

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

The Fall of Babylon

THE EARTH WEEPS, HEAVEN REJOICES

Revelation 18:1-20:

1. **And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**
4. **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.**
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.**
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, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.**

14. **And the fruits that thy soul lusteth 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.**

Verses 1-2: **“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 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 is still the subject - but here we have the introduction of a new set of circumstances.

In this chapter, the Beast is not once named, nor do we find the ten kings mentioned. The chapter is given over entirely to the destruction of Babylon. Human agents disappear; the ruin of that awful system of corruption is the predominating theme of the entire chapter.

The chapter opens with **“And after these things I saw ANOTHER ANGEL.”** This angel is not to be confused with the seven angels who had the vials of the seven last plagues. This angel descending out of Heaven suggests the heavenly character of the action he is about to take. **“Having great authority,”** he comes down from Heaven to earth to perform an act of judgment such as has never been known - nor ever will be known again.

All angels are not identical - some are more distinguished than others in service and in their angelic position - but all angels are mighty (II Thessalonians 1:7; II Peter 2:11).

At specific times God bestows special power upon certain angels to perform certain duties.

Universal authority is never ascribed to an angel. The Lord Jesus is the appointed heir of all things (Matthew 28:18; Hebrews 1:2).

Christ as Creator of all things certainly has a right to lay claim to universal dominion. As Creator, the claim of the Lord Jesus to universal dominion is not a conferred claim . . . God the Father did not confer it upon Him but it is sovereign and independent (Colossians 1:16), It is founded on the rights and glory of His person as God.

The angel referred to here is probably the one to whom God has committed the judgment of Babylon. The angel announces the fall of Babylon; he has authority to deal thoroughly with the subject of the destruction of Babylon - the most ungodly, rotten religious system ever to exist upon the face of this earth. **“The earth was lightened with his glory.”**

This certainly is a testimony that God is on the scene, and it is God who is acting in this judgment that is about to come. The fall of Babylon will be a public event. The smoke of her burning (verse 18) will be seen - it will darken the heavens and announce to the whole wide world that the great system of Babylon is being destroyed. But “the earth lightened” - not by the reflection of the sun, but by the glory of the angel seen descending out of Heaven.

This will Witness to the fact that whoever the actors are in the judgment, it is God, the Righteous Judge, who is the head of the judgment of Babylon. Personally, I believe the angel here is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ . . . the same angel of whom we studied in Revelation 8:3 and 10:1.

- Christ - the Angel-Priest - on behalf of His suffering remnant (chapter 8) will no doubt be the one to mete out final judgment to Babylon.
- Christ - the Angel-Redeemer - is seen taking possession of His rightful inheritance, the earth and the sea, in chapter 10.
- Christ - the Angel-Avenger of His people - is here (chapter 18) seen taking vengeance on the most deadly enemies God’s people ever had . . . the system of Babylon during the last half of the Tribulation.

The angel cried with a loud voice, and the cry he sent forth was the welcomed proclamation of Babylon’s destruction. The angel made the announcement with such surety as though it had already taken place, yet we know that it will take place in the future. The angel said **“Great Babylon has fallen, has fallen.”**

The fall of that mighty system which, while guilty of gross falsehood and treason against the Lord Jesus Christ, yet bore His name, is here publicly announced. The actual fall is yet future. In the previous chapter we saw the Beast to whom the power of civil authority was given, and who for a time became the willing slave of the woman. She sat upon the Beast in pride. She was an object of wonder and admiration to all except those who knew her true character because their eyes had been opened by God.

God has always had a remnant - and always will have a righteous remnant here on earth until the consummation of all things.

The Beast had for a season yielded power to the woman, but he becomes restless under her restraint and chafes under her intolerant sway. Then too, the woman is very wealthy, and the civil and apostate power of the Beast covets the wealth of the woman.

Thus the ten kingdoms with their kings, together with the Beast and the whole material strength of the revived empire, unite her destruction. The ten kings are even more active in her destruction than is the Beast himself.

The woman is stripped of all her possessions, her wealth, her treasures . . . all that she has is taken from her.

The woman (the system she represents) will be brought down to the lowest depths of degradation, to the lowest insults that can be heaped upon her. She will be the object of scorn and contempt by those who, only a short while before, sought her favors and courted her smile. When the ten kings have finished with her, she will be a total wreck. The apostate civil authority will win the complete victory over her.

Then, after the victory over the woman, the ten kings yield themselves and their kingdoms into the hands and unto the fate of the brutal Beast who will be the world dictator at that time. As bad as the situation under the woman will be, after her destruction a much worse condition will follow under the unchecked will of the brutal Beast, Satanically inspired and empowered.

Verses 2-3: **“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. 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.”**

Here is described the condition of Babylon after and consequent to her political downfall. She was overthrown but not totally destroyed. The destruction will be sudden:

“She shall be utterly burned with fire” (verse 8). **“Utterly burned with fire”** is subsequent to the burning mentioned in Revelation 17:16. The Spirit makes the statement as though it had already happened, and of course it will happen exactly as prophesied. Babylon, having lost her place of supremacy, having been torn to pieces by the very powers which once formed her strength, is now reduced to a state of desolation described in dynamic language.

The description is no doubt borrowed from the prophet Isaiah:

“It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged” (Isaiah 13:20-22).

The city has become the habitation of devils (demons), making the city the dwelling place of creatures out of the abyss. Who these demons are, we do not know.

Whether they are angels who left their first estate, or a special class of miserable beings, we do not know. We only know that the city is inhabited by creatures from the underworld (the pit). The abyss is the dwelling place of the emissaries of Satan.

Then is mentioned every unclean and hateful bird. Unclean birds and birds of prey and birds of darkness symbolize the many and various agents of the devil. Study Matthew 13:4-32; Jeremiah 5:27; and especially Isaiah 34:11-15. Thus Babylon becomes a cesspool of corruption and abomination in the sight of a holy God.

Next we find the grounds of God's judgment poured out upon Babylon. These are:

“For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

The peoples of the prophetic earth will drink eagerly from her golden, intoxicating cup filled with abominations. She has seduced the nations from their allegiance to the true God and God's Christ, to herself and her lust. The peoples who make up the religious systems of that day will be completely captivated by her splendor, her services, and her display of gorgeous vestments. They will be totally ignorant of the true Spirit of God.

After the Rapture those who have heard the Truth and rejected it will be sent **“strong delusion.”** They will believe **“the Lie”** . . . **“that they all might be damned”** (II Thessalonians 2:7-12).

Today, religions of “works” are growing like wildfire - while the true, blood-bought religion of Calvary moves so slowly. If a minister organizes a church and preaches the Blood of the cross, members are added very slowly; but if some cult organizes with an attractive religion of works, or “salvation” that can be purchased with money or deeds, that religion will grow rapidly.

“The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,” and this is another reason why God is about to pour out total destruction upon Babylon. The persons who were the heads of the ten kingdoms that will make up the revived empire must be distinguished from **“the kings of the earth.”** The ten kings who make up the empire will hate the woman and burn her with fire (Revelation 17:16). But not so with the kings of the earth . . . they weep over her fate (Revelation 18:9).

They (the kings of the earth) commit fornication with Babylon. They love the systems of the harlot. The apostate church loves the world for the wealth she can obtain from the riches of the world; and, of course, the world gladly welcomes the love of the apostate church because she promises to open the door of Heaven to all who PAY WELL. She dangles “the keys of St. Peter” before the kings of the earth, and declares that she is “the Vicar of Christ,” the “intercessor between God and man”; and because the apostate church exalts herself to this height of spiritual dictatorship the kings of the earth and the great men of the earth flock to her and pour much wealth into her coffers.

There is a third group mentioned here: **“the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”** This group follows the apostate system for gain. There has always been a class of people who join religious systems for what they can get out of religion. They use the church as a stepping stone to advance their business interests. Babylon will offer great temptation to such people. The abundance of her luxuries will certainly attract the merchants of the earth and the merchants will become rich thereby. Therefore, when the system is destroyed, these merchants will weep and wail over the ruin of their source of riches.

I ask you a solemn, sane, sensible question: Is religion becoming “big business” today?

Verses 4-5: **“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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”**

In verse 4 another voice from Heaven speaks: **“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”** In verse 1, an angel descends from Heaven to announce the fall of Babylon. In verse 4, a voice is heard IN Heaven. The voice is the expression of the mind of God, announcing to the people of God to come out of this hellish system.

No doubt in the very closing days and hours of time there will be true believers - not in the sense that we are believers in this day of grace, but people who have trusted God will be in the systems of Babylon - probably to avoid persecution and martyrdom; but now they must come out. They must make a complete break if they are to escape the plagues that will be poured out upon the systems - the plagues of death, mourning and famine (verse 8).

“ . . . That ye have no fellowship in her sins.” If they continue to fellowship with her sins, they must also share the plagues. The warning is sounded out from Heaven. The full judgment of Almighty God cannot fall upon Babylon until every person who embraces God’s righteousness is completely out of her. Not one drop of rain fell until Noah and his family were safe in the ark and **“God shut them in.”** Not one spark of fire and brimstone fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah until Lot and his daughters were safe outside the city . . . and then God burned it to ashes. God is a just God - He is righteous.

He cannot perform unrighteousness; and even in this terrible hour those who believe in Him as the true and only God must come out of Babylon before full judgment can be poured out.

In verse 5 we learn that the sins of Babylon have reached unto Heaven - and God **“hath remembered her iniquities.”**

That suggests that the sins of Babylon are so many, heaped one upon another, that they reach all the way from earth to Heaven. In Genesis 11:4 we read concerning the first Babylon, **“And they said, Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.”** Now it seems that they have built an empire of sin that has reached Heaven and God is about to crush this giant, evil force . . . once, for all, forever, never to allow it to be revived again.

Verse 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.”**

Babylon is to be rewarded as she has rewarded the people of God . . . and double the reward, according to her works. The verse further states, **“in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.”**

In severity, God is going to pour out double what Babylon has meted out to the saints of God whom she butchered and tormented during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation period.

Verses 7-8: **“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. 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 principle of judgment is next shown in the first part of verse 7 . . . not only in relation to what Babylon has done and will do to the saints . . . but she will be judged for what she is herself. At this time the woman will have been degraded from her public place of authority and power. She will have been demoted by the kings of the Roman world; but in spite of her humiliation she maintains her pride in her heart . . . her spirit is not broken. Her haughtiness is asserted in spite of the fact that she sits in the dust of disgrace as compared to the former glory of her reign.

The kings of the earth will weep over her, but they cannot help her. The boasting of the woman is from within. She says in her heart, **“I sit a queen.”** Her public downfall will already have taken place at this time; but in spite of her downfall she believes in her heart that she will rise again to sit as a queen. She continues by saying, **“I am not a widow.”**

She expects to once again sit upon a throne and reign. Facing utter destruction, the judgment of God hanging heavy over her head, she yet cries out, **“I shall in no wise see grief!”** The devil does not easily acknowledge defeat; he fights to the last bitter second before his complete downfall.

Utter destruction of the woman is signified in the words, **“she shall be burned with fire.”** This goes much further than the political downfall recorded in chapter 17:16.

The fire here will make an utter end to Babylon with all her ungodly systems. The mighty God Jehovah will be the judge, to mete out final and eternal judgment to Babylon.

Verses 9-10: **“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, 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.”**

The lamentation over the great Babylon is demonstrated by all classes. All will be affected by the downfall. The merchandise listed as having to do with Babylon is twenty-eight different articles.

The first listed is gold; the twenty-eighth article is souls. The downfall of Babylon will seriously affect the whole commercial and social life of the world at that time, and it is on this account that the judgment is so deplored by those who shared the glory and the wealth of the woman, and profited by her ungodly practices.

The kings of the earth lead the mourning. Bear in mind that this does not refer to the ten kings who unite with the Beast to destroy the woman. The kings of the earth referred to here are the distinguished leaders in Christendom throughout the world, and are definitely a separate group from the ten kings who make up the Roman Empire. The kings of the earth stand in awe and fear.

They, witness the awful destruction of the mighty system of evil with which they had been so closely identified, and in which they had lived in luxury and splendor. They tremble and fear at the awfulness and suddenness of the judgment of Babylon: “. . . **for in one hour is thy judgment come!**”

Verses 11-13: **“And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 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, and cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.”**

The next group named . . . **“the merchants of the earth.”** They sorrow over the destruction of Babylon - not because of their love for the system, but because of the trade they had with the system. This gigantic system brought much wealth to the merchants of the earth, and now the source of their wealth is destroyed. Notice the varied character of the merchandise: The products named signify that it is a world-wide system.

The fact that she trades in these many commodities signifies that she has great influence over commercial Babylon as well as the civil setup of the day. She attracts to herself the world's riches. Think of the gigantic setup of this great combination of secular and religious trading in the different commodities named, even to the souls of men.

The bodies and souls of men are named last (verse 13) as of least account.

The various articles named here are listed under seven divisions:

1. Valuables and ornaments such as gold, silver, diamonds, rubies, pearls . . . all kinds of precious stones.
2. Costly wearing apparel. Fine linen is named, with purple, silk and scarlet. One need not stretch the imagination to point out that certain religions outstanding in our day and growing like wildfire in America deal in these commodities . . . scarlet, purple, linen, all kinds of religious garb!
3. Furniture is named . . . vessels and different pieces of furniture manufactured from precious wood, ivory and precious metals. Churches today are more and more becoming places of furniture, ornaments, etc.

4. Rich odours are named . . . ointments of all kinds, frankincense, cinnamon.

5. Items that make for luxurious living are named. . . fine meat, sheep, beasts of all kinds, wheat, flour, oil, wine, intoxicating drinks. More and more religions are eating and drinking today. That is no secret.

6. Horses and chariots are named.

7. The last commodity named is “**the souls of men.**” Certainly today religion is making merchandise of the souls of men.

Religions that sell the right to Heaven are growing in numbers by the thousands . . . religions that teach that you can live like you please, do anything you want to do, come to church at the appointed time, make an offering, confess your sin and then go right back and commit the same sin over and over and over again. That is making merchandise of the souls of men.

Religious leaders accepting money to pray for and intercede in behalf of wicked sinners is nothing short of merchandising in souls.

This is the age of big business, big politics, big religion . . . big . . . big . . . big!!!

As prophesied in God’s holy Word, in the very end of time there will be a world government and a world church. All other aspects of life will head up under these two main world powers.

Verses 14-17: “**And the fruits that thy soul lusteth 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. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 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! 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.**”

The weeping of the merchants is interrupted by an episode given to us in verse 14, but the mournful strain is continued in verse 15 . . . the complete and entire ruin of the merchandise of Babylon. The merchandise and commodities that bound to her both king and peasant having been destroyed, now leave her wrecked. Her resources are gone. She is utterly and entirely despoiled of her former means of self-indulgence. Her source of enjoyment is gone - in fact, all that ministered to her haughtiness and pride is cut down. Everything essential to her existence has perished and it all came with one sudden blow from the hand of divine judgment.

In verse 14 she is directly addressed from Heaven above: “**And the fruits that thy soul lusteth 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!**”

Heaven is here announcing to this woman that her playhouse is wrecked forever, and she is down, never to rise again.

In verse 15 we see the merchants standing afar off, crying out, bewailing the fact that the riches they enjoyed are taken away.

Their testimony is recorded in verses 16 and 17: **“Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones and pearls! FOR IN ONE HOUR SO GREAT RICHES IS COME TO NOUGHT. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off.”** And then all together send up one great wail of sorrow.

Verse 18: **“And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!”** And then the whole company goes into a spasm.

Note the descriptive language of verse 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.”**

The merchants express their lamentation in words similar to those of the kings as recorded in verse 10.

However, there is one difference: The kings, in their lamentation, cried out, **“In one hour is thy judgment come.”** But the merchants cry out, **“In one hour so great riches is come to nought.”** The merchants are thinking only of the gain they derived from the systems of religion set forth by this terrible woman. The Lord Jesus told us when He was on earth, **“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”** Paul added, **“The love of money is the root of all evil.”**

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

We have heard the voice from Heaven, first in verse 4 and now in verse 20. In this latter case Heaven is called upon to rejoice and be exceedingly glad. Note the difference: On earth there is lamentation, weeping, moaning, groaning; but in Heaven, there is rejoicing and praise. All Heaven unites in the song of victory and triumph. There are three classes pointed out in Heaven:

1. **“Thou heaven.”** I believe this to mean all the angels, cherubim and heavenly creatures.
2. The holy apostles.
3. Prophets.

This takes in all heavenly creatures - whether they be angels, spirits, believers, Old Testament saints, New Testament saints, prophets or whoever. They are called upon to rejoice and sing praises because God has judged the greatest enemy of righteousness that has ever existed or ever will exist, and she has suffered at the hands of Almighty God.

UTTER RUIN AND EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

Revelation 18:21-24:

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.**

I trust you will study carefully Jeremiah chapter 51 and Revelation 18 together. In Jeremiah 51 we have a similar dramatic description of the overthrow of Babylon; however, here an angel of might is the great destroyer. Both the literal and the mystical cities are to be utterly destroyed by violence. In verse 21 we read, **“And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone.”** I believe this is the same angel referred to in Revelation 10:1. I believe it is none other than the Lord Jesus in angelic form. The stone is cast down with terrible violence into the sea, signifying that thus will Babylon be utterly and totally destroyed, never to rise again. Such destruction Sodom and Gomorrah suffered in the days of old - no trace of those two cities has ever been found. They were totally destroyed, and Babylon will suffer the same fate.

In verse 22 we learn that the musicians will play no more in Babylon. The voice of harpers, trumpeters and pipers will be heard no more. No craftsmen will be there. All industry, all music, will be utterly crushed and destroyed.

In verse 23 we learn that the light of the candle will shine no more. The voice of the bridegroom will be heard no more in Babylon. The merchants of the earth and the great men were deceived through the sorceries of Babylon. All the nations were deceived. And when the last check will be made, according to verse 24, much blood will be found . . . the Blood of prophets, the Blood of saints, and the Blood of all that were slain upon the earth. (The last statement refers to the terrible, bloody slaughter during the height of the reign of Babylon - both civil and religious.) How complete the destruction! Babylon is left joyless in utter darkness and total silence. She stands out as a giant monument of the vengeance of Almighty God. All species of wickedness and ungodliness had sat enthroned in the midst of that great city which religiously bore the name of Jesus Christ; but at last when she has filled her cup to the brim, God rises in His fierce anger to perform His strange work. His indignation burns. His vengeance is poured out upon Babylon. The great city falls, never to rise again.

As we look around us today it seems that wickedness is winning the victory. Ungodliness is growing on every hand. Unrighteousness is flourishing. The wicked are flourishing like the green bay tree - but they shall soon be cut down.

They shall wither as the grass. The day of the vengeance of Almighty God is just ahead of us. The righteous will win in the end. If God be for us, who can be against us? The meek shall inherit the earth because the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

God did not create this earth to be inhabited by demons. God created this earth to be inhabited by the meek, and one glorious day righteousness and the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters now cover the sea. There will be no Babylon, no harlot, no bloody Beast, no Antichrist, no devil on earth. They will all be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 20:10).

~ end of chapter 18 ~

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