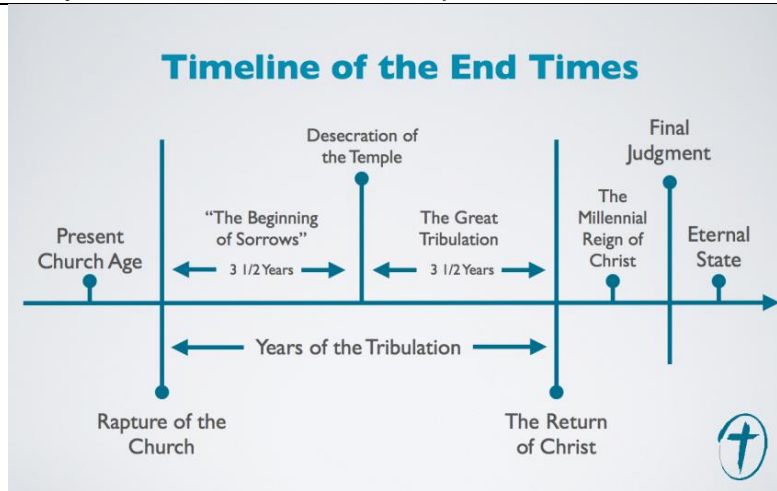


Revelation 17-18 “The Destruction of the Antichrist’s Kingdom”

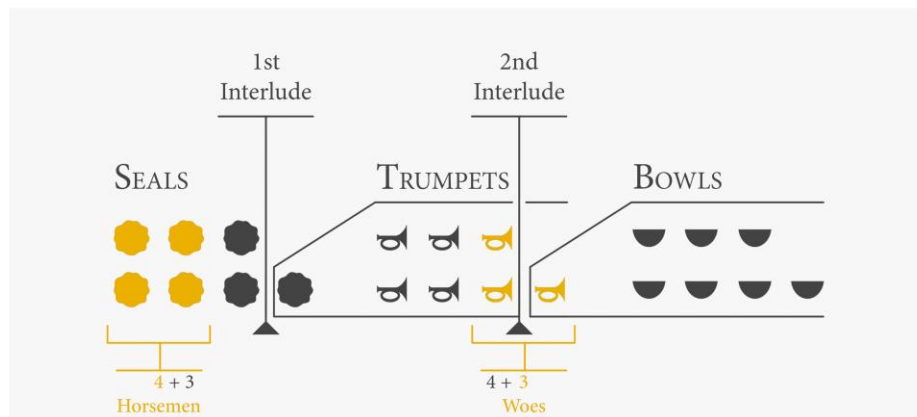
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What a journey through this powerful and amazing book...The Revelation of Jesus Christ. In this book we literally see the unveiling of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We see Him as the supreme preeminence of the universe...unveiled in all of His power and glory. Yet, for those who choose not to receive Him by faith...for those who reject His offer to save their lives, this book is a book that is heavy and foreboding...because judgment will come upon the unbeliever.

We’ve seen a lot in the last 16 chapters. The Antichrist has revealed himself to the world and he has gone from offering and bringing peace to the world to turning on the world. We’re going to see tonight his absolute hunger and thirst for power. Tonight we’ll see him move from being the peacemaker to a man who is going to bring pain and agony and death. And we’re going to see justice meted out to him by God. It’s now the middle point of the Tribulation Period. See the chart...



He will set up an image of himself in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and demand that the world take his mark, 666 and follow him without question. He will have no rivals...He will set himself up as God! And we saw last week...when that happens...God will pour out His remaining 7 judgments...called the “Bowl Judgments” on the earth. Remember, we’ve seen three (3) sets of judgments...



And these final 7 BOWL JUDGMENTS are the most horrific. We saw this last week... Remember the depiction...



We saw leprous boils will come upon the people who have taken the mark of the Antichrist...all the water in the oceans, lakes, streams and creeks will turn to blood, the sun will scorch people, there'll be darkness and 100 lb. hailstones falling from the sky on those who have taken the mark of the beast, the Antichrist. It all sounds Sci-Fi! But, as sure as Jesus came the first time, born as a baby in Bethlehem, as was prophesied...as sure as He would die on the cross...a form of execution that hadn't been invented, when Isaiah prophesied that he would be pierced for transgressions...as sure as the 300+ Messianic prophecies of the OT were fulfilled in Jesus...Oh...He is coming again and He will fulfill these prophecies found in the book of The Revelation. It's all going to happen...as sure as a virgin birth led to a resurrected Savior, the King of Kings is coming back and all these things WILL HAPPEN.

Now look at chapter 17, verse 1 as we begin to see the unraveling of the Antichrist's kingdom. We are going to see his religious, economic and political systems. We'll see his religious system first.

Revelation 17:1-5

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." ³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵ And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."

Once again, we see judgment unfold. One of the Seven Angels who had one of the Seven Bowls tells John judgment is going to come upon this "GREAT PROSTITUTE" who is seated on many waters. The "many waters" is symbolism for the earth...the peoples of the earth. The Prostitute has a name: Babylon and this represents the false religion of the Antichrist.

In Scripture, Babylon is synonymous with pagan practices. Some scholars say Babylon here is actually the city of Babylon which will be rebuilt by the Antichrist during the Tribulation (which is located in present-day Iraq), but I don't think that's the case, because the Bible says in Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 51 that Babylon will lay desolate forever. No, I believe Babylon is simply a descriptive name of the pagan idolatry and religion of the day.

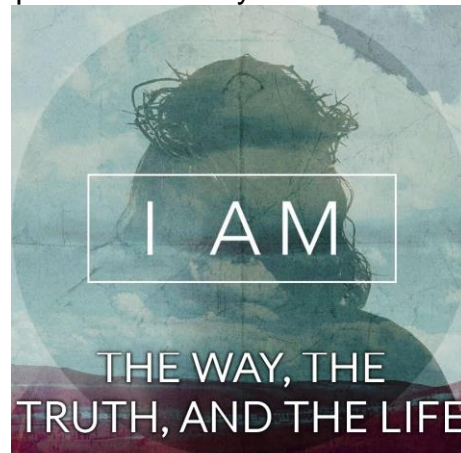
Now you may wonder, what is his religion? Well, before I seek to answer that...I want to tell you what religion I believe the Antichrist will be. All along I have been convinced he is a Muslim, because we see the beheading of those who refuse to follow him. That's what Muslims do. We also know he will bring peace to the Middle East by signing a peace agreement with the nation of Israel and he will have the Jewish Temple rebuilt on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where this now stands...



That's the Dome of the Rock...the Muslim mosque... I'm convinced the Antichrist will convince the Muslims to allow the rebuilding of this Temple. And the world will be okay with the Jews beginning their Temple sacrifices again. In fact, he will be okay with all religions as long as they aren't Christianity. I believe the Prostitute will be the idea that all religions point to "God."



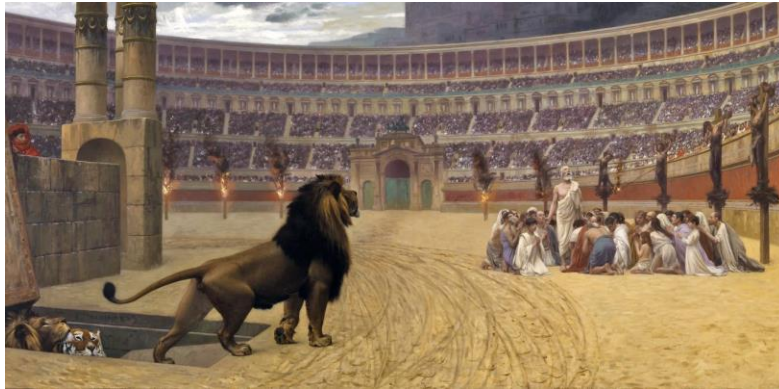
It's the idea that all roads lead to heaven and understand the converse of this...if you say that's not true...you are not being loving and kind, tolerant and accepting. In other words, **there is no absolute truth**. And we see the spirit of that today. Jesus absolutely said,



This will be unacceptable. In fact, during the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, remember...the Church is gone. There are no Christians. The two prophets come and preach in Jerusalem...they're on TV every day saying, "Jesus is the only way." Until finally at the 3 ½ year

mark, the Antichrist will then be allowed to kill them and he will go into the Temple and say, I am the way! He's now the Absolute Way! MORE ON THAT IN A MOMENT. But for now...let me reiterate in the beginning of the Tribulation, anything goes...as long as there are no absolutes.

Did you notice the False Religion is described as a Prostitute, full of sexual immorality? The Bride of Christ is in heaven and a prostitute is on earth. Don't miss that. Satan uses sex to destroy. He has perverted sex...something God made to bring pleasure and children to the world...and Satan has desecrated sex and it's the tip of the spear that the prostitute will use to seek to destroy Christians. (BTW...the Apostle John is already witnessing this hostility in his day...because he has been exiled for preaching the truth to the Isle of Patmos from the church in Ephesus. He was living under the pagan rule of the Roman Emperor Domitian. It's 95 AD and Christians have been on the run for 30 years since the rule of Nero.) Remember Nero was doing this...and it continued under the reign of Domitian:



Feeding Christians to the lions and burning them, impaled on stakes in the Roman Coliseum. Look at verse 6...

Revelation 17:6-7

⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly. ⁷But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.

We saw in verse 3 how Babylon, the Prostitute, (false religion), was riding on the beast (the Antichrist). Initially, this one-world-religion of COEXISTING will be embraced by the Antichrist so that everyone will be locked in to this globalized one-world-religion, of every religion is equal and okay and acceptable (except Christianity).

It's interesting to see the change even in Christian denominations over the last 30-40 years. I just read a book titled, "The Rise of Theological Liberalism." It's about a protestant denomination that is currently AND continuing to walk away from the orthodox teaching of the Bible. The author said this "The Rise of Theological Liberalism," Dr. James V. Heidinger II:

A/V Team: Please Show Quote:

"During this era, [our denomination] was indeed accommodating itself to the new secular thought sweeping across the intellectual landscape. In every age, of course, the church is always in danger of accommodation, and especially as it attempts to present the gospel in ways that are 'in keeping with developing intellectual currents.' This phrase should always trigger our internal alarms.

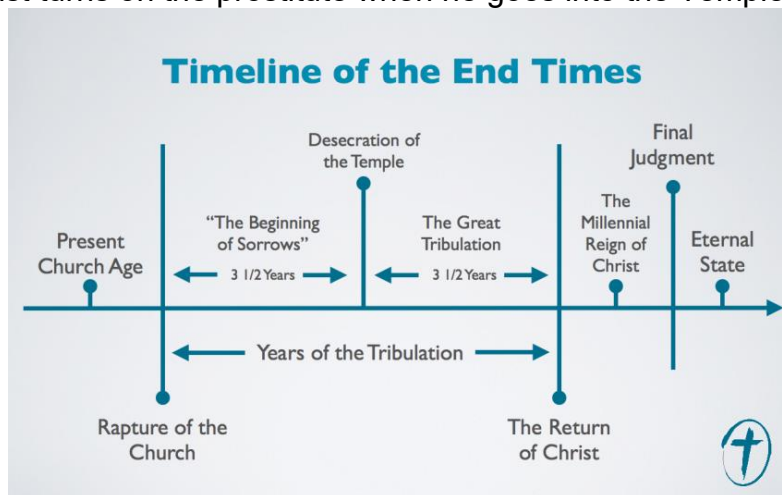
Accommodation, in simpler terms, means to adapt, adjust, or reconcile differences. That was exactly what was happening during that period. The gospel was being adapted or changed with the hope of making it more palatable to the modern, scientific outlook that as emerging...

This implies that one can be a 'good Christian' while disbelieving the doctrines of the Trinity and Incarnation, the Virgin Birth and the bodily Resurrection of Jesus, and while accepting secularist liberal ideas about abortion, euthanasia, pre-marital sex, homosexuality, and so forth.

The crises [within our denomination] is a lack of biblical authority and a flawed theology. We must resist imposing upon the church any agenda as a substitute for the central themes of the gospel. The church's preoccupation with the socio-political arena has diminished its credibility and influence in the world. Our faith has come to us at a cost of the lives of saints and martyrs. We must not pass to succeeding generations a gospel which was distorted and defective.

We liberals have moved far beyond the idea that the Bible is exclusively normative and literally authoritative for our faith... Furthermore, few of us retain belief in Christ as the sole way to salvation. We trust that God can work under many other names and in many other forms to save people. Our views have changed over the years and evangelicals know it. At least they have the honesty to call us to honesty." *The Rise of Theological Liberalism*, Dr. James V. Heidinger II

But, that's exactly the trajectory of many of the Protestant Denominations are on...a walking away from orthodoxy to accepting anything and everything as of God...let's just coexist. But, again, 3 1/2 years in...the Antichrist turns on the prostitute when he goes into the Temple...



He will say, "Worship me" and he will do something that will draw all the people to him. What is that? He will fake his death and resurrection.

Revelation 17:8-9

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. ⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;

Now this phrase “seven mountains on which the woman is seated,” has been used by many to say the Prostitute is the revived Roman Empire, because Rome sits on seven hills. I honestly don’t believe that. I won’t argue with someone who does...because so much of what we are reading is figurative and we shouldn’t be dogmatic...but, I am convinced this description is simply a description of the power the false religious system and is ultimately a picture of the 7 kingdoms that have led up to the Kingdom of the Antichrist. **Pick up in verse 10 with me...**

Romans 17:10-14

¹⁰ they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹ As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. ¹² And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Now, Bible Scholars have often called these kings that we just read about the “8 Kings of Revelation.” See the chart...

8 Kingdoms Of Revelation 17

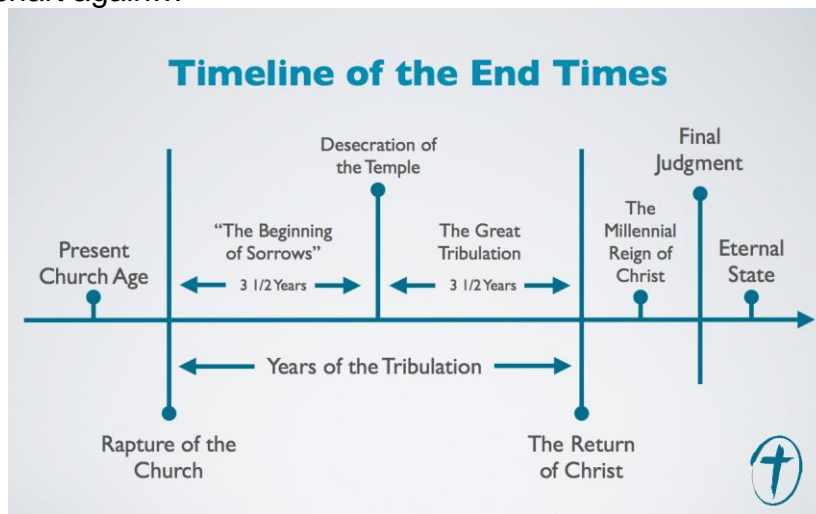
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egypt 2. Assyria 3. Babylon 4. Medo-Persia 5. Greece 6. Rome 7. ????? 8. Antichrist 	<p>10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space.</p> <p>11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goes into perdition.</p> <p>12 And the ten horns which thou saw are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.</p>
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Kingdoms 6, 7 & 8 Are Related To The 4th Beast Of Dan. 7

The way scholars break these kingdoms up points back to Egypt as the first great kingdom and then Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and then the 7th...that’s the kingdom of the Tribulation...which initially the Antichrist will let nations continue to have kings/heads of state...but, they will give their power to him...in essence a sort of amalgamated kingdom that’s Global kingdom... Kind of reminds me of the EU of today... But ultimately, there will be an 8th king...the Antichrist. And Daniel saw this in Daniel 2, when he interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of this statue...



The head of gold: Babylon. The breast of silver: Persia. The thighs of brass: Greece. The legs of iron: Rome. And then the feet of iron and clay...a kingdom formed from the mixing of religious and political power and I believe this is the kingdom of the Antichrist and it will be destroyed by the rock that hits that religious and political kingdom and demolishes it (that's the return of Jesus at the end of the Battle of Armageddon to set up His Millennial Kingdom as **the true King of Kings and Lord of Lords**). See the chart again...



The Tribulation is followed by the Millennial Kingdom. Now let me ask you something...do you believe the people will the people follow the Antichrist? You bet they will...

Revelation 17:15

¹⁵ And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages."

The people follow the Antichrist...they believe he is a good guy and he's allowed them to believe whatever they want...COEXIST. But not any more! It's here that the Antichrist will turn on the prostitute (all these religions)...and He'll convince the kings of the world...the power brokers who have given their allegiance that they must destroy anyone who doesn't follow him...in essence the prostitute must be destroyed.

Revelation 17:16

¹⁶ And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,

The Antichrist has achieved what he's wanted...world power and adoration...and now he will accept nothing less than total allegiance. So, he destroys all religion except worship of him! But, I want you to see something that's quite amazing! God uses the Antichrist as a pawn to destroy all of the false religions of the world once and for all...

Revelation 17:17-18

¹⁷ for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

By the midpoint of the Tribulation...Coexist is gone...



now all religious power is in the hands of the Antichrist. And it's here that the Antichrist has to be feeling really good about himself... He's in absolute control of a one-world religion, one-world government and a one-world economy... If you want to buy or sell or trade, you must have his mark, 666. But, something happens to his economic power in Revelation 18.

Revelation 18:1-3

¹ After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. ² And he called out with a mighty voice,

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

³ For all nations have drunk

the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."

You see, church family, this false religious system has made the Antichrist and the leaders of the world (who have given their allegiance to him) filthy rich...luxurious living...lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. And this can be very enticing even to the believers...those who are saved during the Tribulation. John describes a voice from heaven that I believe is none other than Jesus Himself: "Don't be enticed by this sin..."

Revelation 18:4-8

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,
“Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
⁵ for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
⁶ Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
⁷ As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,
since in her heart she says,
‘I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.’
⁸ For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

Listen, even as believers, Satan seeks to tempt. He always will until he is destroyed by Jesus and thrown in the Lake of Fire. He seeks to tempt today believers, (and he will during the Tribulation), with sexual pleasure, materialism, the “wine of passion.” Jesus says from heaven: “Don’t drink it.” That’s what Jesus says to us today. Don’t drink the poison!

You know we’re to walk that fine line and be in the world, but not of the world. Don’t you know how hard this will be during the Tribulation period for the believers. The world will be so evil...being run by the Antichrist. I hear the words of Ephesians 5 echoing in my mind. See the screens. Read carefully with me...

Ephesians 5:3-12

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

Are you living in darkness? We are to walk in the light! We are to live as children of obedience, not disobedience...we’re not to be the ones that says anything goes...no...there are absolutes...there are truths Jesus taught us to live by. Don’t let people deceive with empty words...we’re to be the people that live like Jesus lived...we’re not to take part in the unfruitful works of sin and

darkness...we're to expose the darkness with our light. Let's do that church! Jesus is worthy of our obedience!

Now watch what happens to the kingdom of darkness...the Antichrist's kingdom. Watch what happens to his economic system. It's all going to come crashing down around him and all those who follow him... Judgment will come like the dropping of a sledgehammer, very quickly...

Revelation 18:9-13

⁹ And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. ¹⁰ They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!
For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, ¹² cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

Did you know as John was writing at the end of the 1st century that approximately 1/3 of the people living under Roman domination were slaves...church family, that's approximately 60,000,000 people in the Roman Empire were slaves. Historians tell us 10,000 slaves were auctioned every day in Rome to the highest bidder. And this will be happening again in the last half of the Tribulation “slaves, that is human souls!” I can only imagine that the majority of these because of the blatant sexual immorality will be part of a horrible sex-trafficking trade.

But, all this is coming to an end. The Stock Markets across the world will collapse. And this is beyond anything that's ever been seen. People's bank accounts are decimated. The one-world economy and one-world currency will be bankrupt, worthless. Watch...

Revelation 18:14-19

¹⁴ “The fruit for which your soul longed
has gone from you,
and all your delicacies and your splendors
are lost to you,
never to be found again!”

¹⁵ The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

¹⁶ “Alas, alas, for the great city
that was clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!

¹⁷ For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off¹⁸ and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

“What city was like the great city?”

¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,

“Alas, alas, for the great city
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!

For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

It's all over! The collapse of the Antichrist's one-world economy is now complete! People under the Antichrist's rule, who have taken his mark are left reeling. He's lied to them. He's deceived them! They thought he was going to be their Savior and bring them prosperity...and he did...but only for a moment...just like the temporary pleasure Satan's offers on a rug...right before he pulls out the rug from under you...leaving with nothing...as he stands their laughing and mocking at you. It's a sad scene on earth. But, not in heaven! **See verse 20.**

Revelation 18:20-24

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!”

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence,
and will be found no more;

²² and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters,
will be heard in you no more,
and a craftsman of any craft
will be found in you no more,
and the sound of the mill
will be heard in you no more,

²³ and the light of a lamp
will shine in you no more,
and the voice of bridegroom and bride
will be heard in you no more,
for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,
and of all who have been slain on earth.”

Church family, what we've seen tonight is how Satan is going to use religion and business to seek to persecute and destroy the people of God during the Tribulation. During the first half of the Tribulation, as the Antichrist rises to power, he will use religion to help him gain economic power, position and authority. But, all of this will come tumbling down upon him, and just as Satan was kicked out of heaven... God is going to kick over Satan's house of cards on this earth as the Tribulation comes to a close...Satan's kingdom is going to implode. AND...It's going to be terrible for those who have the mark of the Antichrist. They are going to lose everything...BUT, for those who have placed their trust in Jesus...they can rejoice...and God is going to vindicate them.

The important question for us here tonight is this: Are you a citizen of Babylon the kingdom of darkness or of heaven, the kingdom of light? To which kingdom do you belong? Which lady...the harlot...or the bride? I pray, if you don't know Jesus, you will trust Him and become part of His wonderful bride and be saved from the destruction to come upon Satan and his kingdom.