

COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL BABYLON

- there is within the soul of man a deep longing for God
- because we are sinners, and are separated from God, we seek to satisfy that deep longing with other things
- for some, like the woman Jesus met at the well, we try to fill fulfillment in a relationship
 - **John 4.13-14** = Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
- for most of us, we try to fill that longing with the desire for things
- the Wall Street advertisers have figured that out – we have an insatiable desire for things that others tell us we need
- there has long been a pull in us for the things of the world
- there is a somber warning in **1 John 2.15-17** = Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - Jesus hit the nail on the head in **John 7.37** = On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
- we have come to the end of the 7-year tribulation
- last week we looked at the fall of religious Babylon – all of the religious and spiritual stuff that entices us away from the worship of God
- today, we look at the destruction of commercial and political Babylon, or what we would call the “world”

(1) – ANOTHER ANGEL

- this mighty angel has great authority
- the brightness of this angel’s glory illuminates the earth

(2-3) – THE ANGEL’S PRONOUNCEMENT AGAINST BABYLON

- this total destruction of Babylon was foretold by Isaiah and Jeremiah
- the entire world is guilty of being drawn away by the alluring call to materialism and wealth
 - Here likened again to fornication because the pull of worldliness and materialism always draws us away from the worship of God
- speaks of the wealth of those who have used materialism to draw people away from God
- there have been, and is now, a group of extremely wealthy people who use their wealth to influence people and nations

- this is attractive because it promises to make us rich
- Paul warns Timothy in **1 Timothy 6.9-10** = But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

(4-5) – GOD’S PEOPLE WARNED

- the warning to not get entangled with the things of the world
- Paul’s warning to Timothy in **2 Timothy 2.4** = No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
- her sins have reached to heaven reminds us of the Tower of Babel in **Genesis 11.4** = And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

(6-8) – BABYLON’S JUDGMENT

- God pronounces a double portion of judgment because of their pride and arrogance

(9-14) – WORLD LEADERS AND BUSINESS LEADERS MOURN

- the world’s economy will be wiped out in a moment – sudden and swift destruction
- the merchants will weep and mourn because they can no longer sell their merchandise that has made them wealthy
- look at the luxury items mentioned here
 - Jewelry, fancy clothes, things that garnish our homes and businesses, gourmet food, transportation, and even human trafficking
- how do we afford to buy all the things that the world dangles in front of us? DEBT!
- **Proverbs 22.7** warns us = The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.
 - The debt forgiveness program people are talking about today

(15-20) – WEEPING AND WAILING

- Babylon is the city that drives the world’s economy
- notice the swiftness of the destruction – **18.8, 10, 17, 19**
- like we used to say – “It’s all gonna burn!”
- the world weeps and mourns, but heaven rejoices

(21) – ANOTHER MIGHTY ANGEL

- the judgment is not only severe, but also final

(22-24) – COMPLETE DESTRUCTION

- this speaks of the destruction of the entertainment industry
- sorceries = pharmakeia, or “drugs,”
 - Look at the states that are now legalizing drug us