



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.*

Pay her back- This is the angel speaking to God about the sins of the prostitute (global false religion). This reminds us of the principles of sowing/reaping and OT law (Ex. 22- property rights).

1. You reap the same thing you sow.
2. You reap more than you sow.
3. You reap later than you sow.

Galatians 6:7- Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.

Chapter 18

Verse 7- *To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.'*

The people of God have always been warned to flee from Babylon (Jer. 50:8-9; 51:6, 44-45).

God told Abraham him to get out of his country (Gen. 12:1) and warned Israel not to go back to Egypt. He warns us to separate ourselves from that which is ungodly (Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).

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Verse 7- *To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.'*

glorified herself and lived luxuriously- This reminds us of God's warning to the church of Laodicea in 3:16-17:

"So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing."

Chapter 18

Verse 7- *To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.'*

I sit as a queen and I am not a widow- This is a reference to Isaiah 47:7-8 as Isaiah prophesies against Babylon:

Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.' These things you did not consider Nor remember the outcome of them. "Now, then, hear this, you luxuriant one, Who lives securely, Who says in her heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow.'

Chapter 18

Verse 7- *To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.'*

I sit as a queen and I am not a widow- The global false religion is based on pride. She sees herself as the ruler of the world (queen), not as a widow (the world's kings are her lovers). She is not someone who will mourn (she is in control of her future).

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Verse 8- *For this reason in one day her plagues will come, plague and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.*

For this reason in one day- Because she is filled with pride, she will be destroyed quickly. This is the first of four times in this chapter the phrase “one day” or “one hour” notes the speed of the final plagues (vv. 8, 10, 17, 19).

burned up with fire- This is the punishment for prostitution.

Leviticus 21:9- Also the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by prostitution, she profanes her father; **she shall be burned with fire.**

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Verse 9- *“And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke of her burning,*

kings of the earth- Two sets of kings:

*17:16- 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.*

These kings are not the ten horns aligned with the beast. They might be rulers of merchant nations who benefitted from commercial trade with the anti-God world system.

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Verse 10- *standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'*

fear of her torment- These kings know that the same judgment will fall on them.

Woe, woe- This reminds us of the eagle that cried the same thing in 8:13 regarding the fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpet judgments. The sound of the word *ouai* ("wee") can be translated "horror."

Chapter 18

Verse 11- *"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any more –*

merchants of the earth- These merchants are ruined because the supply chain and all items of commerce are no longer available. They have been involved in preventing Christians from buying and selling, and now without buyers, it is happening to them.

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Verse 12- *cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; every kind of citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article made from very valuable wood, bronze, iron, and marble;*

cargo- 29 items in eight categories. This reminds us of a similar list in Ezekiel 27 in the fall of Tyre.

1. Jewels- *gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls* (this is what the prostitute wore)
2. Clothing- *fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet*

Chapter 18

Verse 12- *cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; every kind of citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article made from very valuable wood, bronze, iron, and marble;*

cargo- 29 items in eight categories. This reminds us of a similar list in Ezekiel 27 in the fall of Tyre.

3. Furniture- *every kind of citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article made from very valuable wood.*
4. Interior design- *bronze, iron, and marble*

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Verse 13- *cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, and cargo of horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives.*

5. Perfumes- *cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense*

6. Groceries- *wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat*

7. Livestock- *cattle, sheep, and cargo of horses, carriages*

8. Slave market- *slaves, and human lives.*

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Verse 14- *The fruit you long for has left you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and people will no longer find them.*

The fruit you long for has left you- Literally, “and the fruit of your soul’s lust fled from you.” These items that were sought after by the wealthy will never be available again. This speaks of autumnal fruit (*opōra*) that has been cultivated, waited on, and is expected to be harvested. Now there is “crop failure” and they are ruined financially because of it.

Chapter 18

Verse 15- *The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,*

stand at a distance- This phrase occurs three times in this chapter (vv. 10, 15, 17). The merchants aren't genuinely sympathetic to the prostitute but sad for a self-centered reason- they have lost money and are afraid of suffering the same fate as her (which they will).

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Verse 16- *saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls;*

Woe, woe- The merchants mourn just like the kings. The kings mourn the loss of her power (18:10), and the merchants the loss of her wealth (Beale).

fine linen and purple and scarlet... This was what the prostitute wore. The loss was personal to the merchants because she bought these goods for her own use. This global religious system will have great wealth.

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Verse 17- *for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste! And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and all who make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,*

in one hour - The great wealth through shipping, land and air (supply chain) comes to an immediate end. In the second trumpet judgment (8:8-9) a third of the sea will be struck, and at the second bowl judgment (16:3) the remaining two-thirds of the sea will be struck before Babylon's final collapse. All four categories of people (*captain, passenger, sailor, commercial fishermen/dock workers, etc.*) are affected.

Chapter 18

Verse 18- *and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'*

crying out- The cry of the mariners follows an earlier three-part pattern:

1. The expression of woe.
2. A calling out to the great city (vv. 10, 16).
3. A reference to the "one hour" in which doom will fall (vv. 10, 17).

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Verse 19- *And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich from her prosperity, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'*

threw dust on their heads- Throwing “dust on their heads” was a sign of mourning (Josh. 7:6; 1 Sam. 4:12; 2 Sam. 13:19; 15:32; Job 2:12). They participated in the sin of the prostitute, and now they participate in her fate. They are suddenly ruined economically.

Chapter 18

Verse 20- *Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”*

Rejoice over her- This is in sharp contrast to those mourning the death of Babylon. The reaction of those who follow Christ should be exactly opposite from the world. This helps us to see an accurate, biblical understanding of the nature of God. He is just, and His justice demands judgment for sin, or He is not true to His nature.

Next week...

Chapter 19-
“The Marriage of the Lamb”

