



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

**CLA – 2016**

**Jim Hoffman**

# 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

- **There is perhaps some reason to believe that the judgments the end time one world government will receive are some unique and special ones.**
- **I say that because of the phrase, “her plagues will come”, as though these plagues actually belong to her.**
- **“pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire” – Let’s face it, by this time in the tribulation those types of things have been falling worldwide, so why mention them unless they are different?**

# Chapter 18

- And we also have this phrase, “for the Lord God who judges her is strong” – Again I ask, why the need to mention that God is strong at this point.
- And we have - 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;
- Could it be because the force and severity of the judgments that will fall on Babylon are even stronger than any of the Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl judgments? Yes, I believe that is a reasonable conclusion.

# Chapter 18

- 9 **“And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ 11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.**

# Chapter 18

- **9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning”.**
- **World leaders will mourn the loss of the system because they were in the system, and fully cooperating with the devil and his demons for the purpose of pursuing materialism.**
- **When the system is crushed, their world is crushed, and their pursuit of pleasure and materialism is over.**

# Chapter 18

- **I want to remind us all again at this point that there is no mention of anyone repenting and turning to God.**
- **Instead of mourning over their sin, they are mourning the loss of the Anti-Christ's system of materialism, demonism, and devil worship.**
- **And what we see played out in the world leaders, hardness of heart, is sadly played out today in many individuals on smaller stages daily.**

# Chapter 18

- **11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more”.**
- **Just like the world leaders fall apart over the loss of the system, so do the business people of the world.**
- **And these too weep and mourn, but their sadness is not one of repentance, but again it is over their material losses.**



# Chapter 18

- **12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.**
- **And look at how the list of products and services ends – with slaves and human lives.**

# Chapter 18

- **The one world Satanic government and system of religion is not just corrupt, greedy, and ultra-materialistic, but it is grossly immoral and evil.**
- **Slavery and human trafficking are also a part of the economic system - thriving on slave labor and prostitution.**
- **The sin nature, left unrestrained, will stop at nothing until it gets what it wants, no matter the cost to others.**

# Chapter 18

- **14** The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them. **15** The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, **16** saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; **17** for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, **18** and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’ **19** And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’ **20** Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

# Chapter 18

- 14 The *fruit you long for has gone from you*, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.
- The system, now that it is destroyed, becomes worse than worthless to those who were profiting from it.
- I say “worse than worthless” because it has been exposed for the impotence (relative to God) that was always true – people become aware that they’ve been blinded, duped, and damned.

# Chapter 18

- **What becomes likely as we look at the end time one world economy, that others in past generations could not have seen, is that the system is held together by technology.**
- **So when God “turns out the lights” so to speak, there is no electricity, no internet, and computers become worthless. (think about all of the things that done electronically today)**
- **So when John says, “The fruit you long for has gone” he is saying that all of your gadgets, technology, and ingenuity no longer work as they have to bring you the luxuries you crave.**

# Chapter 18

- **15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning.**
- **The business community sees the destruction of Babylon and they “stand at a distance” not wanting to receive the judgment that the system is receiving.**
- **Remember who else was standing at a distance? (from verse #10, “the Kings of the Earth”) So pretty much everyone who was profiting from the system finally see the weakness and futility of the system that rejected God.**

# Chapter 18

- **“will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning.”**
- **What they see as they stand back is the raw power of God so vividly displayed that it makes them fearful, tearful, and filled with sadness.**
- **Imagine having such a clear view of God’s power exposing sin for what it is, and yet still not be able to muster up the will to repent.**

# Chapter 18

- **16 saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; 17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’**
- **So what is meant by the words “woe, woe”?**
- **From the Greek to the English this word is to be understood as “to denounce with grief”.**



# Chapter 18

- **So we could say that the world has concluded the system ultimately proved to be worse than useless, and was in fact damning.**
- **17 b, And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, 18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’**
- **Again, we see another group of one-time admirers of, and participants in, the system “standing at a distance” bemoaning the judgment of unmitigated evil.**

# Chapter 18

- **So for anyone who might be tempted to feel sorrow for the world leaders, the business people, and those who made their living from the system, bear in mind that even when the system is exposed for what it is, they mourn its loss.**
- **These are not good people who just happened to be caught up in the system – these are the same as the people of Noah's day, and as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.**
- **They are way past the hour for pity or mercy – there remains nothing left for them but judgment.**

# Chapter 18

- **19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’**
- **One thing we can conclude for certain – the destruction of Babylon comes quickly.**
- **Verses #10, #17, and #19 all use this phrase to describe the swiftness of Babylon’s destruction – “in one hour”.**

# Chapter 18

- **And it may not be exactly 60 minutes (remember the Day of the Lord is not just a 24 hour period), but if the Day of the Lord is 7 years, the “hour” for Babylon’s judgment may not be 60 minutes, but it will be sudden.**
- **The extent of the destruction – “for in one hour she has been laid waste!”.**
- **The idea of “laid waste” has to do with being abandoned. Abandoned by the politicians, the business leaders, and all others in the system.**

# Chapter 18

- **When you consider the fact that all of those groups are standing back in sadness, then we get some idea about what they are seeing that they would not rush to the aid of Babylon, but abandon it.**
- **The world at this point has been through a lot – those who witness the destruction of Babylon have seen a lot, but what they see now is so bad that they dare not go near.**
- **“Laid waste” – deserted, abandoned, left to suffer.**

# Chapter 18

- **20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.**
- **What a juxtaposition we have here – what the world cannot bear to see is said in verse #20 to be something to rejoice over.**
- **How different from today when we mourn over sin, but the world celebrates it.**

# Chapter 18

- **21** Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. **22** And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; **23** and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. **24** And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

# Chapter 18

- **21** Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.”
- **Jer 51:61** Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words aloud, **62** and say, ‘You, O Lord, have promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual desolation.’ **63** And as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates, **64** and say, ‘Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.’”



# Chapter 18

- **Babylon today is not inhabited like a normal functioning city, but it is a ceremonial city where tourists can visit and hear music from the ancient culture.**
- **In the early 1990's Saddam Hussein had a goal of rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon, but was outsmarted by his own rhetoric when he claimed to have WMD's.**
- **What we learn from Revelation is that Babylon will be rebuilt before being destroyed here in chapter 18.**

# Chapter 18

- **“for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”**
- **In the end, we have corrupt leadership, worldwide sorcery and deception, and the massacre of the saints.**
- **As patient as God has been with men in their sin, we find in Revelation that He has His limits – that the time will come for accounts to be settled.**

# Chapter 18

- **So by the time we get to the end of Chapter 18, man's version of a one world religion and a one world government have both been tried, and both have failed.**
- **Man, left to his own wisdom and devices will always fail to produce that which is just, right, and moral.**
- **In our lifetimes we've heard a lot about a perfect utopian society where there is nothing but peace and harmony, but until Christ reigns that goal will always be out of reach.**

# Questions