

Revelation 18:1-24

REVIEW...

- **OUTLINE...**

- THREE times – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE – **Revelation 1:19**
- THREE events – RAPTURE – WRATH – RETURN of Jesus
- THREE judgements – SEAL – TRUMPET – and BOWL judgments

- **The Great Harlot...**

- The FINAL bowl...
 - With the SEVENTH bowl – and angel cried out – it is FINISHED...
 - And God caused a great earthquake – shaking up the Kingdom of the Antichrist...
 - The FALL of the RELIGIOUS system – **Revelation 17**
 - The FALL of the ECONOMIC system – **Revelation 18**
 - The FALL of the POLITICAL system – **Revelation 19**
- One World Religion...
 - The Great HARLOT is used to describe the RELIGIOUS system created by the Antichrist...
 - It will be ONLY the one RELIGION during the SEVEN years of the Tribulation...
 - The RELIGION will embrace everyone – but will execute anyone who believes in Jesus!
- The Beast...
 - The RELIGION will not last long – because it RIDES the Beast [antichrist]
 - Since he will only reign for SEVEN years – the RELIGION will also fail quickly...
 - Inspired by God – the TEN horns [leaders] of the ONE government – will turn on the HARLOT...
 - The death of this false RELIGION – is the FIRST part of the Kingdom of the Antichrist to fall!

FALL OF BABYLON...

- **1ST – PROCLAMATION... vs. 1-3**

- 1st – Mighty Angel... vs. 1
 - Another Angel...
 - After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven - having great authority.
 - And the earth was illuminated with his glory!
 - After [Μετὰ ταῦτα] the FALL of the one world RELIGION...
 - John saw another [ἄλλος] ANGEL come out of heaven – with GREAT [μέγας] power...
 - His GLORY [δόξης] gave LIGHT to the whole world!
 - Who is the Angel...
 - Much like the Angel who gave John the little book – **Revelation 10:1**
 - The description of this ANGEL here has led some to believe it is Jesus!
 - There are times in the OT when Jesus is referred to as the ANGEL of the LORD – **Exodus 3:2**
 - BUT – TWO Greek words for ANOTHER - [ἄλλος] same kind - [ἕτερος] – different kind
 - This mighty ANGEL was the same kind [ἄλλος] of ANGEL as the others John had seen!
 - It does NOT appear to be Jesus – instead perhaps the ANGEL we saw - **Revelation 14:8**
- 2nd – Babylon the Great... vs. 2
 - The Location...
 - He cried mightily with a loud voice – saying - Babylon the great is fallen - is fallen!
 - The ANGEL cried out that BABYLON has FALLEN [indicative]
 - BABYLON – in modern day Iraq – will be the CENTER of the economy of the Antichrist!
 - The world runs on OIL – and almost 50% of all the oil in the world is in the Middle East...
 - Making the region a modern CENTER of FINANCE and commerce!

- Unclean...
 - [Babylon] has become a dwelling place of demons - a prison for every foul spirit.
 - And a cage for every unclean and hated bird!
 - All the WEALTH of BABYLON will make it a VERY spiritually DARK place...
 - It will be a place where DEMONS call home...
 - Every [πᾶς] wicked [ἀκάθαρτος] spirit of MEN – will be drawn there...
 - Every unclean BIRD [satan] – will find it a place they cannot leave...
 - Because the LOVE of money is the root of all kinds of EVIL – **I Timothy 6:10**
 - If our main goal in life is getting RICH – it will take us to DARK places...
 - In an effort to get the latest toy - best car - prettiest house – none of which we NEED...
 - We will get into lots of DEBT – and compromise our MORALS to get an extra PESO...
 - All because we thought having MONEY would solve all our problems!
 - **Hebrews 13:5** – “Do not love money - be satisfied with what you have...”
- o 3rd – The Crime... vs. 3
 - The Nations...
 - For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication!
 - ALL [πᾶς] the NATIONS have become DRUNK on the WEALTH of Babylon!
 - In the year 1900 – the total GDP [wealth] of the world was – \$3.5 TRILLION
 - When I was BORN in 1974 – the GDP of the world had grown tenfold to – \$30 TRILLION
 - In the year 1995 – the GDP of the world had almost doubled again to - \$50 TRILLION
 - By the year 2015 – the GDP of the world was over \$108 TRILLION
 - HALF of all wealth EVER made in HISTORY – has been created in the past TWENTY years!
 - This unprecedented growth in WEALTH – has made the world DRUNK on money...
 - It has caused EVERYONE – in EVERY nation – to believe MONEY is the answer...
 - Buying into the LIE [fornication] – there is something other than GOD we should live for!
 - The Kings...
 - The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her!
 - The LEADERS [kings] of the earth – all have bought into the LIE!
 - China is a COMMUNIST country [since 1949] – formed as a SOCIALIST economy...
 - Meaning no one owned ANYTHING – there were no PRIVATE business...
 - But in the 1990s CHINA changed – and went after the MONEY...
 - They are now the SECOND largest economy in the world!
 - With only a handful of exceptions – every country on earth today is CAPITALIST...
 - ALL the governments on earth see their purpose as getting more MONEY!
 - The Merchants...
 - The merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury!
 - MERCHANTS [ἐμπόρος] – used FOUR times in our passage...
 - Those who BUY and SELL – have been given the POWER [δύναμις] to become RICH!
 - People are making a LOT of money these days...
 - It used to be a rare thing for a person to be a MILLIONAIRE...
 - Over the next THREE years – the number of MILLIONAIRES in the world will grow by 40%
 - Meaning around 25 MILLION people – are about to enter the MILLIONAIRE club!
 - Where is all this MONEY coming from – MERCHANTS buying and selling...
 - As they world becomes more and more addicted to MONEY!
- 2ND – GET OUT... vs. 4-5
 - o 1st – Escape... vs. 4
 - I heard another voice from heaven saying - Come out of her - my people!
 - John heard another [ἄλλος] voice from HEAVEN – come OUT [imperative] of [Babylon]

- We who are the PEOPLE of God – are NOT to take part in this WORLDLY system...
- We do NOT live for MONEY – we do NOT put our trust in pieces of paper...
- We realize that God is the one who PROVIDES for all our NEEDS – **Luke 12:31**
- We are to be an EXAMPLE to the world – we do not follow their EXAMPLE!
- **II Corinthians 6:17** – “Come out from among them and be separate - says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean and I will receive you.”
- o 2nd – Do not share... vs. 4-5
 - Lest you share in her sins - and lest you receive of her plagues!
 - For her sins have reached to heaven - and God has remembered her iniquities!
 - If we do NOT reject this obsession the world has with MONEY...
 - Then we will end up SHARING [κοινωνέω] the same FATE [sin] as the WORLD...
 - We also will receive the PLAGUES [problems] that God will send on them...
 - Because the SIN of GREED builds – till it reaches up to heaven – and God remembers it!
 - The problem is people make MONEY their god – instead of Jesus...
 - We cannot dedicate our lives to MONEY - and to the Lord - **Luke 6:24**
 - The pursuit of money is a TRAP – and it only leads to DESTRUCTION!
 - **I Timothy 6:9** - “Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare - and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.”
- 3rd – JUSTICE IS SERVED... vs. 6-8
 - o 1st – Double judgement... vs. 6
 - Render to her just as she rendered to you.
 - Repay her double according to her works - in the cup which she has mixed - mix double for her!
 - RENDER [ἀποδίδωμι] – to pay off a DEBT that is owed...
 - The DEBT of BABYLON – was to be paid DOUBLE – because of what she had done...
 - In the LAW – if someone stole something – they had to restore DOUBLE – **Exodus 22:4-9**
 - The suggestion is the wealth of BABYLON – has been STOLEN from others!
 - The pursuit of MONEY is SELFISH – it causes us to take advantage of others...
 - We stop caring about what happens to them – so long as we are RICH!
 - o 2nd – Just judgement... vs. 7
 - In the measure she glorified herself and lived luxuriously - give her torment and sorrow.
 - For she says in her heart - I sit as queen - and am no widow - and will not see sorrow!
 - As WEALTHY and PAMPERED a life as those who follow after the money live [Babylon]
 - In that same measure – they must [imperative] be TORTURED and have SORROW...
 - Because they will say in their HEART – they are QUEEN – and will NEVER be SAD!
 - The pursuit of MONEY is CALLOUS – we think money will PROTECT us...
 - But the arrogance of WEALTH – brings about even greater judgement from the Lord!
 - o 3rd – Quick judgement... vs. 8
 - Therefore - her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine.
 - And she will be utterly burned with fire - for strong is the Lord God who judges her!
 - All this will happen to BABYLON in ONE day – and to those who her believe her LIE...
 - There will be FAMINE [lack of food] – MORNING [lack of money] – and DEATH...
 - Which will be followed up by eternal JUDGEMENT [fire]
 - Because the Lord [κύριος] God who judges is STRONG – and her MONEY will not save her!
 - WEALTH promises GREAT things – and it seems to be able to deliver...
 - But the SAD truth about MONEY - is it CANNOT save anyone...
 - Just when it is NEEDED most – it is GONE – and it leaves us NAKED before the Lord [κύριος]
 - What good a bunch of colorful PAPER – when we have to give an account before a HOLY God!
- 4th – MOURNING BABYLON... vs. 9-19

- o 1st – The Kings... vs. 9-10
 - The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her.
 - Will weep and lament for her - when they see the smoke of her burning.
 - Standing at a distance for fear of her torment – saying – Alas – alas that great city Babylon.
 - That mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come!
 - When the HOUR of comes – the WORLD will mourn the loss of BABYLON...
 - We see this described in THREE groups – FIRST is the KINGS [governments]
 - They were in BED [fornication] with BABYLON – fully supporting the MONETARY system...
 - And when it BURNS to the ground – they WEEP because they LOSE their MONEY...
 - But they do not get too CLOSE – they stand at a DISTANCE – because the JUDGEMENT has come!
 - If I had a friend whose house was on fire – I would not stand by and WATCH...
 - A true friend would run over and try and save the person he LOVES!
 - People who are our FRIENDS – only because of what they get from us...
 - Will NOT be there to help us – in the day when life falls apart...
 - They might shake their heads in pity – but they do NOT want to risk getting hurt!
- o 2nd – The Merchants... vs. 11-17
 - No more business... vs. 11
 - The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her.
 - For no one buys their merchandise anymore!
 - SECOND – the MERCHANTS also will weep and mourn the loss of BABYLON...
 - Not because they care about HER – but because they no longer are making MONEY!
 - The inventory... vs. 12-13
 - Merchandise of gold and silver - precious stones and pearls - fine linen and purple.
 - Silk and scarlet - every kind of citron wood - every kind of object of ivory.
 - Every kind of object of most precious wood – bronze – iron - and marble.
 - Cinnamon and incense - fragrant oil and frankincense - wine and oil - fine flour and wheat.
 - Cattle and sheep - horses and chariots - and bodies and souls of men!
 - The LIST of the MERCHANDISE that is given is quite inclusive...
 - What strikes me is how similar the list is to what is BOUGHT and SOLD today...
 - Nothing in this list would look unfamiliar in a CARGO manifest of an ocean liner today!
 - From precious METALS [gold and silver] – to fine CLOTHING [linen and silk]
 - To rare WOOD and ivory – to fragrant SPICES – to WINE and wheat...
 - Even LIVESTOCK [cattle and sheep] are included in the list!
 - The one thing that seems to stick out of the group – is the SOULS [ψυχῆ] of men...
 - We have abolished SLAVERY in the world today – it is no longer legal...
 - But that does not mean people still do not SELL their SOULS for money...
 - There is nothing wrong with having MONEY – the problem is when MONEY owns us...
 - We can become a SLAVE to this world – living for MONEY rather than for the Lord!
 - No more wealth... vs. 14
 - The fruit your soul longed for has gone from you. All the things which are rich...
 - And splendid have gone from you - and you shall find them no more at all!
 - ALL the WEALTH [fruits] that their SOUL longed for will be GONE...
 - All the RICHES – all the TOYS – are gone and they will NEVER [οὐ μὴν] see them again!
 - People think they have EARNED what they have in LIFE – that they DESERVE it...
 - But everything we have we received from God – and He can take it away!
 - I Corinthians 4:7 - “What do you have that God has not given you? If all you have is from God - why boast as though you have accomplished something on your own?”
 - At a distance... vs. 15-17

- The merchants of these things - who became rich by her - will stand at a distance.
- For fear of her torment - weeping and wailing - and saying – Alas – alas - that great city.
- Clothed in fine linen – purple - and scarlet - adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls.
- For in one hour such great riches came to nothing!
- These MERCHANTS – like the KINGS – will stand far off fearing the JUDGEMENT...
- But they will weep because Babylon – who was dressed in such wealth...
- NOTE: the description is VERY similar to the HARLOT – **Revelation 17:4**
- Lost ALL of her riches in just ONE hour – they came to NOTHING!
- What is the MAJOR religion of the world today...
- It is not CHRISTIANITY – or ISLAM – the main RELIGION is MONEY [materialism]
- Men put their HOPE – their FAITH – in what MONEY can do for them...
- And when their MONEY fails – and it will come to NOTHING – they will WEEP!

o 3rd – The Sailors... vs. 17-19

- Every shipmaster - all who travel by ship – sailors - and as many as trade on the sea.
- Stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning.
- Saying - What is like this great city? They threw dust on their heads and cried out.
- Weeping and wailing - saying – Alas – alas - that great city in which all who had ships on the sea.
- Became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate!
- THIRD all of those involved in the SEA trade will MOURN [captains – sailors]
- This is VERY interesting – because SEA trade was NOT very big in the days of John...
- But today there are 50 THOUSAND ships – from 150 NATIONS – manned by 1 MILLION sailors...
- That carry 11 BILLION tons of EVERY kind of good by SEA every year...
- That breaks down to 1.5 tons of goods – for EVERY person on the face of the earth!
- But these shipping lanes – that are the international life blood of a GLOBAL economy...
- Will end abruptly – as in ONE hour BABYLON will become DESOLATE!

• 5TH – CELEBRATING IN HEAVEN... vs. 20-24

o 1st – Rejoice... vs. 20

- Rejoice over her – heaven - and you holy apostles and prophets - for God has avenged you on her!
- The CONTRAST could not be greater in HEAVEN...
- Where those on the EARTH mourn the loss of BABYLON...
- All those in HEAVEN rejoice [imperative] – the APOSTLES – the PROPHETS...
- Because the time of the JUDGEMENT of God on this WICKED economic system has come!
- The INFLUENCE of a MONEY obsessed world has managed to creep into the church...
- There is a movement in Christianity called the Word of Faith...
- Teaching if we only have enough FAITH – and SPEAK it - God has to do what we say...
- This flows into what is called the PROSPERITY Gospel – God wants us to WEALTHY!
- **Philippians 3:18-19** - “They are enemies of the cross of Christ. Their future is eternal destruction. Their god is their appetite... all they think about is this life here on earth.”
- The Gospel is NOT about getting rich - a better life here and now...
- If we are looking for MONEY as a reward for our obedience to Christ...
- We might very well be disappointed – God promises us tribulation here – **John 16:33**
- The rewards for serving Jesus are far greater - they are eternal – it is about heaven!

o 2nd – The Stone... vs. 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!
- John then saw the mighty ANGEL take up a MILLSTONE – and throw it into the SEA...
- Because BABYLON – and her unhealthy focus on WEALTH – had STUMBLED the people of God!

- **Luke 17:2** – “It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck - and he were thrown into the sea - than that he should offend one of these little ones.”
 - **God does not play around when it comes to stumbling His children...**
 - **He is a VERY protective Father - and will deal with anyone who threatens His kids!**
- o 3rd – No more... vs. 22-23
- The sound of harpists – musicians – flutists - and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore.
 - No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore.
 - And the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.
 - The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore.
 - The voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.
 - Your merchants were great men of the earth – but by your sorcery all the nations were deceived!
 - As a RESULT of the JUDGMENT of BABYLON by God...
 - There would NEVER [οὐ μὴ] - be any MUSIC played in the city again...
 - There would NEVER [οὐ μὴ] – be the sound of CRAFTS or the MILL in the city again...
 - There would NEVER [οὐ μὴ] – be the light of the LAMP in the city again...
 - There would NEVER [οὐ μὴ] – be the voice of a WEDDING in the city again...
 - Because through SORCERY – the city had DECEIVED [πλανάω] nations!
 - **SORCERY [φαρμακεία] – is a word that can mean DRUGS...**
 - **In the context here it seems to point to POISON – referring to MATERIALISM [wealth]**
 - **The city had POISONED the NATIONS – by getting them to believe the LIE they needed MONEY...**
 - **And for the sake of MONEY – people had DENIED their FAITH in Jesus!**
- o 4th – Blood of saints... vs. 24
- **In her was found the blood of prophets and saints - and of all who were slain on the earth!**
 - Do not FORGET that this is the MONETARY system of the Antichrist...
 - In order to BUY or SELL – people will need to take the MARK – **Revelation 13:17**
 - **Because the world has become OBSESSED with WEALTH [even now]**
 - **There will be MANY who will DENY Jesus – take the MARK – for the sake of MONEY...**
 - **And any who do NOT – will STARVE – or be put to DEATH for their FAITH – Revelation 20:4**
 - **BABYLON will be covered in the BLOOD of the prophets and SAINTS...**
 - **Because of this wicked ECONOMY – countless millions will DIE...**
 - **Which is why – HEAVEN will rejoice when the ECONOMY of the Antichrist falls!**