

"The Destruction of Babylon"

Part 6

Revelation 17-18

Introduction: We are currently looking at the destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON in our study of Revelation. This destruction is recorded in Revelation 18. This COMMERCIAL BABYLON will be the ECONOMIC and the POLITICAL SYSTEM that will exist in the Tribulation.

In chapter 17 we looked at the destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON and that destruction was orchestrated by God through the Anti-Christ and the ten kings who will submit to him.

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.

This will happen at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Now there is something else that will happen that we need to be aware of. This RELIGIOUS SYSTEM will be extremely wealthy.

Revelation 17:3-4

³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

When RELIGIOUS BABYLON is destroyed all the wealth of this system will roll right into the ECONOMIC and POLITICAL System of Babylon.

So, the Political and economic system of Babylon will be extremely wealthy and powerful. Those who will be in this system will be extremely wealthy and they will actually control many of the political leaders.

So far in our study we have looked at several points:

I. The Vision

Notice Revelation 18:1-3

II. The Command

Notice Revelation 18:4-5

Last week we spent our time looking at these verses. The Tribulation believers will apparently make a living in this system and here God calls them out before the destruction. Her sins have been stacked up and like a tower they have reached heaven.

Notice Revelation 18:6

Here is a call to pay this system back double of what she has given out.

Notice Revelation 18:7

Here in this verse we were able to see the pride of the system. Those who are involved in this Commercial System will believe it is strong enough to stand against any attack and there is nothing that will be able to destroy it. We talked about how we see the pride and the arrogance of this system today in many of those who have joined up with it.

The word "deliciously" here means to be "hardheaded or strong willed". The idea is that this system will be set against God and His Commandments. Morals and integrity will mean absolutely nothing.

I want to read the words of Seiss again for you on this thought because this will help us as we move on today.

"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."

While those within the system will believe the system is indestructible, God tells us it will be destroyed in a short period of time.

Notice Revelation 18:8

III. The Anguish of Her Destruction

As we continue we see two groups who will lament the destruction of Babylon.

A. The Kings of the Earth

Notice Revelation 18:9

The kings of the earth will lament for they will support this system for it is the political capital of the world. They will support the system for it will be through this system that they gain their power and wealth.

The "kings" here refer to not only the ten kings under the anti-Christ but to all the leaders of the world under the rule of the ten kings and the anti-Christ. They are sitting in positions of great power as they serve the anti-Christ and here in this scene the CAPITAL of the anti-Christ's kingdom is crumbling. As long as Babylon the CAPITAL CITY exists they have a position of power and they have control over the people whom they rule over.

When God strikes this Capital City He is delivering a blow to the heart of the anti-Christ's kingdom.

During the Judgments of the Tribulation life will be very difficult but it seems as though the unsaved of the earth and the kings of the earth will gather hope because through it all the political and economic system is still in place.

You and I both know the message of today is always, "THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTER!" That very message will be proclaimed by the earth dwellers of the Tribulation and they will believe it just as people today believe it.

You and I who know the Bible, we understand that things are **NOT** going to get better, but they will grow darker and darker.

2 Timothy 3:1

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

³ *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

⁴ *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

⁵ *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

As the kings of the earth watch from a distance as the CAPITAL CITY of the World goes up in smoke they see all of their power going up in smoke also.

I believe it will be through this commercial system that the kings of the earth will have control over the people.

It is this very way today. If the economy does well the political leaders are supported and backed by the people. PEOPLE TODAY VOTE THEIR WALLET. When it comes to elections most people today are more concerned about money in their pocket and not about the moral character of the person they are voting for.

Illustration:

If there was someone who was running for office today and they had the power to cut the cost of gasoline to \$.50 per gallon but at the same time promised to give millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood to support abortion I can assure you people would be fine with the abortion just as long as they could save money on their fuel costs. The point is they vote their wallets. It is all about personal gain and personal comforts.

Well, it will be the same way even to another level in the Tribulation. The kings of the earth will control the people because the economy of the Tribulation will provide the pleasures and the comforts people desire and when the political leaders/kings see the Commercial system being destroyed they will weep and wail for their power will be taken away.

Notice Revelation 18:10

The kings will stand afar off because they will see the destruction and they will fear getting caught up in the judgment. The kings will be in their kingdoms. When we are told they stand afar off and see the destruction this is most likely a reference to watching on smart phones, computers and televisions. Every news channel will cover the destruction of Babylon. Let us remember this system will have its tentacles in every area of the world.

B. The Merchants of the Earth

Notice Revelation 18:11

Here we see the merchants weep and mourn over the destruction of Babylon. Their material wealth is burning. Let us remember that these merchants are the wealthy people of the world who have so much control over the kings of the earth. These are the people who controlled so much because of their wealth.

This scene is so sad when we look at the MERCHANTS and the KINGS who are weeping. The KINGS weep for their **power** and the MERCHANTS weep for their **wealth** but none of them weep because for their souls. This brings to my mind the words of James.

James 5:1-8

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

² *Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.*

³ *Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*

⁴ *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

⁵ *Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.*

⁶ *Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.*

⁷ *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

⁸ *Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.*

The MERCHANTS in Revelation 18 will have invested everything they have into material wealth and in one day it all will go away. They will weep because they cannot sell their stuff. They will weep because their luxurious income has dried up. It is like they will give no thought to eternity.

Luke 12:16-23

¹⁶ *And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

¹⁷ *And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

¹⁸ *And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

²¹ So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

²² And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

²³ The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

Let us notice the list of goods.

Notice Revelation 18:12-13

Let me read for you the words of Barnhouse on what is happening here and the list:

"It's very interesting to note the union of the merchants and the kings in the wailing over the destruction of Babylon. In ancient times, government and business were not united as they are now. Kings ruled apart from the bourgeois, who carried on the business of the world. Business began to move into government at the time of the French Revolution, and the upheaval in industry that followed the invention of the steam engine and the growth of modern commerce put the merchants into the government as never before, where they stand today alongside the politicians and with common interests. It is to be noted that the wailing is for the luxuries of humanity; no necessities are mentioned."

These verses shine much light on the resilience of mankind. In the Tribulation with all the Judgments man will keep this economy moving right up until this time. Much of the food supply will be destroyed as well as many other material things but they will find a way to keep the economy moving.

Notice Revelation 18:14

This is all these people desired. They will have heard the Gospel from the 144,000 Jewish missionaries, the 2 witnesses, the angel and many others but it is of no interest to them.

Notice Revelation 18:15-19

These people are overcome with sorrow but there is no REPENTANCE.

In ONE HOUR it is all gone.

Application:

What a reminder to all of us that what we have today can be gone tomorrow and all the wealth of this world will one day be destroyed.

IV. The Joy of the Judgment

Notice Revelation 18:20-23

The righteous will rejoice when this destruction comes. It was and is because of this system that many believers have suffered. Because of this system many have died of drug overdoses, many have lost their wealth because of gambling, many have lost loved ones due to alcoholism, many have fallen to countless addictions.

The point is this system has brought much heartache into many lives and when this day arrives it will be gone forever.

V. The Guilt of the System

Notice Revelation 18:24

Those who will speak out against this system will die in the Tribulation.

Only those who have the MARK will be able to work within this system and those who do not have the MARK will die.

Revelation 13:15-17

¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

¹⁶ 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:

¹⁷ 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.

Conclusion:

Someday all the stuff of this world as well as the evil system will be destroyed.

Let me ask you a question, "WHERE IS YOUR TREASURE?"