

Revelation 18

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God's final judgments were poured out in chapter 16... Seven angels poured out seven Bowls, filled with the Wrath of God, out onto the World of Men who have hated and rejected the true God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... God said, 'It is done!'...

The next scene, chronologically, will be of the Bride of Christ... us... having made herself ready to be joined with the Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ... ready to accompany Him back to Earth for the Battle of Armageddon. That will be in chapter 19. But before John sees that great scene... God inserts 2 chapters... 17 and 18... to show His judgment and destruction of Babylon the Great... the kingdom of the Antichrist.

In chapter 17, we saw the destruction of Mystery Babylon, the religious system of Satan and the Antichrist and here in chapter 18 we'll see God's judgment on Babylon, the rebuilt city, which is representative of the worldwide economic and commercial system of Satan and his 'son', the Antichrist.

Lucifer has tried to imitate God, the Trinity, in his attempt to **make himself like the Most High**. Remember... at his fall, recorded in Isaiah 14, Lucifer said, **'I will be like the Most High.'** He is imitating the true Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, with his own trinity... Lucifer the father, Antichrist the son and the False Prophet as the spirit. His worldwide economic/religious system... his kingdom of darkness has been his imitation and substitute for the Kingdom of God and of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ... the Kingdom of Light... which He will soon be set up on Earth, from Jerusalem... with us, the true Church, the Bride of Christ, at His side... ruling and reigning with Him for 1000 years and then forever... and forever is a long, long time.

God has been telling us what the spiritual and economic system of the World will be like just before Jesus Christ returns. In chapter 12 we saw Satan and his fallen angels finally cast to Earth and we saw millions of demons released from the Abyss and from the Euphrates. Satan controls the World's government, economy and religion while multiplied millions of demons control the World's population.

The nearest picture we've had of this is Nazi Germany of the '30s... Hitler as antichrist, Goebbels as the false prophet... and the dark, occultic spirit principality which hovered over Germany with every citizen deceived and controlled while Jews and true Christians were hunted down and exterminated. But the economy was great... the trains ran on time... everyone had a job and every Nazi Party Member lived luxuriously.

Here is something else for us to think about... in Ephesians, Paul teaches us about the powerful demons... spiritual wickedness in heavenly places... powers in the air... principalities... specific powerful demons, in the kingdom of darkness... under Lucifer's command with the responsibility over each specific country... a demon controlling the leadership of Japan... of China... of Argentina... of Persia/Iran... a demon principality over every Earthly principality.

In Daniel 10, an angel, probably Gabriel, told Daniel that he had been hindered for 3 weeks, by the Prince of Persia... the demon principality over Persia, from bringing God's message to Daniel... Persia was the country where Daniel was. Gabriel finally made it through when Michael, the Archangel was dispatched to help him battle against the demonic Prince of Persia.

The demonic principality over Germany deceived that nation into causing the destruction of WW I which began to set the World up, bring in the League of Nations... the beginning of the future Antichrist kingdom of Babylon... and also in bringing about, at the same time, the downfall of Czarist Russia, bringing in Communism to help destroy Christianity throughout much of Eastern Europe. Then, less than 20 years later, the same demonic principality again deceived the same nation, Germany, into the destruction of WW II which further set the World up to receive the United Nations and the European Union which would be the next big step toward the Antichrist's kingdom. And now... by that same principality... Germany has been deceived again as

the driving force in the EU, bringing in multiplied millions of Muslims throughout Europe with the goal of destroying nationalism, moving toward a one world government of Antichrist and reawakening increased anti-Semitism and *anti-Christianism* throughout Europe.

The final Economic and Religious system of the Antichrist, Babylon, has been growing for 100 years... the World is ready now to receive the Antichrist. The only thing standing in his way is the Holy Spirit, through His restraining power, which Paul said would be removed soon, at the Rapture... which could even be today.

Like racehorses stamping in the starting gates, countless demons are ready to be unleashed upon a lost world when the true Church is removed... and the principalities over every nation on Earth will be deceiving all those under them to follow and worship the Antichrist and even Lucifer himself.

Let's look at the destruction of commercial Babylon...

Chapter 18: After these things (after the destruction of Religious Babylon) 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."

At the beginning of the Tribulation, Babylon will probably be rebuilt as a capitol of sorts... think about it... it could be built in a very short time... perhaps as the capitol of worldwide public control and security... built with all the genius, skill and mastery of Apple, Facebook, Microsoft, Verizon and Intel combined... all submitted under the Antichrist... they already are.

And Babylon is also the worldwide economic system of Antichrist.

But before Babylon is destroyed... just like God removed Lot from Sodom and He rescued Noah from the Old World... and the Church before the Tribulation... He says to His saints...

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.

Just like Nazi Party members loved luxuriously... like Communist Party members did and do live luxuriously... just like Eurocrats and Democrat and Republican party bigwigs live luxuriously... entering office of modest means and leaving office as millionaires and billionaires... those loyal to Antichrist already do live luxuriously at the expense of the little people...

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. ¹⁵The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷For 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 ¹⁸and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *is* like this great city?'

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.'

All trade will be dependent upon the Antichrist economic system... no one will be able to buy or sell anything without having given absolute loyalty and submission to the Antichrist by willingly taking the Mark of the Beast on their right hands or foreheads and by worshipping his image.

Remember previously... during the pouring out of the 7 bowls of God's final judgment... we heard angels sounding like a cheerleading squad... they said...

"You are righteous, O Lord,

The One who is and who was and who is to be,

Because You have judged these things.

⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,

And You have given them blood to drink.

For ^{6a}it is their just due." also... ⁷And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments."

It was as if the angels were saying to God... 'keep going... finish it... they deserve it... don't stop now...'

Here they go again...

²⁰"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

Those in Heaven are being told... rejoice over this destruction... don't feel bad... don't be sorry over this judgment... rejoice!

This is another indication that we are all watching this take place from Heaven.

²¹Then 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. ²²The 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. ²³The 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. ²⁴And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

This is the complete and final destruction of not only the rebuilt city of Babylon but also of the worldwide commercial and religious system of Lucifer and the Antichrist.

Finally! What we've all been waiting for...

Next time we will see...

Our wedding to Jesus Christ in Heaven

The Antichrist gathering all the armies of the Earth to the Valley of Megiddo

Our return with the Lord Jesus Christ... and

The final battle at Armageddon