

## 82. The Book of Revelation—18:4-8

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(6-8-22)

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We are currently in the final parenthesis of the Book of Revelation—Chapters 17 and 18. In these chapters we are brought face to face with two Babylons. The Babylon of Chapter 17 is *religious*—and the Babylon of Chapter 18 is *commercial*.

Many commentators believe that these two Babylons are one in the same.

I personally believe that Mystery Babylon (Chapter 17) will be headquartered in Rome where the Roman Catholic Church will be the head or the 'mother church' of the world church during the first half of the Tribulation Period—and the pope could in fact be the False Prophet.

And that when Rome eventually goes down in the midst of the Tribulation—the religious center of the world will shift from Rome to Jerusalem.

### ➤ *Why do I believe that?*

Because it is at Jerusalem that the False Prophet will put the image of the Beast (Antichrist) in the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem (midpoint of the Tribulation Period) launching the start of a new religion where the Antichrist is worshipped as God.

As we have already seen—for the Antichrist to gain power and solidify his global kingdom he initially has to use the world church which is seen in Chapter 17 as a woman (harlot) riding (controlling) the Beast (the one world government).

At around the midpoint of the Tribulation Period he no longer needs her, so he and his followers turn on her and kill her—

### **Revelation 17:16, 18 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> 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...<sup>18</sup> And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

In John's day, there was no doubt which city reigned over the kings of the earth—Rome was the political, economic, and religious center of the world back then. The Babylon of Revelation 18 will be the commercial capital of the world located somewhere else as the center of capitalism and commerce during the Tribulation Period.

As we have already talked about, many people believe that the Babylon of Revelation 18 will literally be the ancient city of Babylon rebuilt on the Euphrates River in modern Iraq. So, I don't believe commercial Babylon (Chapter 18) will be the same city that religious Babylon will occupy.

This city will be the capital of the political power and commercial wealth of the Beast (Antichrist) and his kingdom.

So *religious* Babylon will be destroyed around the midpoint of the Tribulation Period—whereas *political/commercial* Babylon will be destroyed just prior to the return of Jesus Christ to establish His Kingdom.

**Revelation 18:1-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. <sup>2</sup> 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! <sup>3</sup> 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."

When God destroys commercial Babylon—the merchants of the world will mourn over the loss of the many fine goods and commodities—these will be those that lay up their treasures upon the earth—i.e., the 'earth-dwellers'.

**Revelation 18:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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."

It is hard for us to comprehend that a child of God could be a part of commercial Babylon in some way—but here verse 4 suggests that will be a reality for some during the first half of the Tribulation Period.

One commentator had this to say on the subject—

*"Throughout the terrifying judgments of the Tribulation, God will save people. The result of the gospel preaching by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses, and an angel flying in midheaven will be the greatest harvest of souls the world has ever known (cf. 7:9). Many of these believers will be martyred for their faith in Christ when they refuse to take the mark of the beast (13:15–16). The survivors will face powerful temptations to participate in the system. Family and friends will no doubt pressure them to save themselves by accepting the mark of the beast. The need to obtain the basic necessities of life will also pressure them to conform to the system (cf. 13:17).*

The command from God to His people to flee from Babylon with all of its evil allurements is something God's O.T. prophets constantly cried out—

**Jeremiah 51:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> 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.

**Jeremiah 51:45 (NKJV)**

<sup>45</sup> "My people, go out of the midst of her! And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord.

**Isaiah 52:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> 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.

The call by God to His people to come out of commercial Babylon (the ultimate ‘Vanity Fair’), with its materialistic allurements—does not just apply to the people of God who will be alive during the Antichrist’s reign, but something that applies to all Christians living today as well:

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>14</sup> Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> 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."* <sup>17</sup> Therefore *"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."* <sup>18</sup> "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

This warning is directed at children of God—those who have put themselves in the same position Lot put himself in while living in Sodom ([Genesis 19](#)).

These are God's people in a place they shouldn't be, a place ripe for destruction—and yet:

**2 Peter 2:6-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; <sup>7</sup> and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked <sup>8</sup> (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)-- <sup>9</sup> *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.

**Revelation 18:4-5 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> ..."Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. <sup>5</sup> **For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**

Their sins have **“reached to heaven”**—in other words, they have piled them up like a tower (think ‘Tower of Babel’). God will **‘remember her iniquities’**—but for believers, He says, *“I will remember their sins no more.”* (Hebrews 8:12) This seems to be the final call of God to His people still in this corrupt system to come out from her.

**Revelation 18:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> **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.**

‘Render’ is a Greek word that literally means, *“to pay a debt”* or *“to give back that which is due.”*

God will give to commercial Babylon exactly what she deserves—exactly what she has coming!

**Obadiah 1:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> "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.

The people of the world are not getting away with anything—the longer God’s grace is upon them and they don’t repent, the more they are storing up wrath for themselves in the coming day of wrath.

**'Repay her double according to her works...mix double for her'. (verse 6)**

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

This perhaps is a commentary on how Babylon has made her wealth—through dishonest dealings and blatant theft. The Great Reset will be the greatest theft of personal assets in the history of mankind—which could very well be the first thing the Antichrist does when he takes over.

**Revelation 18:7 (NKJV)**

**<sup>7</sup> In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously (Gk-“sensually”), 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.'**

Three sins call for Babylon's judgment:

**1. She was proud—she glorified herself.**

**Isaiah 42:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

**Proverbs 6:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood.

**James 4:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *...“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”*

**2. She pursued self-gratification—she lived sensuously.**

The Bible pronounces those who do so to be dead even while they live—

**1 Timothy 5:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

**Galatians 6:7-8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> 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.

**3. She was guilty of self-sufficiency, of presumptuously overestimating her power (America beware)—she said in her heart, “I sit as a queen, and I am not a widow and will never see mourning.”**

That proud boast echoes that of ancient Babylon, who said *“I will be a queen forever.... I will not sit as a widow, nor know loss of children”* (Isaiah 47:7, 8; Zephaniah 2:15).

**“I sit as a queen”**—is no doubt a reference to the *“Queen of Heaven”* which was a title for Semiramis (the wife of Nimrod) and the high-priestess of the original Babylonian mystery religion/cult started by her husband (Genesis 11).

This is a rebellious declaration against the King of Heaven and the worship of the true God (John 4:23-24)—replacing Him with the pagan worship of the ‘*queen of heaven.*’—something the Roman Catholic Church has done. (Explain)

Yet God’s devastating reply is:

**Revelation 18:8 (NKJV)**

**<sup>8</sup> 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.**

This calls to our attention the *suddenness* of her destruction—and that it will be by “**fire.**”

So great is her grief that “**mourning**” is counted as a plague along with “**death**” and “**famine.**”

“**...for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her.**”

**Romans 12:19-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore “*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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