

Passage: Revelation 18:1-24

Title: The Destruction of Babylon & the World's Economic Center

Summary: In 1 hour, the world's economic system that man had placed all their trust in will be destroyed. Although the last days is when this happens, God gives us a clear calling today of what and where to place our treasures. Join us for a fascinating chapter of the Bible.

Revelation 18 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated 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!" 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." 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. 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.' 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. 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.' 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!' 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.' ²⁰ "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" 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. 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. 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."

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap / Filler Information – Not in Chronological Order / Span whole 7 Year Period

Chapters 17 and 18 is filler information of what is going on during the 7 year Tribulation period. These 2 chapters are not in chronological order of the book, rather they give commentary on things that are happening over the whole span of the 7 year period.

Babylon – Political/Economic & Spiritual / Should read Together

These 2 chapters deal with Babylon. There is a political and economic Babylon, and a spiritual Babylon spoken of here in Revelation 17 and 18. We looked at the spiritual Babylon in chapter 17 last week, and this week in chapter 18 we will look at the economic Babylon. Really these 2 chapters should be read and studied together because they are so overlapping, but we will do just a chapter a week.

Additional Study

For more study (on this place called Babylon) you should read Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 51-52, and Revelation 17-18 all in one sitting. In Isaiah and Jeremiah it speaks of the total destruction of Babylon which is an event yet future, and the evil behind all false religions (Satan).

Highlight of Chapter 17 / Harlot because Used and Abused

Let me just give the highlights of chapter 17 for refresher. Chapter 17, the One-World religious system of

the Tribulation period will begin with a uniting of all the faiths (easier to do now the Church has been Raptured), as the charismatic Anti-christ will draw and point people to it; but half way through the Tribulation period, at the Mid-Tribulation point the Anti-christ will say he is the God of this religious system, and demand all people to worship him, thus destroying that religious system after it served his purposes. The religious system based in Rome will appear to control the European coalition of the revived Roman Empire—but only for a certain season, for these kings will ultimately turn against Rome and, after using her to gain control of the reigns of world power, will trash her. That's why Babylon is called a harlot in chapter 17. She's used, abused, and thrown away.

Study Points

In our study today we will address 3 points:

1. Where is this Babylon located? (Literal or Figurative)
2. What is it all about? (Economic Center)
3. What does it mean to me today? (not getting wrapped up in the things of the World).

Outline: The Destruction of Babylon & the World's Economic Center

- It Will Be as God Said it Will Be (18:1-3)
- Come Out of Her; Do Not be Deceived by Her Allure (18:4-8)
- Human Reasoning, Ends in Bankruptcy (18:9-20)
- Better a Millstone, than to Cause a Child to Stumble (18:21-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

It Will Be as God Said it Will Be (18:1-3)

Revelation 18:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated 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! 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."

(Revelation 18:1 NKJV) After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

After these things" probably indicates a period of time passing before the final vision of God's judgment on the Babylon world system was given to John by still another angel. There is a sequence of things throughout this Book:

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV) – after the Revelation of Jesus Christ

¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place *after this*.

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV) – after the 7 Churches

¹ *After these things 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."*

Revelation 7:1 (NKJV) – after the Seals Judgement

¹ *After these things* I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

Revelation 18:1 (NKJV) – After destruction of False Religious System

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

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV) – After destruction of Babylon (World Economic Center)

¹ *After these things* I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

Revelation 20:3 (NKJV) – After Devel released from Bottomless Pit

³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But *after these things* he must be released for a little while.

Verse 1 - and the earth was illuminated with his glory. - Angel means messenger, and throughout this Book they bring a the great message of God. In chapter 14 the message of the everlasting gospel, Babylon will fall, and don't take the mark, nor worship this Beast and his image.

Revelation 14:6–11 (NKJV) ⁶ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." ⁸ And 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." ⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

I love this, for it isn't the angel perse that illuminates, it is the message they deliver. Now therefore, I feel that "this little light of mine", isn't that little after all. It is not me perse, but the message I deliver, and you as well:

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

(Revelation 18:2 NKJV) 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!"

18:2 – "fallen" – The Greek is in the aorist tense, which indicates a sudden event viewed as completed. - "a prison for every foul spirit" – We have seen demons bound at the Euphrates in Rev. 9:14.

(Revelation 18:3 NKJV) "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."

Every Nation – Far Reaching – Global

Verse 3 - For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication - every nation has interaction with Babylon, every nation is affected by Babylon.

Babylon mentioned 300 Times in Scripture

Mentioned more than three hundred times in Scripture, Babylon was founded on the plain of Shinar near the Euphrates River by Nimrod. The city came to its zenith under King Nebuchadnezzar at the height of the Babylonian Empire. The city walls were so great, that they could race 6 horses with chariots around the top of the great walls.

Literal Babylon? – Hard to Say / Spiritualized – Symbolic / Some think USA

Is it the literal city Babylon is hard to say, because as we read these 2 chapters it is clear that there is much spiritualizing applied. As for the One-World religion, the Babylon spoken of is spiritualized. As for chapter 18, the Babylon spoken of has been debated over the centuries as to whether it is a spiritual idiom (symbolic); the debate that it is the literal Babylon in Iraq has gained much momentum since the

overthrow of Saddam Hussein. Whereas, other has conjectured that it is New York City, or even the whole USA, others have said Rome, Tokyo, London, and the such. However there is a Biblical principle is to take things literal unless it is clearly a spiritualized mean.

Scriptures Supporting Literal Babylon

There are Scriptures that align to lead us to believe this is the literal city Babylon. Jeremiah 51 speaks of the utter destruction of Babylon, which we see here in Revelation 18. Babylon has been overthrown, trampled under, but never totally destroyed and left totally uninhabited as spoken of in these passages of Scriptures. Although destroyed by Alexander the Great in 330 B.C., there have always been small communities of inhabitants in Babylon. Isaiah, however, prophesied that not even shepherds and their flocks would hang out there, that it would simply be a place for weird birds and wild animals. Go on the web and you can see Babylon today as Saddam Hussein was in the process of rebuilding it. Saddam had architects from Japan come to help rebuild it, he invested hundreds of millions dollars in the process. Saddam's desire was for Babylon to be the center of the world, and he would be the reproduction of the Great Nebuchadnezzar:

(Jeremiah 51:26 NKJV) They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD.

(Isaiah 13:19 NKJV) And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Isaiah 13:20 NKJV) 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.

(Isaiah 13:21 NKJV) 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.

(Isaiah 13:22 NKJV) 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."

See Photos of Rebuilt Babylon**

Most Important – What means to Us / Spiritual Application

What is most important to us today isn't who this city literally is, but what it represents to us today, what it means to us, so we can apply the spiritual applications to our lives today, and I think what that is will become quite clear as we start to develop this.

Come Out of Her; Do Not be Deceived by Her Allure (18:4-8)

(Revelation 18:4 NKJV) 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.

Tribulation Saints / Stay Away

The voice from heaven speaks to those who become believers during the Tribulation. The church is already in heaven, but the Lord will still save souls—so many that in the Tribulation there will be a large number of people who finally understand the gospel message and are converted to Christ. To them, this clarion call comes from heaven, saying, "Stay away from Babylon." No doubt this is also a calling to not take the mark of the Beast, which will be required to do all buying and selling during this time.

Church History

As we look at church history and how each of the 7 churches represented a period of church history, here we are in the last period (Laodicea), where the church is "lukewarm".

1. Ephesus (means darling) - (Cross to 100AD) – Period of early church
2. Smyrna (means crushed) - (100-313) – period of intense persecution against the church
3. Pergamos (means mixed marriage) - (313-600) – the church mixed/married with the world/government
4. Thyatira (means continual sacrifice) - (600-1500) – the dark ages, continual sacrifice (cross not enough)
5. Sardis (means remnant) - (1500-1800) – Protestant Reformation, that ended with exclusion of Holy Spirit.
6. Philadelphia (means brotherly love) - (1800-ending now) – worldwide evangelism, love of the Word of God

7. Laodicea (means the people rule) - (has begun) – the church is mostly ineffective, lukewarm

I am rich and in need of nothing

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV) ¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ ‘I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’”

(Revelation 18:5 NKJV) "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

18:5 – “reached” – Lit. “glued together in a stack to heaven.” This is an interesting play on words pointing to Babel in Gen. 11:1-9.

- God measures time morally, not chronologically.

Tower Babel – The Sins have Made It / Greek – Assembling Together / How man Sees

The goal of the builders of the Tower of Babylon’s birthplace was to “build a tower whose top may reach unto heaven” (Genesis 11:4). In reality, the only thing that reached to heaven was their iniquity. The Greek here for that word reached is the assembling together of objects, just like the tower of Babel, they reached into heaven, but not as they thought they would. Amazing how different reality really is, from what we think, and how God sees it.

(Revelation 18:6 NKJV) "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.

Her Payback will Be Double

Babylon is about to receive twice the wrath and destruction ever perpetrated by her.

(Revelation 18:7 NKJV) "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.'

(Revelation 18:8 NKJV) "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.

Refuses to see Needs of those Suffering

She who has had interaction with all nations and with whom all nations have been involved in fornication now says, “I’m a queen, not a widow. I’m neither impoverished nor in need of anything.” The implications is that she refuses to see the sorrow around her, she is so absorbed in her luxuries and high living that she refuses to see those that are starving, those that are suffering in this great time of Tribulation.

God Sees her Differently / Same for Man

“You claim to be a queen and you see no sorrow. But I look at you differently,” declares God. “You’re going to be judged thoroughly.” A story of many of men today, they refuse to see themselves honestly, as God see them, and they live a life of self-deception, ignoring the fact they are wretched, naked, and poor, but because of their luxuries they possess they think they are well off.

Human Reasoning, Ends in Bankruptcy (18:9-20)

(Revelation 18:9 NKJV) "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,

(Revelation 18:10 NKJV) "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.'

Stand Far Off – Afraid to Come Near / Nuclear Fallout

Not wanting to be tormented with the same torment with which Babylon is tormented, the kings of the earth will lament and mourn—but “standing afar off”—at a safe distance. The utter destruction of a city like Babylon taking place in one hour would most likely be the result of a nuclear exchange—the fallout of which would help explain why the kings of the earth “stand afar off.”

Day of Writing / Impossible destroy in 1 Hour / Old Commentaries

At the time of this writing, 2000 years ago, it was impossible to destroy a major city in one hour, the Apostle John writing this must have been blown away. Today, a nuke can do this with no problem. It is fun to read old commentaries from just 100 years ago, and read those teachers say I have no idea how this could happen, but it will.

(Revelation 18:11 NKJV) "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

Not Poor Babylon – My Poor Wallet

No one is saying, “Oh, those poor people in Babylon.” No, they’re saying, “Oh no, the world economy is wiped out.”

Bloomingdales Mall

And as the results of the destruction of Babylon are described, it feels as if we’re on a floor-by-floor tour of a huge department store like Saks Fifth Avenue or Bloomingdale’s....

(Revelation 18:12 NKJV) "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;

(Revelation 18:13 NKJV) "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.

All Luxuries – not Necessities

Please note not one of the aforementioned deals with life’s necessities. They’re all luxuries. Babylon specializes in materialism gone mad.

1st Floor

Revelation 18:12 (a) - First floor: Jewelry

The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls...

2nd Floor

Revelation 18:12 (b) - Second Floor: Clothing

...and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet...

3rd Floor

Revelation 18:12 (c) - Third Floor: Home Furnishings

...and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble.

4th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (a) - Fourth Floor: Cosmetics

And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense...

5th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (b) - Fifth Floor: Food Court

...and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep...

6th Floor

Revelation 18:13 (c) - Sixth Floor: Automotive
...and horses, and chariots...

Basement

Revelation 18:13 (d) – The basement
...and slaves, and souls of men.

The word “slaves” literally meaning “bodies,” this is the basement—the Adult Bookstore. This is pornography, prostitution, and drugs.

All Luxuries – not Necessities

Again, please note not one of the aforementioned deals with life's necessities. They're all luxuries. Babylon specializes in materialism gone mad.

(Revelation 18:14 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 18:15 NKJV) "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

(Revelation 18:16 NKJV) "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!

(Revelation 18:17 NKJV) '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

(Revelation 18:18 NKJV) "and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

(Revelation 18:19 NKJV) "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.'

Wail because Financially Crushed / One City Impacts World – New York

They wail because they are financially crushed, who is going to buy our good now. Babylon is the city that drives world economy, so everyone who exported from or imported to her is saying, “Oh no! How will we buy and sell now?” One city destroyed, yet it will impact the whole world's trade and economy. That is why many people say the Babylon spoken of here is not literal but figurative, and it represents a city like New York, London, Tokyo, or Rome.

Location of Babylon – Long way from Sea

This passage is one that makes us wonder how could it be the literal Babylon, for it is not a sea port, and that is a far way for the merchant ships to see the smoke rising. My estimate is that it is about 300 miles inland. That would be like us seeing the smoke rising from New York City if it was it with a nuke.

Of course I'm always amazed as I read commentaries and have discussions and I do it myself where I go this can't be a literal city because I'm putting my human reasoning into the formula. I'm saying it's too far away from the Persian Gulf it's over 300 miles how could a ship see it from there but we sit with our human reasoning and don't say we know the Euphrates river is going to have to be dried up for armies to cross therefore that you were frates river can look totally different than it does to day it only takes a damn here and a dam there to change the whole dynamic of the Euphrates river and the tagger as river for that matter. You know the Euphrates river is actually deeper then are harbor in Baltimore and yet we don't have any problem saying the cargo ships can come up the Chesapeake Bay into the Baltimore harbor. But you know the Russians in the early 60s detonated a bomb nuclear that was so huge that it was seen in its plume 40 miles high which folks that is 6 times higher than we fly in an airplane and I want you to consider when you look out that window seat when you're at altitude how small the world is now imagining a nuclear plume the is 40 miles high how far away that could be seen to which I would say no problem from the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea or the Mediterranean Sea.

We read here in chapter 18 all the human reasoning in the world of why men will take a mark so that they can have their momentary pleasure the buy and sell rather than eternity in their view and in their vision.

But you know Christian human reasoning in your Christian faith will bankrupt you as well as you will fall short of all that the Lord has for you because you will limit the Lord and say that he cannot do that and then you put in your reasoning why he cannot do that. Ohh he cannot do that because it's too far away the Persian Gulf from Babylon to see that smoke oh that's too far away it's impossible that the Euphrates river could ever be turned into a shipping channel therefore it can't be Babylon it has to be something else like New York or Tokyo.

We can think we're being smart using logic but the fact is we remove the supernatural work of God by inserting the impossibility of this thing coming to pass. And new can make yourself spiritually bankrupt by using your human reasoning to limit God's supernatural work in your life. Is he God and if he is then he can do anything that he says he can do in your life personally.

(Revelation 18:20 NKJV) "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

World Weeps – Heaven Rejoices

The peoples' response to the destruction of Babylon is to weep and wail. But heaven's response is to rejoice. How differently the worlds perspective is on things compared to the heavenly perspective.

Only place the saints are told to rejoice in the Book of Revelation (chapters 6-19).

Better a Millstone, than to Cause a Child to Stumble (18:21-24)

(Revelation 18:21 NKJV) 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.

Yes how interesting I think this chapter 17 and 18 leading the children astray with the false religion convincing the children of materialism and to snake self the center of the world and just as the judgment Jesus said because one of them the stumble I'm going to put a millstone around your neck and throw you into the sea and this is the ultimate end of Babylon the great

Mark 9:42 (NKJV) ⁴² "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

(Revelation 18:22 NKJV) "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.

Now Jeremiah and Isaiah are fulfilled:

(Jeremiah 51:26 NKJV) They shall not take from you a stone for a corner Nor a stone for a foundation, But you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD.

(Isaiah 13:19 NKJV) And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

(Isaiah 13:20 NKJV) 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.

(Isaiah 13:21 NKJV) 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.

(Isaiah 13:22 NKJV) 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."

(Revelation 18:23 NKJV) "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.

Complete Destruction – Possible just like Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The entire life of the city comes to a complete, abrupt halt in the aftermath of what is most likely a nuclear exchange. To John, the destruction in a single hour of the economic capital of the world would have been unimaginable. To our culture, having seen even the infancy of nuclear warfare demonstrated at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, this is completely possible.

Drug Trafficking

Verse 23 - for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived – The word translated “sorceries” being pharmakeia, or “drugs.” Babylon’s identity is that this city has caught the entire world in her web of drug traffic. As we sit here today that seems a far cry from Babylon being the center of drug trafficking, but not hard to apply to the United States as we are the largest drug using cultural in the world. The drug trafficking industry in the US is in the hundreds of billions, right there with the billions of dollars made and spent on pornography. The number 1 money trading on the Internet is pornography.

(Revelation 18:24 NKJV) "And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Turning the Eye Away / Economy over human Rights

The blood of the saints is on Babylon’s head. Since 1900, an average of 250,000 born-again believers have been martyred every year. This issue is presently before our own Congress as the Christian community is saying the U.S. must take a stand—particularly as it relates to the nation of China, where the highest percentage of this type of persecution has taken place. But our country refuses to do this, instead granting China Most Favored Nation status in order that her 2.5 billion people can buy our cars and computers, and we can buy from her our cheap trinkets. Whoever this Babylon is, they will put economy over human rights. In the book of Jeremiah, God brought judgment against Israel, and among one of the reasons was that she turned her eye away to the needs of the widows and orphans, those who needed protection, Israel did not aid, so God brought judgment. 40 million abortions in 40 years in the USA.

Application for Us – Come out of Her

(Revelation 18:4 NKJV) 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."

God says Separate / Heavenly Citizenship – Aliens / We are Separated by Blood of Jesus

God says for us to separate ourselves from this world, unto Him. We have a heavenly citizenship, we are aliens in this foreign land, does the world see us as that way. The Lord doesn’t remember our sins as He does the sins of the world for we have been washed in the precious blood of Jesus, and how that makes us different from the world.

God Calling us Out – that Means Separation / Lie of Satan not being Legalism

Based on this, God is calling us out to a relationship with Him, and that means separation from the world. People often ask the question, what does the Bible say about this, or that, and what they really are asking is how close to the world can I live and still be saved. Christian don’t fall for the Satan mind play, oh if you say don’t do this then people are going to say legalism, rules and regulation, stuffy religion.

People Worried about Giving Up – have it All Wrong / Not Separation From – but “UNTO”

People who are worried about what they have to give up, have got it all wrong, and maybe that is you; if in your mind you think you are telling people what they have to “give up”, then you have it all wrong too, even if your aren’t doing those things. Separation is not about what I have to give up - **Separation to God is not separating from, but separating unto!** The call is to be separated unto a love relationship with your Creator, your Father.

What are you Really Giving Up – Amazing What He Gave Up

Giving up, what are you giving up, really what is it that you are giving up? God gave His Son up for you, what is it that you are giving up that compares to that? The amazing thing truly is what He gave up for us. He left His throne in heaven, became man, took on the guilt and shame of sin, then stretched His arms

out upon a wooden cross, and let spikes pierce His hands, and the Author of Life, gave His life, because we became so confused by our sin, that we became confused on what life really was.

The Author of Life – Secured our Eternity / All I want for You is GOOD / Separating Unto

The Author of Life, secured our eternal life, and then says the life I have for you is not only there (in Heaven), but let me show you a life here, for all that I ever have for you, all I ever want for you, is that very best. What have we given up for Him? This separation we are called to isn't separating from, but to, and when you see that, the separating from will naturally happen.

ALL GOING TO BURN IN 1 HOUR

Whatever that thing is that you don't want to give up, that possession, that position, that lust, that pleasure, in one hour it is all going to burn.

Dietrich Reinhold

A story was told of Dietrich Reinhold, a man known throughout his community to be very wealthy. One night he went to sleep in his huge mansion, only to wake up a couple hours later in a cold sweat, frightened by a dream in which an angel appeared to him, saying, "At midnight, the richest man in the valley shall die." That's me, thought Reinhold, and he sent a servant to quickly fetch the doctor. The doctor came hastily, listened to Dietrich's story, and sat with him until the clock struck twelve. When the last bell sounded, just as Dietrich was breathing a huge sigh of relief, he heard a pounding on his door. He opened it to find one of his servants. "Master! Master Reinhold! Hans has just died!" And suddenly Dietrich Reinhold understood that Hans, the servant who was known throughout the region as one who loved the Lord, was the richest man in the village.

IN 1 HOUR / Fools to be Rich on Earth – Paupers in Heaven

Dear friend, in one hour—and the hour could be very soon—your entire empire, however big or small it might be, could burn. That is why Jesus said we are fools if we're rich on earth but paupers in heaven.

100 Years Ago – South Seas Shipwreck

One hundred years ago, a sailor shipwrecked in the South Seas found himself washed to the shore of a small island. The natives took one look at his white skin and made him their god. "This is my lucky day!" thought the sailor. But after six months of being treated like a king and learning the customs of the people, he was shocked to discover that each god served for one year, only to be sacrificed at the end of the year to the next god. So seeing a bigger picture than living the life of luxury for the next six months, what did this guy do? He set his subjects to work on building a boat. When it was completed five and a half months later, he got on it and sailed away. A story on opposite of that is:

Confederate Spy – Rose O'Neal Greenhow / 200K in Gold

A Confederate spy during the Civil War, Rose O'Neal Greenhow received two thousand dollars in gold as payment for her memoirs and boarded a ship home with the gold sewn into the hem of her dress and petticoats. Sailing on the blockade-runner Condor, she reached the mouth of the Cape Fear River just outside Wilmington, North Carolina, when a Union ship gave chase, forcing the Condor aground. Rose, fearing capture and reimprisonment, persuaded the captain to send her and two companions ashore in a lifeboat; but in stormy seas, the small vessel overturned. The ship sank, and so did Rosie to a wet grave.

What would happen if – Next 6 Month / World lose it Grip / If Can't Live without It – Get rid of It

Gang, what would happen if we said, "Since Babylon is all going to burn, why don't I do something radical and spend the six months I have left to prepare for eternity? I'll use whatever I have on this earth for God's glory by giving it away or sharing it with others"? If that were truly our mind-set, we'd gladly lend our little brother our new CD player or our friend our new car. You see, the problem doesn't lie with material possessions. The problem only arises when we grasp them too tightly or when they keep us from fellowshiping with our Lord or loving our neighbor. If you have something in your life that you say I just can't let go of it, I can't live without out, go home and get rid of right now, that thing has you.

Send it Ahead

How do we disentangle our hearts from the things of Babylon and focus on the things of heaven? By putting our treasure there, by giving stuff away, by helping people out, by doing whatever we can to be as generous as we can possibly be. We set our hearts on heaven not by building bigger barns, but by becoming bigger people in light of eternity. Gang, even if the Rapture doesn't happen in our lifetime (which I am convinced it will), the riches you have generously dispensed on earth in obedience to the Spirit will make you rich in heaven because you've been obedient to the Spirit of God. Lay your treasures up in heaven. Where your treasure is where your heart will be.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ "No one 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.

Matthew 6:31–34 (NKJV) ³¹ "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Worship the Babe

Be like the wise man who searched out Jesus the babe, lay treasures at His feet, worship Him:

(Matthew 2:9 NKJV) When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

(Matthew 2:10 NKJV) When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

(Matthew 2:11 NKJV) And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In One Hour it is all going to Burn!

Outline: The Destruction of Babylon & the World's Economic Center

- It Will Be as God Said it Will Be (18:1-3)
- Come Out of Her; Do Not be Deceived by Her Allure (18:4-8)
- Human Reasoning, Ends in Bankruptcy (18:9-20)
- Better a Millstone, than to Cause a Child to Stumble (18:21-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need