

**"The Destruction of Babylon"**

**Part 5**

**Revelation 17-18**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we started in to chapter 18 and it is in this chapter that we shall see the destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON. In chapter 17 we looked at the destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON and that even will take place at the mid-point of the Tribulation and it will be carried out by the Anti-Christ and the ten kings which will submit to him.

**Revelation 17:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> 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.*

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

Now in chapter 18 we are looking at the destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON and this event will take place at the end of the Great Tribulation under the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment.

**Revelation 16:16-19**

*<sup>17</sup> 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.*

*<sup>18</sup> 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.*

*<sup>19</sup> 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.*

I believe we can clearly see, as we search the Scriptures, that the destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON will happen under the Bowl Judgments.

**Notice Revelation 18:1**

Here we are told that the earth will be lighted with the glory of this angel. When we set this against the 5<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment we can see how this all fits together.

**Revelation 16:10a**

*<sup>10</sup> And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness;*

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

Now when we stopped last week we were looking at the Revelation 18:1-3.

## I. The Vision Part 2

I want to walk you through this vision again and we shall see somethings which we did not have time for last week.

### **Notice Revelation 18:1**

The announcement concerning Babylon is given by a very powerful angel.

### **Notice Revelation 18:2**

Here we are told that this world COMMERCIAL SYSTEM has become a prison for fallen angels. The system WILL BE and IS today under demonic control. From what is said here we can see that certain fallen angels have been sentenced to this Commercial System. This is very similar to what we looked at in Revelation 9.

### **Revelation 9:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

These 4 were bound in the Euphrates the fallen angels of Revelation 18 are imprisoned in the Commercial world system. These fallen angels will be confined in this system for a purpose just as the angels in the Euphrates. I believe they will be in this system so as to deceive the EARTH DWELLERS of the Tribulation meaning those who receive the Mark of the Beast.

### **Revelation 14:9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

*<sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

*<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

Those who receive the MARK OF THE BEAST will seal their destiny when they take the mark and part of their judgment for taking the mark will be to be deceived by the demonic influence of the Commercial System.

### Notice Revelation 18:3

The very first word of this verse announces the reason for the destruction of Babylon. We touched on this verse last week but there is more here that we need to see. We looked at how all nations have drunk of the elixir which this system has poured out. It is poured out in many ways but 2 of the major influences.

1. The television.
2. The internet.

These are 2 major channels through which the elixir flows out into the world. I am not saying that we cannot own either I am just saying that these are 2 means by which this system has so much influence upon the world today.

I want to draw your attention to the MERCHANTS for a moment. Let me show you a verse that will help us here.

### Revelation 18:23

*<sup>23</sup> 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.*

The MERCHANTS will be and are the great men of the earth. This is a reference to the wealthy people of the world who because of their wealth have so much influence upon the leaders of the world. When this system reaches its pinnacle in the Tribulation it will be a system that will be controlled by those of great wealth. Over the years the people of wealth have exercised their power over the politicians and actually controlled them with their wealth and power. This can really be seen in our day today. We have national leaders, but I can assure you that the national leaders are greatly influenced and controlled by the people of great wealth. THIS IS A SIGN THAT THE STAGE IS BEING SET FOR THE TRIBULATION.

Listen to the words of Henry Morris:

*"Such international wealthy people and financiers constitute, more often than not, the power behind the throne. Kings and presidents often attain and keep their authority by toleration of those who finance their undertakings. In turn, these great men of the earth receive land grants and trade monopolies and tax loopholes and innumerable other favors from those whom they establish in political power, all to enrich themselves still further."*

Now I want you to listen to the words of Seiss which were written in 1966:

*"It has become an axiom that "corporations have no souls," and upon this all great moneyed corporations act, though the men who constitute them will find out a different truth when they come to the day of judgment. And when it comes to these great and ever magnifying commercial compacts and interests, there is not a law of God or man which has any control over the system. . . . If the question were ever pressed in these circles, What is truth? it would be hooted and laughed to scorn. The cry would be, "What have we to do with that? Let every one quietly enjoy his own opinions." . . . Church is nothing, State is nothing, creed is nothing, Bible is nothing, Sunday is nothing, religious scruples are nothing, conscience is nothing, everything is practically nothing, except as it can be turned or used to the one great end of accumulation and wealth."*

This was written in 1966 and it is even more evident today and will be even more in the Tribulation.

This world commercial system will be controlled by demonic influence as the demons work through the MERCHANTS who will exercise great power by their wealth over the earth dwellers. This can truly be seen even in our day today.

**Notice Revelation 18:3 again.**

The merchants are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. The idea here is that she has become very powerful and wealthy through sensualities. This means the system is extremely immoral. It will grow powerful and rich from the solicitation of immorality.

**Application:**

I am here to tell you that we are seeing what appears to be the power of this system developing right before our eyes today.

## **II. The Command**

**Notice Revelation 18:4**

Now God issues a call for the TRIBULATION SAINTS to come out of the system. There is something here that is very interesting. In order to buy or sell in this system during the Great Tribulation a person must have the MARK of the BEAST.

**Revelation 13:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

*<sup>17</sup> And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

So, if this is happening under the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment the Mark of the Beast is required but we can be sure the believers who are being called out here do not have the Mark. So, the question is how are they functioning inside the system? They have to be working in the black market or in the underground. They will need to do all they can to survive and so they will somehow be working in the Commercial System of Babylon.

But here God is calling them out because destruction is coming upon the system. So, He calls His people out in the very way He called Lot to leave Sodom.

**Application:**

Many have taken this call here in Revelation 18:4 and applied it to the church to separate from unbelievers in the world. That is NOT an accurate application. We are commanded to live separated lives, but we are not commanded to separate from sinners. We must have contact with the world for we are called to witness to the world.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-11**

*<sup>9</sup> I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:*

*<sup>10</sup> Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.*

*<sup>11</sup> But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

We are not to fellowship with those who call themselves believers and are living in sin. But we are to have contact and friends in the world for they are those who need to know about Jesus Christ.

Getting back to the call here in Revelation 18:4, it is a call to come out of the Commercial System so as not to get caught in her judgment.

**Notice Revelation 18:5**

This is a very interesting statement. In Genesis 11 the people under the leadership of Nimrod tried to build a tower to heaven and God stopped it. Here in the Tribulation the people of Babylon will build a tower of sin that will reach into heaven. God will remember her sins not that He has forgotten any of them. They have come to the end. The grace and the mercy of God have reached the limit. Now it is time for judgment. Jeremiah spoke of this event.

**Jeremiah 51:7-9**

*<sup>7</sup> Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.*

*<sup>8</sup> Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.*

*<sup>9</sup> We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.*

**Notice Revelation 18:6-7**

Here in verse 7 we see the pride and the arrogance of the system. She glorified herself and proclaimed she would never see any sorrow. Let me show you the words of Isaiah.

**Isaiah 47:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> And thou saidst, **I shall be a lady for ever**: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.*

*<sup>8</sup> Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; **I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children**:*

*<sup>9</sup> But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.*

*<sup>10</sup> For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, **None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me***

This Commercial System and those who are deep into it are very arrogant. They believe they are a part of something that is indestructible.

We certainly see the arrogance of this system today in the immorality that is paraded in our nation. The homosexual movement is very proud and extremely militant and that is all part of this system.

Last week I explained that is why there are gay PRIDE parades. This is why the immorality of the system is shoved in our faces day after day. This is part of the system which has no concern for God or His Word. They have no fear of god and His judgment. Let me show you how Jeremiah refers to Babylon.

**Jeremiah 50:21**

*<sup>21</sup> Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.*

**"Merathaim"** refers to Babylon and it comes from a root word that means "TO REBEL AGAINST GOD AND HIS COMMANDS".

This is exactly what we see today as the elixir of this system is poured out for the world to drink.

**Conclusion:**

This Commercial Babylon is in operation today and we are seeing the Anti-Christ character within the system. One of the ways this system is flaunting its arrogance today is by trying to silence the church. It is disguised as POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. To speak out against homosexuality today is considered to be hate speech. We are told we must accept the lifestyle and not say anything negative about it. It is pushed as an acceptable way of life today. We must not be silenced! Let me show you what happened in Acts 5.

**Acts 5:27-29**

*<sup>27</sup> And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,*

*<sup>28</sup> Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

*<sup>29</sup> Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*