



# THE Revelation OF JESUS

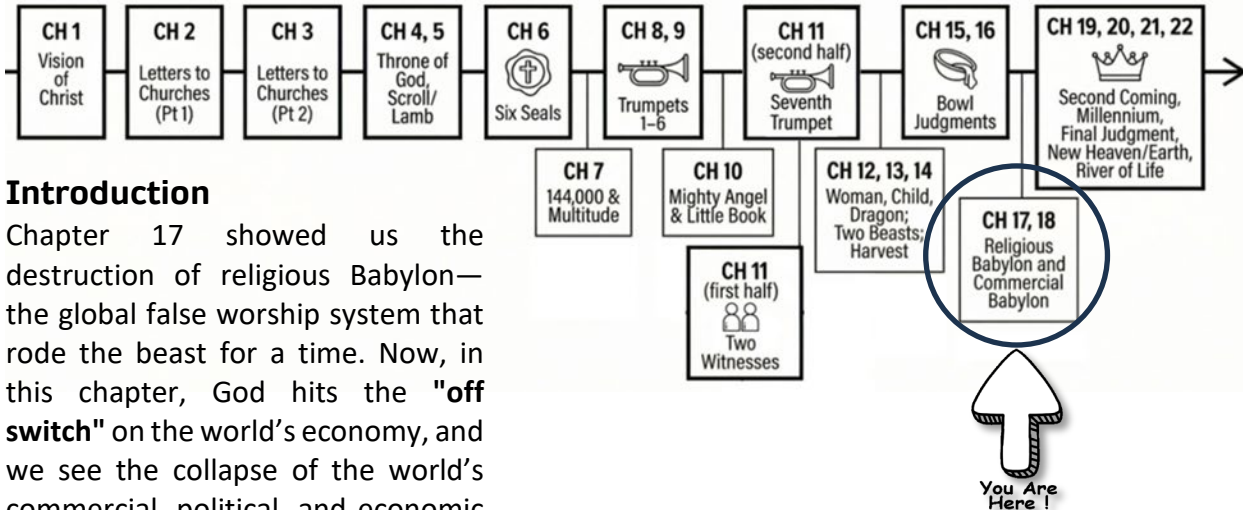


## “Commercial Babylon”

### Lesson 16: Revelation 18

#### THE BOOK OF REVELATION – CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE

Parenthetical sections provide detail without advancing the timeline.



#### Introduction

Chapter 17 showed us the destruction of religious Babylon—the global false worship system that rode the beast for a time. Now, in this chapter, God hits the "off switch" on the world's economy, and we see the collapse of the world's commercial, political, and economic system. Chapter 18 presents

Babylon not only as a spiritual influence, but as a massive economic powerhouse that enriched the nations through luxury, greed, corruption, and exploitation. It is described as a "great city," but it's larger than a single location. It represents the entire organized world system built apart from God. This is mankind's final attempt to create prosperity, security, unity, and luxury without God. And for a while, on the surface, it appears to work. **But in one hour, everything changes.**

God suddenly and violently destroys the system mankind trusted in. The same world that once celebrated Babylon now stands horrified as it collapses before their eyes. One of the great themes of Chapter 18 is this:

**Anything mankind builds in defiance of God eventually collapses under the weight of God's judgment.**



## Revelation 18: Babylon the Great – A City, A System, or Both?

Unlike the religious “Mystery Babylon” described in Chapter 17, the specific identity and location of “Babylon the Great” in Chapter 18 remain a matter of significant debate among Bible scholars. Interpretations vary widely depending on one’s approach to Scripture and theological background. For some, Babylon is primarily symbolic—a representation of mankind’s collective rebellion against God. For others, it is a literal end-times reality: a centralized system of human authority operating apart from God, whether expressed as a single unified structure or as interconnected components—religious, political, and commercial.



As a result, countless theories have been proposed and volumes written on the subject. Those who favor a literal, end-times system have suggested a range of possible locations, including New York, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Brussels, Rome, Jerusalem, the United States as a whole, and even a rebuilt ancient Babylon—though that last option remains highly questionable. Each proposal carries a certain logic and appeal, and in many cases, elements of truth can be found. The overlap among these theories suggests that, while no single identification fully satisfies the text, several may, at this time, reflect partial aspects of a larger, more complex reality.



**Rev. 18:1]** *And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.*

The phrase “**After These Things**” (Gr. *meta tauta*) signals a transition to another vision or explanatory scene. John now sees another mighty angel descending from heaven with tremendous authority and brilliance. This angel is distinct from the bowl angels previously seen. He arrives with special authority connected to the judgment announcement about to be made. The angel’s brilliance illuminates the earth. This likely describes supernatural glory radiating from Heaven’s messenger. Think of this angel like a global broadcast that overrides every television and smartphone screen on the planet at once.



**Rev. 18:2]** *And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful **bird**.*

The angel “**Cried Mightily with a Strong Voice,**” meaning this is not a quiet announcement—it is a thunderous proclamation. Heaven wants the entire world to hear that Babylon’s destruction is final and certain.

The double statement “**Babylon the Great Is Fallen, Is Fallen**” emphasizes certainty and suddenness. In Scripture, repetition like this means the event is firmly established by God and will happen quickly. (Isa 21:9; Gen 41:32; Rev 14:8; Rev 18:2)

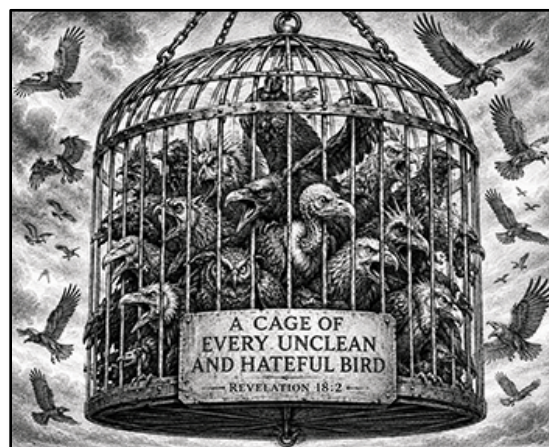
This, however, is more than the fall of a city. It is the collapse of global commerce, corrupt political power, materialistic civilization, and a Satanically influenced world culture. The entire Babylonian structure finally implodes under God’s judgment.

The true spiritual nature of Babylon is now exposed. Behind the luxury and sophistication was a demonic system that had **“Become the Habitation of Devils.”** Once God removes restraint, the darkness underneath becomes fully visible.

Babylon had become **“The Hold of Every Foul Spirit,”** meaning it becomes a prison house or dwelling place for demonic activity. The word “hold” suggests confinement or occupation. The system that once deceived the world is now spiritually desolate and overrun by evil.

Also, Babylon is **“A Cage of Every Unclean and Hateful Bird.”** In prophetic imagery, birds are often connected with satanic influence or corruption. Jesus used birds in the parables to picture agents of evil infiltrating the kingdom sphere (Matt 13:4, 19, 32).

The language here echoes Old Testament prophecies against literal Babylon, where the once-proud city became a desolate haunt of wild creatures and darkness (Isa 13:19–22; Jer 50:39 18:2).



**Rev. 18:3]** *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.*

Verse 3 gives the deep reasons for Babylon’s destruction. The corruption was not isolated—it spread everywhere. Nations became intoxicated with her influence. **“All Nations Have Drunk”** means there is **Global Influence** as Babylon’s corruption reaches every part of the world. **No nation is untouched.** Her system spreads across political boundaries, cultures, and economies.

The imagery combines intoxication and spiritual unfaithfulness by describing the **“Wine of the Wrath of Her Fornication”**. The nations have become spiritually drunk—unable to think clearly because they have embraced Babylon’s values and rebellion against God. (Jer 51:7; Rev 17:2). Here, **Spiritual Fornication = Partnership with the World System**, which is centered in Babylon. Again, the “fornication” mentioned here points to the world’s alliance with false worship, corruption, and rebellion. Nations willingly participate because Babylon offers wealth, influence, security, and pleasure (Rev 17:2).

Because of this, the **“Kings of the Earth Have Committed Fornication with Her.”** World political leaders become deeply entangled with Babylon. Governments cooperate with the system because it benefits them economically and politically. Power and profit become more important than truth and righteousness.

The world’s business and financial systems thrive because of Babylon. This is global commerce on an unprecedented scale. Because of this, **“Merchants of the Earth Are Waxed Rich”** and grow wealthy through luxury, excess, and exploitation.

The phrase **“Abundance of Her Delicacies”** refers to luxury and self-indulgence, suggesting extravagant living, excess, and sensual indulgence. Babylon teaches the world to pursue comfort, pleasure, wealth, and consumption as ultimate goals.

However, economic prosperity becomes spiritual bondage. Babylon’s power is not primarily built on military force. Instead, it is built on economic dependence. The world becomes addicted to the system because it provides:

- ✓ Wealth
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Trade
- ✓ Stability
- ✓ Luxury



These dependencies make the eventual collapse both catastrophic and terrifying.



Think of this like a global "economic drug." Babylon offered the world a lifestyle of luxury and "self-glory" that was so addictive that every nation and business leader signed up for it, regardless of the spiritual cost.



Some scholars believe our "common world trade" is feeding directly into the development of the Beast's system. It’s a reminder that globalism isn't just about shipping goods; it’s often about sharing a common set of values that ignore God’s standards.



**Rev. 18:4, 5]** *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. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

Before the final judgment strikes end-times Babylon the Great, a new voice speaks from heaven. This is a moment of intense mercy and solemn warning, as God gives His people one last chance to disentangle themselves from the collapsing world system - **“Come Out of Her, My People”**.

Throughout the Bible, we see what is called **the Sevenfold Call**. This is where God warns those who hear His voice to separate themselves from "Babylonian" corruption. We see this pattern echo through scripture where God calls followers to abandon the world’s systems (Isa 48:20; 52:11; Jer 50:8-9; 51:6, 8; Zech 2:6-7; 2 Cor 6:17-18; Rev 18:4). A few examples:

- |                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Lot leaving Sodom     | Before judgment falls, God warns     |
| • Israel leaving Egypt  | His people to get out (Gen 19:12–17; |
| • Judah fleeing Babylon | Isa 48:20; Zech 2:6–7).              |

God tells those who listen to **“Be Not Partakers of Her Sins.”** Participation eventually creates shared guilt. God warns believers not to become spiritually entangled with Babylon’s corruption, greed, deception, and rebellion (Eph 5:11). Why? So **“that ye receive not of her plagues.”** Judgment is coming directly upon the system. Those who align themselves with Babylon place themselves in the path of divine wrath (Rev 16).

The image is vivid. Babylon’s sins are piled up like a massive tower reaching heaven itself, so God declares, **“for her sins have reached unto heaven.”** This deliberately echoes the Tower of Babel in Genesis, where mankind attempted to build upward in rebellion against God (Gen 11:4). Babylon the Great appeared to prosper unchecked, but now Heaven’s accounting is due because **“God hath remembered her iniquities”** (Jer 51:9).





**Think** of this like an emergency evacuation order. When a wildfire approaches, authorities tell everyone to "get out now" so they aren't trapped in the destruction. God is telling us that the "lifestyle" of this world is about to go up in flames, so we shouldn't have our hearts or our finances locked inside of it.



This warning implies that even during the Tribulation, there are people who belong to God but are either "entangled" in the economy or culture of the Beast's system or being called out of a geographic location. It's a reminder for us today to check where our true loyalty lies. Are they with the world's system or with the Lord?

**Watch**



Watch for the growing pressure to become fully absorbed into systems that demand compromise in exchange for comfort, prosperity, or acceptance. Revelation 18 reminds believers that God's people are called to live in the world—but never become spiritually owned by it.



**Rev. 18:6]** *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.*



**Rev. 18:7]** *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.*

End-times Babylon spent centuries enriching herself, glorifying herself, and corrupting the nations. Because of this, God will **"reward her even as she rewarded you."** Therefore, she will receive exactly what she has given out. This is the biblical principle of divine recompense—what she sowed, she now reaps (Gal 6:7).



The phrase **"double unto her double"** does not necessarily mean "twice as much," but instead it means complete and overflowing judgment. Babylon's punishment will fully match the depth of her corruption (Isa 40:2; Jer 16:18). Earlier, Babylon held a golden cup filled with abominations. Now God fills a cup of judgment for her (**"In the Cup...Fill to Her Double"**). The imagery reverses completely:

**Babylon gave corruption to the nations → God now gives judgment back to Babylon**

Babylon's mental attitude is one of extreme pride, and she has the **boast of the queen**. She says in her heart, *"I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow"*. This gives her a **False Sense of security**, and she is convinced that neither God nor man could ever defeat her Beast Empire. This is a **chilling contrast** because her claim to never be a **"widow"** is a direct, mocking contrast to Jerusalem, which the Bible often refers to as a **"widow"** because of her suffering (Lam 1:1; see Isa 47).

Because she "glorified herself" and "lived deliciously" (in luxury and excess), God commands that she be given an equal amount of "torment and sorrow".



Babylon's claim that she "shall see no sorrow" shows just how deluded the world system becomes when it's built on pride. It's the same **"too big to fail"** attitude we sometimes see in modern governments—a belief that they are so powerful they are untouchable by God.



**Rev. 18:8]** *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.*

In this verse, the "Queen's" boast from v.7 is met with God's reality check. Despite her confidence that she is untouchable, her collapse is described as sudden, catastrophic, and completely unavoidable. She says she will see "no sorrow," but God declares that her plagues will come "**in one day**". This indicates a sudden and catastrophic **multi-front disaster**, and the judgment isn't just one event; it is a wave of "**death, and mourning, and famine**" hitting all at once.

- Death → widespread destruction
  - Mourning → emotional devastation
  - Famine → economic and supply collapse
- These are classic signs of total societal collapse.

**God says she will be “utterly burned with fire.”** Fire here represents decisive divine judgment. The destruction is violent and complete. This echoes Old Testament judgments against wicked cities and nations (Gen 19:24; Isa 13:19; Jer 51:58).

The language strongly suggests a real catastrophic destruction of a literal center of power, while also symbolizing the destruction of the entire Babylonian system connected to it.



The phrase "in one day" (and later "in one hour") suggests that whatever this city or system is, its destruction will be so fast that no one will have time to "sell off" their interests or escape the impact. It is an instant reset of the world's power structure.



**Watch** for the growing belief that modern civilizations and nations are too advanced to collapse. Secular history tells us otherwise and echoes with Revelation 18: systems built on pride, corruption, and rejection of God can appear stable and invincible—right up until the moment they suddenly fall.

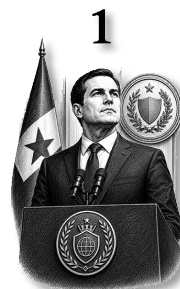
As the fire falls, we see three groups of people who are heartbroken by the collapse of Babylon. These groups are labeled as both onlookers and mourners.



**Rev. 18:9]** *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,*



**Rev. 18:10]** *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.*



The rulers of the world stand at a distance, watching Babylon the Great burn. The very leaders who once partnered with her, benefited from her, and grew powerful through her influence are now terrified. They do not rush in to help. They simply watch in horror as the system they trusted collapses before their eyes. The world's political order is unraveling in real time.

**“The Kings of the Earth”** are the political leaders tied to Babylon's system. They gained power, influence, and prosperity through their alliance with her.



The rulers of the world “**committed fornication and lived deliciously with her.**” Meaning, the rulers of the world fully participated in Babylon’s corruption of political compromise, economic greed, moral corruption, and dependence on the system.

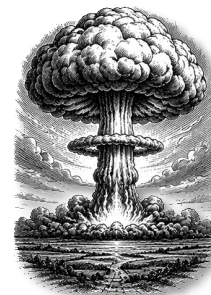
These leaders “**shall bewail her, and lament for her.**” However, their grief is not repentance—it is loss. They mourn because the system that enriched and empowered them is gone.

The language strongly suggests visible destruction, because “**they shall see the smoke of her burning.**” The kings literally witness the devastation of Babylon as smoke rises from the judgment. Because of this, they are “**standing afar off**” out of fear. They understand that what destroyed Babylon could destroy them as well. They are in “**for fear of her torment**” because the destruction is so catastrophic that even powerful world leaders are horrified. The judgment is unlike anything humanity has seen before. Their cries of “**alas, alas**” are cries of despair and shock. The repetition emphasizes emotional devastation and helplessness.



The phrase, “**in one hour is thy judgment come,**” emphasizes the suddenness. The collapse is rapid and decisive. What took centuries to build is destroyed almost instantly.

The fact that they "stand afar off" due to "fear of her torment" has led some to wonder if this destruction involves something like a nuclear event or a high-tech disaster that makes the area too dangerous to enter. While the Bible doesn't say that specifically, there are numerous clues in the Old Testament that suggest modern technology was used. Despite this, the onlookers are clearly scared that whatever is destroying Babylon might get them, too.



**Echoes of Ancient Babylon:** Ancient Babylon also fell suddenly in a single night, while its leaders believed they were secure. This happened in 539 B.C. It had long ceased to be a world power by the time John wrote the Book of Revelation. Since no such Babylon existed in John’s day, the reference must point to a future entity that reflects the same rebellious character, brought to final judgment at the end of the age, following a similar but amplified pattern (Dan 5:1–31).



**Rev. 18:11, 12]** *And the **merchants** of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 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,*



**Rev. 18:13, 14]** *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. 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.*

2



The second group to weep over Babylon's collapse is the **"merchants of the earth."** Unlike the kings, who mourn the loss of power, these businessmen mourn because their "cash cow" has died. They aren't sad for the people; they are sad for their bank accounts.

The global marketplace has collapsed and **"no man buyeth their merchandise anymore."** The economic engine of the end-times Babylonian system has suddenly stopped functioning. Supply chains, trade systems, and commerce break down completely.

**The Long List of Merchandise:** The detailed inventory is important. God intentionally lists luxury goods, precious materials, and expensive commodities to emphasize the scale of Babylon's commercial empire. Babylon is an empire **built on luxury.** The list includes:

- Gold and silver
- Precious stones and pearls
- Fine fabrics
- Exotic wood and ivory
- Perfumes and spices
- Wine and oil



This is a picture of excessive luxury and elite consumption. Babylon taught the world to pursue material prosperity as life's highest goal.

**Sadly, commerce becomes idolatry.** Wealth itself becomes a form of worship. Babylon teaches the world that society measures success by:

- Possessions
- Status
- Luxury
- Consumption

**Bottom Line: The Babylonian system conditions mankind to depend on material abundance rather than on God.**

One of the darkest statements in the chapter is that Babylon trades in the **"slaves, and souls of men"**. Human beings become commodities. The system profits from human trafficking, exploitation, economic bondage, and dehumanization. Babylon treats people as products to be bought, sold, and consumed.

**The Deeper Meaning of Economic Slavery:** Beyond literal slavery, Babylon creates systems of dependence where people become trapped by debt, materialism, consumerism, and economic control. The system owns people spiritually, emotionally, and financially. The system produces **"the fruits that thy soul lusted after,"** meaning that Babylon trained the world to crave excess. The desires of the flesh became the driving force of civilization (1 John 2:16).



Today, human trafficking is at an all-time high worldwide, and many governments and organizations grow rich from it. This chapter warns that any system that profits from the exploitation of people is squarely in God's crosshairs.



However, **what looked permanent disappears in an instant. God says they "departed from thee." Everything Babylon gloried in vanishes suddenly:** luxury, wealth, pleasure, beauty, and prosperity. **"Thou Shalt Find Them No More at All."** The destruction is final. Babylon's commercial empire will never recover or return.



**Think** of this as the ultimate "Stock Market Crash." Imagine the world's most expensive brands and largest corporations suddenly having zero customers and no way to move their goods. All that wealth, built on the backs of "the souls of men," vanishes in an hour.



**Rev. 18:15, 16]** *The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 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!*

The collapse of Babylon sends shockwaves across the entire world economy. Merchants stand at a distance in fear. The picture is clear: the entire global system was interconnected through Babylon. When Babylon falls, the world economy collapses with it.



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

3



**Rev. 18:19]** *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.*



As the smoke continues to rise, we see the third and final group of mourners. These are the "shipmasters"—the people who controlled the global supply chain. The text names shipmasters, sailors, and maritime traders. This shows Babylon's influence reached across global trade routes and international commerce. They join the kings and merchants in a funeral song for the city that made them all rich.

**Standing Afar Off (Again):** Like the kings, the merchants and those who trade by sea "stand afar off" because they are terrified by the city's "torment". Again, their "**weeping and wailing**" is not repentance—it is grief over lost wealth and opportunity. The system that made them rich is gone forever. "**They cast dust on their heads**" is an ancient expression of extreme grief and mourning. The reaction is emotional, desperate, and hopeless.



**Why** did the Holy Spirit single out **kings, merchants, and shipmasters**? Many scholars believe this represents a "**common market**" or a global economic pact between governments that eventually feeds into the Antichrist's "Beast system". It is a picture of a world so interconnected by trade that when one "great city" falls, the whole world feels the shockwave.

According to the language in vs. 18, we clearly have a great city in view that represents the world system. Babylon appeared unique and unmatched, and the world saw her as irreplaceable, indestructible, and essential to global prosperity. Her destruction feels unimaginable to those dependent upon her.



**Rev. 18:20]** *Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

For the first time in this chapter, the focus shifts away from earth and upward toward Heaven. The kings, merchants, and shipmasters are weeping—but Heaven is told to rejoice. Heaven is commanded to celebrate Babylon's fall. This is one of the strongest calls to rejoice in the entire Book of Revelation.



The call specifically includes **"Ye Holy Apostles and Prophets,"** or those who faithfully proclaimed God's truth and suffered for it, such as prophets, apostles, martyrs, and persecuted believers that the Babylonian system opposed and persecuted throughout history (Matt 23:34–35).

It might feel strange to "rejoice" over destruction, but think of it like the liberation of a city from a brutal dictator. The joy isn't in the fire itself; it's in the fact that the "bully" who has hurt, lied to, and murdered people for centuries can never do it again.



Verse 21 highlights that God's memory is long. While the world may have forgotten the "apostles and prophets" killed ages ago, God has kept a perfect record. This judgment proves that no act of faithfulness is ever forgotten, and no act of evil goes unpunished forever. The Babylonian system began in Genesis 10 and has continued uninterrupted in one form or another to the present day. But one day it will suddenly "sink," never to return.



**Rev. 18:21]** *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.*



**Rev. 18:22]** *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;*



A mighty angel now performs a powerful object lesson. He lifts a massive millstone and hurls it into the sea. The symbolism is unmistakable: Babylon will sink suddenly, violently, and permanently—never to rise again. This action is an echo of Jesus' words in Matthew 18:6, where He indicates the punishment for those who cause innocent believers to stumble is worse than having a "millstone *hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*" The figure of speech suggests a violent and irreversible death.

The image represents complete destruction, where Babylon is destroyed by God Himself. Once a giant stone disappears into the sea, it does not come back. Babylon's fall is irreversible (Jer 51:63–64). This scene closely mirrors Jeremiah's prophecy against ancient Babylon, in which a stone was tied to a scroll and cast into the Euphrates River to symbolize Babylon's sinking forever. Revelation now shows the final and ultimate fulfillment of that imagery.

**The Sounds of Civilization Cease.** Verse 22 describes the silence after Babylon falls:

- Music stops - Entertainment and celebration vanish.
- Craftsmanship stops - Commerce, production, and skilled labor all come to an end.
- Industry stops – The mighty infrastructure of manufacturing stops.
- Daily labor stops - Even the most basic rhythms of life are gone.

Babylon, once buzzing with life, falls completely silent. (Rev 18:22)

**A Picture of Total Desolation** - The chapter is intentionally comprehensive:

- ✓ Political collapse
- ✓ Economic collapse
- ✓ Cultural collapse
- ✓ Social collapse

} Babylon goes from the center of world civilization to absolute emptiness.



**Rev. 18:23]** *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.*



**Rev. 18:24]** *And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

The system that once dazzled the world is left spiritually dark and completely silent. Weddings represent life, joy, family, and future generations, so **“the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more,”** so their absence means Babylon’s civilization has come to a complete end. The normal rhythms of human life cease entirely (Jer 25:10).

God gives three final reasons for this judgment:

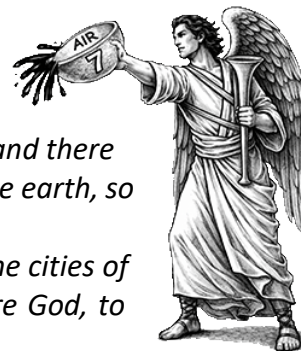
- ① **The Power of the Merchants:** First, the merchants were the "great men of the earth," using their massive wealth to buy positions of power, prominence, and influence over others.
- ② **Deception by Sorcery:** Second, all nations were deceived by her "sorceries". The Greek word used here is *pharmakeia*, from which we derive words such as pharmacy and pharmaceutical. In Scripture, the term refers to occult practices, mind-altering substances, spiritual deception, and manipulation (Gal 5:20). The idea is broader than medicine itself. It implies that Babylon deceives the nations through occult influence, spiritual corruption, psychological manipulation, addictive systems, false promises, and illusions. In short, the world becomes spiritually sedated and deceived through all these means.
- ③ **The Final Charge—Murder:** The third and most serious reason for judgment is found in her streets: the "blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth". Babylon is held responsible for the violent slaughter of God's people **throughout the ages.**



The connection to *pharmakeia* is fascinating in our modern world. Today, human trafficking and illegal drug trades are at an all-time high, and many organizations grow rich from them. The Bible says that in the end, this occultic, drug-influenced "spell" over the nations will be broken by the direct judgment of God.

**Timeline Perspective:** To get a feel for the timeline surrounding the fall of Babylon, we look back at Chapter 16, verses 17-21. There, the Angel pours out the seventh and last bowl judgment, which occurs right before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the battle of Armageddon.

- ✓ **Rev. 16:17** *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done."*
- ✓ **Rev. 16:18** *And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, [and] so great.*
- ✓ **Rev. 16:19** *And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*
- ✓ **Rev. 16:20** *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*
- ✓ **Rev. 16:21** *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*



We must remember that events in the Tribulation are layered, and although they move toward the return of Christ, not all follow a straight line. A good pattern is this:

**Judgment → Zoom out → Explain players → Zoom back in**

Chapters 7, 10, 11:1–14, 12, 13, 14, 17, and 18 do **not** advance the timeline. These chapters pause to explain who's involved and why it matters. When the end-times Babylon the Great falls, the cities of the gentile nations fall as well (v.16:19). This is one reason we know it is different from the destruction of ancient Babylon: the ENTIRE system is collapsing.

As we move from the world-wide religious system of Chapter 17 and the economic and political empire of "Babylon the Great" in Chapter 18, which has global trade, vast wealth, international influence, and a sudden, catastrophic fall that impacts the entire world, we see that this does not read like the slow decline of an ancient desert city, but like the collapse of a dominant, interconnected system at the center of global life. That opens the door to an intriguing question: who exactly is this Babylon the Great? Over the next two lessons, we will take a brief excursion to examine the biblical clues—setting aside assumptions—to see how Scripture portrays a future entity of immense reach and influence. Is it tied to a modern nation such as the United States, Rome, or something else entirely? We'll look at the verses and see where it leads.

**Next Lesson:** Lesson 17 - Addendum – Is the United States the End-Times Babylon the Great (Part 1)? We will be drawing from Isaiah Chapters 13 & 14, Jeremiah Chapters 50 & 51 and some others

**Upcoming Lesson(s):**

- **Lesson 17 - Addendum** – Is the United States the End-Times Babylon the Great (Part 1)
- **Lesson 18 - Addendum** – Is the United States the End-Times Babylon the Great (Part 2)
- **Lesson 19** – Rev. 19: The Return of the King
- **Lesson 20** – Rev. 20: The Millennium
- **Lesson 21** – Rev. 21-22: Eternity

Ancient Babylon vs Future Babylon the Great		
Category	Ancient Babylon (539 B.C.)	Future Babylon the Great (Rev 17–18)
<b>Nature</b>	The literal city and empire in Mesopotamia	Global system (religious, economic, political), likely centered in a dominant hub
<b>Timing</b>	Single historical event (539 B.C.)	End-times climax of divine judgment
<b>How it Fell</b>	Conquered by Cyrus the Great. It became Alexander's capital.	Two-stage: destroyed by the beast (Rev 17:16) and then by God (Rev 18:8, 21)
<b>Speed of Fall</b>	Sudden takeover, but the city was preserved	Instant, catastrophic destruction, in one hour, like Sodom and Gomorrah.
<b>Scope</b>	The fall was a regional political shift.	The fall has a global impact, affecting leaders, merchants, and economies.
<b>Economic Role</b>	Major regional trade center	The central hub of global commerce, entertainment, and the luxury economy.
<b>Religious Role</b>	The starting point and center of pagan idolatry	Source of global religious deception (“mother of harlots” – Rev 17:5)
<b>Method of Destruction</b>	Military conquest with minimal structural ruin.	Fire, collapse, and total devastation. “Never to be inhabited.”
<b>Aftermath</b>	Continued existence with gradual decline	Permanent destruction — never rises again (Rev 18:21–23)
<b>Biblical Role</b>	Historical fulfillment of Pagan Idolatry	Final culmination of man’s rebellion against God

## REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

H O T O I L R E W O P O I N T S	AGREE	KINGS
S E R V E S A D R S Q U E N D G	ANGELS	MARVEL
E N I V E S E E N S L V R E I N	ARRAYED	MOTHER
L A R G C I C Y A L E E C P S I	ASCEND	PEARLS
F A C E H E N A M S I K G A L K	BEAST	PEOPLES
M I N T I T A R O V E R S N Y E	BLOOD	POWER
S D I V S O H R W D I V E R A E	CALLED	PURPLE
A G E R S A B A N E K N U R D R	CHOSEN	RECEIVE
W S E L P O E P S S R E T A W G	COLOUR	SAINTS
E C O L V I N B T R O B I N N A	DECKED	SAWEST
S P A I L E E R O B U H I E R S	DRUNKEN	SEVEN
T P A L S E E P L O T O T I L T	DWELL	SPIRIT
P L I O L H W O R R Y T L R I N	EARTH	VIALS
S O H R T E O D A Y I B A O L I	EIGHTH	WATERS
A C E O I D D E H R E E D Y C A	FLESH	WOMAN
C A M E S T A Y W I P E R S I S	HARLOTS	WRITTEN

REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

R S C A R L E T S L U F E T A H	ANOTHER	PEARLS
M E R L E V U M H A V I N G Y D	BEWAIL	PLAGUES
A B A C G F E E A X E D E L H E	BURNED	PURPLE
R D E C N M A S L N K L R J L V	BURNING	REACHED
B R R O H V R Q S P N E B P I I	DEVILS	REWARD
L A A S E E T S U E T E R U V L	DOUBLE	SAYING
E W P N W X D B L T L U R Y O S	FALLEN	SCARLET
E E S O R R O W U R P S C A Z D	FAMINE	SILVER
F R A G I K L R M R A G B D T S	FILLED	SORROW
T H Y I N E E E S B N E D B N E	HATEFUL	SPARE
N N I H J H O I N O U E P E E U	HAVING	STONE
E P N S T Q L R R I L R D W M G	HEAVEN	STRONG
M S G O T V T T U L M V N A A A	LAMENT	THYINE
R A N B E O S Z I Y X A W I L L	MANNER	TORMENT
O A C R D E N F G I H F F L N P	MARBLE	UTTERLY
T F A L L E N E S N O I T A N G	NATIONS	VESSELS