

# *Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events*

## **Lesson Ten: Chapter 18**

### **Overview:**

In Chapter 18, we will see the second stage of the destruction of Babylon, which is the symbolic title of the satanic world system including the Gentile World Powers and idolatrous religion that were birthed in ancient Babylon. The first stage, presented in Chapter 17, was the destruction of the religious system, which God will bring about by using the kings or leaders of the Revived Roman Empire (Rev. 17:17).

Here, in Chapter 18, we will see the judgments of God brought to bear on the economic and political segments of the final world empire, and on the great city that is the seat of its government. The destruction of all human self-government will be complete, and will never “be found again” (Rev. 18:21).

### **Chapter 18: The Fall of the Final World Empire**

In order to understand the prophecies concerning Babylon that are contained in Chapters 17 and 18, we must look at it as a whole: a satanic world system that began in Ancient Babylon, and encompasses false religion and human self-rule in the political and economic realm of the Gentile World Empires.

#### **18:1**

- 1) After the fall of religious Babylon (world religious system), John saw another angel, different from the one of Ch.17, who showed John the destruction of the world religious system, accomplished according to God’s will by the kings of the earth (political system). Rev. 17:16-17

Note: Remember that the “Prostitute” (religious Babylon) rode on the back of the world empires, and was a burden to them.

- 3) To “illuminate” (*photizo*) is “to give light; to shine.” The brightness of this angel’s splendor is produced by the authority he is given by God.
  - a) All authority comes from Christ (Matt. 28:18). As we walk in His authority, we reflect God’s glory.

- b) The glory of God is revealed in us when the Kingdom of God RULES in us. A servant of God is one fully surrendered to God for the advancement of His Kingdom on earth, which must begin as His Kingdom authority rules in our own hearts and lives. Therefore, we must pray for His will to be done and His Kingdom to come in US. THEN, through us, to the world around us, that He may be glorified.

### **18:2-3**

- 1) This is a reference to the “Mother of Prostitutes” (17:5), specifically the world religious system “birthed” in ancient Babylon, which will be brought “to ruin” by the kings of the earth (17:16).
- 2) “The kings of the earth” is a reference to the political aspect of the system, and how it committed spiritual “adultery” (idolatry) with the religious system.

Example from *Voice of the Martyrs Magazine*, Nov. 2005, p. 4:

“The Cuban communist government, realizing the emptiness of atheism is not enough to combat Christianity, has built statues of idols and images relating to witchcraft at the entrance to towns. This dark religion is called “Santeria.” Witches who live in the area are supported by the government under the guise of “national culture.”<sup>1</sup>

- 3) The “Abyss” will be “the abode of demons” until they are released (Chapter 9). Then the earth will become the abode of demons. Imagine it!
- 3) “The merchants of the earth” is a reference to the economic aspect of the system.

### **18:4-6**

- 1) To “share in” (*sugkoinoneo*) is “to become a partaker together with others, or to have fellowship with a thing.” This is the same word used in Ephesians 5:11 (please read).
- 2) Read 1 John 2:15-17. Instead, we are to “participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

Read 2 Peter 1:3-4.

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<sup>1</sup> USED BY PERMISSION OF The Voice of the Martyrs [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com).

### **18:7-8**

- 1) To give oneself “luxury” (*streniao*) is “to be wanton (sensuous), live luxuriously. Read James 5:1-6
- 2) “Death, mourning and famine” relates to people living at that time.
- 3) These are the plagues of Chapter 16, poured out immediately before Christ returns. Read 16:17-21
- 4) Up to this point, Chapter 18 appears to refer back to the religious system, which will be destroyed by the ten kings (Rev. 17:16). It’s destruction will be completed in one day.

**However, “Babylon” is also a city: the seat of the world empire (17:18).**

### **18:9-10**

- 1) Here the kings of the earth mourn over the collapse of the economic system and disintegration of the empire, symbolized by the “city of power.” Babylon is symbolic of both the religious system (Mother of Prostitutes) and Gentile World Power. “The woman you saw is [also] the great city that rules over the kinds of the earth” (Rev. 17:18)
- 2) The religious system will be destroyed in one day (Rev. 18:8). Here, the political/economic system will be destroyed in one hour.
- 3) “Power” (*ischuros*), as used here, is “strong, firm, sure.” The unsaved of the world will believe this city/system to be indestructible.

### **18:11-13**

- 1) The “merchants of the earth” represent commerce; the economy,
- 2) The “bodies and souls of men” speaks of human trafficking, already taking place, especially in using children for the sex trade and pornography.

### **18:14-16**

“The fruit the world longed for” are autumn-ripe fruits of the lust (eager desire) of the soul.”<sup>2</sup> Read Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>2</sup> Jamieson, Faussett, Brown, A. R., A.M., *Commentary on Revelation*. "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible". <<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Commentaries/JamiesonFaussetBrown/jfb.cgi?book=re&chapter=003>>. 1871. Public Domain.

### **18:17-18**

- 1) The economy will be brought to ruin in “one hour,” even more quickly than the physical judgments.
- 2) Remember that Babylon encompasses the entire system of human self-rule: the religious system, destroyed by world leaders in Ch.17, and here, the city as the seat of the final world empire, symbolic of Gentile World Power from the beginning. This city will be the most spectacular of all.

### **18:19-20**

God’s judgment is upon the entire world system, not on a city or a particular empire (ex: Rome), or its false religion. Here, specifically, it is concerning the way the world has persecuted the saints of God. Read Rev. 6:9-11.

- a) Read Rev. 12:17 The dragon is Satan (12:9); the woman here is the nation of Israel, and those who hold to the testimony of Jesus are Jewish and Gentile believers, all “Abraham’s seed” (Galatians 3:29). **This speaks of the satanic origin of this persecution.**
- b) However, Satan will use the Antichrist and his political power to bring this about: “He (Antichrist) was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them” (Rev. 13:7). **This speaks of persecution of the saints (Christians) by world governments.**
- c) Read Rev. 17:6 The woman here is Babylon: Mother of Prostitutes. **This speaks of the persecution of the saints (Christians) by false religions.**

### **18:21-23**

- 1) “Millstone” is used in Luke 17:1-2 (please read), also in relation to leading others into sin.
- 2) After the destruction of the world religious system (ch.17), the False Prophet is given the authority of the Antichrist to force the earth’s inhabitants to worship the image of Antichrist and take his mark, in order to buy or sell. He “leads the nations astray” through sorcery!

Read Rev. 13:13-17

## **18:24**

- 1) “The blood of prophets and of the saints” is not found in one literal city. Again, this speaks of the entire satanic world system, for Satan is the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4). The religious, economic, and political world system began in ancient Babylon, and will be destroyed by God’s judgments at Christ’s return.
- 2) “The blood of all who have been killed on earth” speaks not only of the saints, but of all the bloodshed throughout history.

*Now what?*

*How will this lesson change the way you live?*

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