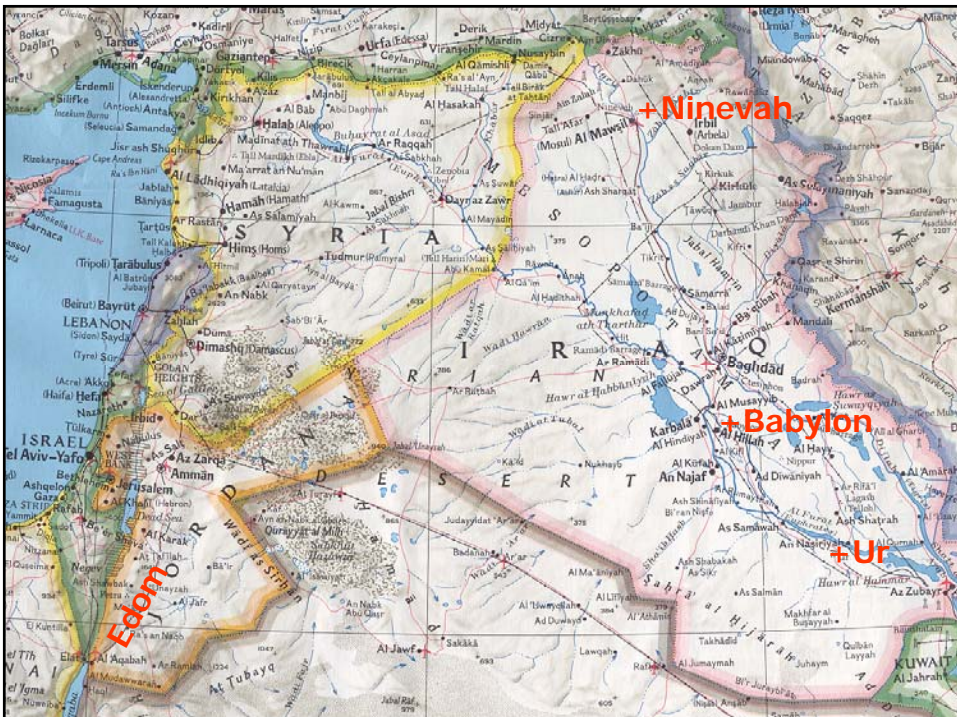


# BEWARE THE LAMB



## THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST REV 18:1-24



# Revelation 17-18

The word “Babylon” is never used of the ‘beast’ or its ‘heads’

Also read:

*Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51*

Return of the King – The Final Chapters:

- Chapter 17 Mystery Babylon: The woman
- Chapter 18 Mystery Babylon: The city
- Chapter 19 The Return of the King
- Chapter 20 The Millennium
- Chapter 21 Eternity
- Chapter 22 Conclusion

## Rev. 18:1-8

*[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

*[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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. [6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

*[7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. [8] 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 judgeth her.*

## Rev. 18:9-14

*[9] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, [10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

*[11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*

*[12] The merchandise of gold, and 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, [*

*13] 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.*

*[14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

## Rev. 18:15-24

*[15] The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, [16] And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! [17] 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, [18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! [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. [20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

*[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. [22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; [23] 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. [24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

## Revelation 18:1-10 Free Translation

[1] *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

[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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

[4] *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. [6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. [7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. [8] 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 judgeth her.*

[9] *And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, [10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

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## Revelation 18:11-19 Free Translation

[11] *And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: [12] The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyne wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, [13] 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. [14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

[15] *The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, [16] And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!*

[17] *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, [18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! [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.*

## Revelation 18:20-24 Free Translation

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

*[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.*

*[22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; [23] 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.*

*[24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

## A Possibility

There is much disagreement and difference of opinion regarding the role of Rome, Babylon and Jerusalem in end time events just prior to the Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming and the Tribulation period.

Early Babylon was composed of three interrelated parts: religion, commerce and government. All three unite against God and God pronounces a curse upon them.

Symbolically, Babylon in all its parts represents what Jesus Christ called "the world."

*John 15:18-19 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. [19] If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

It is possible all 3 cities are in view, each playing a unique role:

**Rome:** Seat of the False Prophet and the false religious system

**Babylon:** Seat of financial, commerce and world organizations  
(a relocated United Nations, World Bank, etc.)

*To consider a rebuilt Babylon located in the valley of the Euphrates being the center of the commerce of the world would require the transfer of those centers from Europe and America.*

**Jerusalem:** Seat of THE anti-christ.  
The political capital of his 'empire'





## Gloom and doom: Edom

Isaiah 34:11-15

*But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. [12] They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. [13] And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, and a court for owls. [14] The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. [15] There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: there shall the vultures also be gathered, every one with her mate.*

1 Thes 5:21

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## Gloom and doom: Nineveh



Zeph. 2:13-15

*And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness. [14] And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work. [15] This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.*

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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# Gloom and doom: Babylon

Isaiah 13:19-22

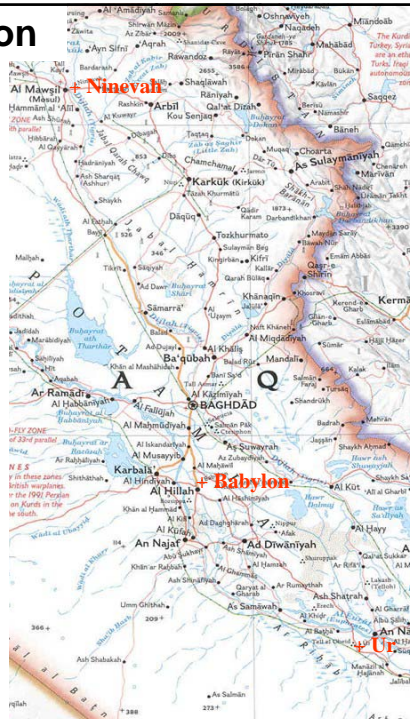
*And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. [20] It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. [21] But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. [22] And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces: and her time is near to come, and her days shall not be prolonged.*

*Jeremiah 50:39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.*

*Jeremiah 51:37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons [demons], an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant.*

Surely the most dramatic part of the picture is the demons haunting the ruins.

The pagan gods banished from their reign disconsolately haunt the ruins of the temples where once their power had been supreme. [Rev 18:1-2](#)



## Rev 18:1-3 Religious and Commercial Babylon

*[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. [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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

The use of the word "Babylon" is never used of the beast or its heads

Meta tauta: Quickly following the destruction of the woman - religious Babylon

- comes the destruction of the mighty city - commercial Babylon.

They are both:

- under the rule of the Antichrist at the same time ([Rev 17:3, 7-14](#); [16:10, 17-21](#); [18:1](#))
- ruling like queens, and filled with blasphemy ([Rev 17:3](#); [18:7](#))
- hating the saints and shedding their blood ([Rev 17:6](#); [18:24](#))
- associated with the kings of the earth in what is called "fornication" ([Rev 17:2](#); [18:3](#))
- under the definite judgment of God and are destroyed ([Rev 17:1, 16-17](#); [18:2, 6-8](#))

## Rev 18:1-3 Religious and Commercial Babylon

*[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. [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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

But, there are differences:

- Religious Babylon is called "Mystery Babylon, the Great, the mother of harlots, and abominations of the earth" (*Rev 17:5*),
  - Commercial Babylon is called "great Babylon" / "Babylon the great" (*Rev 17:5; 16:19; 18:2*)
- Religious Babylon is described under the symbol of a harlot woman, seated upon the beast of government,
  - Commercial Babylon is presented as a mighty city
- Religious Babylon is a "woman," a "whore," a "mother";
  - Commercial Babylon is a "habitation," "great city," "mighty city," market place, burning city
- Religious Babylon is identified with the city on the seven hills (*Rev 17:9, 18*);
  - Commercial Babylon is associated with the sea and sea trade (*Rev 18:17, 21*)
- Religious Babylon is described as guilty of religious abominations (*Rev 17:4*),
  - Commercial Babylon is abominable because of its system of commerce (*Rev 18:3, 11-19*)
- Religious Babylon is destroyed by the political power through which she has come to reign so arrogantly (*Rev 17:16*);
  - Commercial Babylon is destroyed by an act of God (*Rev 18:8-10, 19, 21*) .

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:1-3 Babylon: A city or a Symbol

*[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

*[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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

Competent Bible commentators, who are faithful to the Bible as the inspired word of God, are divided at this point between two interpretations.

Whether a literal city or a symbol for commercialism the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the literal city of Babylon must be fulfilled.

Many think that literal Babylon on the Euphrates is to be rebuilt.

Babylon has never had any fall equal to the language of the angel who here announces it. The history of Babylon to date does not fulfill what the OT prophets said concerning Babylon.

*'It shall be no more inhabited forever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. . . . No man shall abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein' (Jer. 50:39-40).*

*'Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there' (Isa. 13:19-20).*



## Rev 18:1-3      **Babylon: A city with a past**

*[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

*[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. [3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

We reviewed the beginnings of Babylon and Nimrod and its history through Alexander the Great and Antiochus Epiphanes when we covered Rev 17.

By the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, Babylon had become a hunting park for the Persian Kings

By the Middle Ages, Benjamin of Tudela, a Jewish traveler visited its ruins. It was seen to be a “wide desert tract, interrupted only by the huge masses of indestructible brick, its canals broken, its rich vegetation gone; the habitation of the lions, the jackals, the antelopes of the surrounding desert.”

The city was in ruins but, the predicted destruction and desolation had not literally come to pass.

## **Babylon: Atrophy & Decay**

The foundation of a new rival capital city, Selucia, on the River Tigris expedited the decline of the ancient metropolis of Babylon.

The dispersal of Jews from Babylon is reported by Josephus (Antiq. XVIII, ix 6-9)

The city subsequently underwent a gradual decay, even though the ruins remained occupied.

Documents on clay from a school for priests in the city continued at least until A.D. 100.

Early in the first century A.D. a colony of merchants from Palmyra brought brief prosperity, but they left about A.D. 75 (Garner, p 7-8).

The city was visited by Trajan in A.D. 115.

Babylon was first reported deserted by Septimus Severus 84 years later.

As recently as the 1800's the village of Hillah, containing over 10,000 inhabitants, stood on the site of ancient Babylon (Rich, p. 157).

In the late nineteenth century, the German archeologist Robert Koldewey conducted extensive studies at Babylon and the four Arab villages situated on the site. Babylon had been inhabited for some time even before his arrival.

## Babylon: A bad future

The great prophecies concerning the city of Babylon in Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 and Jeremiah 50 and 51 have never been fulfilled.

In Isaiah 13 and 14, Isaiah describes how Babylon will be destroyed and then will never again be inhabited.

This identifies the time of the destruction as that particular period known as the “Day of The Lord” that is mentioned throughout the scripture and is associated with the final day of God’s vengeance. (*Joel 2:10; Mal 4:5; Dan 12:1; Matt 24:21-22.*)

When God destroys Babylon, he will destroy all the evil in the world.

The Doom of Babylon

- Fall of Babylon in 539 BC
  - Without a battle
  - Became Alexander’s capital
  - Atrophied over the centuries
  - Presently being rebuilt
- Destruction of Babylon (*Isaiah 13, 14; Jeremiah 50, 51*)
  - “Never to be inhabited”
  - “Building materials never reused”
  - “Like Sodom and Gomorrah”

## Zech 5:5-11 We’ve moving...having a going out of business sale.

*[Zech. 5:5-11] Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. [6] And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. [7] And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. [8] And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. [9] Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. [10] Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? [11] And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.*

The **ephah** is a large measure of weight used in commercial transactions.

A woman, called wickedness and the lawless (one), is carried away by two women with wings like a stork (an unclean bird) and the wind (demon spirits) is in their wings.

They take her **to a city** which has been **built** in the **land of Shinar**, which is synonymous with Babylon.

## Zech 5:5-11 On a stork's wings.

*[Zech. 5:5-11] Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. [6] And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. [7] And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. [8] And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. [9] Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven. [10] Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? [11] And he said unto me, To build it an house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.*

During the past few years the relationships of commerce among the nations have been disturbed by the continued "flight of gold" or "flight of capital" from one nation to another.

More and more daily news reports on the "Balance of trade" and the "Trade deficits" or "Trade surpluses" between nations.

There are those who oppose the idea of a literal Babylon. They see it as symbolism for world commerce; a gigantic system for the pursuit of wealth and pleasure.

It represents greed, commercialism, industrialism, wealth, .... No single word adequately defines the symbol, but they do help express the idea embodied in the symbol.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:4-19 Heaven calling ...

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

Another "messenger" calls down from Heaven, different from those that have immediately preceded.

Stop on a street corner and listen to the few phrases that can be caught from the stream of passersby;

Nine out of ten speak of money or pleasure.

Men rebuild and populate Babylon, the great metropolitan city as a unified world economic headquarters.

When the whore, the religious system is brought down, it would be a natural asylum its refugees – especially if the city of Rome was its former headquarters..

God has men rebuild the great city, gathers the apostate together for judgment.

Jeremiah and John are speaking of the same divine judgment.

It is future...even from John's day.

Not a great surprise that God calls upon His people to come out of her.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:4-5 That's different ...

The most common word used to identify the Christian in the New Testament is the Greek "hagios," whose basic meaning is "different"; it is often translated as "holy" or "sanctify".

*Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

It's not a question of being removed or isolated from the world;

It is a matter of living differently within the world.

When God called Abraham: *"Now the Lord said to Abraham, Go from your country, and your kindred, and your father's house, to the land that I will show you" (Gen.12:1).*

Lot was told before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: *"Up, get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city" (Gen.19:12-14).*

Moses in the days of the wickedness of Korah, Dathan and Abiram was told to: *"Get away from about the dwelling of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.... Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men" (Num.16:23-26).*

Isaiah said, *"Go forth from Babylon, flee from Chaldea" (Isa.48:20).*

Jeremiah ordered, *"Flee from the midst of Babylon, and go out of the land of the Chaldeans" (Jer.50:8).* and *"Flee from the midst of Babylon, let every man save his life" (Jer.51:6)* and *"Go out of the midst of her people. Let every man save his life from the fierce anger of the Lord" (Jer.51:45).*

Paul writes: *"Do not be miseducated with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial?" (2 Cor.6:14-15)* and *"Do not participate in another man's sins; keep yourself pure" (1Tim.5:22).*

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:4-5 God's leaflets

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

Heaven warns, *Come out of her, My people, that ye partake not of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues; for her sins have been heaped up to Heaven, and God hath remembered her unrighteous deeds.'*

There will be those God calls: 'My people'

They are told to come out of her so they do not end up sinning with her

To accomplish this there will need to be a literal, physical flight from an individual city which is about to be destroyed.

There is also the need for a spiritual separation from all that is summed up in the one word, the "world."

The call to depart from Babylon is first heard in the prophecy of Isaiah and is heard 7x in all, the last time being in *Revelation 18:4*.

In each of these 7 instances, the city of God, Jerusalem (or Zion) is in the context reminding us repeatedly of the rivalry between the city of man and the city of God.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:4-5 Get out of town ... Warning 1-2

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

1. *Isaiah 48:20, Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, the Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.*

A note of exultation is heard as God contemplates the redemption of His people, and their deliverance from Babylon.

*"He will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans" (vs. 14).*

In verse 2 a reference to *"the holy city."*

2. *Isaiah 52:11, Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence; touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.*

Babylon is not mentioned by name but she is the subject of the passage.

In verse 4 God speaks of the sojourn of His people aforetime in Egypt and of the subsequent oppression by the Assyrian; and then He asks,

*"Now therefore, what have I here, that My people is taken away for nought?"*

This refers to the coming captivity in Babylon, which is the general subject of this part of the prophecy.

Zion is named in verse 8, and Jerusalem in verse 9.

## Rev 18:4-5 Get out of town ... Warning 3-5

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

3. *Jeremiah 50:8-9, Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and, be as the goats before the flocks. For lo, I will raise, and cause to come up against Babylon, an assembly of great nations from the north country; and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken.*

In verse 5, concerning the people of God,

*"They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward."*

The punishment of Babylon is told in later verses.

4. *Jeremiah 51:6, 8, Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul; be not cut off in her iniquity: for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He will render unto her a recompense . . . . Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed.*

The call here is very urgent, and similar to *Rev 18:2-4*

In verse 10 Zion is named.

5. *Zechariah 2:6, 7, Ho, ho, come forth and flee from the land of the north, saith the Lord; for I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven, saith the Lord. Deliver thyself, O Zion, that dwellest with the daughter of Babylon . . .*

## Rev 18:4-5      Get out of town ... Warning 6-7

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

6. *2 Corinthians 6:17-18, Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

Again, Babylon is not named in this passage, but it is implied in the confusion and mixing of believers and unbelievers, Christianity and paganism, described in verses 14-16. Moreover, the first part of the passage is a direct quotation from Isaiah 52:11, cited above.

The holy city of God is not mentioned by name; but is implied in the words,

*"And I will receive you, and be a Father unto you."*

The family relation implies the family home.

7. *Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

## Rev 18:4-5      This way out ...

*[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. [5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

The call to come out implies that the way is open for them to depart.

Christ *"gave himself for our sins that he might deliver us out of this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father"* (Gal. 1:4).

The door of escape has been set open by Him who openeth and no man shutteth.

God brought His people out of Egypt in a body, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,

In delivering them from Babylon He simply opened the way.

The only ones who came out who were those of a mind to do so.

## Rev 18:5-6 I remember when ...

*[5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. [6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

God hates sin.

He will never forget a sin debt that is unpaid - a sin not covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The sins of this whole system, therefore, come into remembrance before Him.

When He says that she is to receive "double, doubled". The double punishment and the double reward come from the fact that in Jewish law anyone responsible for loss or damage had to repay it twice over (*Exod. 22:4, 7, 9*).

It is what Israel received from the Lord's hand (*Isa. 40:2; Jer. 16:18; 17:18*)

How much more then, shall He not say to Babylon, "double the double."

*"O daughter of Babylon, you devastator!" says the Psalmist, "happy shall he be who requites you with what you have done to us" (Ps. 137:8)*

*"Requite her according to her deeds, Do to her according to all that she has done; for she has proudly defied the Lord, the Holy One of Israel" (Jer.50:29).*

## Rev 18:7-8 Pride → Crash and burn...

*[7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. [8] 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 judgeth her.*

This passage speaks of punishment. It is an instruction to the angel, the divine instrument of justice. Vengeance belongs to God, and to God alone.

*"The measure you give will be the measure you get" (Matt.7:2).*

All pride will one day be humiliated.

*Pro 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

*"Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet the Lord will smite with a scab the heads of the daughters of Zion" (Isa.3:16-17).*

Tyre is condemned because she has said: *"I am perfect in beauty" (Eze.27:3).*

There is a sin which the Greek called "**hubris**": The arrogance that comes to feel that it has no need of God.

The punishment for that sin is ultimate humiliation and destruction.

## Rev 18:7-8 I remember when ...

*[7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. [8] 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 judgeth her.*

James warned of the deceitfulness of riches and the foolishness of depending on them.

*"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 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. Behold, the hire of the laborers 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. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you" (James 5:1-6).*

Capitalism will endure in the world, particularly where the Roman Empire is to be revived, until the very time of the end.

## Rev 18:7-8 Blink ... It's gone

*[7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. [8] 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 judgeth her.*

World commerce – Babylon - will be destroyed in one sudden stroke.

How this occurs is not known – it's after effects are given.

This is a swift, literal destruction.

The one who sits with all the glory of a queen, enthroned, bragging about who she is and what she has will receive her plagues "in one hour" (*vss. 10, 19*).

She declares that she will see no sorrow; she is invincible.

The same old word spoken in Eden, "*Ye shall not surely die*" (*Gen. 3:4*).

In the rest of this chapter we have wailing and moans:

- the dirge sung by the kings (*Rev. 18:9-10*),
- the dirge sung by the merchants (*Rev. 18:11-16*),
- the dirge sung by the shipmasters and the sailors (*Rev. 18:17-19*).



## Rev 18:9-11 No buying or selling, a Mark or not ...

*[9] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning. [10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. [11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*

Both the kings and the merchants stand afar off and watch and wail.

They stretch out no hand to help the city in her last agony;

- they were never bound to her in love;
- their only bond was the luxury she desired and the trade it brought to them.

In ancient times, government and business were not united as they are now.

Business began to move into government at the time of the French Revolution.

The upheaval in industry caused by the invention of the steam engine and the growth of modern commerce, put the merchants into the government as never before,

Many, many businessmen and politicians stand alongside each other today; hands in each others pockets; holding a common interest – their own...

With the utter destruction of commercial world trade will go the power of the kings of the earth who have held their power by maintaining the control of the money.

The merchants will have every cause to weep and mourn. Their days of profiting are over.

The lament of the merchants is pure selfishness.

All their sorrow is that the market from which they drew so much wealth is gone.

It is amazing that after all that has happened and is happening the world over, such a system of trade and commodities could even develop...

## Rev 18:12-14 Goodie, goodies ... Not !!

*[12] The merchandise of gold, and 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, [13] 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. [14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

28 items (4 x 7) cargoes: literal, not symbolic. They are listed!

The wailing is for the luxuries of humanity. No necessities are mentioned.

1<sup>st</sup>] Gold and silver and precious stones → the 'sure' investments that will hold their value no matter what comes...

2<sup>nd</sup>] Pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet → things for show and personal adornment;

3<sup>rd</sup>] Thyine wood, all manner of vessels of ivory, precious wood, brass, iron, and marble → choice articles of rare and precious materials for furnishings

4<sup>th</sup>] Cinnamon, odors, ointments, frankincense → perfumes and other luxuries necessary for sensuous modern living;

5<sup>th</sup>] Wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots → the more substantial commodities, including travel conveyances

## Rev 18:13-14 Going, going, gone !!

*[13] 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 [bodies], and souls of men. [14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

The list of Babylon's commercial wares ends with the "bodies and souls of men".

The word translated "slaves" is literally bodies.

It is in the marketplace where we barter our bodies and souls for some trifle, something that at best can afford but a momentary satisfaction.

Like Esau, we exchange our birthright for a mere mess of pottage.

*'For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? ... For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father, with his angels, and then he shall reward every man according to his works' (Matt. 16:26-27).*

They that lose their lives in this world for His sake, laying up treasures in heaven, waiting for their wealth, honors and pleasures until He returns in power and glory, will have riches that are eternal; pleasures forever, and receive an inheritance that is

*... incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*  
*[1 Pet 1:4]*

## Rev 18:14 Spoiled fruit

*[14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

A most impressive pictures of eternal torment that is to be found in the Scripture.

Imagine the bitterness and the anguish of the those who have lost everything they loved, knowing that they are gone forever and

*"They shall find them no more at all."*

They were his life and he had no other life.

Now he has lost them and has nothing else forever.

People who live for the flesh soon realize that they will never be able to satisfy their desires.

The place of eternal torment is a place of unfulfilled desires.

The drunk will have his consuming thirst with nothing to quench it.

The one who has lived for riches, fame, honor, and all that these could bring will find himself cut off from them forever and ever.

Forever to be lost, alone, in darkness and pain.

Always desiring. Never being satisfied...

## Rev 18:15-19 Too little, Too late ...

*[15] The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, [16] And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! [17] 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, [18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! [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.*

Shipmasters and sailors implies a sea port city is destroyed by God (*Rev 18:8-10,19,21*)

Alexander had planned to create a harbor for 1,000 ships...

The description of the wailing of the kings, merchants and shipmasters is an earthly wailing. All that has made up their life has disappeared before their eyes.

Their wailing is just the prelude to an eternal crying that will never leave their lips.

They could have had life and they have refused it, choosing Babylon.

Now Babylon is taken from them.

Their hatred of God is so all consuming that even were there another chance for salvation there would still be no desire for God found in their hearts and minds.

*Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; ...are vindicated.*

They have had their sin; they now have their death.

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## Rev 18:20-24 The End of the World

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

*[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. [22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; [23] 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. [24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

Heaven now rejoices at the end of "the world." It is not the end of the earth.

That does not come for another thousand years.

Babylon is the name given to

- the world of politics = governmental Babylon
- the world of ecclesiasticism = the harlot religious system of Babylon and t
- he world of business = commercial Babylon.

All three aspects of Babylon come to a final doom.

## Rev 18:20 Invitation to the celebration...

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

*Praise his people, O you nations; for he avenges the blood of his servants, and takes vengeance on his adversaries, and makes expiation for the land of his people (Deut.32:43)*

*Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is in them, shall sing for joy over Babylon; for the destroyers shall come against them out of the north, says the Lord (Jer.51:48).*

This is the triumph of the kingdom of Heaven over the kingdom of Satan.

The Heavens include all the hosts of Heaven, cherubim, seraphim, angels and the archangel, a company innumerable

"the holy apostles" = the word, "holy," should be taken as a noun not an adjective

It is literally, "the holy ones, apostles and prophets"

"holy ones" is commonly translated "the saints."

If we are saints, we are holy in God's sight.

Our position as far as God is concerned is perfect holiness.

Our three great enemies have been "the world, the flesh and the devil."

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:20 Saints - invited to celebrate...

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

*"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you . . ." (John 15:18-20).*

Given what the world has done to the saints, why shouldn't the saints rejoice when the whole world system comes to an end?

*". . . tortured . others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tested, were slain with the sword; they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, evil treated (Of whom the world was not worthy); they wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth ..." (Heb. 11:35-38).*

And now the world system is utterly destroyed, and the saints are called upon to rejoice.. Party, You bet !!!

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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## Rev 18:20 Apostles & Prophets - invited to celebrate...

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

The apostles and prophets, leaders of the saints of all ages, who have, themselves, borne the brunt of the world's hatred, are given special prominence in the rejoicing.

They are included in the saints but they are given special mention. Their special responsibility and sufferings give them a special right to rejoice.

*"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but' ye are strong; ye are honorable., but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; And labor, working with our own hands; being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it; Being defamed, we intreat; we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day" (1 Cor. 4:9 13).*

But God had revealed to him that this was only for a time

*"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).*

## Rev 18:20 Now's the time, celebrate...

*[20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

This is the first time in this book of tears that the command to rejoice is given.

The saints are in Heaven from 4<sup>th</sup> chapter onward.

There is worship, and honor and glory and power given by them to God who is indeed worthy to receive this praise.

But here the command of rejoicing is given.

The saints are called to look down upon the world they have left.

They see that the Babylon against which they struggled throughout the ages and which had poured out its scorn upon them, has come to a complete and final doom never to rise again.

The King James Version gives this cause as: *"for God hath avenged you on her."*

The Greek is much stronger: *"For God hath judged your judgment upon her."*

## Rev 18:21 Oh, Let me pay ...

*[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.*

The action of this mighty angel refers back to an incident in the life of Jeremiah.

*Jere 51:56 Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the Lord God of recompences shall surely requite.*

“the Lord God of recompenses” = a title of God that we need to focus on a bit more.

*Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

*Rom 13:4; Deu 32:35; Deu 32:43; Psa 94:1-3; Nah 1:2-3; Heb 10:30*

## Rev 18:21 Sink 'em...

*[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.*

Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon.

*And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; Then shalt thou say, O Lord, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates; And thou shalt say: Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary" (Jer. 51:59-64).*

Right in the middle of Babylon's splendor, he has Seraiah, "*a quiet prince*", tie a stone to a parchment in which the prophecy of Babylon's destruction has been written and throw it into a river.

Now he has a mighty angel cast a millstone into the sea, saying,

*"Thus, with a mighty fall will the great city of, Babylon be cast down, and she shall be found no more at all."*

All that men have called "civilization" will disappear in God's judgment.

God speaks truth through quiet princes, but if He is unheeded,  
God will speak through the mighty angels.

## Rev 18:22-24 Never more ...

*[22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; [23] 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. [24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

Babylon is to become a terrible silent desolation.

The reason for this judgment is most revealing.

*"Because thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for with thy sorcery all the nations were deceived." v23*

It will come because she worshipped wealth and luxury and lived wantonly, and found no pleasure except in material things.

Christ should have been acknowledged as the King and ruler of the earth.

Instead, the men who became rich in the commerce of goods and souls (*vss. 12-13*) thought more of their merchandise than they did of the Savior of the world.

They wept when their merchandise was destroyed (*vs. 11*), they didn't weep because they had grieved the Lord.

## Rev 18:22-24 Never more ...

*[22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; [23] 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. [24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

The "sorcery" is used to deceive the world and it led to the deception.

The Greek word for sorcery is pharmakia, from which we get our word "pharmacy."

It comes from an earlier word meaning "to prepare drugs."

Just as a pharmacist mixes his drugs the leaders of the earth mixed their designs, rewards, proclamations, promises and propaganda of their ownr Pharmacopoeia to drug the world into insensibility so they could keep and strengthen their hold on mankind.

If they had only killed their own, the judgment may have been deferred for the devil's own are *[2 Tim. 2:26] ... are taken captive by him at his will.*

But they went after God's children, who were hidden in the among of the world.

The blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth is now avenged upon the system that lived by the blood of its victims.