



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

**CLA – 2016**

**Jim Hoffman**

# Chapter 18

- **1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. 2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”**

# Chapter 18

- **Chapter 18:1 begins with “After these things” – so when you see something like that you should always make sure you know what the “these things” are.**
- **Rev 17: 15 And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. 17 For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. 18 The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”**



# Chapter 18

- In 18:1 we see this phrase, “and the earth was illumined with his glory” – now it would be possible for God to give enough light to an angel to make a difference in brightness no matter the conditions on Earth, but this is a particular contrast.
- Rev 16:10 “Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness.”
- The Anti-Christ’s world has been dimmed, commerce is still going on, but when the angel in 18:1 shows up, he will not be missed by anyone.

# Chapter 18

- Let's next notice what the angel has to say about the world of the end times.
- “Babylon is fallen” – now technically not yet, but its destruction is so certain that he can speak of it as though the fall has already happened. Only God can do that with certainty.
- Romans 4:17 (as it is written, “I have made you a father of many nations”) in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and *calls those things which do not exist as though they did;*

# Chapter 18

- In chapter 9 we saw millions of demons released from the Euphrates river as well as others that took on the form of poisonous locusts.
- In chapter 12 we see the 1/3 of the angels who rebelled along with Lucifer at work in the world.
- Then in chapter #16 we read this – “13 And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. 14 They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty.”

# Chapter 18

- **Then we read in verse #2, “She has become a home for demons. She is a hideout for every foul spirit, a hideout for every foul vulture and every foul and dreadful animal.”**
- **So it becomes evident that the Satanic center for Anti-Christ, the false prophet, and the millions of demons unleashed on the world in the end times is this place called Babylon.**
- **So is this the a rebuilt city of Babylon? Is it just the nature of whatever place the Anti-Christ chooses for the capitol city of his kingdom? Or is it a system?**



# Chapter 18

- A case could be made for any one of those three options, but the fact is that whether Babylon is a city or a system plays no fundamental difference in the events of the end times.
- 3 “For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of her passionate immorality. The kings of the world have committed adultery with her. Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich.”
- Now we get a look into the heart of men in the end times – *they are eager to engage with the darkest of entities for material gain.*



# Lessons from Capitalism

- **“It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest. We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love, and never talk to them of our own necessities but of their advantages.” Adam Smith**
- **“Thus, the forces of self-interest determine individual actions. It is difficult to reconcile this practical religion of capitalistic societies, however, with any system of thought or morality that can be described as Christian. Surely, an underlying theme in Christ’s teachings is that love and charity toward one’s neighbors rather than self-interest should guide an individual’s actions.” Dr. James Doti**

# Chapter 18

- **Perhaps an amazing, but seldom noticed fact of the end times economic system is its strength –**
- **By the time we get to chapter 18 where God judges the system and its participants, there has been tons and tons of damage done to the earth.**
- **And billions of consumers have been killed, yet the drive for comfort and increased wealth seems to go on unabated.**

# Chapter 18

- **“The kings of the world have committed adultery with her.”**
- **The influence of Anti-Christ’s one world government and religion extends world wide – and it would seem that mixing government and religion poses no problem at all.**
- **It is as though the world’s leaders are drunk with their desire for what the Anti-Christ is offering. (“For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of her passionate immorality”)**



# Chapter 18

- **Please understand – for the most part, maybe all parts, no one in the system in the end times is there reluctantly or against their will.**
- **They see the benefits offered, have been so hardened to the judgment that is falling all around them, and can't wait for more of what the devil is offering.**
- **What plays out in the end times is what has been playing out over the course of history when sin is left unchecked and runs its natural course.**

# Chapter 18

- **Romans 1:28** And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

# Chapter 18

- **4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; 5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. 7 To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.’ 8 For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.**



# Chapter 18

- **4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;**
- **More evidence that Christians are living in the mess of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments – a warning against getting caught up in the materialism of the day.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 6:17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. (a principle that does not change)**

# Chapter 18

- **5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**
- **While all sin separates from God, and while apart from Christ even a single sin will consign one to eternal judgment, the depth, width, extent, and number of one's sins does matter.**
- **In this particular case in the tribulation period in the context of Babylon and, by extension, Babel, we might picture a pile of sins like the tower of Babel – stacked, packed, and held together in ways that make them tend to last.**

# Chapter 18

- **6 Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.**
- **This is not at all ambiguous – the pronouncement to “pay her back” is a clear call for judgment and the call is from another voice from Heaven.**
- **Some believe this is the voice of another angel, or perhaps a choir of voices calling for God to administer justice – and the call is not an “eye for an eye”, but it is for judgment to be severe and not tempered by the laws of retribution.**



# Chapter 18

- **An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth put limits on how much justice one could exact from an offending party.**
- **But here, at the end of the age when God is dealing with sin, He is not bound by any O.T. limitations for retaliation. He will see that judgment is carried out according to His desires.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thes 2:6 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, 8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power**

# Chapter 18

- **7 To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.’**
- **Another clear reference to degrees of punishment – “to the degree” – so if I’m right that means more judgment will be heaped upon the more guilty.**
- **Luke 12:47 And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few...**

# Chapter 18

- **Matt 10:14** If any household or town refuses to welcome you or listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave. **15** I tell you the truth, the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah *will be better off than such a town on the judgment day.*
- **The evidence for degrees of punishment are throughout scripture and, I believe, written into our hearts.**
- **If we believe in more rewards for the more faithful at the Bema Seat, why wouldn't there be greater punishment for greater sins at the Great White Throne?**



# Chapter 18

- **8 For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.**
- **“For this reason” – so what is the reason?**
- **The previous verse records the reason - ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.’ The sin of self-sufficiency. I am above God, I do not need God, I am insulated from God’s word and His principles.**

# Chapter 18

- **One of the great truisms of the Tribulation is that while the world is being judged for sin, while all of the judgments are falling, and while billions of people are perishing, men are clinging tightly to their god. (materialism)**
- **And as we read through the verses we begin to see something that should make us sit up and take note – not everyone responds to hard times like Christians do.**
- **In general, hard times in the Christian's life drives us closer to God, but here at the end of the Tribulation, we see the hardest times of all on this earth and the unbelievers remain unrepentant.**

# Chapter 18

- **The people of the Babylonian system become beyond redemption – God has called through the Holy Spirit, through the two witnesses, through the 144,000, and through the sky angel.**
- **He has called and called to them, just like he did for us, but these folks are not about to respond – their hearts are hardened like Pharaoh's was and there is no coming back from that.**
- **And I need to point out that it is only God who can administer the judgment necessary for the world at this time – no one else would be up to the task.**

# Chapter 18

- **Gen 7:15** So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. **16** Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; *and the Lord closed it behind him.*
- You see the phrase, “and the Lord closed it behind him”?
- No way to know for sure, but the likelihood of a good man like Noah closing the door to those who came knocking was probably not great.



# Chapter 18

- So throughout the tribulation period it is God who is orchestrating the judgments.
- **8 For this reason in one day her plagues will come,** pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.
- The “one day” mentioned is probably not a literal day anymore than the Day of the Lord is a single day, but most likely a brief period of time.

# Questions