

**REVELATION 18:1-8**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 18 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Keep in mind that Revelation chapter's 17 and 18 focuses on some other events of the Tribulation Period besides God's wrath being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

Now some believe that these two chapters are speaking of the same thing, but they are not.

As we saw last time, Revelation chapter 17 deals with the destruction of religious Babylon, or the false religious system somewhere around the 3½-year mark of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

I believe what happens after this false religious system is destroyed or maybe around the same time by the Antichrist is that the Antichrist goes into the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshiped as God!

This takes place in Jerusalem, and thus, not only do we see the headquarters of the Antichrist move from Rome to Jerusalem but also this new false religious system, the worship of the Antichrist is also based in Jerusalem, moving from Rome!

What we will see as we move into Revelation chapter 18 tonight is the destruction of commercial Babylon.

Now as you talk with people and even Christians, it seems like they are oblivious to what is happening in this world. They ignore these things, or they just don't care. And for the most part, they are distracted by other things.

Let me show you what I mean. This is a story from the Milwaukee Journal from a few years back. Listen to what we are told,

A Milwaukee teacher took her first-grade class to a dairy where a guide showed the children through the entire plant, explaining the whole process.

The tour over, the guide asked if anyone had any questions.

One little girl raised her hand.

“Did you notice,” she asked, “that I’ve got on my new snow suit?”

- Milwaukee Journal

As cute as that story is, the reality of it all is that many people never grow out of that self-centered mentality. You see, a life outside of Christ must be focused on something, and it usually is focused on self.

And this commercial system we see here in Revelation chapter 18 will entice the needs of people all over the world!

Now, as you look at this end time world system, it can be broken down in three different ways.

There is the political system headed by the Antichrist.

There is the religious system headed by the false prophet.

And there is the commercial system headed by the movers and shakers of society.

Yes, I believe the Antichrist will also oversee this commercial empire, but it too will not stand before God.

It is as John MacArthur tells us regarding man apart from God. This is what he said,  
Throughout history the petty kingdom and empires built by proud, arrogant, God-rejecting rebels have come and gone.

The spirit of humanism first expressed at Babel has permeated human history ever since.  
Unshakably optimistic despite centuries of war, slaughter, injustice, and cruelty, people still seek a utopia, to be brought about by humanity's upward scientific progress.

Having taken control (so they think) of their own destiny through science, sinners have no use for God and haughtily replace Him as self-styled gods devoted to their own sovereignty.

- John MacArthur

How true that is, and we will see that in our study this evening.

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 18, starting in verse 1 as we see the destruction of commercial Babylon and how the world responds to her destruction!

## **REVELATION 18**

### **VERSES 1-3**

John starts out by saying, "**After these things . . .**" and he uses the Greek words – ***META***

***TAUTA!***

After what things?

After the destruction of the false religious system spoken of in Revelation chapter 17, the world church is destroyed by the Antichrist, and it is then he establishes his own religious system. And now he has combined the political and religious system with him alone as the focus.

Then we are told that John “**saw another angel**” and some see this angel as Christ but that is not what the Scriptures are saying here.

How can I be so sure?

Because John uses the Greek word *ALLOS* for the word “**another**” and it speaks of another of the same kind.

He did not use the Greek word *HETEROS*, which means another of a different kind.

Thus, this angel is the same type as the angel we read of back in Revelation 17:1, it is not Jesus. I don’t think it is the same angel we read about in Revelation chapter 17 because John says that it is “**another**” and thus, not the same one!

And yes, he has great authority, but, like us, the Lord gives His authority to him.

What is interesting here is that the world is in the blackness of the Tribulation Period.

And we are told here that “**the earth was illuminated with his glory.**”

In other words, this angel illuminates the sky.

It is as Swete said, “*So recently has he come from the presence (of God) that in passing he flings a broad belt of light across the dark earth.*”

Make no mistake about it, as we spend time with Jesus, we also will bring the light of God to a world in darkness. And it truly needs the light of Christ to shine upon it today!

And look at what this angel cries out, “**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.**”

Again, some like to see this as the same as we read in Revelation chapter 17, as I have said. It is not and let me show you why it is not by looking at these differences between the two.

*Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17)* – Symbol – Harlot woman.  
*Commercial Babylon (Revelation 18)* – Symbol – Great city.

*Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17)* – Woman, whore, mother.  
*Commercial Babylon (Revelation 18)* – Habitation, great city, marketplace.

*Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17)* – Guilty of religious abominations – spiritual adultery.  
*Commercial Babylon (Revelation 18)* – Guilty of greed, self-indulgence, feeding the flesh.

*Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17)* – Destroyed by a political power that previously supported her.  
*Commercial Babylon (Revelation 18)* – Destroyed by a sudden act of God.

So these are two different entities, religious Babylon and here in Revelation chapter 18 we see commercial Babylon.

And as we read all that is going on here, we need to understand that prior to her destruction the world was cashing in on her financial prosperity! The people of the world will lust after her, become intoxicated with her riches!

But God will bring down what looks mighty in the eyes of man!

And folks, think about this. When God is removed there is a void, a vacuum that is then filled with all kinds of unclean spirits, all kinds of evil. There truly is darkness apart from God.

Look at how evil this commercial Babylon is, and we will get to more specific details as we read on. But listen again to what we are told, “**. . . and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**” Revelation 18:2.

Now what in the world is John speaking of when he speaks of “**unclean and hated bird**”?

One writer put it like this,

*Like grotesque carrion birds, the demons will hover over the doomed city, waiting for its fall. The depiction of the demons as unclean and hateful reflects heaven's view of them.*

- John MacArthur, Revelation 18:2

Not a pretty picture of this commercial Babylon and it is not intended to be pretty. The ugliness of the world and its coming judgment!

Now when does this destruction of commercial Babylon take place during the Tribulation Period?

I believe this commercial empire will come crashing to the ground towards the end of the Tribulation Period.

The other question we may have is this. This city, is it an actual city or is this just symbolic for the Antichrist's godless system?

I tend to see this as an actual city, a commercial empire, since it is called a city some five times in this chapter. Also, we will see that the people watched at far distance and saw her destruction. Thus, I do believe this is an actual city.

Where is this Babylon located?

There are many ideas out there.

Some believe this is speaking of any financial empire in the last days that controls the world economy. They see it as China, or even the United States, which is a far stretch because our status as a world power has come and gone. And it is just as one of the goals of the United Nations tells us. Listen to one of their eight goals for 2030, **“The US won't be the world's leading superpower.”**

We are there even before 2030. But that is one of the goals that the United Nations has for us. I guess they are really not a United Nations, but they have their own agenda, a global government!

Others think it is speaking of Rome. I don't think so.

Let me tell you what city I think this is, it might be **BABYLON!**

I know, when you look at what is happening out there today it is hard to imagine this could be speaking of Babylon. But let me share with you a few things and then you can come to your own conclusion.

In Isaiah 13:17-18 we are told of the fall of Babylon by the Medes and the Persians.

We are told, **“Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, Who will not regard silver; And as for gold, they will not delight in it. Also their bows will dash the young men to pieces, And they will have no pity on the fruit of the womb; Their eye will not spare children.”**

When that happened in 539 B. C. Babylon was not destroyed. The Medo-Persian army entered through the gates of the city. Not the gates you might be thinking of. The Euphrates River ran right through the center of this great city, and they had gates at both ends. And these gates were not locked when the Medo-Persian army came in, they walked right into the city. And you can read of God telling us that the gates would not be locked long before these events happened in the Scriptures! (Isaiah 44-45)

In fact, when Cyrus the Great captured Babylon it was done without much of a battle. And the city of Babylon served as a secondary capitol of the Persian Empire for two centuries.

Then, in 325 B. C. Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and made Babylon his capital. Alexander the Great died in Babylon and his empire was divided up between his four generals, just as Daniel prophesied, and, over time Babylon gradually atrophied.

Here's the thing. Babylon was never destroyed, not the way God said it would be destroyed.

In Isaiah 13:19-22 we are told, **“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans’ pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 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. 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. 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.”**

How was Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed?

With fire and brimstone.

The Medo-Persian army did not destroy Babylon like this, nor did the Grecian army, so this must be speaking of a future rebuilt Babylon that will be destroyed!

And there are many commentators and scholars who believe that ancient Babylon on the Euphrates River is going to be rebuilt! I feel the same way.

You may remember the late Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq or what was known as Babylon.

Back in 1985 he began to restore the ancient city of Babylon, spending over 500 million dollars to reconstruct the city and build a modern residence on the ruins of Nebuchadnezzar's palace.



Now, despite Saddam's removal from power and his subsequent execution, the work of rebuilding Babylon continues.

You see, today the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is pumping in millions of dollars into Babylon and several other historical sites in Iraq.

The UN, with the help of private donors, is hoping to turn Babylon into a thriving center of tourism and commerce.

If their plans go well, Babylon will be a cultural center complete with shopping malls, hotels, and maybe even a theme park.

Is this just the beginning to make Babylon the commercial empire of the world?

I believe it is, only time will tell!

Henry Morris makes this interesting point regarding Babylon. He wrote, *“The site of modern Babylon is strategically located at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa and is not far from the Persian Gulf. It is also near the world's richest oil fields and has a virtually unlimited water supply from the Euphrates. Those considerations led the famed historian Arnold Toynbee to proclaim that Babylon would be an ideal site for an important political and cultural center.”* (Morris, Revelation Record, p. 349).

Notice also that the merchants love this commercial center, but why?

Because it has made them rich and this lust for riches has caused them to become numb to its effects upon them. They have no feelings of what is right and what is wrong; it is all about them gaining more, at any cost. They are never satisfied, even though they are having a great time!

Solomon, in Proverbs 27:20 tells us, **“Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.”**

Why is that?

Because, outside of Christ you will never be satisfied. You will try to fill that void in your heart with all kinds of things but only Christ will satisfy. You see, only He can fill that void that is in a person's heart!

Now, what is interesting to me is that as you listen to these prosperity teachers today, they preach more and more riches, more and more wealth, more and more things. Name it and claim it. Blab it and grab it.

But notice what God has to say, notice what God calls His people to do in verse 4.

#### VERSE 4

Why is God calling for us to break our ties from commercial Babylon, from the materialism of this world?

Because it will weaken our faith!

Now keep in mind that this is not speaking of the church, but of the Tribulation saints or those who have come to Christ during the Tribulation Period.

Now, as you read this you may be wondering how in the world can Christians be part of this?

It is easy to be taken in. Look at those who are Christians and are part of the liberal church today. It can happen.

And we have to remember that Satan and his demonic forces can easily deceive us as they entice us with all kinds of things that will feed the flesh. And once they have you, they will keep enticing you farther and farther away from God. It is a warning to us!

Listen to what James tells us in James 5:1-5, **“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.”**

And yes, this is speaking of the unsaved, but again, Christians can get caught up in this and it is a warning to get out!

Also, keep in mind that this is happening during the Tribulation Period, like I have said, and the call is for those who have come to the faith to depart from this wickedness because judgment is coming. Don't fall prey to it is the warning!

Listen to a few verses that are calling people out of Babylon or this false ungodly system.

In Jeremiah 51:6 we are told, **“Flee from the midst of Babylon, And every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He shall recompense her.”**

Again, the call is to flee because the Lord's judgement is coming!

In Jeremiah 51:45 we are told, **“My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord.”**

Why does the Lord keep calling us to flee, to get out of her midst?

Because it is a place of destruction, and you will not profit like you think you will.

There is Isaiah 52:11 that once again reminds us, **“Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the Lord.”**

Now some may argue that this is an Old Testament command, and we don't see that in the New Testament.

Have you not read II Corinthians 6:14-18, which tells us, **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 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.’ Therefore ‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.’”**

Here is the call for Christians not to unite with the unsaved. Not that you can't talk with them, but if you are running with them, you will be living like them.

For the Corinthians, they accepted darkness along with light. They welcomed Belial and Christ in!

And keep in mind that Belial is a word that was borrowed from the Hebrew, and it means ***“worthlessness or wickedness.”***

In this context it speaks of Satan! Poole put it like this, ***“The term is used only in this place in the New Testament, but very often in the Old Testament, to express men notoriously wicked and scandalous.”***

And when Paul says, “**And what communion has light with darkness?**” the idea is that of influence. There is no communion between light and darkness, or at least there should not be!

Hodge put it like this, “*Parties are said to be in communion when they are so united that what belongs to the one belongs to the other, or when what is true of the one is true of the other.*”

They had compromised their faith so much that the world, the darkness of the world was influencing their lives, in how they lived.

That is what has happened to the church today, the world has influenced it so much that the church has become like the world. We get our ideas from the world.

We accept the sin of the world as being good and, in the end, we are bringing death and destruction to so many lives!

Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:33, “**Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’**”

The Amplified Bible tells us, “**Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.**”

The Living Bible puts it this way, “**Don’t be fooled by those who say such things. If you listen to them you will start acting like them.**”

I think you get the point!

And do you see what God calls us to do here? God calls for us to come out of that darkness, we are His, He dwells in us.

Of this Redpath tells us, *“It is not a question simply of trying to empty your heart and life of every worldly desire – what an awful impossibility! It is rather opening your heart wide to all the love of God in Christ and letting that love just sweep through you and exercise its expulsive power till your heart is filled with love.”*

Remember when you were a kid and you went out to play, what did your mother tell you?

My mom would always tell me, *“Joey, don’t get dirty!”*

Now our Father God is telling us the same, don’t fill your life with evil, don’t surround yourself with evil, because it will affect your life. I don’t care how strong you think you are; Father God knows best! Don’t get dirty with the dirt of this world and make sure you wash daily in the Word of God!

You see, we are to fill ourselves up with the things of God as Paul tells us in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”**

Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 3:16-17 Paul said, **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”**

Thus, **“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”** II Corinthians 6:17-18. May we do that!

And remember what Paul said in Ephesians 5:11, “**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**Take no part in and have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds and enterprises of darkness, but instead [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose and reprove and convict them.**”

That is what the Lord is calling us to do now and in the Tribulation Period, for these Tribulation saints, God is calling for them to do the same thing with this commercial Babylonian system – ***GET OUT!***

And like I have said, for us today, we must be careful because it will weaken our faith, it will cause us to do things that are not of God.

Remember in those scary movies. As you are in that dark theater and you hear the music change, you see them opening a door and you are ready to yell – ***DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR!***

And what do they do?

They open the door!

This is a warning to us, don't open that door and let the world come in. Keep that door closed and keep yourself filled with the things of God!

And if you are involved with this worldly system that is pulling you away from God, we need to follow what we are told here in Revelation. We are to break ties from the materialism of this world, don't get pulled into its intoxicating ways!

How do you know if you are being pulled away from God?

Are you reading your Bible?

Are you coming to church?

Are you using the gifts that God has given to you to bless the body of Christ?

Are you praying?

We have to be careful because the more we move away from God the less we will be seeking Him and the more influence the world will have upon our lives!

Paul tells Timothy in I Timothy 6:11-12, **“But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”**

If you refuse, the Lord tells us that they and we will **“share in her sins.”**

I think that is important for us to understand even today.

In I John 2:15-17 John tells us, **“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”**

Now this is not saying that if you buy some clothes or a car, or whatever, or you go to a sporting event or have a hobby, you love the world.

John is speaking of loving the world system, which is driven by the Devil.

If the focus of your life are the things of this world, yes, then the love of the Father is not in you.

Why is that?

Because you can't love two masters!

Whatever you are focusing your life upon is who you will be serving! May it be the Lord!



And keep in mind that the things of this world are passing away and only the things of God will stand!

You know that old commercial that says, “*What is in your wallet?*” well, let’s change that around and ask, “*Who is in your heart?*”

If it is not the Lord, there is no satisfaction and there is no eternal life apart from Him.

### VERSES 5-8

Some people feel that God is unaware of what they do or that God does not care what they do.

That is wrong and it is very dangerous to feel that way. And here in Revelation chapter 18 we see that the sins of Babylon, those who have succumbed to her ways, “**have reached to heaven**” or it can be translated, they “*have been heaped up.*”

Their sins have reached the end, and this seems to be the final call to God’s people still in this corrupt system to come out from her before the judgment falls.

As we look at all that is going on in the world and in our country. All the corruption, all the immorality, all the wickedness and yet, look at how patient and longsuffering our God is.

Think about it. Someone cuts us off the road or cuts in front of us and we are ready to take their head off.

But our God, He sees all, and I can’t imagine all that He sees. In fact, He knows the thoughts and the intents of our hearts. (Hebrews 4:12)

Think about that, all that wickedness and yet, judgment has not come, not yet!

But there comes a point when the cup of her sins is full, and God will repay her for what she has done to others.

In other words, she will reap what she has sown.

In fact, here in verse 6 the Greek word for, “**render**” is APODIDOMI, (ap-od-eeen’-o-mee) and it literally means “*to pay a debt*” or “*to give back that which is due.*”

We see this principle of paying back what is due in Obadiah 1:15, where we are told, “**For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.**”

God will give to them exactly what they deserve and yet, we are told here in Revelation 18:6, “**. . . and repay her double according to her works, in the cup which she has mixed, mix her double.**”

Why a double portion?

Double restitution was a requirement of Levitical law in case of theft. (Exodus 22:4, 7, 9)

What did they steal?

The lives of people, how they made their wealth by dishonest gains. And God is giving to them what they did to others, and I think the idea of double portion here is speaking of the full extent, they are getting exactly what they deserve, not more and not less!

Our God gives sinful man his due just as He will give commercial Babylon exactly what she deserves.

In Psalm 7:11 we are told, “**God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.**”

And in Psalm 9:8 we are told, “**And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.**”

Make no mistake about it, God is a righteous judge and all that He does is fair, and it is right!

Now as you look at this system, isn't it amazing how she still boasts about her wealth, her security, her luxurious lifestyle just as judgment was about to fall upon her.

Sinful man is no different!

We saw that with the King of Babylon, Belshazzar. Listen to what we are told in Daniel 5:1-4, **“Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which had been in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.”**

And as they are having this grand old time the Medo-Persian army was outside the walls of the city ready to walk right in.

He felt that the walls of the city were secure, and no one could penetrate them, but when the judgment of God comes, nothing will stop it and that is what we see with Belshazzar!

In fact, listen to what we are told next in Daniel 5:5-6, **“In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other.”**

He was so worried about what this handwriting on the wall was all about that his knees were knocking against each other!

Judgement was coming and did come and very quickly as we are told in Daniel 5:30-31, **“That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.”**

And that is what we will see here with commercial Babylon, it will be destroyed very quickly, and all their boasting and all their pride will vanish away!

In Jeremiah 30:23-24 we are told, **“Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord Goes forth with fury, A continuing whirlwind; It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until He has done it, And until He has performed the intents of His heart. In the latter days you will consider it.”**

There is coming a day when God will pour out His wrath like a whirlwind, destroying not only commercial Babylon, but also the wicked so that His purposes, His plans may be established, the Kingdom of God will be set up and righteousness will fill this land.

And notice the key, **“In the Latter days you will consider it.”** We are living in those days, and they continue on into the Tribulation Period!

In Isaiah chapter 47, beginning in verse 7 we see the fall of ancient Babylon that parallels the fall of commercial Babylon here in Revelation chapter 18.

We are told, **“And you said, ‘I shall be a lady forever,’ So that you did not take these things to heart, Nor remember the latter end of them. Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children’; But these two things shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments. For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, ‘No one sees me’; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me.’ Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know. . . . Thus shall they be to you With whom you have labored, Your merchants from your youth; They shall wander each one to his quarter. No one shall save you.”** Isaiah 47:7-11, 15.

Did you notice what they were saying in verse 10, **“ . . . ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me.’ ”**

No, you are not for there is only one ***“I AM!”*** and it is not you nor is it this commercial empire, even with all its strength it will not be able to stop its destruction by God, He will judge her!

Also notice her three-fold sin.

The first is pride. John tells us that **“she glorified herself.”** In other words, it is speaking of her pride!

If we are foolish enough to exalt ourselves, God will bring us down. Remember what we are told in Isaiah 42:8, “**I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**”

He is God, we are not and thus, like Satan, we can try to bring glory to ourselves, but in the end we will not win.

In fact, listen to how God feels about pride. In Proverbs 6:16-17 we are told, “**These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood.**”

God hates pride. He does not want us to think too highly of ourselves.

Why is that?

Because we live and breathe by the grace of God. We are nothing apart from Him!

And if you still struggle with this, listen to what James had to say in James 4:6, “**But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’**”

The second sin that is spoken of here is self-gratification and we see that spoken of on how she lived, “**luxuriously**” or sensually!

And how does God feel about this?

Well, we see the judgment of God here but listen to what we are told in I Timothy 5:6, “**But she who lives in pleasure [indulgence] is dead while she lives.**”

What is that all about?

First of all, the word that Paul uses for “**pleasure**,” SPATALAO (spat-al-ah’o) in the Greek, speaks of *sensual pleasure*.

Paul said in Romans 8:6, **“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”**

And the consequences of living that kind of life is given to us by Paul in Galatians 6:7-8, where he wrote, **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”**

And the third sin that they were involved in was they were guilty of self-sufficiency, that she would not see any sorrow or suffering or judgment for her actions.

Notice what we are told, **“For she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’”** Revelation 18:7.

No need for God and yet, by their very words they are going to be judged!

Warren Wiersbe gives us this insight to all of this as he wrote,

God’s people must not delay in separating themselves from this evil system, because God’s judgment will come suddenly and Babylon will be destroyed in a single day.

Sometimes God’s judgments work silently “as a moth” (Hos 5:12), but at other times they are “as a lion” (Hos 5:14) and spring suddenly, and there is no escape.

In one day, the entire economic empire will collapse!

But those who have their citizenship in heaven will rejoice at the judgment of God.

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 1075

We are going to finish up this chapter next time.

Before I close I want to share this with you to think about and then I will comment on it.

We are told,

Where are you getting your needs met?

The world is a spiritual redlight district. Are you going to a spiritual prostitute for your safety, security, health, purpose, provision for the future, and self-esteem?

You might ask, what would that look like?

The following questions seek to get at what it means to go to the spiritual redlight district of the world instead of God:

Do you feel good about yourself because the world respects you? Or do you feel good about yourself because you trust in Jesus and are united to him by faith, and that makes you righteous and right before God?

Do you feel good about yourself because you think you can make a lot of money and ensure your future? Or do you feel good about yourself because you trust your heavenly Father to meet all your needs because he is good and you can trust him?

Do you feel good about yourself because you know your agenda, know your goals, and are chasing your dreams? Or do you feel good about yourself because you are seeking your joy in the joy of those you love and it feels so good to make sacrifices for them that benefit them?

Do you feel good about yourself because you have a sound mind and a strong body and you have great health insurance? Or do you feel good about yourself because the purpose of your life is to make much of Jesus and death will be gain to you because you will be in his presence and you are confident that he will raise your body to be like his glorious body on that last day?



Do you feel good about yourself because you have a great security system in your home and you pack a weapon that you know how to use? Or do you feel good about yourself because you trust God's providential plan for you and are ready to preach the gospel every chance you get while you live?

We need to be freed from the attractions of the world's red-light district. . . .

We need to see that those who trade God in for the world's misuse of God's gifts will have all of God's gifts taken away from them.

We need to see that the world does not love us.

Worldly people love only themselves.

We need to see Babylon fall, and we need to hear the call to come out of her that we might sojourn toward the Land of Promise.

- James M. Hamilton Jr., *Revelation – The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, pp. 333-334

We need to stay focused on the Lord and what He has for us to do. The world will try to draw us away, discourage us, frighten us, and instead of listening to what the world wants us to do, let's listen to what God has for us to do!

You see, judgment is coming, and people need to be ready. And I realize that 70% of Christians believe that there are many ways to heaven, but they are wrong as this story illustrates for us.

We are told,

I once read a story about a bicycle race in India. The object of the race was to go the shortest distance possible within a specified time.

At the start of the race, everyone cued up at the line, and when the gun sounded all the bicycles, as best they could, stayed put.

Racers were disqualified if they tipped over or one of their feet touched the ground. And so they would inch forward just enough to keep the bike balanced.

When the time was up and another gun sounded, the person who had gone the farthest was the loser and the person closest to the starting line was the winner.

Imagine getting into that race and not understanding how the race works. When the race starts, you pedal as hard and fast as you possibly can. You're out of breath. You're sweating.

You're delighted because the other racers are back there at the starting line. You're going to break the record.

You think, this is fantastic. Don't let up. Push harder and faster and longer and stronger.

At last you hear the gun that ends the race, and you are delighted because you are unquestionably the winner.

Except you are unquestionably the loser because you misunderstood how the race is run.

Jesus gives us the rules to the eternal race of life.

The finish line is painted on the other side of our deaths, right in front of the throne of God himself.

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And the way to enter into that relationship with God is to repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life.

It is a grace gift. We don't deserve it, but Jesus is giving it to us and all we must do is to receive it by faith. I pray that you have!

Remember what we have closed with here in Revelation 18:8 as God's judgment will come upon commercial Babylon and for that matter, all those who reject Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You see, "**. . . for strong is the Lord God who judges her.**"