

## The Study of the Book of Revelation

### Chapter 18

#### Review:

In Revelation 17 we learned that the woman riding the beast was actually Papal Rome. She had made the kings of the earth commit fornication or apostasy with her false doctrines. She was also portrayed as a false priestess, wearing purple and scarlet, having perils and a golden cup in her hand full of abominations. She was wearing what God told the High Priest to wear, with the exception of the color blue. As we learned, blue was the color of the Ten Commandments and one of the colors which the priest wore. It was also the color of ribbon that God told Israel to put on the fringe of their garments so they would always remember the 10 Commandments, to be faithful to God. Revelation 18 gives one final call to come out of connection with apostasy! **Come out of her My people is the call.** Let's look.

#### Revelation 18 is divided up into three sections

1. A Call to come out of Babylon because it will be destroyed. (vs. 1-8)
2. The reaction of earthly kingdoms to her destruction. (vs. 9-19)
3. The reaction from Heaven to her destruction (vs. 20-24)

Chapter 18 warns God's people to get out of spiritual Babylon. This final call out of Babylon amplifies the second angel's message of Revelation 14:8. Given since 1844, God's plea to leave Babylon strengthens and grows louder as the time of mercy grows shorter. This is not a short call with very little warning. On the contrary, God has pleaded with His people for years just as Noah preached the same sermon for 120 years before the Flood destroyed the earth.

After this loud repetition of God's call, there is nothing more that can be done for all that remain in Babylon. They have refused to leave their fallen churches and stubbornly hang on to tradition, clinging to the false doctrines of Babylon. The final message also presumes that there are some who used to belong to God's people, but made the mistake of drinking of the wine of her fornications. They can no longer discern between truth and error. Some who were once part of God's true church will drink of that wine and succumb to her intoxication. Who are these people? Take a close look at the description of Babylon the great in Revelation 17: her dress, her department, the wine, and everything about her. God is calling His faithful away from these worldly allurements. We must cut all ties with Babylon before the seven last plagues begin to fall on her and her followers.

#### **Revelation 18:1-8**

*"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was **lightened with his glory**. And he cried mightily with **a strong voice**, saying, **Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached***

*unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 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. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.”*

v.1 – **“The earth was lightened with his glory.”** The heavenly light brings the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. That He alone can save! Yet, Babylon’s counterfeit worship keeps its followers in the darkness of sin and error. We once again see the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. The battle rages for each person. Each must choose to either follow the light of Heaven or stay in darkness with Satan. Only the blood of the Lamb frees us from the bondage of ignorance, false worship, and the traditions of Babylon.

v. 2 – **“Cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.”** This verse appears to be a repetition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Angels message (Rev. 14:8), except in this instance, that angel cries **“With a strong loud voice,”** while with the first time (2<sup>nd</sup> Angels Message) there is no reference to a “Loud voice.” Prophetically, this may correspond to:

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Angels Message (Rev. 14:6-7) was started at the time of the Great Awakening, which occurred worldwide after 1798, and before 1844. This Angel declares his message “With a loud voice” (it was world-wide). The 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel’s Message (Rev. 14:9-11) is also given “With a loud voice.’
2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Angel’s message was given for the first time just prior to 1844, when the people in the Millerite Movement (Sabbath keeping, Advent believing Christians) left and were driven out of the “Apostate” Protestant churches of the time. The Millerites recognized the relationship between spiritual Babylon and the apostate religious system. This “Message” was not “With a loud voice” because it was not world-wide at this time.
3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Angels message would be repeated GLOBALLY (with a strong voice) by the angel in Revelation 17, at the end times (during or after the mark of the beast issue) when Spiritual Babylon will persecute God’s people globally.

v. 2 – **“Babylon the great is fallen.”** Babylon has **“Spiritually fallen.”** This connects with the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> plagues, which fall on or in Babylon. **Why does Babylon fall?**

**“Habitation of devils”** a dwelling place of demons, Babylon becomes a center of demonic deception (Rev. 16:12-14).

### **Revelation 16:13**

*“And I saw three unclean spirits like **frogs** come **out of the mouth** of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”*

**Key Point:**

Notice the symbolism used to describe these *“Unclean spirits”* which deceive men to follow them, *“Out of the mouth”* and *“Frogs.”* What is the most notable characteristic of a frog, *“Its long tongue,”* coming *“Out of the mouths” of the unholy trinity.* This appears to be a direct prophetic reference to the current day CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT and “SPEAKING IN TONGUES,” as presented by this movement. This charismatic movement has been one of the most influential movements in the bringing together of Protestantism and Catholicism in our day, even leading up to historic agreements between Roman Catholics and Protestantism to work together for world evangelism.

This also parallels Revelation 13:13-14, *“Fire come down from heaven.”* See the discussion of this verse in the Revelation 13 study.

v. 4 – *“Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”* Jesus is here giving one final warning. It is the last appeal given in the book of Revelation! Angels and human messengers have been giving the trumpet a certain sound, giving the life changing message of Jesus blood and righteousness. But now, one final opportunity remains, come out of Mother Babylon and her daughters while time still remains. Soon this final call will end, and the choices you have made will be final. The options are clear: come out from your ties to Mother Babylon, join Christ and be saved, or stay with her, joining in her sins and receiving her plagues.

v. 7 – *“For she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.”* The Roman church has glorified herself through her power and riches. She sits as *“a queen”* but is not a *“widow,”* for she was never married to, nor accepted the authority of the Father in heaven. But the sins of Babylon have reached all the way to heaven, and God remembers all her iniquities. Babylon stands in stark contrast to those who follow Jesus Christ. She boasts of her own works as she says in her heart that she is the sole ruler and will not be thrown down.

v. 8 – *“Her plagues come in one day.”* One prophetic day is equal to one literal year.

**Revelation 18:9-19**

*“And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. 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. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 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.**”*

Commenting on these verses, Loren Nelson, in his book, *Understanding the Mysteries of Daniel & Revelation* says, “*The kings of the earth stand afar off weeping and lamenting for Babylon when they see the burning of the city. The spiritual fornication they have committed with spiritual Babylon is now seen as it really is and was! They lament not only for Babylon, but for themselves. Through Babylon they obtained influence, power, and material gain as they received the mark of the beast. Now they realize that they have lost out on that which is worth more than all the political advantage, power, and riches of the whole earth. Their temporal riches are now destroyed, but they have no spiritual wealth. They have given their time to the great whore and missed out on an eternity with Jesus. They ignored the One who owns the cattle on a thousand hills. They now find that Solomon was right; all earthly pursuits are vanity.*” (Loren Nelson, *Understanding the mysteries of Daniel & Revelation*, p. 352)

The “*One hour*” is not a literal sixty minutes. The Greek word for “*Hour*” is “*Hora*” meaning a short time or season. So the Scripture is saying that in a short time Babylon will be brought down.

#### **Revelation 18:20-24**

**“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 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. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 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. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.”**

#### **Conclusion:**

The final words in this chapter tell of the blood of prophets and saints which are laid at Babylon’s door. Persecution of God’s faithful, and obedient has always been the spirit of Babylon. Revelation 18 describes spiritual Babylon in all of its forms-the mother church and her daughters who found their pleasure in worldly things. Those who love the world, hate God, and persecute the faithful in the church throughout the ages. Even the reformed churches and some who claim to be of God’s remnant church have practiced the same lordship over others who remained faithful to Christ. In the end, some who

have claimed to be Christ's followers will discover that in reality, they are aligned with the Roman Church. In contrast, nothing but purity is associated with God's true church in the last days. Here the last call to come out of Babylon, out of spiritual unfaithfulness, is given by angels and even God Himself. Babylon's destruction is sure, and all who do not flee from her false religious system will be destroyed with her.

Revelation 18 calls all who are honest in heart to yield their allegiance totally to Christ the King. It also reveals that Babylon's followers have put their hopes in her instead of Christ. While those who have aligned themselves with the Roman Church mourn and wail, all of heaven is rejoicing that judgment has finally come to this religious power that has been controlled by Satan.

**Revelation 18:23**

***“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.”***

There will be a complete separation between Christ and His followers and Babylon and her followers. The light of God's word will not lighten their minds and the voice Christ will not be heard in their ears. This is a solemn cry for all to listen and take action! May we heed the counsel of Joshua, *“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* Joshua 24:15