has seduced the entire human race to sin.

She has enticed, seduced, manipulated, and even used fear and intimidation, to encourage people to sin.

It is a terrible thing to sin yourself; it is even more terrible to lead others into sin.

And that is what Babylon did – so God is judging her.

22 "The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

What John is doing here in verse 23, he is describing how the industry and commerce of Babylon come to an end.

Remember, John is trying to provide us with a description of what he sees.

He sees this great city – in one hour destroyed –

23 "The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were

deceived. 24 "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

One of my favorite shows on Television growing up was watching reruns of Leave it to Beaver.

It was the perfect house, the perfect family.

Nothing like the dysfunction you see today on TV.

Mrs. Cleaver actually did chores around the house while wearing a pearl necklace.

Who does that???

When I was about 8 years old, my mom took me and my brothers to Universal Studios Hollywood –

And one of the things that I really wanted to do was to do the backlot tram tour.

Because they had the Jaws attraction and Battlestar Galactica.

And I remember during the backlot tram tour, going through this narrow street and then the tram operator pointed out that we were approaching the community of Mayfield and to our right was the Leave it to Beaver house.

The same one I saw on TV

However, as the tram pulled away, and made the turn, I saw that the Leave it Beaver house – it wasn't a house at all.

It was just the front – held up by a few 2X4's

There was no perfect house where Wally and Beaver lived.

My point is – that is exactly how we are deceived by sin.

We only see the front – and never consider the consequences.

And the antichrist, under the power of Satan, he is going to be given better tools than Hollywood to deceive people, and many people are going to fall for it – they are going to see the immediate pleasure – without ever considering the consequences that their actions will bring – they will never peak around the corner to see if it is a simple wall made to look like a house.

All these nations – will think they are profiting – and overlook that in doing so, all those people they wronged – God is going to judge them.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

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