

## REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

### BOOK OF THE REVELATION

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the book of the Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Revelation represent a compilation of things learned from such men as Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Arno C. Gabelein, John Walvoord, Hal Lindsay, Dwight Pentecost, along with an exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Revelation

Lesson 128

7-24-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 128.
2. Last week I finished teaching Revelation chapter seventeen.
3. Now we are ready to begin our study of Revelation chapter eighteen.

Wycliffe introduces chapter eighteen as follows:

1. Chapter eighteen seems to have a geographical definiteness not present in chapter seventeen.
2. In Rev 18:2 we have the statement that Babylon has become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit.

Rev 18:1-3 Wuest Translation:

After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven having great authority. And the earth was illuminated by his glory. And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, it has fallen, it has fallen, Babylon the Great, and it has become a dwelling place of demons and a haunt of every unclean spirit and a haunt of every unclean bird, and the object of detestation, because as a result of the wine of the wrath [that fell upon her], because of her fornication all the nations have fallen. And the kings of the earth committed fornication with her. And the merchants of the earth as a result of her power and luxury became wealthy.

3. Most of the chapter is occupied with a description of the wealth of the city, the merchandise which is brought there for sale, and the grief of the merchants, who have been made rich by this traffic, as they look upon the city now being made desolate by fire.
4. In verses 4-8 judgment is announced.

Rev 18:4-8 Wuest Translation:

And I heard another voice out of the heaven, saying, Come out of her at once, my people, in order that you may not be a joint participant with her in her sins, and in order that you may not receive of her plagues, for her sins have piled up in a coherent mass so that they touch the heaven [i.e., the sky]. And God remembered her crimes. Render to her at once as she herself also rendered [to others], and pay back double according to her works.

In the cup in which she mixed, mix for her at once a double [allotment]. In the measure in which she glorified herself and lived in luxury, in that measure render to her torment and sorrow, because in her heart she is saying, I am enthroned as a queen, and am not a widow, and sorrow I shall positively not see.

Because of this in one day shall her plagues come, death and sorrow and famine, and in fire she shall be completely consumed, for mighty is the Lord God who has handed her over for judicial punishment.

5. In verses 9-19 we have the lament of the kings of the earth.

Rev 18:9-19 Wuest Translation:

And they shall weep audibly and beat their breasts in grief over her, the kings of the earth who with her committed fornication and lived in luxury, when they are looking upon the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the city, the great city, Babylon, the city which is mighty, because in one hour your judicial punishment has come. And the merchants of the earth weep audibly and are grieved over her, because their cargo no one any longer buys in the market, a cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and fine linen and purple cloth and silk and scarlet cloth and every kind of citron wood and every kind of an article made of ivory and every kind of an article made of most costly wood and of brass and of iron and of marble; and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and the finest grade of wheat flour and grain and cattle and sheep and horses and four wheeled carriages and persons of individuals and souls of men. And the fruit which your soul longed after has departed from you. And all the luxurious things and the brightly shining things have perished from you, and no longer will you see them at all. The merchants who dealt in these things, those who became wealthy by her, shall stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping audibly and grieving, saying, Woe, woe, the city, the great city, the city arrayed in fine linen and purple and scarlet garments, adorned with gold and precious stone and pearl, because in one hour such great wealth has been ruined. And every sailing-master and everyone who sails to a place and mariners and as many as earn their living by the sea, stood at a distance and kept on crying out, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like the city, the great city? And they threw dust upon their heads and kept on crying out, weeping audibly and grieving, saying, Woe, woe, the city, the great one, in which all those who have ships on the sea were made wealthy by reason of her abundance of costly things, because in one hour she was ruined.

6. In verse 20 heaven is said to rejoice.

Rev 18:20 Wuest Translation

Be rejoicing over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God pronounced judgment for you against her.

7. In verses 21-24 Babylon's final doom is reported.

Rev 18:21-24 Wuest Translation

And one angel, a mighty one, took up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying, In this manner, with a violent rush, shall Babylon, the great city, be thrown down and shall never again be found. And a sound of harpers and musicians and flute players and of trumpet players shall never again be heard in you. And every craftsman of every craft shall never again be found in you. And the sound of a millstone shall never again be heard in you. And the light of a lamp shall never again shine in you. And a voice of a bridegroom and a bride shall never again be heard in you; because your merchants were the great men of the earth, because with your magical arts all the nations were led astray. And in her there was found blood of prophets and saints and of all those who have been slain on the earth.

8. Lindsey introduces chapter eighteen as follows:

8.1 "Do you remember how Chapter 16 of the Book of Revelation closed? All the cities of the world were destroyed, and the Battle of Armageddon was about to trigger the personal appearance of Jesus Christ back to this earth to restore it to its original beauty.  
Rev 16:19-21

Rev 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Rev 16:20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

Rev 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

8.2 This important event, which we call "the second coming of Jesus Christ," is described in detail in Chapter 19 as we will soon see.

8.3 Between Revelation 16 and 19 we are given a parenthetical description of the destruction of two cities, each called Babylon. One is a religious system and the other is an economic metropolis.

8.4 As we saw in Revelation 17, the religious system was not really a city at all in the sense that it had a specific geographical location.

It was instead a religious influence which had attached itself to many cities during its long and blasphemous history since the days of its origin in ancient Babylon.

8.5 The point that John makes in Revelation 17 is that this demonicreligious system will attach itself to the last world empire during the Tribulation."

8.6 For approximately three and one-half years "Babylon", the religious system will be synonymous with the kingdom of the Antichrist, until the Antichrist finally rises up, throws off its control, and destroys it.

8.7 The question that logically comes to mind is, "When the Antichrist destroys the World Global Church in the middle of the Tribulation, does he destroy some geographical location from which she rules?"

8.8 Lindsey, Walvoord, Jenkins, LaHaye, Pentecost, Thieme and a host of other Premillenarians don't think so.

8.9 That would mean destroying his own kingdom, for it is in the Antichrist's kingdom that the harlot has dominated.

8.10 For example, if someone today wanted to break the power of the Roman Catholic Church, he wouldn't have to blow up Vatican City or the city of Rome.

8.11 Assassinations of the Pope and the cardinals and bishops of the church, plus a destruction of some of the major seminaries and church buildings, and a confiscation of church property and wealth would finish the organization.

8.12 The same is true of the Mormon Church. You wouldn't need to demolish Salt Lake City to do away with Mormonism!

8.13 It is quite possible something like this will happen when the Antichrist destroys the false ecclesiastical system that seeks to greatly influence him.

8.14 He will purge its leaders and confiscate all its wealth. Then he will establish himself as the religious leader of the world and consolidate all worship in himself.

8.15 At the same time he does this the False Prophet will be modifying the worship practices of the Jewish church in Jerusalem.

8.16 Jerusalem is not destroyed but rather the image of the Antichrist is constructed and ceremonially consecrated in the Temple itself."

So much for Wycliffe and Lindsey.

8.17 When we speak of the Antichrist getting rid of the Global Church and religious Israel should we not also open our thinking to at least the question "what of the other religions of the world like the Muslim faith, Hindu faith, etc.

8.18 In Revelation chapter 18, however, we see an entirely different picture. This Babylon is indeed a specific location and as just noted in our review of the Wuest translation and Wycliffe outline, a center of world commerce.

8.19 It is said, in the Tribulation, to be the center of fantastic commerce, trade, and industry and its destruction from every indication occurs three and one-half years after the destruction of "organized religion."

8.20 In fact, I suspect there has never been a city in history that can rival the wealth, luxury, whirl of society, and moral decadence of this coming city!

8.21 It will be so vital to the economic and cultural life of the whole world that when it is destroyed in "one hours time" the whole world will be plunged into mourning!

8.22 The question of paramount interest at this point is, "Where will this great commercial Babylon be located?"

8.23 Is it some now existing city which will be catapulted into world prominence, or will the ancient City of Babylon on the Plains of Shinar be rebuilt?"

8.24 No question has tantalized Bible students more or given rise to more fanciful speculations among serious expositors of the Word.

8.25 There are many reputable Bible scholars who firmly believe that this Babylon is going to be an actual rebuilt city at the site of ancient Babylon on the Euphrates River.

8.26 That position certainly finds support in a prophecy of Isaiah where he predicts the ultimate destruction of Babylon.

8.26.1 Isaiah said it would be destroyed by the Lord Almighty when the day of the Lord was near.

Isa 13:1 An oracle concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw:

Isa 13:2 Raise a banner on a bare hilltop, shout to them; beckon to them to enter the gates of the nobles.

Isa 13:3 I have commanded my holy ones; I have summoned my warriors to carry out my wrath-- those who rejoice in my triumph.

Isa 13:4 Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The LORD Almighty is mustering an army for war.

Isa 13:5 They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens-- the LORD and the weapons of his wrath-- to destroy the whole country.

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:7 Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt.

Isa 13:8 Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame.

Isa 13:9 See, the day of the LORD is coming-- a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

8.27 "The day of the Lord" refers to the period which immediately surrounds the coming of Christ.

8.27.1 As we earlier learned from a categorical study of "The Day of the Lord," it is a term used to describe the events of the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ.

8.28 Since the city of Babylon has not existed historically since the days of Alexander the Great, it would have to be rebuilt in order for God to destroy it in "the day of the Lord."

8.29 In the Los Angeles Times a very interesting article pointed out: "The tower of Babel, Biblical source of the world's languages, soon may rise again over the dusty plain once known as Mesopotamia. The Iraqi government is considering a plan to construct part of the ruins of Babylon, including a two hundred and ninety-five foot tower which probably inspired the author of the Book of Genesis."

8.30 Lindsey conjectures: "As the Arab world finds itself with oil wealth on its hands and nothing to spend it on, it well may be that their thoughts will turn to rebuilding this city of ancient glory. It would provide tourism and a national image."

8.31 We are told construction efforts under Saddam Hussein are even now continuing very slowly but surely. The location of Babylon has been discovered very near the city of Baghdad Iraq.

8.32 Is the rebuilding of Babylon a sign? Many would like you to believe such is the case. We know there are no signs given the imminency of the rapture.

8.33 Since there are so many foolish enough to believe in signs even in the light of overwhelming Scriptural teaching to the contrary, let's at least address the question.

8.34 Keep in mind, at the time of the writing of the Scripture both John and James said the rapture is imminent, and there was no Babylon extant.

8.34.1 Clearly then Babylon, if it is the Babylon of the Shinar plain, must be rebuilt after the translation of the church.

8.35 Under normal conditions it seems highly unlikely such a city could be rebuilt so quickly; but in the Tribulation where a Satan indwelt Antichrist rules the world "abnormalized conditions" are the order of the day.

8.36 Lindsey in his book *There's A New World Coming* has asked quite seriously "Think of how long it took cities like New York, Paris, London etc. to grow to prominence?"

8.37 He then counters "Brasilia was built as the capitol of Brazil in an uninhabited jungle area in ten years." This under normal conditions.

8.38 We are going to study more of this later but for now let me just give you four points;

8.39 The Global Church in Rome is destroyed in the middle of the Tribulation.

8.39.1 The Antichrist will then move his capitol to a rebuilt city, Babylon; its construction starting just after the rapture under the personal tutelage and direction of a Satan indwelt Antichrist.

8.39.2 It became the economic center of the world in three Satanically facilitated years.

8.39.3 It is this rebuilt Babylon which will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah so predicted.

KJV

Rev 18:1 And after [meta] these things I saw another [allos] angel come down from heaven, having great power [megale exousia]; and the earth was lightened [photizo] with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen [pipto], is fallen [pipto], and is become the habitation [kataoikos] of devils [daimon], and the hold [phulake] of every foul [akatharsis] spirit, and a cage [phulake] of every unclean [akatharsis] and hateful [miseo - a perfect passive participle] bird [orneos].

Rev 18:3 For [hoti] all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath [thumos] of her fornication [porneia], and the kings of the earth have committed fornication [porneo - practiced fornication] with her, and the merchants [emporio] of the earth are waxed rich [plouteo] through the abundance [dunamis] of her delicacies [strenos - wanton affluence].

NIV

Rev 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

Rev 18:2 With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

Principles:

1. The verse begins "And after these things", a conjunction followed by the preposition meta and the demonstrative houtos declined as an accusative thus making the meaning of meta houtos properly "after these things i. e. after that which we have just studied in chapter seventeen.

2. We do not have the time specified but from other studies the verse itself and the context of Revelation chapter eighteen, we know there is a three and one-half year interval.

3. Walvoord in his book The Revelation of Jesus Christ has written:

"THE OPENING PHRASE of chapter 18, "after these things," marks a later revelation than that given in chapter 17."

4. John declares, "I saw another angel come down from heaven." The phrase "another angel" makes clear that the angel of Rev 18:1 is a different angel from that of Rev 17:1, but given the use of allos it is the same kind but another one.

5. Though the angel is described as "having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory," it is evident from the role assigned that this is a literal angel and not a Christophany.

6. As noted the term "another" (Greek allon over against heteros) makes clear that this angel is the same in kind as the angel of Rev 17:1.

7. And the fact that the angel has great power and that the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel lead to the conclusion that the angel is delegated to do a great work on behalf of God.

8. The announcement by the angel given in verses 2 and 3 declares that Babylon the great is fallen.

9. The repetition of the verb pipto, pipto "is fallen," found in the aorist tense, indicates to some a sudden event viewed as completed, though the context would obviously indicate a future event.



9.1 Seiss in his book The Apocalypse takes exception: "...the repetition of the phrase "is fallen" is intended to describe two separate parts or stages of the fall, answering to the two aspects in which Babylon is contemplated, referring first to Babylon in mystery, as a system or spirit of false worship, and second to Babylon as a city, in which this system or spirit is finally embodied."

10. The fact that the announcement of chapter 18 comes so closely after the destruction of the harlot in chapter 17 has, to some, raised the question "are the two one and the same event?"

11. There are a number of reasons for believing that chapter 18 is a subsequent event, though described in similar terms.

12. The woman who is destroyed in chapter 17 is made desolate, naked, and burned with fire by the beast with the ten horns.

13. From this it may be concluded that the destruction of the harlot in Revelation 17 is the fall of Babylon in its ecclesiastical or religious sense and that this probably occurs when the beast assumes the role of God at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

End Lesson Taught 7-24-2002

Revelation

Lesson 129  
7-31-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 129.
2. Last week I gave you an introduction and outline of Revelation chapter eighteen and then we embarked on a study of verses one and two.
3. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume with new material at point 13 on page four.
4. The verses have been translated in the NIV:

NIV

Rev 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

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Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

1. In Revelation chapter 17 we saw the destruction of organized religion, the Global Church headquartered in Rome.
2. In Revelation chapter 18, however, we see an entirely different picture. This Babylon is indeed a specific location and as we noted last week in our review of the Wuest translation and Wycliffe outline, a center of world commerce.
3. In the Tribulation it is the center of fantastic commerce, trade, and industry and its destruction occurs three and one-half years after the destruction of "organized religion."
4. It will be so vital to the economic and cultural life of the whole world that when it is destroyed in "one hours time" the whole world will be plunged into mourning!
5. Interestingly there is no record of mourning when the Antichrist destroys the Global Church.
6. The question of paramount interest at this point is, "Where will this great commercial Babylon be located?"
7. Is it some now existing city which will be catapulted into world prominence, or will the ancient City of Babylon on the Plains of Shinar be rebuilt?"
8. There are many reputable Bible scholars who firmly believe that this Babylon is going to be an actual rebuilt city at the site of ancient Babylon on the Euphrates River. I too have come to that conclusion.
9. That position certainly finds support in a prophecy of Isaiah where he predicts the ultimate destruction of Babylon.
10. Isaiah said it would be destroyed by the Lord Almighty when the day of the Lord was near.  
  
Isa 13:1 An oracle concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw ...  
Isa 13:5 They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens-- the LORD and the weapons of his wrath-- to destroy the whole country.  
Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.
11. "The day of the Lord" refers to the period which immediately surrounds the coming of Christ.

12. Since the city of Babylon has not existed historically since the days of Alexander the Great, it would have to be rebuilt in order for God to destroy it in "the day of the Lord."

12.1 It might be rebuilt before the rapture or it might be rebuilt after the rapture.

13. Is the rebuilding of Babylon a sign? Many would like you to believe such is the case. We know there are no signs given the imminency of the rapture.

14. Since there are so many foolish enough to believe in signs even in the light of overwhelming Scriptural teaching to the contrary, let's at least address the question.

15. Keep in mind, at the time of the writing of the Scripture both John and James said the rapture is imminent, and there was no Babylon extant.

16. Clearly then Babylon, if it is the Babylon of the Shinar plain, must be rebuilt either before or after the translation of the church.

17. Under normal conditions it seems highly unlikely such a city could be rebuilt after the rapture; but in the Tribulation where a Satan indwelt Antichrist rules the world "abnormal conditions" are the order of the day.

18. Lindsey in his book *There's A New World Coming* has asked quite seriously "Think of how long it took cities like New York, Paris, London etc. to grow to prominence?"

19. He then counters "Brasilia was built as the capitol of Brazil in an uninhabited jungle area in ten years." This under normal conditions.

20. We are going to study more of this later but for now let me just give you four points;

20.1 The Global Church in Rome is destroyed in the middle of the Tribulation.

20.2 The Antichrist will then move his capitol to a rebuilt city, Babylon; its construction starting just after the rapture under the personal tutelage and direction of a Satan indwelt Antichrist or as noted it might even be rebuilt during our time.

20.3 Babylon will become the economic center of the world. This most likely will occur in the first three Satanically facilitated years of the Tribulation. Keep in mind that during the Great Tribulation only unbelievers can buy and sale; official world-wide economic control might make Satan's city, rebuilt Babylon, the distribution center for all foodstuffs but to only the right people of course.

20.4 It is this rebuilt Babylon which will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent. Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah have so predicted.

Now let's return to our study of Rev 18:1-3.

KJV

Rev 18:1 And after [meta] these things I saw another [allos] angel come down from heaven, having great power [megale exousia]; and the earth was lightened [photizo] with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen [pipto], is fallen [pipto], and is become the habitation [kataoikos] of devils [daimon], and the hold [phulake] of every foul [akatharsis] spirit, and a cage [phulake] of every unclean [akatharsis] and hateful [miseo - a perfect passive participle] bird [orneos].

Rev 18:3 For [hoti] all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath [thumos] of her fornication [porneia], and the kings of the earth have committed fornication [porneo - practiced fornication] with her, and the merchants [emporio] of the earth are waxed rich [plouteo] through the abundance [dunamis] of her delicacies [strenos - wanton affluence].

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5. Though the angel is described as "having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory," it is evident from the role assigned that this is a literal angel and not a Christophany.

6. And the fact that the angel has great power and that the earth is lighted with the glory of the angel lead to the conclusion that the angel is delegated to do a great work on behalf of God.

7. The announcement by the angel given in verses 2 and 3 declares that Babylon the great is fallen.

8. The repetition of the verb *pipto*, *pipto* -"is fallen," found in the aorist tense, indicates a sudden event viewed as completed, though the context would obviously indicate a future event.

9. The fact that the announcement of chapter 18 comes so closely after the destruction of the harlot in chapter 17 has, to some, raised the question "are the two one and the same event?"

10. There are a number of reasons for believing that chapter 18 is a subsequent event, though described in similar terms.

11. The woman who is destroyed in chapter 17 is made desolate, naked, and burned with fire by the beast with the ten horns.

12. From this it may be concluded that the destruction of the harlot in Revelation 17 is the fall of all organized religion; this occurs when the beast assumes the role of God at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

13. The world church is destroyed in favor of a world religion honoring the political dictator, the beast out of the sea as described in Revelation chapter thirteen, Daniel chapter nine and Matthew chapter twenty-four.

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Dan 9:27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up the abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Mat 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

14. In chapter 18, the context seems to indicate that Babylon in this chapter should be viewed in its political and economic character rather than in its religious aspect.

15. The term "Babylon" as we noted in great detail, is more than a reference to the false religious system which stemmed from the idolatrous religion of ancient Babylon, it was also a great commercial, military and political power.

#### CHART MAP OF BABYLON'S EMPIRE

16. Out of ancient Babylon came the great world of Nebuchadnezzar and the prophecies of the exilic prophets.

17. In some sense the influence of Babylon is continued in the commercial system which came from both the religious and the political Babylons, even as we have seen in subsequent empires such as Persia, Greece and Rome; they were all built on that which was begun in Babylon.

18. It seems that chapter 17 deals with the religious aspect and chapter 18 with the political and economic aspects of Babylon.

19. According to verse 9 the kings of the earth as well as the merchants will mourn the passing of the Babylon of chapter 18.

Rev 18:9 And they shall weep audibly and beat their breasts in grief over her, the kings of the earth who with her committed fornication and lived in luxury, when they are looking upon the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying,

'Woe, woe, the city, the great city, Babylon, the city which is mighty, because in one hour your judicial punishment has come.'

20. As mentioned earlier there is apparently no mourning connected with the destruction of the woman in chapter 17. At least we have no such record in Scripture.

21. The destruction of Babylon in chapter 18 should be compared with the preceding announcement in Rev 16:19 where the great city is divided and the cities of the Gentiles fall.

Rev 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

22. This event comes late in the Great Tribulation, just prior to the second coming of Christ, in contrast to the destruction of the harlot of chapter 17 which seems to precede the Great Tribulation and paves the way for the worship of the beast (Rev 13:8).

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

23. The downfall of the city of Babylon in Rev 18:2 is followed by its becoming the habitation of demons, the "hold" or "prison" of every evil spirit, and the "cage," the same word in the Greek as "hold" (phulake), of every unclean and hateful bird.

24. The word for "hateful" is miseo in the Greek and means to regard with all ill will and hate or to detest or abhor. It can be found elsewhere in Mat 5:43 and 44; Rom 7:15 and Joh 3:20.

Mat 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and "hate" thine enemy.

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that "hate" you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I "hate, that do I.

Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil "hateth" the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

25. The threefold description of the inhabitants of fallen Babylon is a reference to fallen angels in their various characteristics as demons and evil spirits, symbolized by the hateful birds (compare "birds," in Isa. 34:11-15; Mat 13:32).

Isa 34:11 The desert owl and screech owl will possess it; the great owl and the raven will nest there. God will stretch out over Edom the measuring line of chaos and the plumb line of desolation.

Isa 34:12 Her nobles will have nothing there to be called a kingdom, all her princes will vanish away.

Isa 34:13 Thorns will overrun her citadels, nettles and brambles her strongholds. She will become a haunt for jackals, a home for owls.

Isa 34:14 Desert creatures will meet with hyenas, and wild goats will bleat to each other; there the night creatures will also repose and find for themselves places of rest.

Isa 34:15 The owl will nest there and lay eggs, she will hatch them, and care for her young under the shadow of her wings; there also the falcons will gather, each with its mate.

Mat 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Mat 13:32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Mat 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

26. This abandonment of destroyed Babylon to demons is a divine judgment stemming from the utter wickedness of its inhabitants described in verse three.

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

27. Babylon in her political character has had evil relationships with "all nations" described as "fornication."

28. In this, they have been led by the rulers, "the kings of the earth." The resulting evil association has made the merchants of the earth rich.

29. Just as the church had grown rich in proportion it would seem to its wickedness, so the nations have likewise prospered, as they have abandoned God and sought to accumulate material wealth.

30. The wealth collected through the influence of the Global church is taken over by the political system which with political power is able to exploit.

31. I want to pause here and give you what I consider one of the more scholarly positions in favor of the Babylon of Revelation eighteen being the Babylon on the Euphrates rather than Rome on the Tiber.

32. I will in the main simply quote in part from that written by Charles Dyer in the Book The Road To Armageddon:



"Let's look at Isaiah 13:1. Babylon is the nation that starts the list of judgments against the nations. Isaiah has just finished a pronouncement of judgment against Israel. Babylon was a second rate, minor, insignificant power in Isaiah's day. Assyria was the big kid on the block. Assyria was the nation that had threatened Judah but Assyria only makes number two on God's list. The first nation is Babylon. God goes on and describes the destruction against Babylon. I want to look carefully at what He says. We won't read all of it, but let's pick up in verse four:

"Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The LORD Almighty is mustering an army for war. They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens Ñ the LORD and the weapons of His wrath to destroy the whole country ... I am bringing nations together to destroy the nation of Babylon. I'm going to wipe out, not only the city of Babylon, but the whole country." Now the questions we have to ask are, "What destruction is Isaiah talking about? Is this a destruction in his day? Or was it something future, but something long since passed? Or is he describing something that, from our perspective, is still future?" The answer has to be found by looking carefully at the text. I notice in verse 6 that Isaiah starts giving a time frame. "Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty." Isaiah sets the context of Babylon's destruction in the time he calls the day of the Lord. Does Isaiah have a specific day of the Lord in mind? He picks up this theme again in verse nine,

"See, the day of the LORD is coming a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light. I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless. I will make humanity scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, the day of His burning anger."

"God says, "I'm going to judge Babylon, and it's going to be on the day of the Lord." What day of the Lord do you mean, Isaiah? Look for one where you see the sun, and the moon, and the stars darkened. Look for supernatural signs in the heavens, a time when the moon won't give its light. Look for a time when I'm punishing not just Babylon but, in verse 11, "I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their sins." Look for a time when humanity is going to be "scarcer than pure gold," tremendous loss of human life in this world wide judgment. Look for a time when the heavens are going to shake and the earth itself is going to be shaken off its foundations. Now if those images sound familiar, you can find them in Joel chapter two in his description of the day of the Lord, a day that ends with the coming of Jesus Christ to rule as king over Israel.

Joe 2:30 ... I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Joe 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come.

Joe 2:32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

“Or, you may want to go to the book of Revelation, because in Revelation chapter 11, 14 and 19, these are the very images that are pictured just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In essence, Isaiah says God is going to judge Babylon, not just the city, but the whole country, and it's going to happen in the day of the Lord.

“You'll see supernatural signs in the heavens, destruction on earth, rapid loss of life, all of this as God comes to judge the world for its evil. Isaiah goes on to describe an enemy coming in and even mentions the Medes in verse 17, though what he describes was never fulfilled when Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian Empire attacked Babylon in 539 B.C. Cyrus didn't destroy the city, he came to capture and to possess the wealth of the city. But this group is coming, not caring for silver or gold, but to strike down and kill everyone they find.

“And then in verse 19, my favorite part of this passage, Isaiah writes, "Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonian's pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah." When God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah He destroyed all of it and that is why people who go to Israel bring back many pictures and slides but none of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God says, "You'll know when I'm done with Babylon, because when I'm done it's going to be like Sodom and Gomorrah." Now that paints a vivid picture in our minds, but God doesn't leave us there just wondering what He means. He adds on to that. "She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations" (Isa 13:20).

“Many cities were destroyed in the past, only to be rebuilt. Jerusalem was destroyed in B.C. 586, but after seventy years people came back. The city was destroyed again in A.D. 70 but people came back. Because the location of Jerusalem didn't change, the water supply didn't change, the roads didn't change, and so Jerusalem like so many other cities, though they were destroyed, came back to life. God says, however, when Babylon is destroyed, it's not going to be dwelt in again from generation to generation. Generations will not live there again. That may imply too much. Let's narrow it some more. "No Arab will pitch his tent there" (verse 20). I love going to Israel because you can still see Bedouin living in tents the way Abraham did nearly four thousand years ago.”

Isa 13:20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

Isa 13:21 But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about.

Isa 13:22 Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.

“They pitch their tents in an area, and they'll stay for weeks or months at a time in that area as their flocks graze the surrounding country-side. But eventually when the seasons change, or the grazing land is used up, they'll pack their tents up and move to another area. God says that when He has done with Babylon, it will look like Sodom and Gomorrah. No one will live there for generations, no one will even pitch a tent there for a ... period of time. And then He says that may even imply too much, let's narrow it some more. No shepherd will rest his flocks there.

“As the shepherds leave their camp, they keep moving farther and farther from their base. Eventually the flocks are grazing so far from the fold that they are unable to return home before the sun goes down. So the shepherd looks for a cave, a ruined building, a foundation, something where he can bed the flock down for the evening. The next morning they get up and move on.

“When Babylon is destroyed, God says, you will know it. It will look like Sodom and Gomorrah; no one will live there for generations; no one will pitch a tent for a short period of time; no one will even spend a single night. Could God say it any more directly; when Babylon is destroyed it is not going to be there anymore? Beginning in Isaiah 14, God even adds one additional piece to the puzzle. When Babylon's destroyed that will be the time when God restores His people Israel.

Isa 14:1 The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob.

Isa 14:2 Nations will take them and bring them to their own place. And the house of Israel will possess the nations as menservants and maidservants in the LORD'S land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors.

“You will know when Babylon is destroyed, because its destruction signals the restoration of Israel, not just back to the land as a small scattered group, but as a nation that is ruling over those nations that once held them in captivity.”

33. So much for Dr. Dyer's scholarly presentation.

1. I attempted last week to make clear that there is in the book of The Revelation difficulty regarding interpretation. And in fact there are well intentioned grace expositors who find different chronologies for the same event.

2. This we saw in placing the judgments of the seals, trumpets, vials etc. Here in our chapter eighteen we find those who see Babylon as a rebuilt city on the plain of Shinar versus those who see the Babylon of Chapter eighteen as merely the commercial system of Rome where the Antichrist remains.

3. Earlier I pointed out how there are those who believe Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 speak of the King of the North being defeated by the Antichrist right after the rapture when Gog attacks Israel; then there are those who take the same passages to indicate that this battle takes place in the middle of the Tribulation and then there are those who see this description as part of the Armageddon campaign before the second coming of Christ.

3.1 Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg in his book *The Prophecy of Ezekiel* has treated the various positions concluding "Thus the writer favors the end of the tribulation period before Christ is visibly manifested to the world."

3.2 It is interesting to note that often scholars will use the same passages to support their contentions.

4. I think it well at this point to provide in one place several passages already cited in our study of the Babylon of chapter eighteen.

Isa 13:1 An oracle concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw ...

Isa 13:5 They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens-- the LORD and the weapons of his wrath-- to destroy the whole country.

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

Isa 13:21 But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about.

Isa 13:22 Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.

Isa 14:1 The LORD will have compassion on Jacob; once again he will choose Israel and will settle them in their own land. Aliens will join them and unite with the house of Jacob.

Isa 14:2 Nations will take them and bring them to their own place. And the house of Israel will possess the nations as menservants and maidservants in the LORD'S land. They will make captives of their captors and rule over their oppressors.

Jer 51:8 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

Jer 51:24 And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.

Jer 51:25 Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyeth all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Jer 51:26 And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

Jer 51:62 Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

Jer 51:63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

Jer 51:64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

5. Having seen that several expositors like R.B. Thieme and Charles Dyer have concluded that Babylon of chapter eighteen is Babylon on the Euphrates, let's see what the very reputable scholar Dwight Pentecost has written in his book Things To Come:

"In tracing the campaign of Armageddon it has been seen how God judges the Gentile world powers and brings about their downfall. The northern confederacy was judged by God upon the mountains of Israel in the middle of the tribulation period (Eze 38 and 39).

"The Kings of the East and their forces and the armies of the Beast were seen to be destroyed at the second advent of Christ to the earth. A fuller description of this judgment upon the Beast and his citadel is given in Revelation chapter 18. There the political empire is seen to have been so closely united with the false religious empire that both are called by the same name, even though two different entities are in view in these two chapters. Scofield succinctly states: "Two "Babylons" are to be distinguished in the Revelation: ecclesiastical Babylon, which is apostate Christendom, headed up under the Papacy; and political Babylon, which is the Beast's confederated empire, the last form of Gentile world dominion. Ecclesiastical Babylon is "the great whore" (Rev 17:1) and is destroyed by political Babylon (Rev 17:15-18), that the beast may be the alone object of worship (2Th 2:3, 4; Rev 13:15). The power of political Babylon is destroyed by the return of the Lord in glory ... The notion of a literal Babylon to be rebuilt on the site of ancient Babylon is in conflict with Isaiah 13:19-22. But the language of Revelation, (e.g. vs. 10, 16, 18) seems beyond all question to identify "Babylon," the "city" of luxury and traffic, with Babylon the ecclesiastical center, viz. Rome. The very kings who hated ecclesiastical Babylon deplore the destruction of commercial Babylon. The destruction of the seat of the Beast's power is accomplished by a divine visitation of judgment by fire (Rev 18:8)."

End Lesson Taught 7-31-2002

Revelation

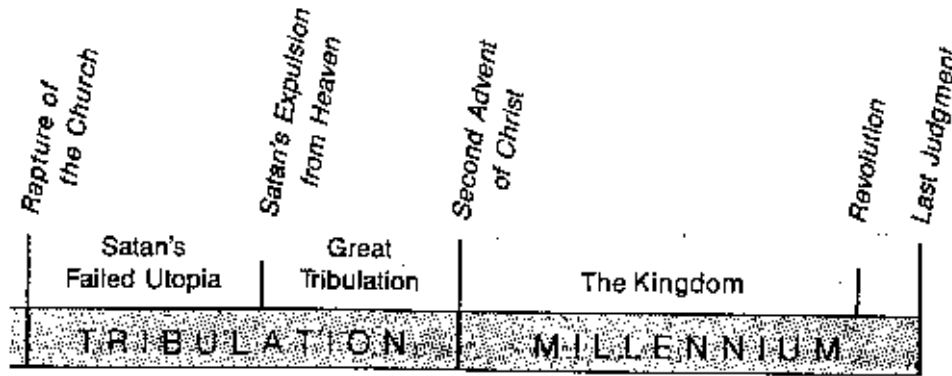
Lesson 130

8-7-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation.

2. Last week I gave you several points of introduction to Revelation chapter eighteen, we then studied some sixty two points from Charles Dyer's book *The Road To Armageddon* in which he identifies the Babylon of chapter eighteen as a rebuilt Babylon in Iraq.

2.1 When time expired I was in the process of presenting in summary form the positions of two other renowned expositors who in contrast to Charles Dyer believe the Babylon of our chapter is political Rome, the economic nerve center of the Tribulation world.



3. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume with new material at point 21 on page 3. An expanded translation of Rev 18:1-3.

Rev 18:1 It wasn't long before I saw a second angel coming down from heaven. From his appearance and general demeanor he obviously had been given special authority; in fact the entire horizon was illumined by his splendor.

Rev 18:2 He cried out in a very loud voice: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! The rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates is gone; it has become a home for demons and a place for every kind of evil spirit, it is home for every kind of unclean and detestable bird.

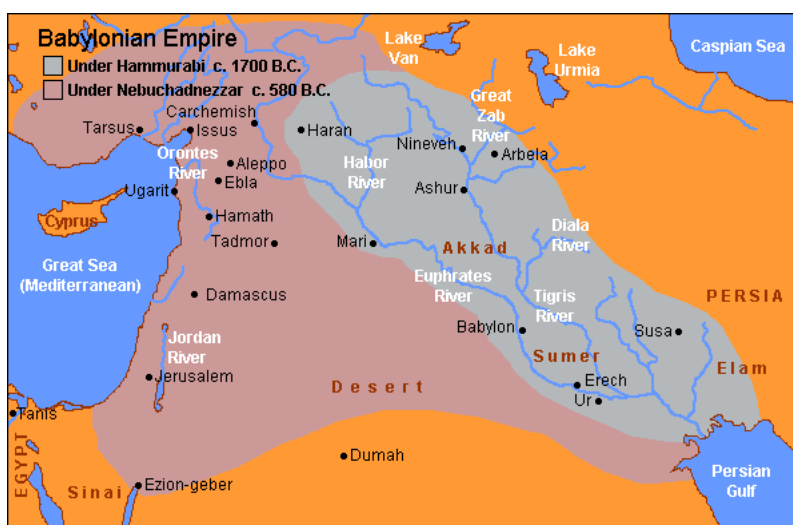
Rev 18:3 For you see the nations of the world have participated with her in all sorts of pernicious and despicable commercial practices. The leaders of planet earth have entered into great schemes designed to take advantage of those less fortunate, and the industrial captains have devised devious methods for acquiring great wealth beyond description.

1. In Revelation chapter 17 we saw the destruction of organized religion, the Global Church headquartered in Rome.

2. In Revelation chapter 18, however, we see an entirely different picture. This Babylon is indeed a specific location a center of world commerce.

3. In the Tribulation it is the center of fantastic commerce, trade, and industry and its destruction occurs three and one-half years after the destruction of "organized religion."

4. There are many reputable Bible scholars who firmly believe that this Babylon is going to be an actual rebuilt city at the site of ancient Babylon on the Euphrates River. I too have come to that conclusion.



5. That position certainly finds support in a prophecy of Isaiah where he predicts the ultimate destruction of Babylon will occur just before or at the second coming of Christ at a time when true Israel is returned to the land.

6. Since the city of Babylon has not existed historically since the days of Alexander the Great, it would have to be rebuilt in order for God to destroy it.

6.1 It might be rebuilt before the rapture or it might be rebuilt after the rapture.

7. Clearly then Babylon, if it is the Babylon of the Shinar plain, must be rebuilt either before or after the translation of the church.

8. The Global Church in Rome is destroyed in the middle of the Tribulation.

9. The Antichrist may very well move his capitol to a rebuilt city--Babylon.

10. Babylon would then become the economic center of the world.

11. Keep in mind that during the Great Tribulation only unbelievers can buy and sell; official world-wide economic control might make Satan's city, rebuilt Babylon, the distribution center for all foodstuffs but to only the "right people" of course.

12. It is my view it is this rebuilt Babylon which will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Advent or just prior to that event.

13. In chapter 18, the context seems to indicate that Babylon here described should be viewed in its political and economic character rather than in its religious.

14. The term "Babylon" is more than a reference to the false religious system which stemmed from the idolatrous religion of ancient Babylon, it was also a great commercial, military and political power.

15. I attempted during our study of the book of the Revelation to make clear that there is in the Book of The Revelation difficulty regarding interpretation.

16. In fact there are well intentioned grace expositors who find different chronologies for the same event.

17. This we saw in placing the judgments of the seals, trumpets, vials etc. Here in our chapter eighteen we find those who see Babylon as a rebuilt city on the plain of Shinar versus those who see the Babylon of Chapter eighteen as merely the commercial system of Rome where the Antichrist remains.

18. Earlier I pointed out how there are those who believe Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 speak of the King of the North being defeated by the Antichrist right after the rapture when Gog attacks Israel; then there are those who take the same passages to indicate that this battle takes place in the middle of the Tribulation and then there are those who see this description as part of the Armageddon campaign before the second coming of Christ. There is even a minority position which thinks the battle and destruction of the King of the North takes place in the church age; this latter position according to Charles Feinberg however is not worthy of serious consideration.

18.1 Dr. Charles Lee Feinberg in his book *The Prophecy of Ezekiel* has treated these positions concluding "Thus the writer favors the end of the tribulation period before Christ is visibly manifested to the world."

19. Having seen that several expositors like R.B. Thieme and Charles Dyer have concluded that Babylon of chapter eighteen is Babylon on the Euphrates, let's see what the very reputable scholar Dwight Pentecost has written in his book *Things To Come*:

"In tracing the campaign of Armageddon it has been seen how God judges the Gentile world powers and brings about their downfall. The northern confederacy was judged by God upon the mountains of Israel in the middle of the tribulation period. (Eze 38-39). The Kings of the East and their forces and the armies of the Beast were seen to be destroyed at the second advent of Christ to the earth. A fuller description of this judgment upon the Beast and his citadel is given in Revelation chapter 18.

"There the political empire is seen to have been so closely united with the false religious empire that both are called by the same name, even though two different entities are in view in these two chapters. Scofield succinctly states:



“Two "Babylons" are to be distinguished in the Revelation: ecclesiastical Babylon, which is apostate Christendom, headed up under the Papacy; and political Babylon, which is the Beast's confederated empire, the last form of Gentile world dominion. Ecclesiastical Babylon is "the great whore" (Rev 17:1) and is destroyed by political Babylon (Rev 17:15-18), that the beast may be the alone object of worship (2Th 2:3, 4: Rev 13:15). The power of political Babylon is destroyed by the return of the Lord in glory ... The notion of a literal Babylon to be rebuilt on the site of ancient Babylon is in conflict with Isa 13:19-22. But the language of Revelation (e.g vs. 10, 16 and 18) seems beyond all question to identify Babylon, the city of luxury and traffic, with Babylon the ecclesiastical center, viz. Rome. The very kings who hated ecclesiastical Babylon deplore the destruction of commercial Babylon. The destruction of the seat of the Beast's power is accomplished by a divine visitation of judgment by fire (Rev 18:8).”

20. So much for Dwight Pentecost and C. I. Scofield, two great expositors of the Word who contend rather vigorously and quite scholarly that the Babylon of chapter eighteen is commercial Rome no longer under ecclesiastical influence.

21. We will look more at the identification of Babylon later. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 18:4-5.

KJV

Rev 18:4 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.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

NIV

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

Rev 18:5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Principles:

1. As John contemplates the announcement of the fall of Babylon, he hears another voice from heaven addressed to the people of God instructing them to come out of Babylon.

2. For some it may seem strange to hear that there are believers living in such an evil city, yet the nephew of Abraham did err in the same way by being in Sodom.

Gen 19:22 where the angel says to Lot "But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything to Sodom until you reach Zoar."

3. The people of God were also urged to leave Babylon writes Jeremiah in Jer 51:45-47.

Jer 51:45 "Come out of her, my people! Run for your lives! Run from the fierce anger of the LORD.

Jer 51:46 Do not lose heart or be afraid when rumors are heard in the land; one rumor comes this year, another the next, rumors of violence in the land and of ruler against ruler.

Jer 51:47 For the time will surely come when I will punish the idols of Babylon; her whole land will be disgraced and her slain will all lie fallen within her.

4. Seiss explains the phrase "come out of her," citing Jer 50:8 and 51:6.

Jer 50:8 "Flee out of Babylon; leave the land of the Babylonians, and be like the goats that lead the flock.

Jer 51:6 "Flee from Babylon! Run for your lives! Do not be destroyed because of her sins. It is time for the LORD'S vengeance; he will pay her what she deserves.

Jer 51:7 Babylon was a gold cup in the LORD'S hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.

Jer 51:8 Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken. Wail over her! Get balm for her pain; perhaps she can be healed.

5. Alford compares the command to come out of Babylon to the warning to Lot to leave Sodom.

Gen 19:15 With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."

Gen 19:16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

Gen 19:17 As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!"

Gen 19:18 But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please!

Gen 19:19 Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

Gen 19:20 Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it-- it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."

Gen 19:21 He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of.

Gen 19:22 But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.)

6. The purpose of leaving Babylon is twofold: first, by separation from her they will not partake of her sin, and second, they will not have her plagues inflicted on them.

6.1 The reference to plagues refers to the vials of chapter 16, especially the seventh vial which falls upon Babylon itself (Rev 16:17-21).

Rev 16:17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

Rev 16:18 Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.

Rev 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Rev 16:20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

Rev 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

7. Walvoord writes "This is further evidence that the event of chapter 18 is subsequent to the seventh vial and therefore in contrast to the destruction of the harlot in chapter 17."

8. In verse 5 the sins of Babylon are declared to reach to the heavens with the result that God remembers, that is, judges her iniquities.

Jer 51:9 We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed; let us leave her and each go to his own land, for her judgment reaches to the skies, it rises as high as the clouds.

9. The fact that her sins have reached (Greek kollao, literally "glued" or "welded together," i.e., piled one on another as bricks in a building) unto heaven may be an allusion to the tower of Babel which began the wicked career of ancient Babylon. (Gen 11:5-9)

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Gen 11:9 That is why it was called Babel-- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

10. Though God permits sin, its ultimate divine judgment is inescapable.

Now for an expanded translation of Rev 18:4-5:

Rev 18:4 And then I John heard another voice coming from heaven: "My people come out of Babylon so that you do not participate in her sins; also I do not want to see you hurt by the the plagues which I will send;

Rev 18:5 for you see her sins have piled up even reaching to heaven itself, from her very beginning she has participated in all which is evil and God has remembered her many sins and idolatrous religion which spread throughout the world.

11. Let's see what we can learn from Rev 18:6-8:

KJV

Rev 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.

Rev 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.

Rev 18:8 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.

NIV

Rev 18:6 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

Principles:

1. In keeping with the enormity of Babylon's sin, the voice from heaven now calls on God to reward her even as she rewarded the people of God.

2. The verb (apodidomi) means literally "to pay a debt" or "to give back that which is due." It is called the law of retribution.

3. Walvoord says of the law of retribution: "Divine justice exacts the "eye for an eye" and the "tooth for a tooth." The normal law of retribution, however, is here doubled in recognition of the enormity of the sins of Babylon."

4. Accordingly the voice demands, "Double unto her double according to her works." In keeping with this principle, the cup of iniquity which Babylon filled is now to be filled twice with the measure of her judgment.

5. There is no mercy for the utter apostasy found in Babylon in all her phases of operation, both past and present i.e. present in terms of her conduct in The Great Tribulation and past in terms of that which was done early in her history. (Gen 11:1-5)

Gen 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Gen 11:2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Gen 11:3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

Gen 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

6. The verb (kerannumi) translated "fill" is literally "mix" or "mingle" as in the preparation of a drink.

7. The same verb is used in Rev 14:10 in connection with the wine of the wrath of God.

Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

8. The same law of retribution is indicated in verse 7 where the standard of her judgment is compared to her luxurious living in which she was given to self-glorification.

Rev 18:7 Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

9. The expression "lived deliciously" (estreniasen) means "to be wanton" or "to revel" and comes from a word meaning "hardheaded" or "strong."

10. Her willful sins against God are now to be rewarded with torment and sorrow. The "torment" (basanision) refers to trial by torture with its resultant mental anguish and grief (penthos).

10.1 Men in important positions often find themselves in periods of delusion where they think more highly of themselves than they should. Two such examples come to mind.

10.2 One with a positive ending and the other with a negative ending.

Dan 4:28 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar.

Dan 4:29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,

Dan 4:30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Dan 4:31 The words were still on his lips when a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you.

Dan 4:32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like cattle. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."

Dan 4:33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like cattle. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

Dan 4:34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

Acts 12:21 On the appointed day Herod Agrippa I, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.

Acts 12:22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."

Acts 12:23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Acts 12:24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

11. Her wishful thinking in which she said, "I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow" is going to be rewarded by sudden destruction from the Lord which according to verse 8 will come in one day in the form of plagues, death, mourning, and famine, resulting in her utter destruction by fire.

Rev 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

12. Her vaunted strength is as nothing compared to the power of God. Like the church at Laodicea, her wealth has brought a sense of false security (Rev 3:17).

Rev 3:17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

13. Her claim to not being a widow has only the faulty foundation of her illicit love affairs with the kings of the earth (Rev 17:2).

Rev 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

14. The fact that her judgment comes in one day, emphasized in the Greek by being placed first in the sentence, is reminiscent of the fall of Babylon in Daniel five, which fell in the same hour that the finger traced its condemning words upon the wall.

Dan 5:30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Babylonians, was slain,  
Dan 5:31 and Darius the Mede took over the kingdom, at the age of sixty-two.

15. Before morning, the ancient power of Babylon has been destroyed. In a similar way, the rich fool of Luk 12:16-20 lost his barns and his soul in one night.

Luk 12:16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.

Luk 12:17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

Luk 12:18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

Luk 12:19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

Luk 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

16. When it is time for God's judgment, it descends with unwavering directness.

17. Now for an expanded translation of Rev 18:6-8:

Rev 18:6 Babylon must be paid back said the Voice; in fact she will be paid back double for what she has done. Mix her a drink of devastation and give her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Distribute to her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she bestowed upon herself. Throughout the ages she has boasted, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Accordingly in one day plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine will be the order of her day. The city of Babylon will be consumed by fire, for mighty, inherently powerful and sovereign is the Lord God who has judged her.

Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 18:9-10.

KJV

Rev 18:9 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,

Rev 18:10 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.

NIV

Rev 18:9 "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.

Rev 18:10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!"

Principles:

1. The destruction of Babylon in its political and economic aspects found in the preceding verses is now the subject of a lament by the kings of the earth.

2. These kings are of a wider designation than the kings of Rev 17:12 and 16, who participated in the destruction of the harlot.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

3. In our chapter and verse there is a great sorrow expressed over the destruction of that which remained. These verses may indicate Babylon the city is destroyed just before the judgments of the nations - the baptism of fire.

4. The kings who participated in the wickedness and wealth of Babylon mourn her passing, symbolized in the burning of the capital city.

5. The lament of the kings over Babylon is most emphatic in the Greek by repetition of the article: literally "the city the great, Babylon the mighty."

6. It was great in its extent of power and accomplishment and mighty in the strength of its rule. In spite of its greatness and strength, (megale and ischura), it nevertheless falls in one hour.

7. As we have noted many believe that ancient Babylon is to be rebuilt as the capital of a world empire in the great tribulation period and that Babylon in this chapter refers to ancient Babylon rather than to Rome.

End Lesson Taught 8-7-2002



## Revelation

### Lesson 131

8-14-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation.
2. Last week I taught Rev 18:4-8. When time expired I was in the process of teaching Rev 18:9 and 10.
3. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume with new material at point 8 on page 3, but first an expanded translation of Rev 18:1-8.

Rev 18:1 It wasn't long before I saw a second angel coming down from heaven. From his appearance and general demeanor he obviously had been given special authority; in fact the entire horizon was illumined by his splendor.

Rev 18:2 He cried out in a very loud voice: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! The rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates is gone; it has become a home for demons and a place for every kind of evil spirit, it is home for every kind of unclean and detestable bird.

Rev 18:3 For you see the nations of the world have participated with her in all sorts of pernicious and despicable commercial practices. The leaders of planet earth have entered into great schemes designed to take advantage of those less fortunate, and the industrial captains have devised devious methods for acquiring great wealth beyond description.

Rev 18:4 And then I John heard another voice coming from heaven: "My people come out of Babylon so that you do not participate in her sins; also I do not want to see you hurt by the plagues which I will send;

Rev 18:5 for you see her sins have piled up even reaching to heaven itself, from her very beginning she has participated in all which is evil and God has remembered her many sins and idolatrous religion which spread throughout the world.

Rev 18:6 Babylon must be paid back said the Voice; in fact she will be paid back double for what she has done. Mix her a drink of devastation and give her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Distribute to her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she bestowed upon herself. Throughout the ages she has boasted, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Accordingly in one day plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine will be the order of her day. The city of Babylon will be consumed by fire, for mighty, inherently powerful and sovereign is the Lord God who has judged her.

1. In Revelation chapter 17 we saw the destruction of organized religion, the Global Church headquartered in Rome.
2. In Revelation chapter 18, however, we see an entirely different picture. This Babylon is indeed a specific location, a center of world commerce.

3. There are many reputable Bible scholars who firmly believe that this Babylon is going to be an actual rebuilt city at the site of ancient Babylon on the Euphrates River. I too have come to that conclusion.
4. That position certainly finds support in a prophecy of Isaiah where he predicts the ultimate destruction of Babylon will occur just before or at the second coming of Christ at a time when true Israel is returned to the land.
5. Since the city of Babylon has not existed historically since the days of Alexander the Great, it would have to be rebuilt in order for Christ to destroy it.
6. It might be rebuilt before or after the rapture.
7. Clearly then Babylon, if it is the Babylon of the Shinar plain, must be rebuilt either before or after the translation of the church.
8. The Global Church in Rome is destroyed in the middle of the Tribulation.
9. It is my view it is this rebuilt Babylon which will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at His Second Advent or just prior to that event.
10. In chapter 18, the context seems to indicate that Babylon here described should be viewed in its political and economic character rather than in its religious.
11. In keeping with the enormity of Babylon's sin, a voice from heaven called on God to reward her even as she rewarded the people of God.
12. The voice demands, "Double unto her double according to her works." In keeping with this principle, the cup of iniquity which Babylon filled is now to be filled twice with the measure of her judgment.
13. There is no mercy for the utter apostasy found in Babylon in all her phases of operation, both past and present, i.e., present in terms of her conduct in The Great Tribulation and past in terms of that which was done early in her history.
14. Her vaunted strength is as nothing compared to the power of God. Like the church at Laodicea, her wealth has brought a sense of false security (Rev 3:17).
15. Her arrogant claim to not being a widow has only the faulty foundation of her illicit love affairs with the kings of the earth (Rev 17:2).
16. Before morning, the ancient power of Babylon was destroyed. (Dan chapter 5)
17. Now let's continue our study of Rev 18:9-10.

KJV

Rev 18:9 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,

Rev 18:10 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.

NIV

Rev 18:9 "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.

Rev 18:10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!"

Principles:

1. The destruction of Babylon in its political and economic aspects found in the preceding verses is now the subject of a lament by the kings of the earth.
2. These kings are of a wider designation than the kings of Rev 17:12 and 16, who participated in the destruction of the harlot.

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

3. In our chapter and verse there is a great sorrow expressed over the destruction of that which remained. These verses may indicate Babylon the city is destroyed just before the judgments of the nations - the baptism of fire.
4. The kings who participated in the wickedness and wealth of Babylon mourn her passing, symbolized in the burning of the capital city.
5. The lament of the kings over Babylon is most emphatic in the Greek by repetition of the article: literally "the city the great, Babylon the mighty."
6. It was great in its extent of power and accomplishment and mighty in the strength of its rule. In spite of its greatness and strength, (megale and ischura), it nevertheless falls in one hour.
7. I personally believe that ancient Babylon is to be rebuilt as the capital of a world empire in the great tribulation period and that Babylon in this chapter refers to ancient Babylon rather than to Rome.

8. And now for new material as we briefly review the identification of Babylon. We have looked at various positions regarding the identification of the city.

8.1 Let's see what John Walvoord has to say of the identification of Babylon

“According to Isa 13:19-22, Babylon was to be completely destroyed suddenly and not habited. This seems also the teaching of Jer 51:24, 26, 61-64. It is argued that ancient Babylon as a city was not destroyed for hundreds of years after the fall of the empire and therefore these prophecies have not been literally fulfilled.

Isa 13:19 Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isa 13:20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

Isa 13:21 But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about.

Isa 13:22 Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.

Jer 51:24 "Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion," declares the LORD.

Jer 51:26 No rock will be taken from you for a cornerstone, nor any stone for a foundation, for you will be desolate forever," declares the LORD.

Jer 51:61 He said to Seraiah, "When you get to Babylon, see that you read all these words aloud.

Jer 51:62 Then say, 'O LORD, you have said you will destroy this place, so that neither man nor animal will live in it; it will be desolate forever.'

Jer 51:63 When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the Euphrates.

Jer 51:64 Then say, 'So will Babylon sink to rise no more because of the disaster I will bring upon her. And her people will fall.'" The words of Jeremiah end here.

“The destruction of Babylon according to Jeremiah 51:8 was to be sudden.

Jer 51:8 Babylon will suddenly fall and be broken. Wail over her! Get balm for her pain; perhaps she can be healed.

“This is confirmed by Rev 18:17-19. As far as the ancient city of Babylon was concerned, this was not true ... ancient Babylon ... continued for many years after its political downfall.”

Rev 18:17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

Rev 18:18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

Rev 18:19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

“Further, it is pointed out that the prophecy of Isa 13:6, 9-11, which formed the context of Isa 13:19-22, indicates that the destruction of Babylon would be in the day of the Lord. Hence, it is held that Babylon will be rebuilt and then destroyed by Christ at His second coming.”

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:9 See, the day of the LORD is coming-- a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

Isa 13:10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

Isa 13:11 I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

Isa 13:19 Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isa 13:20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

Isa 13:21 But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about.

Isa 13:22 Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged.

9. Walvoord later goes on to write:

“On the other hand recall there have been others who have identified Babylon as Rome, the seat of the apostate church described by the seven mountains of Rev 17:9 and also the political city elsewhere described.

Rev 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

“It is possible that Rome might be the ecclesiastical capital and rebuilt Babylon the political and commercial capital. It is also conceivable that Rome might be the capital in the first half of the last seven years and Babylon in the second half in the world empire phase.”

9.1 So much for Walvoord's excellent presentation. Let me give you one other reputable expositor who holds a somewhat different position.

9.2 Haldeman holds that Babylon will be rebuilt but he states, "Rome will be the political Babylon the commercial, capital of Antichrist's kingdom."

10. Let me give you an expanded translation of verses nine and ten:

Rev 18:9 The various rulers of the nations who had gained great wealth from the evil practices of commercial Babylon were astounded and full of great sorrow when they saw the smoke of the burning city, they cried uncontrollably, they could not believe their eyes.

Rev 18:10 Terrified at what they saw, they refused to go to her aid but rather they stood afar off and cried: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In such a short time you have been destroyed!"

11. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 18:11-19.

KJV

Rev 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Rev 18:12 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,

Rev 18:13 And cinnamon, and odors, 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.

Rev 18:14 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.

Rev 18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

Rev 18:16 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!

Rev 18:17 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,

Rev 18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

Rev 18:19 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.

NIV

Rev 18:11 "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more--

Rev 18:12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;

Rev 18:13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

Rev 18:14 "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.'

Rev 18:15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn

Rev 18:16 and cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

Rev 18:17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

Rev 18:18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

Rev 18:19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

Principles:

1. What we see in these verses is a listing of some very expensive things.
2. A lust for all things material is prevalent in Babylon; this city is the commercial center of the Antichrist's kingdom.
3. The economic character of the city of Babylon is emphasized; we see the merchants weeping and mourning for the city. Their grief is occasioned by the loss of their "sugar daddy."
4. The rich and varied character of the merchandise is itemized in verses 12 and 13, beginning with precious stones and costly metals characteristic of wealth and luxury.
5. Next in order are the fine fabrics used in their clothing, composed of fine linen and silk in the luxurious colors of purple and scarlet.

6. Precious stones, special metals, and fine fabrics which constituted the wealth of the ancient world are here itemized as the treasure of Babylon.

7. The luxury of their apparel is matched by the rich furnishings of their homes including articles of precious wood, ivory, brass, iron, and marble.

8. Thyine or citron was a fragrant food much like the cypress wood of north America and was used for expensive furniture in Roman times; along with thyine are listed other precious materials.

Rev 18:12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron (thyine) wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;

9. The use of vessels made of ivory, brass, iron, and marble as well as precious wood was symbolic of the luxury and wealth of Babylon before its destruction.

10. In verse thirteen expensive perfumes and spices are mentioned, such as cinnamon, unspecified odors (amomon - from an odiferous shrub of which an ointment was made, often translated "spice" and/or "ointment."

11. Some manuscripts add "incense" between "odors" and "ointments" (thymiamata). The last luxury item to be listed is frankincense.

12. All of these could be afforded only by the wealthy. Next is mentioned the abundance of foods, such as wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, and sheep.

13. The word beasts (ktene), used as a general word for property is here a reference to cattle.

14. Verse thirteen closes with reference to the means of transportation employed by the wealthy, namely, horses and chariots, and finally we have mentioned the slaves they owned both in body and soul.

Rev 18:13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

15. The combined picture is one of complete abandonment to the wealth of this world and total disregard of The God who gave it to them.

16. Verse 14 tells of the sweeping removal of all these precious possessions described as "the fruits that thy soul lusted after" and "all things which were dainty and goodly."



17. The inhabitants of Babylon are addressed as "those who are no longer able to find these things."

18. Like the kings of the earth who stood afar off and watched the ascending smoke of the burning of Babylon, so the merchants also shall fear to go near the city.

19. Weeping and wailing, that is, crying out loud and mourning, they also repeat their sad "alas" (ouai).

20. Charles C. Ryrie in his book Revelation writes of Rev 18:11-19.

"The "merchants of the earth weep and mourn," for they see the source of their careless ease vanishing before their eyes. This motive for their lamentation is plainly stated in verse eleven. It is not that they care about Babylon, but they do care about their businesses."

21. With regard to the list of product in verses 12 and 13 Ryrie writes: "Their merchandise is varied and includes:

21.1 "costly ornaments (gold, silver, precious stones, pearls;)

21.2 "expensive clothes (fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet;)

21.3 "rich furnishings (citron wood a kind of cypress articles of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron, and marble);

21.4 "precious perfumes (cinnamon, spice, incense, frankincense);

21.5 "foods (wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep);

21.6 "conveyances (horses, chariots); and even human chattel (slaves literally, bodies and souls of humans).

22. "Two features should be noted about this list: first, most of the items are luxury items, and, second, apparently these merchants will be trafficking in people as well as things.

23. "The depth of their sin is covered with the veneer of their luxurious and contented living. All this goes on in the midst of the terrible judgments of the Tribulation.

24. "But in a certain hour of a certain day this will end, and in the midst of the destruction the merchants will stand far off, weeping and sorrowing.

Rev 18:15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn.

25. "They stand "at a distance" because of the "fear of her torment," and their lament is centered in the fact that their great riches have come to nothing in so short a time (vv. 17-18).

26. "There will be devastation on a worldwide scale; yet, in the face of it, the thoughts of unsaved people will turn only to how their own interests are affected. This is selfishness and greed in its most naked form."

27. Ryrie goes on to write of Rev 18:17-19 and the merchants of the sea:

27.1 "All those connected with commerce on the seas also lament over the destruction of Babylon. This includes shipmasters, sailors, and all who travel or work in ships.

Rev 18:17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

Rev 18:18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

Rev 18:19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

27.2 "Their weeping is for the same reasonÑtheir business is suddenly being destroyed. Previously, one-third of the ships will have been destroyed by the angel with the third trumpet (Rev 8:9).

Rev 8:9 "a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed."

We are now ready for an expanded translation of Rev 18:11-19.

Rev 18:11 The world's great men of commerce could be seen for several days thereafter weeping and mourning because no one bought their products;

Rev 18:12 their expensive trinkets made of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls sat alone and cold in their jewelry cases; their fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth simply took up space on their shelves; items made of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly mahogany, bronze, iron and marble were no longer purchased;

Rev 18:13 there was no market for their cinnamon and spice, their incense, myrrh and frankincense, their wine and olive oil, fine flour and wheat were stacked in warehouses taking up space; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and their slaves could not be traded.

Rev 18:14 They will grieve for Babylon for she is no longer the great world monopsony who paid generously for the world's gross domestic product. The world's riches and splendor soon vanished, never to be recovered.

Rev 18:15 The merchants who gained their wealth from selling products to Babylon will stand off in the distance and watch terrified as Babylon and her citizens cry out in pain; even the inveterate industrial giants, these normally unflappable men of commerce will also weep and wail.

Rev 18:16 and cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, you who once was dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet; you who once glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls - you are now nothing but a city to be pitied.

Rev 18:17 Your great wealth was washed away in a sea of fire and it all happened so quickly; all you once were is now ruin! Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off wondering where to take their cargo.

Rev 18:18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will cry out, 'Was there ever a city like Babylon?

Rev 18:19 The great sea captains and their crews who once enjoyed their shore visits will weep and mourn and exclaim: "Woe! Woe, O great city;" the owners of the giant vessels who had become rich through trading with her will say to one another "but it all happened so fast, great Babylon is no longer, will she ever stop burning?"

End Lesson Taught 8-14-2002

Revelation

Lesson 132

8-21-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation.
2. Last week I taught Rev 18:9-19. When time expired I was in the process of teaching Rev 18:20.
3. I want to review some of that learned and then we will resume with new material and a study of verse twenty but first an expanded translation of Rev 18:9-19.

Rev 18:9 The various rulers of the nations who had gained great wealth from the evil practices of commercial Babylon were astounded and full of great sorrow when they saw the smoke of the burning city, they cried uncontrollably, they could not believe their eyes.

Rev 18:10 Terrified at what they saw, they refused to go to her aid but rather they stood afar off and cried: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In such a short time you have been destroyed!"

Rev 18:11 The world's great men of commerce could be seen for several days thereafter weeping and mourning because no one bought their products;

Rev 18:12 their expensive trinkets made of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls sat alone and cold in their jewelry cases; their fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth simply took up space on their shelves; items made of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly mahogany, bronze, iron and marble were no longer purchased;

Rev 18:13 there was no market for their cinnamon and spice, their incense, myrrh and frankincense, their wine and olive oil, fine flour and wheat were stacked in warehouses taking up space; cattle and sheep, horses and carriages, and slaves could not be traded.

Rev 18:14 They will grieve for Babylon for she is no longer the great economic power who paid so generously for the world's gross domestic product. The world's riches and splendor soon vanished, never to be recovered.

Rev 18:15 The merchants who gained their wealth from selling products to Babylon will stand off in the distance and watch terrified as Babylon and her citizens cry out in pain; even the inveterate industrial giants, these normally unflappable men of commerce will also weep, wail

Rev 18:16 and cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, you who once was dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet; you who once glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls - you are now nothing but a city to be pitied.

Rev 18:17 Your great wealth was washed away in a sea of fire and it all happened so quickly; all you once were is now ruin! Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off wondering where to take their cargo.

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Rev 18:19 The great sea captains and their crews who once enjoyed their shore visits will weep and mourn and exclaim: "Woe! Woe, O great city;" the owners of the giant vessels who had become rich through trading with her will say to one another "but it all happened so fast, great Babylon is no longer, will she ever stop burning?"

4. Now let's return to our study of the rejoicing in heaven when Babylon is destroyed. What an example of contrast; God's ways are definitely not the world's ways. Babylon is completely destroyed every man, woman and child.

KJV

Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

NIV

Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.

Principles:

1. In contrast to the grief overtaking worldly rulers and merchants because of the destruction of Babylon, heaven rejoices at the righteous judgment of God. Those rejoicing are called a great multitude in Rev 19:1.

Rev 19:1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

2. Those told to rejoice in Rev 18:20 are: the saints and the apostles and the prophets with the definite article repeated each time. This distinguishes each as a distinct category.

3. The expression "hath avenged" is literally God hath judged your judgment on them thus bringing to bear upon Babylon the righteous recompense for her martyrdom of the saints, prophets and apostles over Babylon's extended existence.

4. We see another case where the righteous ultimately triumph as victory follows suffering.

5. The identity of the voice ordering rejoicing though uncertain would seem to be God the Father speaking from the throne room in Heaven.

6. Let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 18:20:

Rev 18:20 A voice comes from the Throne Room ordering those in heaven to rejoice; those ordered to rejoice are: ordinary believers, prophets and apostles. The pain and suffering caused by Babylon representing all of Satan's demons and the gentile empires over which they indirectly ruled are now poured out on the city of Babylon.

7. Now let's see what we can learn from our last four verses of chapter eighteen.

KJV

Rev 18:21 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.

Rev 18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman no matter what craft shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

Rev 18:23 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.

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and all others who were killed on earth.

NIV

Rev 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.

Rev 18:22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

Rev 18:23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

Rev 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

Principles:

1. The reaction of the world to the destruction of Babylon with all of its business interests has been clearly described.
2. The people of the world weep, for material things are all they have to embrace. When these are destroyed, all is lost.
3. The attitude that the believers ought to have toward Babylon has also been stated in verse four.

Rev 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

4. They should come out from that system and not partake of its sins.
5. The reaction of heaven to the destruction of Babylon is recorded in verses 20-24.

Rev 18:20 A voice from heaven orders those in heaven to rejoice; those ordered to rejoice are: ordinary believers, prophets and apostles. The pain and suffering caused by Babylon representing all of Satan's demons and the gentile empires over which they indirectly ruled are now poured out on the city of Babylon.

Rev 18:21 Then a powerful angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be seen again.

Rev 18:22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

Rev 18:23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of the bridegroom and the bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

Rev 18:24 In you were found the blood of prophets, the blood of saints, in fact all who have been killed on planet earth are your responsibility.

6. The kings, merchants, and mariners bewail the passing of Babylon but in heaven there is great rejoicing.

7. Rev 18:20 declares that God has judged the case of Babylon and found her guilty. Babylon had slain the saints; now God slays Babylon. Here is the final answer to the plea of the martyrs in Rev 6:9-11.

Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the Word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

Rev 6:10 The martyrs called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Rev 6:11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

8. Then, as if to reassure the citizens of heaven that the destruction is final, an angel casts a millstone into the sea, symbolizing the sure and complete destruction of Babylon (v. 21).

8.1 A point or two about the millstone:

8.1.1 Two stones were combined so as to rub against each other and grind grain into flour.

8.1.2 Early the lower stone was usually rectangular in shape, varying greatly in size, hollowed out to leave a turned-up lip at each end. The upper stone was cylindrical or convex to rub back and forth over grain sprinkled on the stationary lower stone.

8.1.3 In the case of the smaller millstones, the upper stone made a convenient missile to drop on a besieging enemy.

Jdg 9:52 Abimelech went to the tower and stormed it. But as he approached the entrance to the tower to set it on fire,

Jdg 9:53 a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head and cracked his skull.

8.1.4 The captured Samson was used by the Philistines to grind at the prison mill, a task normally delegated to an animal or slaves.

Jdg 16:21 Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison.

8.1.5 The noise of the stones being rubbed against each other before dawn typified prosperous conditions.

8.1.6 In the case of the larger millstones a pole parallel to the ground was attached to the upper stone so that an animal, such as a donkey, could be used to turn it.

8.2 John in his vision now sees a "mighty angel" throw a stone like a great millstone into the sea, portraying the violent downfall of the great city. A similar instance is found in Jer 51:61-64.

Jer 51:61 And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;

Jer 51:62 Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever.

Jer 51:63 And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:

Jer 51:64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

8.3 In this passage in Jeremiah, Seraiah, a prince who accompanied Zedekiah into Babylon, is instructed after reading the book of Jeremiah to bind a stone to the rock and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates with the words:

8.3.1 "Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary."

8.3.2 In the similar instance portrayed in Rev 18:21 the large millstone is cast into the sea instead of a rock cast into the Euphrates.

8.4 The symbolism is the same. It represents a destruction of the great city, which like a stone cast into the sea will be found no more.

8.4.1 Now let's look at a couple of other uses.

Jer 25:10 Moreover I will take from Judah the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Jer 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Mat 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

9. This act brings forth a dirge concerning the total nature of the judgment on Babylon.



9.1 No music, no worker, no machinery, no light, no happiness ("voice of the bridegroom and bride") shall be found in Babylon anymore.

10. The reason for the severe judgment is twofold: Babylon deceived the nations (v. 23), and Babylon killed the saints (v. 24).

Rev 18:23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

Rev 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been martyred on the earth.

11. Joyless, dark, and silent, Babylon stands as a monument to the righteous vengeance of God. Wickedness that reigned enthroned for so long is now overthrown.

12. The ultimate end of Babylon in all its forms will be accomplished by God's judgment at the end of the great tribulation. Babylon will be found "no more at all" (compare verse 14, 22 and 23).

Rev 18:14 They will grieve for Babylon for she is no longer the great economic power who paid so generously for the world's gross domestic product. The world's riches and splendor soon vanished, never to be recovered.

13. The angel now enlarges on the cessation of activity in this great city. He mentions its former life and luxurious existence, the voices of its harpers and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, all of whom added to the fanfare and public display of both its religious, social and political ambiance.

14. Babylon, is now silent. Similarly, the fine craftsmen who produced the ultimate in luxurious goods are no longer to be found.

14.1 The sound of the millstone grinding out the grain is silent. In like manner, the light of the candle is now out, the city is cold and dead; no longer do the streets ring with the voices of the bridegroom and the bride.

15. Of the nine different features mentioned, seven are described as "the voice" (phone, literally "sound") of harpers, musicians, pipers, trumpeters, millstones, bridegrooms, and brides.

16. The very silence of the city is a testimony to God's devastating judgment. Verses 23 and 24 provide the brief summary of the extent of Babylon's sins and greatness.

17. Her merchants were "great men of the earth." All nations were deceived by Babylon's sorceries. The occult from early on in Babylon's history was an important part of her modus operandi.

17.1 As we have seen in our studies of both religious and political Babylon, Satan himself is involved in their "success."

18. Here too was the martyred blood of prophets and saints. The greatness that was the secret of her rise in power and influence makes her downfall all the more impressive.

19. Babylon is declared to be guilty of the blood of prophets and saints, a reference in part to the martyrs of the great tribulation.

20. There is an obvious parallel in the rise and fall of Babylon in its varied forms in Scripture.

21. In Genesis 11:1-9, the citizens of Babylon are seen building a tower reaching to heaven, by this act they were attempting to maintain a union of the world through a common worship and a common tongue.

22. God defeated this purpose by confusing the language and scattering the people. Babylon, ecclesiastically symbolized by the woman in Revelation chapter seventeen, similarly proposes a common worship and a common religion, a single world church.

23. She is destroyed by the beast in Revelation 17:16-17 who thus fulfills the will of God.

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.

24. Babylon, politically symbolized by the great city of Revelation 18, attempts to achieve its domination of the world by a world common market and a world government.

25. Commercial Babylon is destroyed by Christ at His second coming.

Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Rev 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Rev 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, "Come, gather together for the great supper of God,

Rev 19:18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great."

Rev 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

Rev 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

26. The triumph of God is therefore witnessed historically in the scattering of the people and the unfinished tower of Genesis 11 and prophetically in the destruction of the world church by the killing of the harlot of Revelation 17 and in the destruction of the city of Revelation 18.

27. With the graphic description of the fall of Babylon contained in chapters 17 and 18, the way is cleared for the presentation of the major theme of the book of Revelation, the second coming of Christ and the establishment of His glorious kingdom.

28. Let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 18:21-24.

Rev 18:21 Then a powerful angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be seen again.

Rev 18:22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

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Rev 18:24 In you were found the blood of prophets, the blood of saints, and of all those who have been killed on planet earth.

29. Before we move to Revelation chapter nineteen let me for the record provide an expanded translation of chapter eighteen.

Expanded Translation:

Rev 18:1 It wasn't long before I saw a second angel coming down from heaven. From his appearance and general demeanor he obviously had been given special authority; in fact the entire horizon was illumined by his splendor.

Rev 18:2 He cried out in a very loud voice: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! The rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates is gone; it has become a home for demons and a place for every kind of evil spirit, it is home for every kind of unclean and detestable bird.

Rev 18:3 For the nations of the world have participated with her in all sorts of pernicious and despicable commercial practices. The leaders of planet earth have entered into great schemes designed to take advantage of those less fortunate, and the industrial captains have devised devious methods for acquiring great wealth beyond description.

Rev 18:4 And then I John heard another voice coming from heaven: "My people come out of Babylon so that you do not participate in her sins; also I do not want to see you hurt by the plagues which I will send;

Rev 18:5 for you see her sins have piled up even reaching to heaven itself, from her very beginning she has participated in all which is evil and God has remembered her many sins and idolatrous religion which spread throughout the world.

Rev 18:6 Babylon must be paid back said the Voice; in fact she will be paid back double for what she has done. Mix her a drink of devastation and give her a double portion from her own cup.

Rev 18:7 Distribute to her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she bestowed upon herself. Throughout the ages she has boasted, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

Rev 18:8 Accordingly in one day plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine will be the order of her day. The city of Babylon will be consumed by fire, for mighty, inherently powerful and sovereign is the Lord God who has judged her.

Rev 18:9 The various rulers of the nations who had gained great wealth from the evil practices of commercial Babylon were astounded and full of great sorrow when they saw the smoke of the burning city, they cried uncontrollably, they could not believe their eyes.

Rev 18:10 Terrified at what they saw, they refused to go to her aid but rather they stood afar off and cried: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In such a short time you have been destroyed!'

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Rev 18:12 their expensive trinkets made of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls sat alone and cold in their jewelry cases; their fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth simply took up space on their shelves; items made of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly mahogany, bronze, iron and marble were no longer purchased;

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Rev 18:20 A voice from heaven orders those in heaven to rejoice; those ordered to rejoice are: ordinary believers, prophets and apostles. The pain and suffering caused by Babylon representing all of Satan's demons and the gentile empires over which they indirectly ruled are now poured out on the city of Babylon.

Rev 18:21 Then a powerful angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be seen again.

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End Lesson Taught 8-21-2002

