

Revelation 18: The Fall of Commercial Babylon

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

Chapter 17 Review:

"Mystery Babylon" The Left Behind Apostate Church of the Tribulation

- Scarlet Woman and Scarlet Beast: religious System and Anti-Christ Symbiotic Relationship
- Mystery Babylon: False-Prophet [Pope] embracing all but Truth
- Interpretation of the Scarlet Woman on the Scarlet Beast

Chapter 18 Introduction: The Fall of Commercial Babylon

Revelation 16:19 ...the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And **great Babylon was remembered before God**, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

- Godless **Economic** System controlled by Anti-Christ
- Loved by the World
- Destroyed by/at the **Return of Jesus Christ**

Revelation 18

I. Call and Fall of Babylon the Great: Doom of the Worldwide Economic System Pronounced/ Warnings Given

"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
[Luke 16:13]

¹ **After these things** I saw **another angel** coming down from heaven, having **great authority**, and the earth was **illuminated with his glory**.

- **Meta tauta**; i.e. "after these things" indicates a major **division** in Revelation:

Revelation 4:1 *After these things [meta tauta]* I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

- **After these things:**
 1. Apostate Church/Anti-Christ partnership; i.e. Woman Riding the Beast first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period
 2. Anti-Christ throws off the woman and claims to be God and **Dictator**

- **Another Angel:** [c.f. chapter 14 for six “another angels”]

1. **Great Authority:** Ranks hire than the other “another angels”
2. **Illuminates** the earth with his glory; as will **Jesus Christ:**

Ezekiel 43:2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the **earth shone with His glory.**

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!**”

- “...he cried mightily...**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...**”
- Earlier a preliminary announcement:

Revelation 14:8 ...another angel followed, saying, “**Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.**”

- **Is Fallen:** Greek tense speaks of coming events *as if they have already happened*
- **Has become:**

1. **Dwelling** place of *demons*
2. **Prison** for every *foul spirit*
3. **Cage** for every *unclean and hated bird*

} Demon Incarceration
During the Millennial Kingdom

Isaiah 13:19 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.”

Jeremiah 50:38 A drought is against her waters, and they will be dried up. For it is the **land of carved images, And they are insane with their idols**. 39 “Therefore the **wild desert beasts shall dwell there with the jackals**, And the ostriches shall dwell in it. It shall be inhabited no more forever, Nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. 40 **As God overthrew Sodom** and Gomorrah And their neighbors,” says the LORD, “**So no one shall reside there, Nor son of man dwell in it**”

- **Commercial Babylon:** Anti-Christ’s Economic Epicenter [Oil, Rebuilt, Strategic] full of wickedness.
- **This is literal Babylon** [Iraq]:

Zechariah 5:5 ...the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this *is* that goes forth.” ⁶ So I asked, “What *is* it?” And he said, “It is a basket [Ephah] that is going forth.” He also said, “This *is* their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸ then he said, “**This is Wickedness!**” [Lit. *the Wickedness*] And he thrust her down into the

basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. ⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. ¹⁰ So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?" ¹¹ And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of **Shinar**; [Babylon] when it is ready, **the basket will be set there on its base.**"

- **Ephah:** Primary measure of volume and a symbol of commerce in the ancient world
- **"The Wickedness: Covetousness;** bringing riches to Babylon [Shinar] to be set on a base; pedestal
- **Two women on an Evil Mission:** Not angels but with wings of unclean bird...a stork
- **Centers of world finance** [New York, Geneva, etc.] move to **Babylon**

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.**"

- **Why** has Babylon fallen and become a *dwelling, prison* and a *cage*?
 1. **Nations** have drunk [are fallen] from the wine of the wrath of her fornication
 2. **Kings** have committed fornication with her and...
 3. **Merchants** of the earth became rich through the abundance of her luxury
- **"...become rich through the abundance of her luxury"** lit. through the "power" [gr. *dunamis*] of her "strainings" [gr. *strenos*]
- **God's judgment is on man's business without God** and His leading [c.f. Tower of Babel]

1 Timothy 6:10 ...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.**

James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵ Instead you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. **All such boasting is evil.**

John 5:19 ...Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, **but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does,** the Son also does in like manner..."

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.**

- **Another voice from Heaven: Jesus**

- **Come out of her my people** lest you:

1. **Share** in her sins
2. **Receive** her plagues

- **Because:**

1. Her sins have reached to heaven
2. God has remembered her iniquities

- **Come out:** Sodom and Gomorrah **relationship**; i.e. rationalizing our witness:

Genesis 19:12 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take *them* out of this place! ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." ¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law **he seemed to be joking**.

- **Some of God's people** are *still in Babylon*:
- **Mercy** to those who "come out" of the sinful place; i.e. out of sin:

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you[a] are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." ¹⁷ Therefore " **Come out from among them And be separate**, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Isaiah 48:20 Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, Declare, proclaim this, Utter it to the end of the earth; Say, "The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!" [C.f. Deuteronomy 4:30, 31, Jeremiah 51:5, 6, 45, Isaiah 48:20]

- *Didn't Jesus eat with sinners?*

Mark 2:13 Then He went out again by the sea; and all the multitude came to Him, and He taught them. ¹⁴ As He passed by, He saw Levi the *son* of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him.¹⁵ Now it happened, as He was dining in *Levi's* house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. ¹⁶ And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- *Jesus ate and drank* with sinners who would **listen**
- *Jesus ate and drank* with sinners who knew their **need**
- *Jesus ate and drank* with sinners to call them to **repentance**

"For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities."

- Ancient Babylonians Kings **reached for Heaven but not God**; Their sins were not forgotten but exemplified in Babylon the Great, the Final Humanistic World System before the **Second Coming**:

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."... **7** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." [Nimrod]

Daniel 4:20 "The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height **reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth**... [Nebuchadnezzar]

II. Imprecation Declared: Babylon Cursed

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.

1. **Render** to her as she rendered to you
2. **Repay** her double according to her works
3. **Use** the cup she mixed and mix double for her

} Poetic Justice

Obadiah 1:15 "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations *is* near; **As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.** [C.f. Psalm 137:1-3]

Galatians 7:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.** 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- **Cup of Wickedness** of which Babylon and the nations have been made drunk [C.f. Rev: 14:8, 17:2, 4, 6, 18:3, 6]

Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon **was a golden cup** in the LORD's hand, That made all the earth drunk. The *nations* drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged

- **Cup of Wickedness becomes the Cup of God's Wrath: Render, Repay, Use...**

Jeremiah 51:57: "And **I will make drunk** Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake," says the King, Whose name is the LORD of hosts.

NOTE: Jeremiah 51:7 spoke of Religious Babylon in Revelation 17 and is destroyed at Mid-Tribulation... but the wealth from her continues into Commercial Babylon

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.'**

- Give her torment and sorrow to the same degree she glorified herself and lived in luxury ["deliciously" also v.3]
- **Sick Heart:**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I sit as queen2. I am no widow3. I will see no sorrow | } | Luxury, Arrogance, Pride, Self-Deception |
|---|---|--|

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before **destruction**, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he **fall**.

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.

- **Therefore:** Since you are a Happily Married Queen without God your plagues will come in **one day**; **Commercial Babylon's Plagues are:**
 1. **Death**
 2. **Mourning***
 3. **Famine**

***NOTE:** Mourning is so intense it is referenced to among "plagues"

III. Worldwide Weeping and Lamentation over Economic Destruction

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.'

- **Distinction** between Religious Babylon [17] and Economic [18]
 1. **Religious Babylon:** Kings will **destroy** her
 2. **Economic Babylon:** Kings will **mourn** her...they:
 - a) Committed fornication with her
 - b) Lived in luxury with because of her
 - c) Now stand at a distance for "fear of her torment" Why?

- **Alas:** gr. *ouai*; same word translated “**woe**”; i.e. sadly, regrettably “that great city Babylon, that mighty city” has been judged in a **single hour!**
- **Chronology: Second Coming of Jesus Christ** [C.f. Revelation 19] the Kings of the earth on their way to Armageddon and see the smoke of Babylon, their beloved city:

Joel 2:30 “...I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and **pillars of smoke.**

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.**

- **First kings weep** and lament, now **merchants** weep and mourn because:
 1. **No one** buys their merchandise anymore [no one buys?]
 - a) 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; 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 [C.f. Jeremiah 34:8-9]

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.

- Fruit [forbidden]that your flesh longs for: Garden of Eden [lust for more]
- Things Rich, Splendid, Delicious gone forever!

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!**

- **Merchants became rich** from this Humanistic Economic World System
- Fine lined, purple, scarlet, adorned with precious stones and pearls: Connection to wealth of the religious system; i.e. **the Vatican and its assets**

James 5:1 Come now, *you* rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon

you! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded, and **their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh** like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

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?'**

- **Kings, Merchants, now Shipmasters weep**
- **Amazement:**
 1. **Swiftness of God's Judgment:** One hour
 2. **Thoroughness of God's Judgment:** Once great riches...now nothing
 3. **Intensity of God's Judgment:** Great [invincible?] city destroyed
- **It was never God's plan** for sinful man to gravitate/congregate in "Great Cities".
- Twice God said to "replenish" or fill the earth [Genesis 1:28 and 9:10]
- **What is like this great city:** Anti-Christ controlled/Dictator:

Revelation 13:4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, **"Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"**

Psalms 52:5 God shall **likewise destroy you forever**; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of *your* dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah ⁶ The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, *saying*, "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness."

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.'

- **Mourning:** "...threw dust on their heads"? Jews?

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

- **Rejoicing from:**
 1. Heaven
 2. Apostles [Foxes Book of Martyrs]
 3. Prophets

Romans 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 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.

Galatians 6:9 ...let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 ... as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

Hebrews 10:24 ... let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

IV. Babylon will Rise No More

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."

- **A mighty angel** with a stone like a **great millstone throws it into the sea**; i.e. Persian Gulf where the Babylonian Euphrates empties

Matthew 18:6 "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.

Jeremiah 51:63 ...when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.⁶⁴ Then you shall say, 'Thus **Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe** that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.'

- God used a similar Judgment on **His own people**:

Jeremiah 25:10 ...I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

- **America? How much misery can we take?**

*"Thus with **violence** the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall **not be found anymore**."*

Following from **"The Decline and Fall of the roman Empire"** Edward Gibbon written 1788

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society
2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populous
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exiting, more brutal, more immoral

4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy is within-the decay of individual responsibility
5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide people

The oft-heard warning that "history repeats itself" has an ominous meaning in the light of the above

The average age of the world's great civilizations is 200 years. These nations progressed through this sequence:

- a. From Bondage to Spiritual Faith
- b. From Spiritual Faith to Great Courage
- c. From Courage to Liberty
- d. From Liberty to Abundance
- e. From Abundance to Selfishness
- f. From Selfishness to Complacency
- g. From Complacency to Apathy
- h. From Apathy to Dependence
- i. From Dependence to Bondage

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.

- No music, No work
- Music and Crafts originate with descendants of Cain:

Genesis 4:19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah. ²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was **Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.** ²² **And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron...**

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.

- No man-made light, no weddings [joy] because:

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark...

1. Your merchants were the *great men of the earth*: **Responsibility**
2. By your sorcery [Drug Abuse] *ALL the nations were deceived*:

"With great power come great responsibility" [P. Parker's Uncle]

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

- In her was found the **blood of:**
 1. The Prophets
 2. The Saints
 3. All who were slain on the earth

Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him [Luke 22:3]

Aerial View: Revelation Chapters 1-18

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