

Revelation 18

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In the last chapter, Revelation 17: 16 we learnt that the 10 nations led by the Antichrist set about the Whore in the middle of Daniel's 70th week so she is worshipped for only about 3 ½ years before she is overcome by the 10 nation confederacy when, at this point these nations give their power and allegiance to the Antichrist.

Revelation 17: 16.17. 18.

And the ten horns which you saw 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 to agree and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.18. And the woman you saw is that great city who reigns over the kings of the earth.

Under the influence of the Holy Spirit God puts into the hearts of the leaders of the 10 nation confederacy to fulfil His will in giving their kingdoms to the beast or the Antichrist, until the words of God be fulfilled. Jeremiah 3: 2-3. Ezekiel 16: 1-63. 20: 30-32. Hosea 4: 12-19. These scriptures show the Woman, Mystery Babylon, the Whore in the form of One World Religion, causes the nations to commit fornication with her proves that idolatrous religious practices are referred to proving she is not a political power, she is a powerful evil spirit having great evil influence on the 10 nations kings. But according to the verse above is still under the power and authority of almighty God.

Revelation 18: Verse 1

And after these things I saw another Angel come down from Heaven having great power and the earth was lightened with his glory.

It is most likely this is a different Angel from those of Rev: 17:1. The Bible makes a point to tell us he has 'great power' and the earth is lit up with his glory. This Angel immediately precedes the coming of Christ and must be one of, if not the greatest Angels in the Kingdom of God. The magnificence of the coming Christ when all heaven stirs at this victorious spectacle, this Angel could well be Gabriel or Michael.

Verse 2

And he cried mightily with a strong voice saying Babylon the great is fallen is fallen and is become the habitation of devils and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

The word habitation in the Greek is a much stronger word than the English translation. The Greek word is Phulake which is a garrison or to keep in custody, a hold or a cage and that is what Babylon will become to every foul spirit and demon. This once beautiful and majestic city has fallen to the depths of evil and has now become infested with all manner of evil and demonic spirits; it is now the capital city of evil in the world. Its biggest export is sin and wickedness, she has made the nations drunk with the wine of her fornication through the doing of religion upheld and supported by Satan. The kings of the earth have committed themselves to her for a while, and the traveller is made rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

The world will be taken in by her deceit and under the cloak of religion people will be led astray further and further away from God and to a lost eternity.

Verse 4

And I heard another voice from heaven saying come out of her My people that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues.5.For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

As things are getting more serious as far as the Antichrist and his hold on the earth is concerned a cry from heaven comes saying “Come out of her my people that you be not partakers of her sins and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven and God has remembered her iniquities.”

God in His love and compassion sees the sin and rebellion of His people, which may well refer to Israel as He has continually, through the ages called to His chosen people to return to Him in fullness of heart and spirit. And now He cries out to all believers from all time to turn away from the wickedness that is spreading over the earth and whose sins have reached unto heaven. “Come out of her My people” you can hear the desperation in His voice, the hurt, the pain in His heart as He calls for His people, the ones He died for and shed His blood for, but they prefer to enjoy the pleasures of the Woman who rides the beast and her name is Mystery Babylon believing their pursuit to be acceptable because it is cloaked in religion.

Millions of people will look to Babylon for their pleasures and their sinful and rebellious stimulation. But these people who are rejecting the Saviour are unaware of the coming destruction of Babylon and the downfall of the false and wicked religion driven by this Whore that rides the beast.

This religious system which has Satan at its heart exalts and glorifies itself and the Bible says they live ‘deliciously’ meaning she enjoys all the earthly rewards and pleasures and at its foundation is ‘love of money’. She exults herself to the point she calls herself Queen, she calls herself Queen but God calls her the great Whore and pronounces her doom. We will let the words of the Bible explain her downfall, in verse 8 we read

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning and famine and she shall be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God Who judges her.

In the following verses we read of the kings of the earth who have been caught up in this religious system, which the Bible calls being drunk of the wine of her fornication see the smoke of her burning which is not only the destruction of a city but the end of a system, a false way of living.

Verse 10

Standing afar off for fear of her torment saying alas, alas that great city Babylon that mighty city! For in one hour is your judgment come.

Ancient Babylon decayed gradually but this demon spirit invested Babylon system will be totally destroyed in ‘one hour’. The result of which the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her for no man can buy their merchandise any more. There will be those who have sold their souls to this system who will now weep and mourn over her destruction.

Verse 12

The merchandise of gold, and of 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, 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 refers to the total commerce involved with many thousands of the workforces in the city, many with investments tied up in the businesses that surround them. Suddenly without warning the entire financial support is taken away 'within an hour', and all the good and dainty things the Babylonians enjoyed were taken away for ever. All those trades mentioned above, the livelihood of a whole city,

every man, woman and child thrown into poverty at the judgment of God. I said suddenly without warning, but God and even His angels had been crying with a loud voice that the judgement of God was coming and just like the nations of today who hear the Word of God preached every day but they take no notice and carry on as though God was not there. There will come a 'suddenly' in all our lives one day soon, we must make sure we are prepared and ready and looking out for Him.

Verse 16 & 17

Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls. For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster and all the company in ships, and sailors and as many as trade by sea stood afar off.

These few verses tell us without doubt Babylon was indeed a great city with wealth beyond compare. Travellers by sea indicate that the rest of the world may well be affected by the lack of trade from Babylon. Merchants do not get rich through religious systems; such systems get rich through the giving from the merchants and from the poor. The Whore had made sure her followers had all the fancy goods, the money, and the sinful pleasures they wanted. All these riches had made them blind to the things of God and eternity. Instead they put dust on their heads as an act of sorrow for their financial loss not in repentance for their sinful ways. They wept, and cried out wailed and felt very sorry for themselves. But then they had lost everything under the judgement of God. They lost it in the space of one hour, whether this was shown to be in a short space of time or literally one hour we are not told. The destruction was such that it could have been brought about by an earthquake. Whatever the method God used the end result was the people of Babylon lost absolutely everything.

Verse 19

And they cast dust on their heads and cried weeping and wailing saying alas, alas that great city wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate?

While the people of Babylon cried over the destruction of their city and all their belongings and achievements, God encouraged all heaven to rejoice because He had avenged all the heavenly hosts and the Apostles and the Prophets that Babylon had affected by her persecution.

Verse 21

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and cast it into the sea, saying Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down and shall be found no more at all

This scripture has not yet been fulfilled. Many parts of the old city of Babylon have been taken to build other cities round about. The Bible says when the city is destroyed by God, no part of the city will be found at all. Up until the time when God completes His work on Babylon the prophecy of Jeremiah 51: 26 will remain, which says,

And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundation; but you shall be desolate for ever says the Lord.

We are dealing with the time when Literal Babylon is doomed, Babylon has been restored several times since Nimrod but that mighty angel casts a large stone into the sea which causes great violence as we have seen in recent times with a great tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake. The angel said 'That great city Babylon shall be thrown down to be found no more'.

In many respects Babylon can be likened to New York USA which is a city that does not sleep! There is just as much noise and bustle in the middle of the night as there is in the middle of the day. Shops are open, clubs and drinking houses are full of revellers. People are the same all over, and Babylon is no different, Verse 22 tells us so.

Verse 22

And the voice of harpers and musicians and of pipers and trumpeters shall be heard no more at all in you. (In Babylon). And no craftsmen of whatever craft he may be shall be found in Babylon, and the sound of the millstone shall be heard no more in you. And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in you.

All music, all joy, all happiness, all dancing shall be gone for ever. All sound of building, woodwork, making of bricks, the hammer, the saw, the sound of workmen calling to one another. The dull dimness of Satan's light will be seen no more, the joy and happiness of the bride and bridegroom will be quenched to be heard no more. In fact commercial enterprise will shut down. Under the search of God will be found the blood of the Prophets and the Saints from all time and now was God's time of judgement.

There has been nothing in history to compare these days with; we have to ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand and use our imagination to picture the scene, even then I guess we will miss it by miles.

Before we start the next study spend, some time in prayer and meditation on what these last of the last days will be like. Some that I have spoken to say 'I would rather not know' 'Revelation is too hard to understand' 'It's a frightening book' maybe, but the command of God at the beginning of Revelation is Rev.1: 3

*Blessed is he who reads and they who hear the words of this Prophecy and keep those things which are written therein **for the time is at hand.***

If you know Jesus as your Saviour, if you have given your life to Him and you love Him and worship Him, if you live close to Jesus, talk to Him often and read His Word, if you are looking for His coming rapture you have nothing to fear, these days we are studying are not for you. If you reject Him disown Him and chose your own way, if you laugh at what you are reading then these pages should be read again and very carefully indeed or you may find yourself a participant in the world's greatest tragedy.

And if we already know Jesus then perhaps my friends, we should reflect on the state of the world today. Turn our eyes to the multitudes living self-gratifying lives of ease, indulging in every sinful pleasure that the media promotes as being acceptable. Perhaps God is calling His people to wake up and take on His burden for the lost world we live in to start sounding a warning cry to those around us. To carry and proclaim a message of the desperation of the hour in which we live. A plea for

mankind to turn to Jesus. After all we are the ones He has destined to live in this present age and we are His voice for this generation. Why not ask the Lord to share His heart for the lost with you.

Blessings

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Be Blessed

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