

"The Destruction of Babylon"

Part 4

Revelation 17-18

Introduction: Today in our study of Revelation we have come to Revelation 18. Now there are a few things which we need to gather together to understand what it is we are about to study.

Last week in our study we gathered together many pieces from Revelation 17 and we were able to piece them together. In Revelation 17 we looked at the destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON. This will be the RELIGIOUS SYSTEM that will exist at the beginning of the Tribulation. This will be the apostate church that will not be included in the RAPTURE because they will profess to know Christ but really, they were never saved. This group will go into the Tribulation and they will be supported by the Anti-Christ because they will persecute TRUE believers of the Tribulation.

Revelation 17:5-6

⁵ And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

The Anti-Christ will hate True believers just as Satan hates us today and therefore Satan will work through the Anti-Christ to support the Harlot who will execute those who do not agree with her teaching.

This will not last for the entire Tribulation because the Anti-Christ desires the worship which the Harlot is receiving and so God will use the 10 kings under him to destroy the false worship system.

Revelation 17:16-17

¹⁶ And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

¹⁷ For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The Anti-Christ and the ten kings will believe they are following their own will, but they are really fulfilling God's will. The Anti-Christ will use the destruction of the false worship as well as his resurrection to win the favor of Israel. He will do all he can to lure them in

and get them to drop their guard, so he can then destroy them. So, as he attacks and destroys the false worship system he will claim to be the Messiah whom Israel will be looking for and this combined with his resurrection will deceive many. It will be then that he will set himself in the Temple and claim to be God.

2 Thessalonians 2:4-10

⁴ *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

⁵ *Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

⁶ *And now ye know **what** withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.*

⁷ *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only **he** who now letteth will let, until **he** be taken out of the way.*

⁸ *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

⁹ *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

¹⁰ *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;*

Let me take a moment here and remind you of something very important. When the church is Raptured out of the world it will create a huge vacuum. This vacuum will be filled by demonic activity and the worship of the false system. The apostate church will slide into the void and be fueled by demons during the first half of the Tribulation.

Application:

There is a vacuum in our day due to the fact that God has been removed from so many areas.

Matthew 12:43-45

⁴³ *When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.*

⁴⁴ *Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.*

⁴⁵ Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Our nation has removed God and so the vacuum has been filled by demonic influence. This is seen in our schools and in our government.

This principle is also true in our lives. When a believer drifts away from God you can be sure, the vacuum will be filled with something that will appeal to the desires of the flesh.

Let me get you back to Revelation 17. This destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON will take place at the middle of the Tribulation and after this happens ONE SYSTEM will exist. This will be the COMMERCIAL system. The Anti-Christ will rule this system and he will also be the center of worship.

Now let me tell you what is behind the destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON and Satan's plan. We have talked much about how Satan is a counterfeiter. He will counterfeit the Covenant which God promised Israel in the Old Testament.

Daniel 9:24-27

²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

*²⁷ And **he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week**: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.*

He will also counterfeit the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 13:3-4

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.*

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?*

He will also counterfeit the PROMISED KINGDOM. You see, in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ all worship will be unified.

Isaiah 66:23

²³ *And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.*

Zephaniah 3:9

⁹ *For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

The Anti-Christ will claim to be God and so when he unifies the worship he will be counterfeiting what God promised to Israel. This too is another way to get Israel to trust him.

He will bring worship and government all under his leadership just as God has promised will happen in the TRUE KINGDOM. Along with this counterfeit kingdom will come the promise of economic prosperity for that is what God promises in the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ.

Joel 2:21-27

²¹ *Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.*

²² *Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.*

²³ *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.*

²⁴ *And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

²⁵ *And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.*

²⁶ And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

²⁷ And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

So, the Anti-Christ will build his kingdom during the Tribulation in an attempt to take over the world and to destroy the nation of Israel.

I want you to think for a moment how wise and powerful the Anti-Christ will be. He will build a world empire during the Tribulation. In the midst of the Seal Judgments and the Trumpets this man will build his kingdom. He will gain the trust and the confidence of the leaders of the world and in the midst of all that is going he will build a very wealthy commercial system.

Let me show you the wealth of this system.

Revelation 18:11-13

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

¹² The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

¹³ And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

This wealthy commercial system will be built while wars, famines, plagues and death fill the world. The Anti-Christ will be a man who will know how to handle the leaders of the world. He will be extremely business minded in the sense that he will know how to make a profit off of anything he touches.

Let us now begin our journey into chapter 18.

Now as we come to Revelation 18 we see the destruction of **COMMERICAL BABYLON**, **RELIGIOUS BABYLON** was destroyed in the previous chapter and God has brought the one world religion and the one world government together for the purpose of destruction.

I. The Announcement

Notice Revelation 18:1

The very first words of this verse are very important. These words introduce another vision and I point this out to help you to understand that the destruction John sees in this vision is not the same destruction he described in chapter 17. The destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON in chapter 17 will happen at the mid-point of the Tribulation and it will be carried out by the Anti-Christ and the ten kings under him. The destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON in chapter 18 will happen at the end of the GREAT TRIBULATION and will be carried out by God.

Most likely the events of chapter 18 which we are about to look, at will take place under the 7th Bowl Judgment.

Revelation 16:17-19

¹⁷ And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Notice Revelation 18:1 again.

This angel is so powerful his glory will light the entire earth. This verse may be better understood when set against another verse.

Revelation 16:10a

¹⁰ And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness;

The 5th Bowl Judgment darkened the earth and this angel which will come during the 7th Bowl Judgment will lighten the earth with his glory.

Notice Revelation 18:2

This one world commercial system will become the holding place for multitudes of fallen angels or demonic spirits.

Let me just say that this system exists today just as the false religious system. The commercial system is not of the magnitude that it will be during the Tribulation, but it still exists, and it is influenced heavily by demonic spirits today.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

³ *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

⁴ *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

Satan is the GOD OF THIS WORLD and he is the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR. He and his demons have far more influence than many understand.

Let me show you what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 10:19-20

¹⁹ *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?*

²⁰ *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

Demons attach themselves to the idols of this world. Idols that are sold and offered by the commercial system of this world. This is one reason why there is so much addiction in our nation today. Much of it can be attributed to demonic influence.

Notice Revelation 18:3

We will look closer at this verse next week. But for today I want you to see that ALL NATIONS have drunk of her elixir. This goes back for thousands of years but let me just help you to understand how she pours her elixir into our lives today.

One way is through the television set. I am not against the television because I have one and enjoy a football game or a hunting show but at the same time I realize that through the television many have drunk of her elixir.

Recently there is another way and that is the internet. I can assure you that the elixir flows through the internet into many lives. This would be through pornography, gambling, gaming and many other forms of elixir.

Conclusion:

Deuteronomy 20:10-15

¹⁰ *When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it.*

¹¹ And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee.

¹² And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it:

¹³ And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword:

¹⁴ But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

¹⁵ Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations.