

The Day the Dow Jones Hits Zero

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The Coronavirus pandemic that we have been witnessing these last several months has had many side affects. We've seen them everywhere - millions of jobs lost in the last several months, businesses closed down, people's 401K retirement plans decimated. We've seen this in a short period of time - March 19, 2020 and February 19 to March 2, 2021. The S & P average went down 30%. Although the stock market has recovered somewhat it is still very unpredictable.

The Bible predicts that there is a day coming when the Dow Jones and every other average will go to 0. And it will never recover. In fact every economic measure will go to 0. In one single day in history the world economy is going to collapse. And its that day we are going to look at in our study of Revelation.

If you have your Bibles, open them to Revelation 18.

Now let me remind you where we are in our study of Revelation. When we finished chapter 16, we saw the final judgments on the earth. When we get to the end of 16, we are at the very presibus of when Jesus will return to the earth.

When we get to chapter 19, it will be the return of Jesus - we will look at this next week.

But as John leads us to the very edge of the world as we know it, he pauses. In chapter 17 and 18, he shows us the very rule of the antichrist. The kingdom that the antichrist rules over is referred to as Babylon. And remember that antichrist kingdom has 2 aspects:

1)Chapter 17 - John describes the religious aspect of the antichrist kingdom. The unholy alliance between antichrist and a future false religious system, described as the harlot of Babylon. This false religious system will help antichrist in his rise to power. Remember after the first 3 1/2 years, the antichrist and his 10 kings turn against this false religious system. They don't need this harlot any longer. They've used her up and as a result, they get rid of her; and as a result, they get rid of the false religious system according to the will and plan of God. It talks about the religious aspect of the false kingdom.

2)Chapter 18 shows us the economic, political aspect of the antichrist kingdom. Its referred to as Babylon the great.

Revelation 18:1-28

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

Remember in chapter 16 we see those repeated words. They are prophetic, looking forward, as if it was about to take place. And now the actual event takes place.

Why does he repeat fallen, fallen? The angel announces that Babylon the great is fallen, fallen. Perhaps the two words are for emphasis. Perhaps he's looking at the 2 aspects of the kingdom; the religious aspect and economic system. Fallen, fallen is Babylon. But what does the angel mean by Babylon? Remember in 17 it referred to a religious system, but in 18 it refers to a system and a city that was the capital of the system.

I've used Wall Street as an example before - when we talk about Wall Street are we talking about an actual street or are we talking about an economic system? We are talking about a system. We are talking about the economic health of our system.

When the angel announces Babylon has fallen he's talking about the system and the capital system. The description of Babylon includes the system and a city.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Now look at the appeal of the believers to leave Babylon in verse 4.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Angels don't have people they can command to do certain things.

This is God telling the believers to get out of Babylon and not participate in her judgment.

Who he is talking about?

Remember that all Christians will be raptured, but there are people who will be saved during the tribulation. There will be believers living in Babylon under this system. God tells them to leave Babylon - we are to be protected from the world without being in the world.

God doesn't will us to live in a bunker, but He doesn't want us to be 'of the world'. We are to be in the world without adopting the values of the world.

The root sin that fueled this economic system was greed-the desire for more and more and more.

When you look in scripture, many times the desire for more or different is described, whether that be the desire for more money, a new spouse, a better job, or more possessions..its the desire for more that causes you to sin.

1 Timothy 6:

1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

What is contentment? For if we have food and covering we shall be content for we have not brought anything into this world and we aren't going to take anything with us when we leave it.

For those who want to get rich fall into a snare and temptation. The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil.

Look at Revelation 18:5-

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Her sins have piled up. A direct illusion to Genesis 11 - and the Tower of Babel. We pile sin upon sin upon sin until we build a wall of separation between God and us.

Genesis 11:1-9 (Tower of Babel)

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9 Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

So what's the remedy for the sin?

Revelation 18:6-7

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

This is what we call in scripture - '**lex talionas**', the basis of the mosaic law and most legal systems. *The law of retribution. An eye for an eye, etc. You punish people according to their sin. Not only what they deserve but double what they deserve.*

I know what you're thinking.....,don't you need to settle down a little God, and be forgiving instead of wanting retribution (vengeance).

There's a difference between vengeance and justice. Vengeance is hurting someone else because they hurt me. We give this up when we forgive.

Justice (not vengeance) is the punishment God requires for the things that are done to us.

Romans 12:

Paul says do not return evil for evil.

Never take your own revenge, but instead leave room for the wrath of God.

If you've been hurt deeply by somebody else, you will become bitter.

Let God settle your score.

We should give up our desire for vengeance and leave the justice up to God.

What you see happening is Babylon's justice.

Romans 12:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Look at verse **Revelation 18:8**

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, (for this reason, in 1 day her plagues will come; pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges

her is strong) *death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.*

Its gonna happen in 1 day that this great city and system will be destroyed.

Daniel 5:

1 Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

2 Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

3 Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.

4 They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.

5 In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

6 Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

7 The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.

8 Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.

9 Then was king Belshazzar greatly troubled, and his countenance was changed in him, and his lords were astonished.

10 Now the queen by reason of the words of the king and his lords came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:

11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

13 Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

14 I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

15 And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:

16 And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

17 Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him:

21 And he was driven from the sons of men; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses: they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

So, King Belshazzar had a banquet and a mystery hand wrote a message for him on the wall. He lost his kingdom and his life that very night. *October 12, 539 BC, the Medes and Persians came and overtook Babylon.*

It will be the same for the future Babylon as well.

10-29-1929 is known as Black Tuesday.

9-16-2008 our banking system just about collapsed.

All of these are just a precursor to the final collapse that will come. Anybody who puts their trust in money, possessions, beauty, etc., is full of folly. Have you ever had this happen with you money? It can disappear overnight.

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

What's the result of Gods judgment? Look at **Revelation 19:9-10**

9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

John talks about the king saw the smoke of her burning. In Revelation 16, we saw an earthquake.

On 4-18-1906 a great earthquake struck the city of San Francisco. Hundreds of thousands of dollars damage, but they fire that resulted from the earthquakes cause hundreds of millions of dollars damage.

There's great anguish with the 10 kings as they see the economic system destroyed.

Revelation 18:11-14

11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Verse 13 mentions slaves in human lives - no longer a market for this.

Slavery will take place in the tribulation.

Slavery is also a part of world today - 25 million slaves in the world have been bought and sold in our present day world.

14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

The things listed in verse 12 - 14 can no longer be bought. They just sit on the shelf. The merchants who were getting rich from the sale of goods no longer get rich.

Haven't we seen this in the last several months? Stores closed, store chains filing for bankruptcy. People no longer having the ability to buy or sell.

You also see the anguish of the seamen in

Revelation 18:15-19

15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

19 And they cast dust on their heads, (sign of mourning) and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

As John describes the sailors and their ships looking at a distance at Babylon, I think about the twin towers and the picture of New York Harbor boats pushed out from Manhattan and watching what was happening in the great city of New York. Again, this is just a forerunner of what's going to happen one day.

Throughout this passage there is a reminder of why we shouldn't put our hope and affection in and around riches.

Matthew 26:19-21

Jesus said, 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

20 Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

21 And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

Could I ask you where is your treasure today? What do you really value? If its here on earth, its going to be destroyed or left behind, but if your treasure is in heaven, nothing will destroy it for all eternity!

Revelation 18:20-21

21 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

That acclamation of praise over God's judgment for us against Babylon. Its a system that suppressed Christians so we can rejoice when God judges it!

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

When he talks about the destruction of this great city, is he talking about Babylon itself, the ancient city that's rebuilt? Maybe he's referring to Babylon as a code for Rome. Perhaps its for some other city, London, Rome, Hong Kong, perhaps New York City.

Whatever the city, everyone will be amazed at how quick the city is destroyed.

I Peter 5:13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

We can look at 9/11 and see how quickly New York City was boarded up and closed.

Revelation 18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, (no more music) shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, (there are hundreds of thousands of office space that are vacant) of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; (we've seen meat processing and food processing systems shut out as well).

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; (perhaps this is a failure on our electrical grid in our world) and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. People wont be getting married any longer.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. Remember, this economic system that's destroyed by God is the very system that antichrist uses to deprive Christians of food and other things they need to survive. Remember, if you don't have the mark of the beast, you can't buy or sale.

That's why God says the blood of prophets and saints and all that were slain upon the earth was found in Babylon.

What was the sin of Babylon? Its the sin of greed! Which is really idolatry.

Listen to me - the sins of society are really the sins of the individuals who make up that society.

When we talk about lawlessness, racism, greed, its' easy to talk about societal sins, but the sins of society are the individual sins of that society.

The sin of greed is part of our economy now. Its the sin of greed in Americans; and even Christians.

What is it that you are worshipping? What have you built your happiness, hope and life around? Money?

Contentment is being satisfied with what God has provided you.

Proverbs 30:7-9 Solomon describes what every Christians should ask the Lord for and be satisfied with:

7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Solomon says, when it comes to money, don't make me poor and don't make me rich. Give me just what I need cause I know my self too well and I'll say I don't need God. And if I have too little, I'll be tempted to steal and defame the Almighty God.

Give me just what I need!

Help me be satisfied with what you've given me.

That's the secret to being content!

I want to go back as we close to **18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.**

Remember I said this is an illusion to the Tower of Babel. When they started building that brick tower, God didn't destroy anything. He allowed them to build brick after brick after brick and finally, God visited the city of Babel and brought his resulting judgment. That's how God is.

He (God) doesn't always judge sin immediately.

Each of us are building a life apart from God, brick by brick, sin by sin.

And if you're surprised God hasn't judged you, don't confuse God's patience with God's tolerance for sin!

If God hasn't judged you yet for the sin in your life, Its only for one reason - his patience and love for you.

Gods not slow about His promise. He's not willing that we come into His judgment - but wants us to have knowledge of His truth.

God is giving you time to repent; but never forget, His judgment will eventually come. Suddenly, and completely.

That's the message that comes from the story of Babylon!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: