

Bye, Bye Babylon!

Revelation 18:1 (KJV)

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

Last week we talked about the destruction of *Religious Babylon*

- * The Bible paints a horrific picture of the end of all false religion
- * One day, *every belief system in the world that bypasses the Lord Jesus Christ* will be utterly destroyed and will cease to exist
- * That will be a devastating day for the devil and his followers, but it will be a glorious day for the God of Heaven and for His Son Jesus.

Revelation 17 reveals the demise of *religious Babylon*

Revelation 18 reveals the doom of *economic Babylon*

Revelation 18:1 (KJV)

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

- * In verses 1 a mighty angel, shining with the glory of Heaven, appears on the scene.
- * This angel comes to announce the condition and the condemnation of this world’s economic system
- * Mankind will not only be deprived of the religion he created
- * Mankind he will also suffer the loss of the wealth
- * This will make *The Bernard Madoff Scandel* look like a sissy when it comes to destroying the wealth of man

There is the great angelic announcement from heaven

- * A great angel comes down from heaven
- * He is coming from God Himself, and he is coming with great authority and power.

Note *His glory: he is so glorious that the light of his glory blazes across the whole earth. This symbolizes that his message and mission are meant for the whole earth. The glory of what he is about to announce is for the ears of the whole world [God Said Let There be light and the Earth saw His Light]*

In 1929 when the stock market crashes

- * **October 29, 1929** became known as “*Black Tuesday*”
- * When *the stock market crashed, the world* was plunged into “*The Great Depression*”

Over the next few years the economic structure of the U.S. economy was nearly destroyed

- * **Over 9,000 banks** closed their doors between 1930 and 1933
- * **Production in U.S. manufacturing plants** ground to a halt, leaving millions unemployed
- * **Many thousands** lost their homes to foreclosure; many others lost their health to malnutrition

All across this nation, people waited in soup lines for their meals

- * All across this nation, “*hobo jungles*” and “*Hoovervilles*” sprang up
- * The “*hobo jungles*” were places near train yards where the hobos who traveled the country on freight cars set up camp.

“Hoovervilles” were shantytowns filled with shacks made from crates and other cheap materials

- * They were named after *President Hoover*, who received much of the blame for the economic conditions of the times

People who lived through those dark and difficult days were changed forever by the hardships they suffered

Revelation 18:1 (KJV)

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

- * **Revelation 18** tell us of an *economic collapse* that will make the stock market crash of 1929 seem like nothing!
- * This economic disaster will be worldwide in its scope and it will take away *mankind’s favorite god: money!*

Revelation 18:2 (KJV)

“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*”

The Spirit Of This System

- * The angel tells us about *the spirit behind the system*
- * It will be a system energized and controlled by demons and evil spirits
- * It will be utterly vile and corrupt
- * We look at our world today and think that it can't get much worse
- * Things can get worse and they will!
- * What this verse describes is a world that has literally gone to the devil

Reasons are given why God will destroy the city

[Remember Babylon represents a godless society]

Babylon will be destroyed because of spiritual corruption**Revelation 18:2 (KJV)**

“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*”

Babylon, the great city of the end time, will not look to God

Therefore, it will become...

- * **The place for devils and their worship**
- * **The place for every foul spirit**

Note how graphically the picture is painted

- * It will become *the cage for every unclean and hateful bird*
- * The morals and sins of Babylon will run so loose that the city will become a center for every foul and unclean spirit and filth of the underworld. [Birds of a feather flock together]

Immorality, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, abnormal sex—all forms of immoral behavior will run wild

Lying, stealing, and cheating will run rampant

Lusting after more and more of the possessions and pleasures of the world will increase greatly

Sorcery, devil worship, witchcraft, palm readers, fortune tellers, and astrology will be revived and run loose

Secularism, materialism, and humanism will dominate the philosophies and behavior of people

Works of the Flesh will manifest in every area of humanity

* Babylon will be spiritually and financially corrupt

Scripture says that there are several spirits that corrupt man

The spirit of bondage

Romans 8:15

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father"

The spirit of the world

1 Corinthians 2:12

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God"

The spirit of man

1 Corinthians 2: 11

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God"

The spirit that works in the children of disobedience

Ephesians 2:2

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"

The spirit of false teaching and preaching

1 John 4:1

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world"

The spirit of error

1 John 4:6

"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error"

**We have looked into the Spirits of the System
Now lets look at how these Spirits Seduce the System**

Revelation 18:3 (KJV)

"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"

- * This Babylonian system or simply Anti-Christ spirit will seduce the entire world – They will compromise and lust after money and power
- * The love of money is the greatest corrupter of mankind ever conceived

1 Timothy 6:10

"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 sorrow"

- * Money in and of itself is not evil. But, when a person loves money to the point that it controls their life and lifestyle, it becomes evil
- * The Spirit of Greed – The Spirit of Compromise – The Spirit of Control / Manipulation / Jezebel – The Spirit of Corruption – The Spirit of Envy – The Spirit of Strife / Dissention – The Spirit of Religion
- * Anti-Christ spirit loves to bring its forces of evil spirits around the love, or worship of money.

Babylon, the great capital city, will be destroyed because the city corrupted nations, kings, and merchants

Revelation 18:3 (KJV)

“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”

- * The word "fornication" – [porneias]
- * Here in this verse it is talking about spiritual fornication, the rejection of God and the turning to other gods
- * Simply those who are bound by these seductive spirits will commit intimacy or have relationship with other Gods, they will be commandment breakers, and glory takers, they will serve false idols

The world of the end time will be days of secularism, humanism, and materialism

Man will worship himself and his secular society.

He will focus his life around... technology, science, education, pleasures, recreation, comforts

Even today, if all the nations of the Middle East could be united under one rule, the confederation of power could make enormous demands and manipulate the money of the nations of the world

- * How?
- * Through its oil
- * Think about it? Oil, Texas Tea has become Arabic Brew, Turkish Toddies, Iranian Imports – Simply we have moved from the resources of our soil that God has given us and fornicating, become intimate with Godless sources.
- * Riches and Oil make for strange God bedfellows – Think about it!

Revelation 18:4-8 (KJV)

“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.

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

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.

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her”

The Sentence Of This System

* Now we see that the angel is preparing to pronounce God’s judgment upon this corrupt system

* Before he does, he calls for God’s people to avoid being caught up in the wickedness of that hour

The angel calls for the people of God to reject this system and the sins of this system

God expects His people to come out of this world’s system and to be different

2 Corinthians 6: 14-17

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”

Simply: God expects us to be motivated by a different set of values

* We will never win the world by being like them!

* We will impact the world the most when we separate from their ways and allow them to see Jesus living through our lives!

Revelation 18: 5

“For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities”

* The Lord’s sentence is passed on the Babylonian economic system

Babylon’s Deeds

* The sins of this system have *“reached unto heaven”*

* The word *“reached”* means *“to glue, to cement, to fasten together”*

*The ancient tower of Babel failed to reach the heavens, but the sins of this system have succeeded in reaching the throne of God
God, in His patience, has held back His judgment*

* Now, *the sins of Babylon come up in the remembrance of God* and the day of His judgment has arrived

I praise the Lord that those who are in Jesus do not have to worry about their sins being remembered

Consider the wonderful promise of Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins”

The sins of this system reached all the way to Heaven – they did not repent so they paid the price

Revelation 18: 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”

* The word *“reward”* here means *“to pay a debt; to give back that which is due”*

* Babylon has sin much and she is about to be punished much!

* Her sins have been doubled and her punishment will be doubled too!

* You never get away with sin!

* Galatians 6:7 tells us that we always reap what we sow

* Gods Foundational Principle of Harvest comes to fruition

Babylon will be destroyed because the city will corrupt people through secularism

- * One of the easiest things in the world is to become influenced by secularism
- * A secular society offers comfort, health, education, possessions, pleasures, time, recreation, culture, and art
- * It offers all that a person could ever want physically and mentally

But it Denies and Rejects God

- * Therefore, the citizens of a secular society are led to focus life upon this world and nothing more
- * The result is utterly tragic: the citizens go out into eternity lost and doomed

They enter into whatever lies beyond this world unprepared

- * Scripture declares that God and eternity lie beyond this world, either an eternity of hell and punishment apart from God or an eternity of life and reward with God.
- * Therefore Babylon, the great city of secular society, will stand guilty of misleading people into sin, into the false belief of secularism and humanism.

Not:e *These sins are said to have reached up to heaven and that God remembers its iniquities*

- * Many people think they are getting away with sin, but they aren't! There will come a reaping day and the reaping will far exceed the sowing!

Revelation 18: 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 Babylon glorifies itself. It thinks it is so powerful and so glorious that it is above sorrow and judgment. The Babylonian system is about to learn a harsh lesson – Oh if Leaders of Today would heed this warning.

Lots of people have this same attitude about their lives

* They think that they are safe and that they will never be judged

God has a word for people with that attitude:**1 Thessalonians 5:3**

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape”

* Folks we need to always be on guard against the spirit of Deception

Revelation 18: 8

“8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her”

* **Her Destruction** – Her power, her glory and her pride will not stave off the judgment of the Lord. Her destruction will be swift and sure. In one day all that man has built over thousands of years will be brought to nothing! Judgment will come and there will be no escape. It is settled!

* **Her Destroyer** – God makes promises and not threats. This system has defied His Word and defiled His ways. He will come in judgment and none will be able to stay His hand or stop His purposes. He is able to judge the world and none can stop Him!

Revelation 18:9-10 (KJV)

**“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”**

* Every economy of every nation on the earth will crash to the ground in a moment of time. The crash of this system will be accompanied by the wailing and weeping of the rulers of the world

Revelation 18:11-24 (KJV)

“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

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.

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, 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.

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

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.

22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, 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;

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; 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.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth”

Babylon Falls

*** The leaders of the World Mourn**

The Business and Commercial Leaders Mourn

*** Because of their losses**

*** Fear grips them and the world**

Babylon’s fall will be violent, complete

*** Pride**

*** Spiritual Corruption Takes Place**

Political and Spiritual Babylon – the systems of this World will fall at the mighty hand of God

Prayer

*** Today is the day of Salvation**

*** You need to know Jesus in your life**

*** We need to check our Spiritual Heats make sure our priorities and morals line up with the Word of God**