

Bibles to the Book of [Revelation](#), the 18th chapter, and is our custom we'll read through the verses, and it will come back and look at these at depth and at length to see the depth the God wants us to draw from. Now it's interesting because in a study like the Book of [Revelation](#), unlike a lot of the other letters in the New Testament, some of the other books which are just filled with application for our lives, sometimes you have to look pretty close in some of the books in [Revelation](#) to draw that out. And today there will be some application here certainly, and the Lord will probably speak your heart about that, and if he doesn't then I'm helping him a little bit and pointing some of this out. So let's jump in.

[Revelation](#) chapter 18, beginning in verse 1. Remember, this is [John](#) the Apostle, he's on exile and I am the Patmos almost 2000 years ago. Holy Spirit is inspiring him through these visions about the end times. And this is what he sees.

Verse 1 says, after all this, I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority and the earth grew bright with his splendor. He gave a mighty shout, babble on his fallen, that great city is fallen. She has become a home for demons. She has a hideout for every foul spirit, a hideout for every foul culture and every foul and dreadful animal.

All the nations have fallen because of the line of her passion and morality. The kings of the world have committed adultery with her because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich. Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins or you will be punished with her.

For her sins are piled as high as heaven and God remembers her evil deeds. Due to her, she has done to others. Double her penalty for all her evil deeds. She brewed a cup of terror for others, so brute-wise as much for her.

She glorified herself in the living luxury, so match it now with torment and sorrow. She boasted in her heart, I am queen on my throne. I am no helpless widow and I have no reason to mourn. Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day, death and mourning and famine.

She will be completely consumed by fire. For the Lord God who [Judges](#) her is mighty. In the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury, will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. They will see or they will stand in a distance, terrified by her great torment.

They will cry out how terrible, how terrible for you, oh babble on you great city. In a single moment, God's judgments came on you. These are the world we mourn and weep for her. For there is no one left to buy their goods.

She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels and pearls, fine linen, purple silk, and scarlet cloth. Things made of fragrant, tine wood. Ivory goods, nobgicks made of precious and expensive wood, and bronze, iron and marble. She also bought cinnamon spikes, incense, murr, frankincense wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots and bodies.

That is human slaves. Verse 14 says, The fancy things you love so much are gone they cry. All your luxuries and splendor are gone forever, never to be yours again. The merchants who became wealthy by selling her these things will stand in a distance, terrified by her great torment.

And they will weep and cry out. How terrible, how terrible for that great city. She was clothed with finest purple and scarlet linens decked out with gold and precious stones and pearls. In a single moment all the wealth of the city is gone.

And all the captains of the merchant ships and their passengers and sailors and crews will stand at a distance. They will cry out as they watch the smoke of sin and they will say, Where is there another city as great as this? And they will weep and throw dust on their heads to show their grief. And they will cry out, How terrible, how terrible for that great city.

The ship owners became wealthy by transporting her great wealth on the seas. In a single moment it is all gone. Rejoice over her fatal heaven and the people of God and apostles and prophets. For the last God has judged her for your sakes.

Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the sides of a huge millstone. He threw it into the ocean and shouted, Just like this the great city of Babylon will be thrown down with violence and will never be found again. Sound of harps, singers, flutes and trumpets will never be heard in you again. No craftsmen, no trades will ever be found in you again.

The sound of the mill will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The happy voices of brides and grooms will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the greatest in the world and you deceived the nations with your sorceries.

And finally verse 24 says, In your streets flow the blood of the prophets and of God's holy people and the blood of people slaughtered all over the world. Wow. So heavy duty imagery and heavy duty text again, right? I mean all of them may have the bloodshed of the spoken of there at the end of that.

It just seems so overwhelming and so surreal. Many people think this is all symbolic. Speaking of spiritual truths and certainly portions of it are symbolically. Not as communicating spiritual truth through some of these metaphors and some of the symbols.

But so much of what is happening here, the judgment that God brings on a fallen God rejecting world is certainly real. Now as we turn our attention back to the start of this chapter again, I want to point something out to you last week in chapter 17, we looked at Babylon. Today we're looking at Babylon but it's not the same Babylon. I'll tell you why.

Remember we spent time tracing back the origins of what is known as Babylon all the way back to [Genesis](#). When we found the nations of the world, the peoples of the world coming together, basically trying to use Serp God's position in authority. Nimrod led them. And by the way, his name means we will rebel.

And that's exactly what he did was leading the people in rebellion against God. Of course, they were trying to build the tower of Babel, right? It's interesting to note that that name, Babel, that Bob in the Hebrew means gate and L, of course, means God, so gate to God. They were trying to basically get the God on their terms and defining God the way they thought they should define him or how they perceived who he was.

And remember the downfall of Babylon here in [Revelation](#) 17 was the fact that a world religious system will be in place and a malgommation of all these religions who've rejected the truth of God's word. Those people are not found to be part of the

body of Christ or part of this false religious system during the last days or in the seventh of Tribulation. And it seemed like she was in a great position of authority. She even seemed to have authority and sway over the Antichrist, but we know that the Antichrist ultimately, after he was able to use her for his means, that he turns on her.

And he destroys that religious system about three and a half year period of Tribulation hours. So the final three and a half years, Antichrist has set himself up. He's committed the abomination of desolation in the Holy of Holies and the temple and is declared that he is God and that people should worship him. That's exactly what happens during that time frame.

Now, what we see here then is Babylon, but not the religious element of Babylon, which again tracing back to [Genesis](#) 10, we know that that was the foundation of all false religions and false teachings, all this stuff, we can trace all the way back there. But we find here, after the fall and the judgment of the religious system, we're going to see here then, even though their interconnected intertwine is God's judgment on Babylon, the commercial element of the world, the financial and markets of the world. And it's interesting to note that isn't it funny that it's people's tendencies to find security and stability and finances. And in a nice home, in a nice [Job](#), but you know you're going to get a decent paycheck, right?

Well, God, I believe, can speak to our hearts about not putting too much stock in those things when our focus should totally be on him, our dependence should totally be on him. So as we begin our study today, [Revelation](#) 18, we'll work our way through quickly. I'm really hoping to get through this. So we're going to go fast, hang on to your huggies.

Some of this stuff is self-explanatory, but we find this in verse 1, then, it's being of the reality of this judgment that comes on this commerce, system of commerce in the tribulation hour. And this should be towards the end of the tribulation hour, by the way, in its setting. After this, I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority and the earth grew bright with this splendor. So there's an angel with authority.

Excuse me, a goddess given this angel authority to come down and deliver to proclaim a message. And the amazing thing is, he's come from God's presence. So he shines with the glory of the presence of God. And that's what illuminates when he descends to give this proclamation.

It's from the glory of God shining on him that that is reflected on the earth. It's interesting to note that, of course, Moses, when he went up on Mount Sinai as he was in God's presence, when he came back down off the mountain, the radiance of God's glory radiated from him. You know that even the creation, for example, the sun, we know that the sun is bright. When the sun's up, you see it.

At night time, when there's a full moon in its cloudless, how beautifully bright that is, well, we know that that's not the moon in itself. It doesn't have any character to it that creates this brightness. It's a reflection, the brightness of the sun off of this thing we call the moon. And that's what God wants us to do.

Here's the application, folks, as Christians, God wants His glory and the reality of His presence in our life to radiate from us so that people see Jesus. When we conclude our service is every Sunday, what's one of the things that I say as part of the [Numbers](#) thing? May the Lord bless you and keep you, may He cause His face to

shine upon you, as He shines upon you, let Him shine in and through and out of you. So that wherever you go, you go, people will see Jesus, the light of the world.

So let's let the glory of God radiate through us just like it was radiating off this angel. So the world will behold this. First two says, He gave a mighty shout. Now here's His proclamation.

Babylon is fallen. That great city is fallen. So there's two times He says that Babylon is fallen. It could be that the first one speaks of the religious Babylon has been judged in his fallen.

And now Babylon, speaking of the commercial world, is fallen as well. But it also could be just for just emphasis. Wow, how dramatic the scene is, it's fallen, it's fallen. It says this because of this should become a home for demons, not good.

She's a hideout for every foul spirit, a hideout for every foul, vulture, and every foul and dreadful animal. Now remember the setting here, folks, we're in the tribulation hour. The presence of the Holy Spirit through the body of Christ is gone. That restraining element of the Holy Spirit through the church is gone.

Why? Because we were raptured. We'll be raptured before the 73rd C. [Daniel](#) begins.

The time of Jacob's trouble. The Holy Spirit still here, convicting people of their need for Jesus Christ into accepting because people still have to accept Jesus as their savior to have eternal life. But that unique work of the Holy Spirit through the church is no longer here. So when things give themselves over to the enemy, to demonic spirits, guess what happens?

They fall. Satan's genius, the steel, and the kill and destroy. So that's what happens here. The habitation becomes a home for demons, a hideout for every foul spirit.

A vulture is a nasty bird. It's a non-clean bird. And we know what vultures do. What do they do?

They look for dead animals to feast on. So speaking of death, right? And every foul and dreadful animal. So that's the state.

And God's painting a vivid picture of spiritual reality here. Verse 3 says, for all the nations have fallen. Why? Because of the wine of a passionate immorality, the kings of the world have committed adultery with her.

Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich. So what has happened all the nations have fallen? Why? Because they were seduced.

They were drawn in by the attractive nature of what that commerce, that commercial system had to offer. Look, luxury. You'll be well taken care of. You know the part of the tribulation hour will be a period when the world and probably the financial system in the markets will be off the charts greater than world has ever seen.

There will be a time of prosperity like the world has never known. And wow, will that be easy for people to get sucked into that? Now it's interesting to note today that of course our economic system is not doing so hard. It was just a year ago when we went through our prophecy update that we were looking at the fact that our own

president, President Obama and also Sarkozy from France, Gordon Brown from Great Britain, a lot of these world leaders, just a year ago because of the economic situation we're calling for what?

A push towards a one-world economic system. You may not have heard a lot about it lately, but folks believe you mean it's ongoing. Now it's interesting to note, what is it that could bring America to a place that we would need to be part of a one-world system like that? Are any of these countries that have fared pretty well?

Probably an economic collapse. That's the one thing that truly would, besides war, stuff like that. But when economies fall, if all the economies were to fall, boy, bring us to a neutral or a flat playing field, wouldn't it? Hey, we just got all get along now.

And in the midst of something like that, a scenario like that, what an environment for somebody like this character is going to be the world leader, the anti-Christ, come on the scene and have a strategy or something to implement, they will revive the economies. And that's probably what's going to happen. And in a short time, the economies will come roaring back and the world will be focused on this and looking for security in finances. Guess what?

Again, that's what we have a tendency to do. Let's say I continue to speak your heart about where your treasure is, because where your treasure is, like Jesus said, there your heart will be also. So it speaks again of the wine of her passion and morality. She's, they're drunk on it.

They've been seduced. The kings of the world have committed adultery. So they're not going to be faithful to anything that's right to certainly not the things of God. So they've committed adultery with her because of what the desire for extravagant luxury they're enticed by what she has to offer.

But what has happened? The merchants of the world have grown rich. So by the worldly standards, they're probably all going, look at my bling, I got it going on, yo. I don't know if that's what they'll say.

Maybe something similar. They probably have grills, you know, with the gold everywhere. Oh man, don't get me going. Pants on a grant.

No, sorry. Look at that whoo. I'm so sorry. Anyway, verse four tells us this.

Now this is something we do adhere to. Then I heard another voice calling from heaven. Listen to this, folks. Come away from her, my people.

Do not take part in her sins or you will be punished with her. Now this is interesting, right? The Lord is not addressing the church as we know the church because the church is gone. But there are those during the tribulation hour who receive Jesus as their Savior, right?

The majority of them will lose their lives because of that commitment to God. But that system will have an influence on the people who've accepted Jesus during that time frame. And he's warning them, look, don't be enticed. Don't let it dry you in.

Don't let it suck you in because if you do, you will be punished by letting that become your idol, be letting that become your God. Now think about our lives, right? Doesn't God say the same to us? Come away from her.

Come away from the world. Come away from those things they're not of God. Those things are corrupted. Now I want you to understand something.

We know we live in a world system where you have to have money to survive as part of the deal. God has a lot to say. Jesus has a lot to say about the stewardship of finances because it communicates what's at our heart, right? What is our motivation?

What matters most to us? And God says if we're good stewards of those things that He's given us, they will be evident in our lives because Jesus will be preeminent. He'll be seated on the throne of our hearts. And as a result of that, we'll be wise stewards of what God has given us.

Now I want you to turn with me to [Matthew](#) chapter 6. Let's draw some more application from this. There would be a relevant to us certainly today. There's spiritual principles, spiritual truth here that is relevant to you and I today, folks, that have eternal consequence and you need to pay attention to this.

Jesus, of course, this is Him teaching what is called the sermon on the mountain. It probably lasted several days, by the way. It wasn't just one setting and He expanded on many things. And one of the things that He teaches on in [Matthew](#) chapter 6 beginning in verse 19 is on finances, on money.

And about good stewardship, look what He says. Verse 19 says, don't store up treasures here on earth. We're moss eat them and rust destroys them and we're the thieves break in and steal. That's possibility, isn't it?

Anybody ever had their house broken into? I know you guys had your cabin broken into and people stole stuff, didn't they? I think the Lord He got most of them back. That was awesome.

But there's a violation that occurs there, right? So our stuff is not safe here in this world anyway. Verse 20 says, store your treasures in where? Heaven.

In God's presence. Store your treasures in heaven where moss and rust cannot destroy and thieves cannot break in and steal. Now look at verse 21, wherever your treasure is, the desires of your heart will also be. Whatever matters most to you that's where your heart desires to spend time.

That's what you focus on. Doesn't happen there so you'd be money. Guess what? If Jesus is your treasure, your heart will be also.

You'll be focused on Him. You'll be focused on the things of God. So important. Now God wants us to know that we can, guys.

We can and be good stewards of what God has given us in this world. Store up treasures in heaven. I love that burlap casual song. Store up treasures in heaven.

I love to do that someday in worship team. That's an awesome song. Based on this passage of the word. The reality is because of our hearts, because of our motivations, because of the spiritual truth and the spiritual reality that exists, that when we are faithful with what God has given us, including our finances, we're investing into the things of God for His glory, into the local fellowships, into missions, and helping promote the truth of God's word in His kingdom.



God says, you're storing of treasures in heaven and you will get reward for that sometime in heaven. Isn't that amazing to know that? That is a spiritual and a spiritual truth. But the heart of that is motivation.

Our motivation should never get to be why, man, I want to pile this stuff. No. The glory of God to bring honor to the name of Jesus Christ, to lift up and exalt the Lord. That's what matters.

That should be our motivation knowing that God has given us a role of stewardship, because it is ours anyway, folks. It is ours. But you know what I've seen? I've seen people, whether they're rich or people that are poor in this country.

And guess what? Our standard of poor is nothing like the standard of poor in third world countries. You know, every home in this country that's considered to be poor. Most people have cell phones, a couple of TV, satellite dish.

I mean, you go to a third world country. Never got a missions trip. Do it. It will change your life.

When you're in a third world country in that environment, it's had a profound effect on me. And we're going to be doing something like that again in a not too distant future. We praying for that. But it's worth it to go on a short-term missions trip.

It's amazing. The impact it has. So the issue at hand here is stewardship, right? And God is not against you having finances, even having decent things.

But if they contend with your affections, if what matters most to you is your money and those type of things, guess what? God says you'll stand accountable too for that because you've raised up an idol above Him in your heart and your life. So we need to pray for God to help us to be good stewards of what He's blessed us with. Look at verse 5, for her sins are piled as high as heaven.

That's speaking, of course, of the world's system and also the people who bought into it for her sins are piled as high as heaven. And God remembers our evil deeds. Isn't that amazing? God remembers their evil deeds.

Why? Because they haven't been covered by the blood of the Lamb. You know what God's word tells us? That is Christians?

When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we accept His provision of redemption, that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all in righteousness, that all the sins that we've ever committed are covered by the blood of Jesus and the Lord remembers Him no more. As far as the Jesus is from the West, right? And you've heard this before, but it's true. You could literally, if you've blown it and you follow God's prescription, [John 1 John 1](#), 9, that if you could fetch your sin, that He is faithful and just forgive us for our sins and the cleans of all in righteousness, you go before Him and say, Lord, remember that horrible thing I did a couple of weeks ago that I just have a trouble really forgiving myself or He'll say, I don't know what you're talking about.

Even though He's omniscient and He knows everything, part of His omniscient's part of His nature and character is He can forget that and it is God. He doesn't make a recording or a memory of that. Why? Because the blood of Jesus cleanses us from that.

Boy, that's an awesome thing to know that, isn't that cool? The grace of God covers us, but as it relates to the people here, they're accountable for their sins because they've rejected God's truth and they stand before Him. League of her six, due to her, she has done to others. Double her penalty for all her evil deeds.

She brewed a cup of terrors for others, so brewed twice as much for her. Wow, that's heavy. I thought Jesus said, to love your enemies, right? It's not an eye for an eye, it's love your enemies.

What's going on here then? Boy, sounds a lot like the Old Testament, doesn't it? Well, guess what? This is a reminder again that the reason we see how the Jewishness, all the He breaks stuff in the Book of [Revelation](#) from chapter 4 on is because as is God dealing with the nation of Israel primarily and a world that has rejected God's, you see a lot of He break terminology.

And here's an interesting thing. Jesus did tell us who are part of the body of Christ to love your neighbors as yourself. To love your enemies. Don't harbor ill, forgive people.

Follow the model that Jesus gave us to do on others as you would have them do to you. So why is it saying here, hey, double her penalty for evil deeds. Be part of the process of judgment. It's what's called an episcatory prayer.

And we find in the Book of [Psalms](#) and the Old Testament, you'll see that. Where David even, as some of the Old Testament saints call for God to judge their enemies, get them Lord. And that was part of the Old Covenant. And it was to communicate spiritual truth.

But you see that here, that episcatory prayer. It's not something that's part of the new covenant. It's not interesting to note, even though during the Tribulation Hour people except Jesus of the Lord and Savior, that's why this is happening. And also, it was common under the Old Testament that when a thief was caught, a thief was caught, what would they have to do?

Payback double. Double restitution for what they did. So that is a principle that you see carried over here. Verse 7 says, she glorified herself and lived in luxury.

So match it now with torment and sorrow. She boasted in her heart. I look at this. She boasted in her heart, I am a queen on my throne.

I am no helpless widow. And I have no reason to mourn. Look at the arrogance. You know what happens?

Not everybody. But when people are wealthy or people have position and power, sometimes there's an arrogance that comes with that. There's a pride that comes that. And a false security, folks, by the way, right?

The Word of God does tell us that pride comes before the fall. But God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble. You do see people in Hollywood. You do see people that are so really minded and so arrogant and so full of themselves think that you and I are a bunch of peons and a bunch of idiots for believing in the truth of God's Word.



I'll guarantee you on judgment day, they will regret the stand if they have made to impress them to a, oh, embraced. Thank you Lord. The things of this world. It's the truth though.

Can we edit that? Where it goes online? But it's the truth. We need a little comedy now again, right?

This is heavy stuff. So we needed something right there, I guess. But it's the truth. People do stand accountable.

We need to pray for these people who are arrogant. Because it's the enemy. That's the heart of the enemy. That's the way Satan was.

And she will boast again that I am a queen of my throne. She's saying, I'm invincible. I am no helpless. Where do I have no reason to mourn?

Nobody's going to take me down. Runo, you will stand to a reckoning. Verse 8 says, therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day. Think about it.

There's this world system that will exist. Whether Babylon in this case is speaking of a city by the way of a major city today that influences the world could be New York, it could be going all the way back to Iraq and Babylon and rebuilt. It could be. But it has to be a seaport from what we see here.

But it's also speaking again of the influence of that Babylonian heart on the world. Again, verse 8, therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day. Death and mourning and famine. She'll be completely consumed by fire for the Lord, God, who [Judges](#) her as mighty.

So all this rule of the empire that they've built, all this wonderful stuff they're hanging their hat on. God will take out like that. In the face of verse saying, I am on my throne. I am not a helpless widow.

I have no reason to mourn. She's certainly not invincible. Verse 9 says, and the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. So as this system is judged, by the way, guys, we may experience at some point an economic collapse.

And I don't know if you've been doing your homework on the state of our economy. Wow. We are so deep in debt, folks, by the reality is we're bankrupt. We're bankrupt.

We are so far in debt and our current administration is trying to take us to a point of more indebtedness that we'll never be able to get out of that hole. We need to be praying. Just like Bob said, we need to pray for our president and our administration to exercise wisdom and do it God's way. And I've mentioned this before, either these guys are completely incompetent and they don't have a clue when they're so committed to their agendas.

And this way of doing things, a liberal attitude and approach that they think it really will help or they know exactly what they're doing and they're purposely trying to run this economy into a ditch and bring us to a place of dependence upon our government. Instead of having our place the way it should be, the way God founded this nation through our founding fathers on the truths of God's Word, we need to pray that God restores this country. But there could be an economic collapse. We don't know what the timeframe is, but it could catch up to us in the hurry.

I've been reading some stuff by my major economic experts, not even necessarily Christian experts, but major players and movers in the market on Wall Street and other commentaries. And they're saying, wow, the issue is going to fall. And it's going to hit soon. And one thing we need to be looking for is hyperinflation.

That kicks in. Wow. But really, pray guys, we're living in an amazing day and age, we really are. Because our redemption draws nigh as the Word tells us.

But interestingly enough, here again, it sells, verse eight, verse nine, we move on. And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her enjoyed her great luxury will mourn again, as for her, as they see the smoke rising from her childhood remains. So wow, everything in the embrace of what they love, the luxury they experience, it's gone. Verse 10, they will stand at a distance terrified by her great torment.

Notice they're not right there in the middle of it. Let's back off here. I want to get away from this. Don't be too close.

They will cry out how terrible, how terrible for you, oh, Babylon, you great city. In a single moment, God's judgment came on you, bam, just like that. It came. God's might and His power.

Verse 11, the merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her for there is no one left to buy their goods, right? It's so desolated at that point. There will be no way to buy that. And it goes to in verses 12 and 13, a list of things, and I'm not going to read them out again.

We did that before, but it speaks of luxury. All these items are luxurious items. Some of them seem like staples, and they are, especially the food items, but historically speaking, these would've been luxuries. But in a day and age like the tribulation, if things are gone like that, but it will certainly seem like luxuries if you don't have something to eat.

Because there will be famine. There will be things going on. Verse 14 says, the fancy things you love so much are gone. They cry.

Are your luxuries and splinter a gone forever? Never to be yours again. You're only thinking back to that verse, verse 4, that talked about God's people coming out of her, not being enticed by that stuff. Revises me the Old Testament.

You know this guy named Lot? You guys remember the story of Lot? [Genesis](#) 19, where he said of shop by where Sodom and Gomorrah. Peter said that he was considered to be a preacher of righteousness and you're going, what?

Now Lot escaped the judgment that God brought on Sodom and Gomorrah because of his grace, because why Lot trusted the Lord. But Lot's also a good example to us of somebody that was compromising his life. Why did he live in that area? Because he saw it was a fertile and a beautiful area, and he knew that if he set up shop there, he could apply his trade.

It would be good for business. So he was willing to compromise and live in that sinful environment for money. He became part of the political system. It says he was seated at the gate, meaning he was part of the town council.

He wanted to oversee his investments. He wanted to make sure everything was being handled well. So he was part of all of that. But by the grace of God, because he had been accounted into him as righteousness because of his faith in the Lord, that when Abraham went before God and said, if we can find 50 right, just no Lord, how about 40, no, 30, 10?

Let's work our way down here. Lord, we can find a few guys there that trust in you. And of course, it was a small amount right that Lot was delivered just like the body of Christ will be delivered from the tribulation hour. But he's a good example of compromise and he suffered for that.

Because when he left Sodom and Gomorrah, what happened? You think he took his riches and everything he made? No, it was gone. Did you know that archaeologists have found it's amazing to me.

More and more archaeological evidence is being found every day. I'm not kidding you. And I believe that is part of the end times. God has leaving no stone in turn to demonstrate to the world the reality of trustworthiness of his word, the reality of who he is.

And they have found a place that fits the exact description of where Sodom and Gomorrah would be. And even to this day, that area was burnt and destroyed. Nothing will grow there. It's a desolate area and it fits the exact location of where that should be.

So God brought judgment on that. And that is a microcosm. Sodom and Gomorrah are microcosm of the world in the last days. It's a microcosm of this country, unfortunately, now.

And countries have sold out the truth of God for the things of this world. Horrible. And you wonder why the world is being judged here. Did you know that even today the drug trafficking and the drug trade makes up a third of the money that's made in this world?

Of course it's illegal. What about the stink and R-rated movies and the video games out there that are supposed to be rated so that the kids won't get them when those guys target the kids with that crap. That's exactly what they do. In the 90s, they were called on Capitol Hill to answer for that because they were found out that they were told you don't, you make our movies but you're supposed to keep kids out.

They want them to focus that garbage on the kids. They still do. Why? Because if they can get them drawn in then they've got a customer for years to come.

And no wonder guys are going to judge that world system. Because it's going to be off the charts here. More than it is now, guys. It's going to be off the charts and God will bring judgment.

Verse 15, we'll start to conclude here. A lot of this is self-explanatory. The merchants who became wealthy by selling her these things will stand at a distance terrified by her great torment. They will weep and cry again.

Those affected by the destruction because they were reaping from it. Wow, they're mourning. Verse 16, how terrible, how terrible for that city. She with a cloth and finest purple and scarlet linens decked out with gold and precious stones and pearls, right luxury.

All these are luxury items. In a single moment, all the wealth of the city is gone, gone. And all the captains and the merchant ships and their passengers and sailors and crews will stand at a distance. They will cry out as they watch the smoke ascendant.

They will say where is there another city as great as this? They were amazed that this powerful empire and a city that will exist probably that that amplifies this. They just embodies all of that that boom, the judgment has come and it's gone. And they will weep and throw dust on their heads to show their grief.

And they will cry out how terrible. Here's another litany again, how terrible for that great city. The ship owners became wealthy by transporting her great wealth on the seas and in a single moment it is all gone. Verse 20, rejoice over her fate, O heaven.

Now, wow, what in the world? What is he saying here? Speaking of that, love your neighbor thing again and love your enemies, rejoice over her who, O heaven and people of God and apostles and prophets. For at last, God has judged her for your sakes.

Those who give their lives in the tribulation hour, the tribulation saints. We see that they were under the altar early on, they're crying out for God to avenge their shed blood because they die for the cause of Christ. Well, you know what, everybody stands accountable. When people say it's not fair in this world, when bad people get away with things and good people get hurt sometimes, folks, we got to see the big picture.

This is only a moment time. This is just a dot. Our lives are a dot in time. Believe you me, everybody stands accountable before God.

Nobody's going to get away with anything. Nobody who is committed an evil on somebody and is not repentant of it or asked Jesus to be their savior so sins can be forget it. They'll stand accountable for that. But even the greatest murder or the greatest sinner, which is hard I know for our finite minds understand.

People who murdered other people, people who abused, kids and done stuff, but to you and I is just we can't comprehend even extending grace to that. God's grace is big enough to redeem those people and to forgive them with their sins. That's huge. But in this place, these people have forsaken that.

They long turned their back on the grace of God and the truth and the mercy of God. And so what they're rejoicing of here is not so much really the judgment, but that righteousness prevails. The evil doesn't win out. Righteousness prevails.

God sits upon his throne. He knows what we go into chapter 19. We're going to see that. The return of the king.

And I'll tell you what, chapter 19 on. Wow, some glorious stuff. It'd be a great way to conclude our study. But in concluding our study today, then we look at verse 21, then a mighty angel picked up a boulder to the sides of a huge millstone and he threw it into the ocean and shouted just like this, the great city of Babylon will be thrown down with violence and will never be found again.

Wow, you know what? Think about Jesus. What did he say? In his teachings, he'd mention that if people are misguiding little kids, if they're not allowing them to learn sound truth, biblical based truth, God's truth, that if people are purposely leading

people astray, especially those little ones, it would be better for that person to have a millstone tied around their neck and thrown in the ocean.

Talk about accountability. You know what, a millstone is big. I mean, it probably weigh a ton or so. I mean, if you threw one of those around your neck, whether you had a 10-foot rope, I mean, you'd go in a hurry.

Some people live their lives like, well, I've got a millstone tied around my neck, but that rope is about 200 yards long, so I'll be okay for a while. You're going now sometime. That rope is going to come to an end and a fwoo, you're going in. If you're buying into this world system and you're not accepting the eternal life that God alone provides to Jesus, it's the truth, folks.

So again, we're seeing accountability here. Verse 22 says that the sound of heart, singers, flutes and trumpets will never be heard in you again. No more revelry, no more celebration of your sin, no more party hearty, no craftsmen, no trades will ever be found in you again. The sound of the mill will never be heard in you again.

The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The happy voices of bryd's and grooms will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the greatest in the world and you deceived the nations with your sorceries. Think about that.

Accountability for deception. The whole millstone thing again, right? Jesus saying, hey, if you, if you miss direct or misslead somebody from truth, it's better to have a millstone. That's what he's saying.

Look, because you have misdirected people, you've deceived people, just like this millstone going down, you will go down. And look what it says. And you deceive the nations with what? With your sorceries.

God warns against that. Read [Deuteronomy](#) 18, folks. And I don't mean to sound this way in a condemning way, but as a word of warning and out of love, speaking the truth and love, I don't spend a lot of time on on Facebook. I don't have the time.

But I've got a lot of different friends. Not my wife's thing, your man, she shows me stuff. And guys, it greets me when I see Christians have horoscopes on there and that luck stuff. Guys, you're messing with stuff that you don't even know what you're doing.

If there seems to be something there that, wow, that there's, it's uncanny how they get it right. Because the enemy knows stuff, guys. He knows how to deceive you. It wouldn't be worth pursuing if there wasn't something seemingly to it.

It's a distraction. And the enemy uses that. My source is not somebody who would read my palm. My source is not somebody who's going to read me their horoscope or a fortune teller.

My source is none other but God Almighty, who is ready and willing and able to give me wisdom and insight, how to live my life, and to give me clear direction for my life. That's the council I want. That's the council I want. So when I share that, folks, it's not to step on anybody's toes.

It's just to let you know you're deceived if you think that's something that's godly. It's not. Redutor on me, 18 God warns against that. Because the enemy uses that.

And you might say, well, that's not a big deal. It's not Satanism. It's not witchcraft. No, it's just like somebody who says, well, you know, I just smoked pot.

I'm not shooting heroin or doing meth. It's a starting point. And you open a door to the enemy. He will take advantage of that.

By the way, looking at that word, sorceries too, that have a connection to drug use. Pharmakia, the Greek word that we find in the New Testament also earlier on the book of [Revelation](#), speaks of people who are out of their minds on drugs. Okay? Paul, you're possible warned not to be under the influence of what?

Of alcohol and drugs. Artificial stimulants. Why? Because you're not under your own power.

If you're going to be under the influence of anything, be under the influence of the Holy Spirit. But what happens is when you're under those influences, it makes you vulnerable. And the enemy takes advantage of that. And God's word tells us that when people use drugs and they get addicted and guys, one of the challenging things I've had to do as a pastor is counsel people who have drug addictions.

Addictions are bad as a whole, but people who are struggling with drug addiction. Because it gets a hold on your life and it's your idol. It's what you live for. And if you don't think that can ever happen to you, it happens to lawyers, it happens to doctors, it happens to all kinds of people.

It doesn't have to be the stuff on the street. It's prescription drugs. Prescription drug abuse is off the charts. It's unbelievable what's going on.

But that word, sorceries also is connected with Pharmakia. And that's one of the strategies the enemy uses. Satan uses drugs to entice people. So that you'll open the door for him to influence your life and to deceive you.

Don't be deceived. Don't be deceived. If you know people who have a challenge with that pray for them, let them know that there's hope and that God can give them hope. You know what?

You know, there are 12 steps systems, all that stuff out there in which you need people who need who have that issue. They need one step to freedom. And that's called Jesus Christ. Because Jesus sets people free from things like that.

Finally verse 24 says this, in your streets, this is what they were responsible with the world as responsible for. In your streets, flow the blood of the prophets and of God's holy people. And the blood of people slaughtered all over the world. There's going to be carnage during the tribulation now, like the world's never seen.

Now we know man's in humanity to man as extended throughout the ages. King killed Abel first started. And wow, we moved on. By the time the flood was brought on the scene because of the depravity of man, man, it was a horrible scene.

It's amazing to me what people can do to each other. It's unbelievable. I remember going out to the senior pastor's conference in Merrietta a couple years ago. And some of us pastors, we went down to a local sports grill.



It wasn't a bar. It was a sports grill. And they had these TVs going. And as we're eating there, they were showing a story, the lead story from the night, and a camera on the street caught a picture.

And there was this old guy walking down the street. And some thug, some thug for no reason at all, walked up behind him and hitting with the baseball bat and killed him. Why? Why?

That's how to pray man's heart can be without God. I don't understand it. But it'll be off the charts during the tribulation hour. And remember what we saw even with the religious system?

Man, they reveled. They loved the fact that God's people, the people except Jesus, were being killed and destroyed. They had a bloodlust. And that is why these guys are culpable here.

They stand accountable for having killed the people who've accepted Jesus during the tribulation hour. So powerful. But you know what? I don't want to end on this verse.

Get this heavy stuff. But you know what? It's just like going into resurrection season. There was an old saying and old Psalmist says there was weeping and darkness on Friday.

But Sunday's a coming. What does that mean? Jesus gave his life on the cross. And it was an extremely dark period because he who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God and Christ Jesus.

It was a dark and horrible time. The enemy thought he had a victory. And there was a massive earthquake that occurred during that time when Jesus was hanging on the cross. The enemy thought he had a victory and it was dark.

But Sunday was coming. Because three days later, what would happen? Jesus would rise for the dead to live forever more. Because he is alive forever more.

You and I can know that we have eternal life. I know a lot of you guys have accepted him as your savior. Some of you maybe you haven't. And this isn't a religious thing.

God, guys, it's relational knowing God, knowing who he is. This not some kind of a fake thing. It's real. God is real.

And you want to spend eternity with him because he is coming back. And next week we're going to see in [Revelation](#) 19 the reality of the return of the king. We're not talking. Word of the rings.

Okay, the return of the king. We're talking the return of the king of kings and the Lord of the lords of Lord of lords. Jesus comes and he deals with the world and he sets up begins to set up the standard for his thousand year millennial kingdom. Now, so in doing that, let's close with verse one of [Revelation](#) 19.

It's a little nicer than verse 24 of [Revelation](#) 18. Look at this. Verse one, [Revelation](#) 19 says, after this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, praise the Lord. Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

Isn't that the truth? Praise the Lord. Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. Let's pray.

Father in Jesus name, we praise you this morning, God. We thank you for your love for us and the truth of your word. God, we thank you that as we're seeing, prophetically, what will happen in the future in this world to those who are part of this world system, God, our hearts are broken for our loved ones who don't know you, Jesus, for those who've never entered into a vital and active relationship with you. Father agrees my heart to know that I have family members and neighbors and loved ones who if you were to catch the bride of Christ up tomorrow, the Tribulation Hour to begin in a couple of weeks that they would enter into that time, that they may reject you and spend eternity separated from you and but there would still be hope for them to know you and if they do though reality is they may suffer a horrible, horrible death for your glory, but it would be for your glory, Lord.

I pray that our loved ones don't have to experience that. Father, I pray that there's anybody here this morning who doesn't know you and you've been speaking to their heart, Lord, help them to have the courage to say yes to you, Lord, and know to the world, say yes to you and know to the influences around them, whether it's the people or the things of this world, Lord, but to realize that there is an eternal existence and we're either going to be with you forever because we've accepted your gift of eternal life or will be separated from you in the place of condemnation, Lord. May that not be the case for anyone in this room this morning. Father, speak to our hearts and I just pray right now, Lord, that if there's somebody that does want to know you, Lord, that they would just call out to you, Father, that they would just say to you, Lord, I believe.

Jesus, I believe that you are the Son of God and God the Son. I believe that you died on the cross for my sins and that you were raised from the dead. I confess that I've blown it. I confess that I've messed up.

Your word tells me that all of sin becomes short of your standard Lord. So, when I confess and I ask you, Lord, to redeem you, make me a new creation and Christ, save me today, enter my life, make me a new creation. Take up residence in me, Lord, make me a new creature. Forgive me and how many start a new walk with you, Father, if there's somebody the day that needs to do that and help them to do that, Lord, before they leave today.

If they'd like to come and talk to me or one of our elders or leaders, Lord, just give them the courage to come to study their sound and to want to learn more about what your word says. So, Father, again, we thank you that this is not our destiny as Christians. This is not our destiny to endure the tribulation hour, though there are some believers who think we have to. Father, they don't understand your grace.

God, we don't deserve to be with you in heaven, but by your grace we will be. We don't deserve to escape the tribulation hour, but because of your grace, those who know you, our sin has already been judged on the cross and we will be with you during that hour. So, Father, help us to make the most of our days, empowers by your grace and your spirit, Lord, as we continue in the time of ministry, Father, if there's anybody that needs prayer this morning, Lord, let them know that we can pray for them. They can ask the person next to them to pray for them or they can come up for prayer, but Father, we just turn this time over to you to minister to hearts.

So, Father, we'll keep our eyes closed. We'll keep our focus on you, as we just lay our hearts down before you, Lord. Continue to minister to us. Continue to have your way in this time, Father, in Jesus' name.