

Judgment of Babylon

18.1 After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory.

- ✓ After these things – After the destruction of Harlot Babylon, false religion in Chapter 17.
 - The antichrist enters the Temple and declares only he is to be worshipped.
 - "So when you see 'the abomination of desolation,' which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place (let the reader understand), Matthew 24:15
 - Then he will make a firm covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of abominations will come one who destroys, until the decreed annihilation is poured out on the one who destroys." Daniel 9:27
 - "His forces will rise up and profane the fortified Temple; they will stop the daily offering and set up the abomination of desolation. Daniel 11:31
 - "From the time that the daily burnt offering is taken away, and abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. Daniel 12:11
 - This is the midmark of the 7 years to the end of Daniel's "70th week." This is the destruction described in Chapter 18, just prior to Yeshua's return.
 - The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. A loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and rumblings and clashes of thunder and a great earthquake - such as never happened since mankind has been on the earth, so mighty was the quake. ¹⁹ Then the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to force her to drink the cup of the wine of His furious wrath.
²⁰ Every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. Revelation 16:17-20
 - The belief that salvation is by "works" is the basis for religious Babylon and the desire to glorify oneself rather than God, is the foundation of economic Babylon.

18.2 He cried out with a mighty voice, saying: "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.

- ✓ become a den for demons – Demons will be imprisoned here. And satan locked in the Abyss.
 - Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a great chain. ² He seized the dragon - the ancient serpent, who is the devil and satan - and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He also threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed. After these things, he must be released for a short while. Revelation 20:1-3
 - a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird – represents evil, figurative of desolation.
 - But desert creatures will lie there. Their houses will be full of owls. Ostriches will dwell there, and goat-demons will dance there. ²² Hyenas will howl in their citadels and jackals in their pleasant palaces. Her time is near to come - her days will not drag on long. Isaiah 13:21-22

18.3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her immorality. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich off the power of her self-indulgence."

- ✓ all the nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her immorality – The reason for her destruction: she polluted and fouled the entire world and its population with her immorality, idolatry & materialism.
 - Another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen, is Babylon the great - she who made all nations drink of the wine of the fury of her immorality." Revelation 14:8
 - The earth's kings committed sexual immorality with her, and those who dwell on the earth got drunk with the wine of her immorality." Revelation 17:2
- ✓ merchants of the earth – (emporoi): "One who travels about merchandizing a wholesale dealer in contrast to a retailer." Also, used of a passenger on shipboard. Derived from (poros): "journey."
 - Became wealthy through her materialism. Rev 18:15
 - Powerful people who use their great wealth to influence world affairs – to increase their power and wealth.
 - Today wealthy leaders of multinational corporations may have greater influence over the affairs of the world than their publicly elected political counterparts. Isa 23:8
 - I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "This is the measuring basket that goes out." He continued, "This is their eye in all the land." ⁷ Then behold, a lead cover was lifted and a woman was sitting in the middle of the measuring basket. ⁸ The angel exclaimed, 'This is Wickedness!' Then he shoved her back inside the measuring basket, throwing the lead weight over its mouth. ⁹ After this I lifted up my eyes and behold, I saw two women emerging with the wind in their wings (they had wings like the wings of a stork) and they raised the measuring basket between the earth and the heaven. ¹⁰ I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the measuring basket?" ¹¹ He said, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar. When it is prepared, she will live there in her own place." Zechariah 5:6-11
 - Shinar: the Babylonian plain. Dan 1:2
- ✓ self-indulgence – abundant luxury. (dynamēos): a luxurious and sensuous way of life characterized by headstrong pride.

18.4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!

- ✓ God is calling out the faithful believers of that time, do not compromise, don't get caught up in the things of this world – leave. Babylon's destruction is on its way! Don't be like Lot's wife.
 - But his wife looked behind him and she turned into a pillar of salt. Genesis 19:26
 - Flee from within Babylon! Each one, escape with his soul! Be not silenced in her iniquity! For it is a time of vengeance for ADONAI. He will repay her recompense. Jeremiah 51:6
 - Take no part in the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them— ¹² for it is disgraceful even to mention the things that are done by them in secret. Ephesians 5:11-12

18.5 For her sins have piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

- ✓ We would have healed Babylon, but she cannot be healed. Abandon her! Let's go, each one to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to the heavens and has risen beyond the skies.
Jeremiah 51:9

18.6 Pay her back just as she has paid out, and give her back double for her deeds! In the cup she has mixed - mix a double dose for her!

- ✓ Summon archers to Babylon, all who bend the bow. Encamp against her all around, let no one there escape. Repay her for her deed. As all she has done, do to her. For she was arrogant against ADONAI, against the Holy One of Israel. Jeremiah 50:29
- ✓ give her back double – Under Moses' Law restitution of thievery involved interest of 100%.
 - First I will repay them double for their iniquity and their sin, because they have profaned My land, and they have filled My possession with the carcasses of their vile things and their abominations." Jeremiah 16:18
 - Let my persecutors be ashamed yet let me not be ashamed. Let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed. Bring on them the evil day, Destroy them with double destruction.
Jeremiah 17:18

18.7 As she has exalted herself and indulged herself in luxury, so give her the same measure of torment and grief! For in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen - I am no widow; I shall never see grief.'

- ✓ This is the exultant city, dwelling securely, saying in her heart, 'It's me - no one else but me!' How did she become a ruin, an abode for wild beasts? Everyone who passes by her hisses and shakes his fist. Zephaniah 2:15
- ✓ 'I sit as a queen – she reigns over the nations & kings of the earth (Rev 17:18). She sits on the Beast with the 7 heads & 10 horns (Rev 17:3).
 - Come down and sit in the dust, virgin daughter of Babylon. Sit on the ground without a throne, daughter of the Chaldeans. For you will no more be called tender and delicate. ²Take the millstones and grind flour. Remove your veil, strip off the skirt, uncover the leg, cross the rivers. ³Your nakedness will be uncovered, and your shame will be exposed. I will take vengeance, and will spare no one. ⁴Our Redeemer, ADONAI-Tzva'ot is His Name, is the Holy One of Israel. ⁵Sit in silence, go into darkness, daughter of the Chaldeans. For you will no more be called the mistress-queen of kingdoms. Isaiah 47:1-5
 - You said, "Forever, I will be the eternal mistress-queen!" You did not lay these things to heart or remember their end. ⁸Now then, hear this, voluptuous one, dwelling securely, saying in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me! I will not sit as a widow, or know the loss of children," ⁹These two things will come upon you in a moment, in one day - loss of children and widowhood - they will come upon you in full measure in spite of your many sorceries and your many spells. ¹⁰You felt secure in your wickedness, You said, "No one sees me." Your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, so you have said in your heart, "I am - there is no one else beside me!" But calamity will come upon you. You won't know how to charm it away. Disaster will fall on you, for which you cannot atone. Catastrophe you cannot foresee will suddenly come upon you. Isaiah 47:7-11

18.8 For this reason her plagues will arrive in a single day - death and grief and famine - and she shall be burned down with fire. For mighty is ADONAI Elohim who judges her!"

- ✓ "Look, I am against you, arrogant one" - declares my Lord ADONAI-Tzva'ot - "for your day has come, the time when I will punish you."³² The arrogant will stumble and fall, and no one will lift him up. I will kindle fire in his cities, and it will devour all who are round about him." Jeremiah 50:31-32
- ✓ burned down with fire – Her smoke will rise up forever & ever (Rev 19:3).
 - The actual city of Babylon was / is built over an extremely large area of bituminous material.
 - Bituminous material is semi-solid or liquid. Comes from exposed & weathered petroleum and rock deposits. Bituminous coal, also called soft coal, is the most abundant form of coal.

18.9-10 Then the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and indulged in luxury with her shall weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning - ¹⁰ standing far off because of the terror of her torment, saying: "Alas, alas, O great city - O Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come!"

- ✓ the kings of the earth – these are not the 10 Kings associated with the antichrist, but the wealthy and powerful, and influential.
- ✓ a single hour your judgment has come! – It is a tsunami size collapse of the global economy!
 - The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. A loud voice came out of the Temple from the throne, saying, "It is done!"¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and rumblings and clashes of thunder and a great earthquake - such as never happened since mankind has been on the earth, so mighty was the quake.¹⁹ Then the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to force her to drink the cup of the wine of His furious wrath. Revelation 16:17-19

18.11-13 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, because no one buys their merchandise anymore - ¹² shipments of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of citron wood; all kinds of ivory products; all kinds of products made of costly wood, bronze, iron, and marble;¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, oil, fine flour, and wheat; cattle, sheep, horses, and chariots; and slaves—that is, human souls.

- ✓ the merchants of the earth – The merchants are like the church of Laodicea.
 - For you say, 'I am rich, I have made myself wealthy, and I need nothing.' But you do not know that you are miserable and pitiable and poor and blind and naked. Revelation 3:17
- ✓ no one buys their merchandise anymore – The luxuries of John's day, represent end days luxuries.
- ✓ slaves—that is, human souls – There is a great deal of money to be made in the slave market still today.
 - "Anyone who steals a person and sells him, or is found with him under his hand, must surely be put to death. Exodus 21:16

- ✚ Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. ¹⁴ For her trade-value is better than silver, and her yield better than fine gold. ¹⁵ She is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire compares to her. ¹⁶ Length of days is in her right hand. In her left hand are riches and honor. ¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways, and all of her paths are shalom. ¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who embrace her and blessed will be all who hold firmly to her. Proverbs 3:13-18

18.14 The fruit of your soul's desire has gone from you, and all the expensive and beautiful things are lost to you - never again will people find them.

- ✓ Fruit – (opora): “ripe autumn fruit.” Luxurious and splendid treasures.

18.15-16 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, shall stand far off for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, "Alas, alas, O great city - clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

- ✓ clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet – Referring to Harlot Babylon – religious harlotry and materialism.

18.17-18 For in a single hour so much wealth has been ruined!" And every ship captain and passenger, sailors and all who make their living at sea, stood at a distance ¹⁸ and were crying out, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

✚ Babylon on the Euphrates River is not directly on the coast. The Euphrates River is navigable for about 1,200 miles.

- Today, the Tigris & Euphrates are joined together and flow as one river, the Shatt el-Arab, about 120 miles to the gulf where the water is deep enough for warships.
- Sections of the Euphrates are dredged and improved so that ships from the gulf can directly navigate the approximate 370 miles upriver to Babylon.
- Large ships anchor in the Persian Gulf where cargo is transferred to shallow draft barges transporting goods.
- Babylon is going to be a major center of shipping and a great center for commerce.

18.19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, "Alas, alas, O great city - in her all who had ships at sea grew rich from her wealth! For in a single hour has she been ruined!

- ✓ threw dust on their heads – is an act of when one is in deep mourning.
 - Of great importance when repeated multiple times in the same chapter:
 - “Alas, alas, O Great city.” Verses: 10, 15 & 19
 - “Kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her.” Verses: 3 & 9
 - “A single hour.” Verses: 10, 17 & 19
 - “Weep and mourn.” Verses: 9, 11, 15 & 19

18.20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you kedoshim, emissaries and prophets! For God has judged her condemnation of you!"

✚ Make His people rejoice, O nations, for He will avenge the blood of His servants. He will return vengeance on His foes, and atone for the land of His people." Deuteronomy 32:43

18.21-24 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying: "So shall Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, never to be found again! ²² And the sound of harpists and musicians, flautists and trumpeters, shall never be heard in you again! And the craftsman of any craft shall never be found in you again! And the sound of a mill shall never be heard in you again! ²³ And the light of a lamp shall never shine in you again! And the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall never be heard in you again! For your businessmen were the tycoons of the world, for all the nations were deceived by your sorcery! ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of the prophets and kedoshim and all those slaughtered on the earth."

- ✓ a great millstone – (mulos): “a great millstone” - Larger millstones were turned by a donkey, smaller millstones were turned by a woman as mill grinding was considered “woman’s work” or a slave (Judges 16:21).
 - Indicating the immediate and overwhelming drowning of one who causes a young believer to stumble. Mark 9:42

✚ Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll all the evil that would come upon Babylon, which he sent with Seraiah, scribe/quartermaster, to speak over the city of Babylon thousands of years ago. **This judgement has yet to be fulfilled in history.**

Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah: "When you arrive in Babylon, then see that you read all these words, ⁶² and say: 'ADONAI, you have spoken concerning this place, to cut it off, that nothing will dwell there, neither man nor beast, but that it will be desolate forever.' ⁶³ "Now when you have finished reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates. ⁶⁴ Then you will say: 'Thus will Babylon sink, and not rise again, because of the calamity that I will bring on her. So they will weary themselves.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 51:61-64