

Revelation 18

- In chapter 17 we saw the fall of Religious Babylon.
- In chapter 18, we will see the fall of the economic and therefore its political system.
- Chapter 19 shows us the defeat of the reign or political system of the Antichrist.

Verses 1-3

- An angel descends and cries out with a loud voice' he is declaring in no uncertain terms the complete destruction of Babylon and that no man can stop it.
- His glory or brightness not only reflects God's glory but illuminates the total destruction of Babylon.

Verses 1-3

- Isaiah 13:17-22
- Babylon is pictured as a great city and luxurious city, but God will strip away the veneer and show what she, and the world, is really like. (verse 2)

Verses 1-3

- Revelation 17:1-2 and 14:8 - 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.”
- “She made” – this does not mean the world was unwilling to go along with her, in fact the world has been happily following Satan and rejecting God and Christ Jesus from the beginning.

Verses 1-3

- “Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich.” – Greed has always run the world. Greed for land, money, power.

Verses 4-5

Here is another parenthetical break (16:15, 14:13). “My people” would indicate this is either the Father or Son speaking.

“This is a prophetic call, since every generation could be the last generation of believers who are still on earth before the Tribulation begins” – Stanley Horton

Verses 4-5

- 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 - ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among *them*. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷ Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” ¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

Verses 4-5

- “For her sins have reached to heaven” – They are full and overflowing
- “And God has remembered her iniquities” – *Remembered* in Hebrew writings implies that God is ready to act and not that God somehow forgot. The time is right for God to move.

Verse 6

- ⁶ Repay to her even as she has repaid *others*, and pay back [to her] double [her torment] in accordance with what she has done; in the cup [of sin and suffering] which she mixed, mix a double portion [of perfect justice] for her. (AMP)

Verse 6

- God takes in personally when His children are mistreated.
- James 1:27 - ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- Micah 6:8 - ⁸ He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you; But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Verse 6

- Isaiah 10:1-2 - “Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, *which* they have prescribed ²To rob the needy of justice, and to take what is right from the poor of My people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless.
(God is speaking of the Assyrians)

Verse 6

- Malachi 3:5 - ⁵ And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien—Because they do not fear Me,” says the Lord of hosts.

Verse 6

- “Repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.” – “She deserves punishment, not only for the suffering she has caused the saints, but also the sins, corruption, greed, luxury and immorality that was behind what she did to them [God’s people]” – Stanley Horton

Verses 7-8

- *Deliciously* in the KJV and *luxuriously* in the NKJV means *sensual, immoral luxury*.
- “She glorified herself...I sit as a queen” – The world thinks as do the rulers of this world, that they will never lose power, lose money or lose control.
- The world has set itself up as God.

Verses 7-8

- “In one day” may simply mean a short amount of time. Many scholars believe that the bowl judgments happen in very quick succession.
- Daniel 2
- “Plagues, death and mourning” have already during the Tribulation and “fire” will end it.

Verses 9-10

- There are three specific people who mourn the fall of Babylon: Kings, Merchants & Sailors (International Shippers)
- Much of this language mirrors Ezekiel 27:12-36 when Tyre, a maritime city with great wealth due to traders and ships is overthrown.

Verses 9-10

- What are they truly lamenting? It is not the fall of a city, but the fall of their wealth, power and position.
- “Kings of the earth” – Think regents or a popular word today, *oligarchy*.

Verses 9-10

- Luke 12:16-21 - ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” ’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ ²¹ “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Verses 11-14

- This too is parenthetical; it is a list of what the world sees as valuable.
- “Slaves and the souls of men” – People will have full control over others.

Verses 15-19

- Remember that Famine is one of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse. (Revelation 6:5-6)
- Some see this as a way to give rise to the Antichrist's rise. It may be; however, this will facilitate the gathering of the world to make war against the Lamb in wrath and desperation.

Verse 20

- The worship in heaven states that God has “now avenged” the martyrs of all time, be they prophet, apostle or saint.
- This is not vengeance the way we may think of it, but God’s holy, righteous and divine judgment on a world that rejected Him and mistreated His children.

Verses 21-23

- The destruction of Babylon and the world's systems will be complete and irreversible. Jesus Christ must remove all the world's systems before He sets up His perfect kingdom here on earth.
- Notice in verse 23 that word *deceive* is used again. - ...for your merchants were the great *and* prominent men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived *and* misled by your sorcery [your magic spells and poisonous charm]. (AMP)

Verses 21-23

- Genesis 3:12-13, Matthew 24:4, Matthew 24:5, Matthew 24:11, Matthew 24:24
- 2 Corinthians 11:3 ,Galatians 6:7 , Ephesians 5:6, 1 Timothy 2:14, 2 Timothy 3:13 - 1 John 2:26, 2 John 1:7, Revelation 12:9, Revelation 13:14

Verses 21-23

- Verse 23 highlights that the world will never return to the way it was. It does not necessarily mean there will not be marriage or work in Jesus' Millenium Kingdom.
- Verse 24 highlights the righteous judgment of God's judgment because of the great sin of the Babylonian/Worldly system. - ²⁴ And in Babylon was found the blood of prophets and of saints (God's people) and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth." (AMP)