



Chapter 17

Verse 14- *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*

These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them- Chiastic phrase for emphasis- (A + B B + A)

Lord of lords and King of kings- One of two mentions in the New Testament (1 Timothy 6:15–16). "King of kings" denotes sovereignty and authority, and "Lord of lords" signifies majesty and power. Every ruler and all people are subject to Him.

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Verse 14- *These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*

The called and chosen and faithful- The word order is important. Called, thus chosen, thus faithful. We must understand God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.

22:17- The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.

Chapter 17

Verse 15- *And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits are peoples and multitudes, and nations and languages.*

peoples and multitudes, and nations and languages – This is like the list in the song of the four living creatures and 24 elders in 5:9:

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation.'"

The global false religion has control of all the people groups and nations of the world who chose not to follow the Lamb.

Chapter 17

Verse 16- *And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.*

ten horns... and the beast- This is evil turning on itself before it turns its attention on the Lamb. This harlot has a similar end to that of Jezebel in 2 Kings 9:30–37:

Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her underfoot. When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter." So they went to bury her, but they found nothing of her except the skull, the feet, and the palms of her hands.

Chapter 17

Verse 16- *And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.*

hate the prostitute- The treatment of prostitute sisters is mentioned in Ezekiel 23- Samaria (Oholah) and Jerusalem (Oholibah) and is applied to the harlot riding on the beast.

Clothed in purple (v. 6), killed with a sword (v. 10), turned away from her in disgust (v. 18), come against you (v. 24), will remove her nose and your ears (v. 25), burn her with fire (v. 26), strip her of her clothes and take away her beautiful jewelry (v. 26), take all her property and leave her naked and bare (v. 29). "The devil always throws away his tools." (Bickers)

Chapter 17

Verse 17- *For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.*

put it in their hearts- God uses the global leaders for His own will. This idiom found in the Old Testament and signifies divine guidance.

God intends for the ten horns (global leaders) to do His purpose, be of one accord, and give their kingdom to the beast. He allows evil to happen, but he uses it to further his own kingdom and to demonstrate his glory.

Chapter 17

Verse 18- *The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."*

is the great city- There are two cities in Revelation. One is the new Jerusalem that comes down out of heaven (3:12; 21:2, 10; 22:2-3) and the other is Babylon the Great, a city of the world controlled by Satan (11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10).

Chapter 18

Babylon-**Chapter 17 – Religious Babylon****Chapter 18 – Commercial Babylon**

- *City mentioned most in Scripture second to Jerusalem.*
- *One-tenth of the verses in Revelation mention Babylon (42 out of 404).*
- *Is Babylon Rome? Babylon (in Iraq)? A world system?*
- *A false global religion ("sits on many waters") in Chapter 17*

Chapter 18

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

After these things- (*meta tauta*) Occurs nine times in Revelation (1:19; 4:1 (twice); 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1; 20:3). Usually introduces a new vision.

another angel- Another (*allon-* another of the same kind) angel, not (*heteros-* another of a different kind). This is not Jesus.

having great authority- This authority (power) was given to the angel to judge in the following verses.

Chapter 18

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

having great authority- This word is used of the devil (the imitator) giving “great authority” to the beast in 13:2.

illuminated from his glory- The implication is that this angel has just been in the presence of God because of his glory (*doxa-doxology*).

Chapter 18

Verse 2- *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.*

cried out with a mighty voice- We’ve seen this before as an angel cries out so that all the earth can hear (7:2; 10:3; 14:7, 9, 15; 19:17).

Chapter 18

Verse 2- *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.*

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great- Repeated for emphasis. The tense of this verb (prophetic aorist) suggests that we should count this as something that hasn't happened but is so sure to happen in the future that it has already happened. This is the fourth time the fall of Babylon is announced (14:8; 16:17-19; 17:15-18).

dwelling place of demons- Idolatry is rooted in demon worship.

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Verse 2- *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.*

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great- The desolation of ancient Babylon told in Jeremiah 50:39:

So desert creatures and hyenas will live there, and there the owl will dwell. It will never again be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation (cf. Isaiah 13:21-22; 34:11-15).

Chapter 18

Verse 2- *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful (hated) bird.*

unclean and hateful (hated) bird- Leviticus 11:13-19 (Birds of prey or scavengers)

"Moreover, these you shall detest among the birds; they are detestable, not to be eaten: the eagle, the vulture, and the buzzard, the red kite, the falcon in its kind, every raven in its kind, the ostrich, the owl, the seagull, and the hawk in its kind, the little owl, the cormorant, and the great owl, the white owl, the pelican, and the carrion vulture, the stork, the heron in its kinds, the hoopoe, and the bat."

Chapter 18

Verse 2- *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful (hated) bird.*

unclean and hateful (hated) bird- Babylon is a gathering place for demonic spirits which are compared to unclean birds. Birds of prey and scavengers feed on the sick and the injured, and they gather where death is.

Chapter 18

Verse 3- *For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”*

have fallen- The reason that the nations fell is that they have drunk the passionate (*thumos*) wine of her adulteries as commerce and religion merge during the Tribulation. The prostitute and kings have drunk from “a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her sexual immorality” (17:4) and now they will drink God’s “fierce wrath.” (16:19)

Chapter 18

Verse 3- *For all the **nations** have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the **kings** of the earth have committed acts of sexual immorality with her, and the **merchants** of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”*

Three groups:

- Nations- They have been led astray by following the harlot.
- Kings- They lead their people to worship idols and the beast.
- Merchants- They receive economic security by participating in idolatry with the harlot.

Chapter 18

Verse 3- *For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”*

excessive wealth of her luxury- Trading goods to meet human needs improves the quality of life, but greed can turn into idolatry causing the wrath of God to come down on those who serve this idol (Col. 3:5-6). “Freely you have received; freely give.” (Matt. 10:8)

God judges the earth (earth, sea, sky), and the supply chain is destroyed.

Chapter 18

Verse 4- *I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive any of her plagues;*

Come out of her, my people- Many people are being saved during the Tribulation. God calls out to them (“my people”) to remain separate so as not to participate in the suffering of those who follow the beast. Jesus prayed that his people would “*be in the world but not of the world*” (John 17:14-18).

Chapter 18

Verse 5- *for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her offenses.*

piled up as high as heaven- The sins of the prostitute (Babylon) remind us of the Tower of Babel in Gen. 11:3-4. They are so numerous they are heaped (*kolla-* “glued together”) in the face of God. It is important for us to remember that sin must be judged. Believers have the forgiveness of God already.

God will apply the *lex talionis*- the law of retaliation (an eye for an eye) where the punishment will fit the crime.

Chapter 18

Verse 6- *Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.*

give back to her double- This is the mirror image of the Golden Rule. The angel says this to God and it reflects the character of God seen in the Old Testament. “I will repay them double for their wickedness and their sin” (Jer. 16:18; Isa. 40:2).

The main idea of this verse is repeated three times:

- *Pay her back*
- *give back to her double*
- *mix twice as much for her*

Next week...

Chapter 18-
“Mourning Over Babylon”

