

Revelation – 101

10/26/25 – PM (week 11)

Chapters 17-18

Review chapter 14-16

- Chapter 14
 - The Lamb with the 144,000
 - Three angels
 - The first carried the “everlasting gospel”
 - The second declares “Babylon is fallen, is fallen”
 - The third condemns the worshipers of the beast
 - The vision of Armageddon begins to take shape
- Chapter 15
 - The shortest chapter in the book
 - John sees seven angels with the seven last plagues
 - He sees the tribulation saints (Jews and Gentiles)
 - The angels carry vials (bowls) of the wrath of God to pour out on the earth, leading to the Battle of Armageddon
- Chapter 16
 - The vials are poured out upon the entire earth
 - 1st – painful, festering boils upon all who have the mark
 - 2nd – all the sea (saltwater) becomes blood
 - 3rd – all freshwater becomes blood
 - 4th – men are scorched by the heat of the sun (unrepentant)
 - 5th – darkness (a sign of judgment) over the throne and kingdom of the Anti-Christ (men are still unrepentant)
 - 6th – The River Euphrates dries up, preparing the way for the kings of the East to approach the Battle of Armageddon
 - John see three unclean spirits “like frogs”, come out of the mouths of the unholy trinity. These are “spirits of

devils”, who go forth to the kings of the earth to gather them to the battle of Armageddon

- These three represent all the tribes of mankind – the sons of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, by which the whole world was inhabited.
- 7th- Voice from the temple says “It is done”
 - There is a great earthquake like the world has never known.
 - Jerusalem is divided into three parts from this disaster
 - Babylon is being judged before God (Chapters 17-18)
 - Hailstones as great as 80-90 lbs. fall from the sky and kill men on the earth (still unrepentant)

Before we begin chapters 17 and 18, we need to be reminded about the main reasons for the tribulation. Most Bible scholars agree on at least three major reasons for this terrible 7 year judgment on the earth:

1. The evangelization of the Jewish people
 - a. Through the 2 witnesses (Moses and Elijah), and the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, great numbers of the Jewish people will turn to Christ.
 2. The end of the Gentile world powers
 - a. The gentile nations that have ruled this earth throughout most of its existence will be brought down and replaced by Jesus Christ ruling and reigning on the throne of David in Jerusalem.
 3. The everlasting defeat of the Satanic trinity. At the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist (beast), and the False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire. Satan himself will be bound for 1000 years in the bottomless pit, and then will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire after the millennial kingdom.
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Chapter 17

A. The Doom of Spiritual Babylon

- a. The destruction of “Babylon” in chapters 17-18 is actually referenced in chapter 16:19, during the last vial judgment. Chapters 17 and 18 give the explanation and description of “mystery Babylon”.
- b. Babylon was the seat of the first one-world government, established by Nimrod in Genesis 10:10. He was a one-world ruler of a one-world government, whose capital was in the city of Babylon some 4500 years ago.
- c. Babylon comes back into focus again during the times of Daniel and Ezekiel (around 605 B.C.), when Nebuchadnezzar leads the Babylonian empire. That begins “the times of the Gentiles”.
 - i. Nebuchadnezzar returns to Jerusalem in 597 B.C. and takes Ezekiel and about 10,000 Jews into captivity. In 586 B.C., he makes a third trip to Jerusalem and destroys the city and the Jewish Temple, taking the rest of the Jews into captivity for about 70 years. This was part of God’s judgment upon Israel for their refusal to obey God’s commandment to give “rest to the land” (II Chronicles 36 / Leviticus 25).
 - ii. The Babylonian empire ended when Nebuchadnezzar’s grandson, Belshazzar, called for the vessels of the temple to be used during a drunken celebration. While the partying was going on, the army of the Medes and the Persians dammed up the River Euphrates and marched under the gates of the city, conquering it in short order.
 - iii. That ended the “empire” of Babylon – but not the city. Ezra tells us that 75 years later, he was living in the city of Babylon. 200 years after the fall of the Babylonian Empire, Alexander the Great defeated the Medes and Persians, and became king of the world. He made the headquarters of the Grecian Empire in the City of Babylon. Hundreds of years later, Peter referenced “the church that is at Babylon” in the first century A.D – over

500 years after the fall of the empire, the city was still thriving. During the Iraq War in 1991, the defense department established a base called “Camp Babylon” in modern day Iraq. It is about 58 miles southwest of Baghdad. The city is in ruins today, but it’s importance in history remains.

B. Verses 1-7

- a. This chapter describes the “one-world church” or religious system as a “prostitute” woman. It is ecclesiastical Babylon. This religious system is represented in the Tribulation by the False Prophet. He is the head of this one-world church at the time of the tribulation.
- b. She “sitteth upon many waters” (vs. 1) which are described in verse 15 as “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”. This ecumenical one-world church has been spiritually unfaithful, and spiritually committing adultery with the “kings” (leaders) of the earth.
 - i. In the Tribulation period, it will be made up of all the unsaved of every denomination, religion, and cult. She will come into full power after the rapture, after the beast is identified the true Bride of Christ is gone to be with the Lord.
 - ii. She is guilty of the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus (persecutor and murderer of God’s people throughout the church age).
 - iii. John “wondered with great admiration” – (astonishment)
- c. She is sitting upon a beast – vs. 3 (the Anti-Christ – Rev. 13:1 – seven heads, ten horns, blasphemy) meaning she is supported, promoted by the government of the false Christ. She represents the church-state union, and has profited from the governments of the world.

C. Verses 8-14

- a. The beast is identified again as the one that came from the bottomless pit (Ch. 13) and “was, and is not, and yet is” (a resurrected man of history).

- b. Vs. 9 – “the seven heads are seven mountains” – most believe these heads are seven nations of the European Union, from where the Antichrist rises to power.
- c. Vs. 10-11 speaks of “seven kings” – these are the seven heads of the dragon (Satan – 13:3), not the beast (Antichrist). “Five are fallen”(world empires from Nimrod to Alexander), “one is” – present tense of John’s day (the 6th, the Roman empire), “the other is not yet come” – this will be the beast (Antichrist) – he is not in power when John is seeing this, but becomes the seventh. Because he comes out of the seventh head of the dragon, he becomes “the eighth”, and will be going into “perdition” (hell). “He must continue a short space” – his full reign of power is only 3 ½ years.
- d. Vs. 12-14 speaks of 10 future kings who will give their power to the beast and reign with him briefly before the Battle of Armageddon. Many scholars believe these kings represent nations of the European Union.
- e. Vs. 16-18 give us the very reason for the existence of the beast and his government – which is to carry out God’s judgment on the great whore. Vs. 17 – “to fulfil his will . . . until the words of God shall be fulfilled.”
- f. The structure and practice of this one-world church system have been in place for centuries. Government-funded state churches and the push for a one-world religion is ongoing. Many teachers of prophecy believe that this “religious” woman represents the Roman Catholic Church – due to her being on “seven mountains”.
 - i. (Rome is known as the City of Seven Hills), and Rome being the heart of the Roman Empire.
 - ii. They further point to religious traditions of Babylon being incorporated into the church’s teachings and practices.
 - iii. The description of the woman’s wealth, and being drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs (Inquisition and trials

against those they deemed “heretics”, or who would not swear allegiance to the church, are also noted.

- iv. Whatever her identity, she will be utterly destroyed as the nations will turn on her and “burn her with fire” (vs. 16).

Chapter 18

A. The Doom of Political / Economic Babylon

- a. Chapter 18 is actually a continuation of chapter 17
- b. Vs. 1-8 – A recounting of the judgment against the vile woman “Mystery Babylon” in chapter 17.
 - i. The angel says that “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,” – these speaks of the two sources of power in Babylon – the religious system of Babylon is fallen (ch. 17), and now the political and economic system of Babylon is fallen (ch. 18).
 - ii. Vs. 3 – “have drunk”, “have committed fornication” – these indicate the past, as she is now destroyed. The merchants of the earth were made rich through her luxuries.
 - iii. Vs. 7 – she called herself a queen.
- c. Vs. 9-19 – we see the bewailing and lamenting over Babylon as it faces judgment. The merchants weep and mourn over the loss of all the luxuries and riches of this world being destroyed by economic collapse.
 - i. The monarchs (vs. 9-10) – kings and leaders
 - ii. The merchants (vs. 11-16) – owners of businesses / companies
 - iii. The mariners (vs. 17-19) – all involved in the trade industry

B. The Cheers from Heaven (vs. 20)

- a. The fulfillment of God’s vengeance – “I shall repay, saith the Lord”

C. The Conclusion of Babylon (vs. 21-24)

- a. When spiritual (religious) Babylon is destroyed – no one cries. In fact the leaders turn on her in hatred (17:16). But when political and economic Babylon is destroyed – the whole world is sorrowful.
- b. This description refers to the complete end of the Gentile world kingdoms and power. Not even a candle (lamp) shall shine in Babylon

(vs. 23). The lights have gone out. (Titanic illustration – final destruction).

NEXT WEEK – Chapters 19-20 – The Second Coming of Christ / The Battle of Armageddon / The End of Satan / The Great White Throne Judgment