

Chapter 18 **Desolation**.... Last week we witnessed the destruction of the False prophet... and the one world Religion... Just As Daniel prophesied....

*ESV Daniel 12:11* *And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.*

- **In the beginning of the tribulation ...there is a certain amount of Religious freedom allowed.... (Dan 12:11 Jewish burnt offerings)...**

• **But at the midpoint... 3.5 years into the Tribulation... the Anti Christ sets himself up in the Temple and calls himself God ... when this event happens there will be 3 ½ years left before “the end of days.” The coming of Christ**

• This evil world ruler the Anti-Christ the first Beast... will be enthroned and worshiped in a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.

• Jesus describes the event ...

*ESV Matt 24:15* *“<sup>15</sup> “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), <sup>16</sup> then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, <sup>18</sup> and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. <sup>19</sup> And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! <sup>20</sup> Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. <sup>22</sup> And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

This one world government is terrifying and powerful; as verse 7 tells us:

*ESV REV 13:7 Also **it** was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, 8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

• **the Antichrist will not tolerate any worship except of himself:**

*NLT 2 Thess 2:3 Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. 4 He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.*

**At that time ...God judges the false prophet and the false religion... at the hands of the one she exalted**

**The great harlot is judged.**

1. ([Revelation 17:16](#)) Antichrist's allies turn on the great harlot.

*NLT REV 17:16 The scarlet beast and his ten horns all hate the prostitute. They will strip her naked, eat her flesh, and burn her remains with fire*

- a. These will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire: This violence probably takes place at the mid-point of the tribulation period.
- b. Here, apostate religion discovers the true nature of the beast.
- c. **Ultimately, the Antichrist will not tolerate any worship except of himself: The son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, so that he sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God**

**\*\*\*Once his power has been consolidated, the Antichrist no longer needs the help of religious Babylon. He will then work to dismantle and destroy her and her one-world religion.**

when this event happens there will be 3 ½ years left before “the end of days.”

**The irony...God’s hand ultimately directs all this.**

*NLT Rev 17:17 For God has put a plan into their minds, a plan that will carry out his purposes. They will agree to give their authority to the scarlet beast, and so the words of God will be fulfilled.*

**Now in chapter 18 ...the world’s commerce she ruled is judged by utter calamity.... at the end of that period.**

*ESV REV 18 :1After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup> And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. <sup>3</sup> For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”*

- this angel is the same in kind as the angel of [17:1](#).” And the angel coming down from heaven has been in the direct Presence of God it is literally lit up and glowing across the dark earth.”
- Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen: He announces that Babylon is fallen, fallen and the phrase is “repeated like a solemn judgment of the damned.”

- **The Religious/commercial system has Become a dwelling place of demons: This is “a prophetic picture of absolute desolation where the proud achievements of man become the demonic haunts of unclean and horrible creatures.”**
- **Corrupted in the Abundance of her luxury: Babylon’s sin was not only idolatry (referred to with the term fornication), but also pride, greed, and hoarding of wealth always desiring more.**

*NLT REV 18:4 Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, “Come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her. <sup>5</sup> For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God remembers her evil deeds.*

- **Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins:** It is inconceivable that a child of God could be a part of religious Babylon (though elements may creep in).
- **But commercial Babylon, with its materialistic lure, is a constant threat to be guarded against.**

b. *or you will be punished with her:* The warning is focused towards saints who are in the position Lot was in while he lived in the city of Sodom ([Genesis 19](#)). These are God’s people in a place they shouldn’t be, a place ripe for destruction. This is a call always to the people of God...

c. **Come away from her: The call to depart from Babylon and the worldliness that it represents is a theme repeated frequently in the Scriptures.**

*ESV Mark 4:18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world and the*

*deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

- **The sins of commercial Babylon have piled up like a tower — the tower of Babel.**

e. **God has remembered evil deeds:** This is their destiny, but towards believers, God says, *I will remember their sins no more* ([Hebrews 8:12](#)).

**([Revelation 18:6-8](#)) A call to those who will carry out Babylon's judgment....**

*NLT REV 18:6 Do to her as she has done to others. Double her penalty for all her evil deeds. She brewed a cup of terror for others, so brew twice as much for her. <sup>7</sup> She glorified herself and lived in luxury, so match it now with torment and sorrow. She boasted in her heart, 'I am queen on my throne. I am no helpless widow, and I have no reason to mourn.' <sup>8</sup> Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day— death and mourning and famine. She will be completely consumed by fire, for the Lord God who judges her is mighty."*

- ***Do to her as she has done to others:*** The ancient Greek word means literally “to pay a debt” or “to give back that which is due.” God will give Babylon exactly what she deserves.
- ***Double her penalty for all her evil deeds. She brewed a cup of terror for others, so brew twice as much for her:*** Double restitution was required in the Old Testament in cases of theft ([Exodus 22:4-9](#)). This is a commentary on how Babylon has made her wealth — through dishonest dealings.
- ***Repay her double according to her works: She glorified herself and lived in luxury, so match it now with torment and sorrow.***

This passage presents a three-fold sin. **First, *self-indulgence***... (lived in luxury). **Second, *pride*** (glorified herself... sits and considers herself a queen). **Third, *Self-made*** (I don't need anyone not a widow) **Fourth, *avoidance of suffering*** ***I have everthing (and I have no reason to mourn.)***. **All these things are characteristic of worldliness and materialism.**

- ***Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day— death and mourning and famine. She will be completely consumed by fire, : The destruction of commercial Babylon will come suddenly and with completeness (utterly burned with fire).***
- ***God will do it!! (for the Lord God who judges her is mighty.)***

***NLT REV 18:<sup>9</sup> And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. <sup>10</sup> They will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. They will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for you, O Babylon, you great city! In a single moment God’s judgment came on you.”***

- **Standing at distance for fear of her torment: So great is the heat and smoke of her burning that these kings must stand at a distance. Some think this may be an indication that nuclear weapons are used in the judgment of these commercial centers.**
- ***They will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for you, O Babylon, you great city! In a single moment God’s judgment came on you.”! “...all that you built is destroyed by God in a moment...***

***ESV REV 18:<sup>11</sup> And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, <sup>12</sup> cargo of gold,***

*silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, <sup>13</sup> cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. <sup>14</sup> “The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!”*

- **This long list of Merchandise needs little explanation, except to note that most all are luxuries, not necessities.**
- *Even selling the souls of human for that luxury that your soul longed for ...* The profits of commercial Babylon have come through cruelly using others.
- They sold the bodies and souls of men. This idea has many applications, none less so than today’s widespread human trafficking, prostitution, and pornography.

<sup>15</sup> *The **merchants who became wealthy** by selling her these things will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. They will weep and cry out, <sup>16</sup> “How terrible, how terrible for that great city! She was clothed in finest purple and scarlet linens, decked out with gold and precious stones and pearls! <sup>17</sup> In a single moment all the wealth of the city is gone!”*

- **It is plain that the weeping, crying and fear of the merchants is rooted in their own greed and self self-interest: for no one buys their merchandise anymore.**
- **“their whole concern is the loss of the wealth of this world and complete indifference to God who created it.”**

*NLT Luke 9:25 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?*

- That which you sold your soul for, you shall find no more at all: Those who lived for the luxuries of commercial Babylon will be tormented their eternal absence of those luxuries all the more: Ultimately, hell will be a place of absolute unfulfilled yearning.

ESV ([Revelation 18:17b-19](#)) *And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off<sup>18</sup> and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, “What city was like the great city?”<sup>19</sup> And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, “Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.*

- their sorrow at commercial Babylon’s fall is selfish. they lose
- Now a Call to the heavens and the people of God: rejoice!

ESV ([Revelation 18:20](#)) *“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”*

- Rejoice over her: Should God’s people rejoice when judgment comes? Yes, but we don’t rejoice in the destruction in judgment. Rather, we rejoice in the righteous resolution God’s judgment brings.

**Now the Finale: commercial Babylon’s death knell An angel graphically shows Babylon’s fall.**

ESV ([Revelation 18:21](#)) *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.*

Some day, this world system will pass away, like a great stone falls to the bottom of the sea.



Will this fall hurt us? We will only be hurt to the extent that we invest ourselves in the mentality of commercial Babylon's materialism and worldliness.

**The ultimate reason for commercial Babylon's judgment: She has killed the prophets and saints.**

***NLT REV 18:24 In your streets flowed the blood of the prophets and of God's holy people and the blood of people slaughtered all over the world."***

- The extent of this charge is an indication that this great city is symbolic of Satan's world system at large and his hate for the people of God...going all the way back to the Garden....
- God takes the persecution of His people as a personal offense. Those who attack His people really attack Him