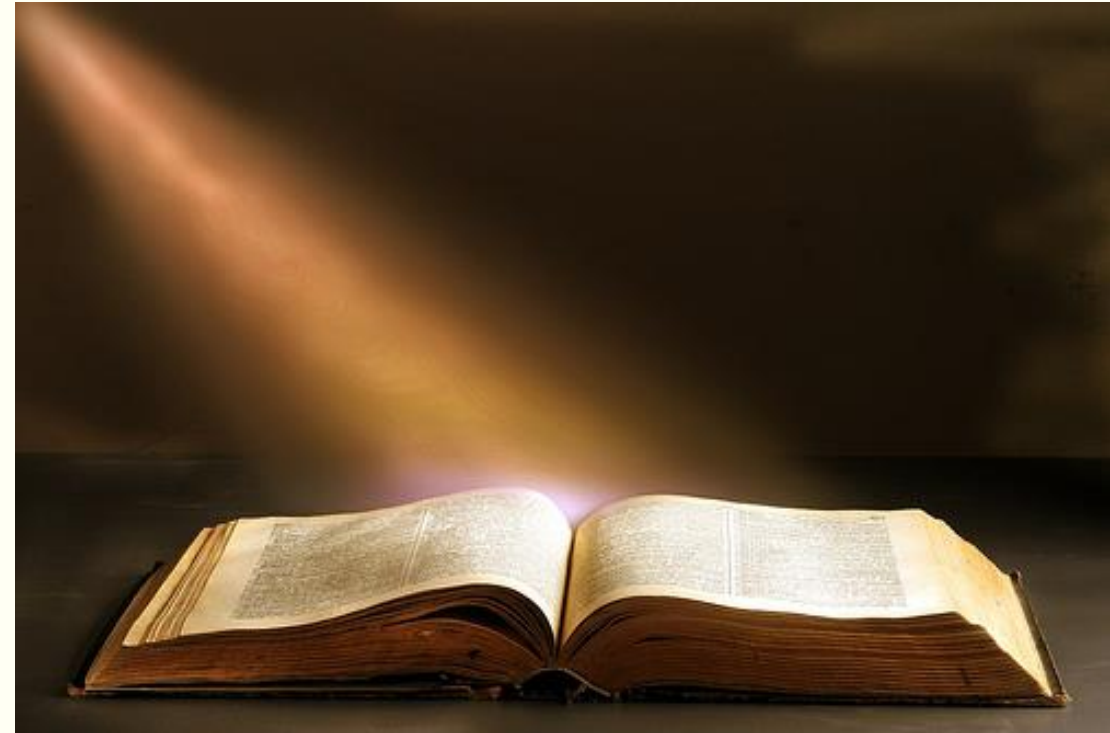




Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 18





CHAPTER 18

The Last Message to Humanity & the Fall of Babylon

Chapter 18



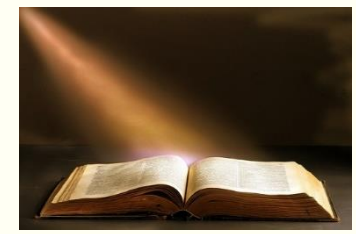
Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

The Loud Cry

Judgment on Babylon

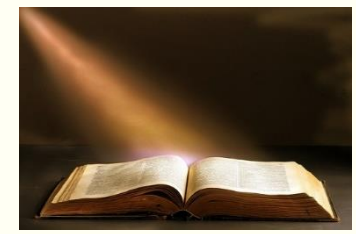
Babylon's final fall

Revelation 18:1-8



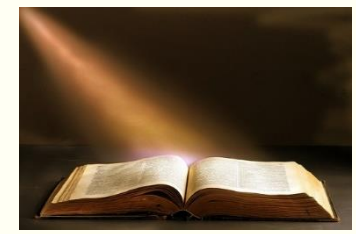
1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. **2** And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! **3** For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.” **4** And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. **5** For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. **6** Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. **7** In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ **8** Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Revelation 18:9-18



9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, **10** standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ **11** “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: **12** merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; **13** and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. **14** The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. **15** The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, **16** and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! **17** For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance **18** and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’

Revelation 18:19-24



19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’ **20** “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!” **21** Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. **22** The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. **23** The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. **24** And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

The Loud Cry

Revelation 17 describes the end-time apostate religious power – Babylon the Great

She is now seducing the secular and global political powers in an illicit union of Church and State.

Revelation 18 continues with the theme of the judgment of Babylon described as a wealthy city of Babylon using languages from the Old Testament prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) of ancient Babylon

The theme of these chapters is how Jesus continues to triumph over the forces of evil

There is a call for God's people to separate from end-time Babylon and her false system of belief to escape her fate before her judgment is poured out

The focus changes from end-time Babylon as a harlot symbolizing her corruption and religious apostasy in Rev 17 to end-time Babylon as a great city, symbolizing her oppressive, dominance and love for power and despotic control

“After these things” indicate Revelation 18 is a second vision John sees concerning the fall of Babylon (the principle of repetition and enlargement)

Another mighty angel adds to the three angels of Revelation 14 is sent from heaven with a final message to humanity filled with great truths for these last days

The Loud Cry message is also called the 4th angel's message



The Loud Cry

This angel commands attention, proclaims a worldwide message which has a powerful effect. The angel's glorious appearance and loud voice are meant to arouse mankind to God's last appeal to leave the apostate religious system and embrace the everlasting gospel message truth as proclaimed by the three angels

Like the mighty angel of Revelation 10 whose message was fulfilled in 1840-1844, the mighty angel of Revelation 18 re-echoes the second angel's message of Revelation 14

The Loud cry message is proclaimed prior to the outpouring of the 7 last plagues

These messages are not given by literal angels. They symbolize God's faithful people proclaiming the everlasting gospel and giving God's divine warning to every nation, tribe, language and people

God makes a distinction between the counterfeit apostate system that is opposed to Him and His people who are faithful to Him but ignorant of their deception

The demonic character of end-time Babylon is startling even as it proclaims itself to be on God's side. The mighty angel reechoes the call from Revelation 14

“And another angel followed, saying, **“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” Rev 14:8**

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen! And all the carved images of her gods He has broken to the ground.” - Isa 21:9



The Loud Cry

Though the world is covered with spiritual darkness, there is a ray of hope. **The glory of God is His visible presence among His people through the Holy Spirit.** The whole earth will be illuminated with the glory of God's truth when the latter rain falls.

“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” – **Isa 60:1-3**

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants, and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” – **Joel 2:28-29**

God's people will receive spiritual light and glory in such a measure that will light up the world to give the final proclamation of the everlasting gospel with power. This is the loud cry, the final Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This is the latter rain poured out on God's people before the close of probation.

Multitudes will be converted to Christ. Miracles and wonders will occur among the people of God under the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be a tremendous exodus of God's faithful people from Babylon as the remnant of God is made up.

The global call today is for conformity, to unite as humanity. But this unity with error leads only to apostasy. God calls for unity only in truth.

After seventy years of captivity, God's people were called to come out of Babylon and return to the Promised land



The Loud Cry

The warnings are repeated as already accomplished because God's people are assured that the fall of end-time Babylon is imminent and certain

“Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment and a hissing, without an inhabitant.” - Jeremiah 51:37

Isaiah 13:19-22 and Jeremiah 50:39 also describe the demise of ancient Babylon by the Persians and prophesied that it would be the **habitation of wild animals**

Similarly, end-time Babylon has become the dwelling place of demons, every unclean spirit, every unclean bird and every unclean and hated beast.

Satan and his evil angels have taken up residence in end-time Babylon (**counterfeit gospel, apostasy and spiritual confusion – Catholicism and Apostate Protestantism**). Churches have come under the control of the occult powers.

Spiritualism has its stronghold in end-time Babylon and filling up the churches today. Part of the loud cry message is to declare the truth on Spiritualism and sound the warning to the world not to be seduced or deceived by Babylon's wine.

The root of Spiritualism is a misunderstanding of the doctrine of the State of the Dead. Many beliefs teach that the dead go to heaven, or purgatory, or hell, or haunt houses, or come back as a different person or animal when they die. **However, the Bible clearly teaches that death is a sleep, the soul is not immortal, and that the dead remain in their graves and are asleep until the resurrection.**



State of the Dead

Bible texts:

Job 14:10,12,21

Genesis 2:7

Job 27:23

Eccl 12:7

Eccl 3:19-21

Psalms 146:3,4

Psalms 6:5

Ezekiel 18:4

John 5:28,29

Job 19:25-27

Rev 20:5,6

The Loud Cry

“Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.” – Lev 19:31

Spiritism defiles. Many churches today have become the abode of unclean spirits.

Part of the loud cry message is to declare the evil of the union of Church (harlot) and State (all nations of the world). Babylon will finally gain global preeminence.

History has proved over and over that whenever church and state unite, it is never a good outcome for the church or for the state. It weakens one or the other. Consider the horrors of the Catholic Inquisition on dissenters.

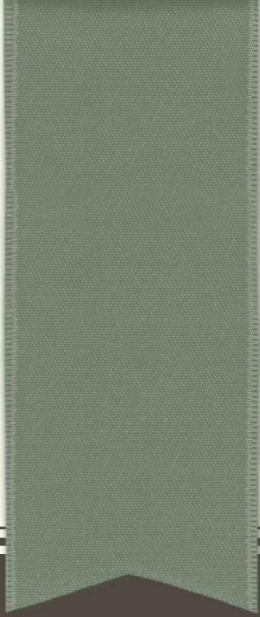
Religious freedom and the separation of church and state is the foundation of every true freedom. Today, many Christians are clamoring for political support for their policies and more input from the State such as prayer in schools, or display of the Ten commandments in public places. However, when religion is mandated, it is weakened.

“When religion is strong, it will take care of itself. When it is not able to take care of itself, and God does not see fit to take care of it, so that it has to appeal to the civil power for support, it is evidence to my mind that its cause is a bad one.”

Benjamin Franklin, Founding Father of the United States

The churches of Babylon united with the state persecute God’s commandment-keeping people. They demand the strict enforcement of the Sunday law and call for a death decree upon those who will not obey this man-made edict rather than God’s commandment.





“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul, and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience. Through the agency of Spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power. ”

Great Controversy, page 588

The Loud Cry

Intoxicating wine represents false teachings or erroneous doctrines. People are unable to discern the truth from error, genuine from counterfeit worship. Leaders of false religions and many Christian churches in league with Babylon are manipulating their followers, deceiving them and securing their support to achieve their goal of humanity dominance. Those who assimilate them become intolerant towards any who differ with their views.

“Flee from the midst of Babylon, and everyone 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...“My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord.” - **Jeremiah 51:6, 45**

“Move from the midst of Babylon, Go out of the land of the Chaldeans; and be like the rams before the flocks.” - **Jeremiah 50:8**

Just like Lot was urged to flee from the city of Sodom before it was destroyed even though he did not participate in their sins, or he would share in its destruction, even now the last message of warning to all of God’s people in the corrupt religious system is to come out of Babylon.

The loud cry is the final and most powerful warning given to the world. Every person on earth is forced to choose sides in the conflict between Christ and Satan.

“We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed. Forsake her, and let us go everyone to his own country; For her judgment reaches to heaven and is lifted up to the skies. - **Jeremiah 51:9**

Babylon has long rejected the true gospel and despised God’s mercy. Her sins have accumulated to heaven and God has remembered her to execute his judgment



Judgment on Babylon

Now the angel gives the divine sentence of retribution on Babylon using the Old Testament legal concept of double recompense through the plagues

“O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed. Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!” – **Psalms 137:8**

“Repay her according to her work; according to all she has done, do to her: For she has been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel.” – **Jer 50:29**

“And I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all the evil they have done in Zion in your sight,” says the Lord.” – **Jer 51:24**

It is essential that the justice of God is revealed to the whole universe. Babylon has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. She will be judged according to her sins and receive her punishment in full measure. Her arrogant boast and blasphemies, her vain self-glorification, her illicit luxuries, her persecution and destruction of God’s people, her self-sufficiency will be the basis of her damnation.



Babylon’s judgment will be like Queen Jezebel in the letter to the Church of Thyatira who committed fornication, taught and seduced God’s people – **Rev 2:20-23**

“And you said, ‘I shall be a queen 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.” – **Isa 47:8,9**

Babylon final fall

Babylon is the great enemy of God and humanity. It is the expression of the sinful nature of humankind, a power in direct rebellion to the Creator.

It has a powerful appeal to human nature. It temporarily satisfies the human heart sinful nature but cannot meet man's ultimate spiritual and eternal needs.

End-time Babylon makes economic partnership with the merchants of the earth and the wealthy corporations, who she has made wealthy through the power of her luxuries. They are blinded by her intoxicating influence and desire for power

“The Catholic Church is the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence. She is a greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government or state of the whole globe. The pope as the visible ruler of this immense amassment of wealth is consequently the richest individual...No one can realistically assess how much he is worth in terms of billions of dollars.” **The Vatican Billions, Avro Manhattan, page 197**

The financial, commercial and political powers of the world have been enriched by their cooperation with Babylon. These global financiers, state and multinational corporations will withdraw their support (the drying up of the Euphrates).



Much emphasis is given to Babylon's sudden destruction in Rev 18. The expression “in one hour” is used three times to emphasize the swiftness of her quick end

“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and **burn her with fire.**” – Rev 17:16

Like the Tower of Babel, spiritual Babylon in defiance against God, inspired by Lucifer, will be destroyed by the judgments of God. Her sins are heaped high as heaven.

“The ships of Tarshish serve as carriers for your wares. You are filled with heavy cargo as you sail the sea. Your oarsmen take you out to the high seas. But the east wind will break you to pieces far out at sea. Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, sailors and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck. The shorelands will quake when your sailors cry out. All who handle the oars will abandon their ships; the mariners and all the sailors will stand on the shore. **They will raise their voice and cry bitterly over you;** they will sprinkle dust on their heads and roll in ashes. They will shave their heads because of you and will put on sackcloth. They will weep over you with anguish of soul and with bitter mourning. As they wail and mourn over you, they will take up a lament concerning you: “Who was ever silenced like Tyre, surrounded by the sea?” When your merchandise went out on the seas, you satisfied many nations; **with your great wealth and your wares you enriched the kings of the earth.** Now you are shattered by the sea in the depths of the waters; your wares and all your company have gone down with you. All who live in the coastlands are appalled at you; their kings shudder with horror and their faces are distorted with fear. The merchants among the nations scoff at you; **you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.**”

EZEKIEL 27:25 - 36

Babylon's final fall

The merchants of the earth lose their lucrative trade and livelihood as the plagues fall as a result of Babylon's judgment. The glory, the glitter, and the promise of ease and luxury have faded to bitter disappointment and eternal loss.

Prophet Ezekiel predicted the destruction of ancient Tyre in Ezekiel 26-27 symbolizing spiritual Babylon. Thirty commodities are depicted which were traded by the ancient city of Tyre. Beginning with gold and ending with the souls of men, this reveals how deadly Babylon's doctrine is demonic and eternal destructive.

Babylon is also clothed with fine linen – the dress of the righteous symbolizing the Christian mask that deceives the world

The political rulers of the world now mourn the consequences of their actions.

“Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates. Then you shall say, ‘Thus, Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her.’ – **Jer 51:63-64**

God's people celebrate over Babylon's fall as the cosmic conflict between good and evil comes to its finality. Babylon is avenged for the way she killed and persecuted God's people. With violence, Babylon is “thrown down;” its destruction is complete. The cry of the martyrs under the altar “How long?” is now answered.

The sweetest verse in all the Bible signals the end of Lucifer, like Babylon

“All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror and shall be no more forever.” – **Eze 28:19**



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