

Revelation Chapter 18

Zechariah 5:5-11 “⁵Then 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. ⁶And 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. ⁷And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. ⁸And 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. ⁹Then 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. ¹⁰Then said I to the angel that talked with me, whither do these bear the ephah? ¹¹And 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.”

1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

- Last week in chapter 17 we saw God’s judgment upon the false religious system that originated in Babylon and spread through the whole world. We realize that it wasn’t so much the literal city of Babylon that was being dealt with; it is used as a symbol for the false religious system, which is also identified with Rome, and the Catholic Church.
- Here in this chapter we see God’s judgment upon another evil. Just as false religions have destroyed so many lives – many people have had their lives ruined and destroyed by commercialism. Today many of us and our parents are slaves to that commercialism that was also started in Babylon, symbolic of the commercial center of the world.
- TV, movies, various kinds of advertising wet or appetites for all kinds of things that we can purchase, or some of the elusive things we can never have but always strive for.
- How many toys, how many boxes of cereal have been sold by commercials during Saturday morning cartoons? (Cabbage patch dolls / tickle me Elmo)
- Football, beer, big trucks, and beautiful women, guys with big biceps and hard bellies.
- How many of you have received free credit card offers? [Did is hiss when you opened the envelope?](#) How many families are hopelessly in debt, both parents working to make ends meet, slaves to Citibank Visa, they don’t call it “[Master](#)”- [Card](#) for nothing.
- This is all the opposite of God intended for us:

- Deep down in the heart of man there is a thirst for God; God is the one who put it there.

Jesus said:

John 7:37 “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink”.

- We’re not talking about a physical thirst, we’re not talking about an emotional desire, we’re talking about a thirst and intense desire in a man’s spirit for God.

John 4:13-14 ¹³Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

- That’s what Jesus said, but the world, Babylon, Madison Avenue have said, here, drink this, this will make you feel good. Want some more? Keep drinking...
- The problem is that we cannot fill a spiritual need / thirst with a physical, or even an emotional thing. Hence it never ends.
- Kind of like that feeling you have after walking out of a good movie back to reality.

V: 1 “After these things”, back to a chronological order of events.

- “I saw”, eyewitness testimony.

V: 2 “Babylon is fallen is fallen” – is there an echo?

- No, two distinct Babylons are falling.
- “The hold” & “a cage”: both of these describe prison like containers, for foul spirits, unclean and hateful birds.
- **“Expositional constancy”** (Scriptural rule of interpretation) – something used in an analogous way is always the same thing. Birds = emissaries of Satan, leprosy = sin. It is always used the same way, it isn’t good one time then used to be bad another. It’s always used the same way.

Matthew 13:4, 19, 31-32 Parables of the 4 soils, parable of the mustard seed.

Matthew 13:4 “And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:”

Matthew 13:19 “When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”

Matthew 13:31-32 “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”

2 Peter 2:19 “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

V: 3 “**All**” nations:

Romans 3:10, 23 “¹⁰As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:”;
“²³For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

- The kings of the earth have committed fornication: Worshipped false gods.

Revelation 14:8 “... Babylon is fallen is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Revelation 17:2 “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

- Waxed rich:

James 5:1-3 “¹Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ²Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ³Your 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.”

Psalms 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

- [Lucent enterprises located at 666 Wall Street, New York, New York.](#) (2 Babylons?)

V: 4

Jeremiah 51:45 “My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD.”

Genesis 19 “Righteous Lot” taken out of Sodom.

Exodus 12 Passover – God leads the children of Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

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

Deuteronomy 4:30-31 “³⁰When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; ³¹(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.”

Galatians 1:4 “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:”

- Be not partakers of her plagues: Our Father doesn't want us to be harmed.

Ezekiel 33:11 “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

1 Timothy 2:3-4 “³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

- This is a practical aspect of cause and effect; if you do these things – this is what will happen.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, ⁸For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 5 Her sins have reached up to Heaven: (That's piled pretty high!)

Genesis 18:21 “I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.”

- God remembers her iniquities: because they are un-confessed.

1 John 1:8-9 ⁸“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

V: 6 “Reward her”:

Matthew 16:27 “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.”

Obadiah 15 “For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.”

Psalms 137 “By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. Remember, O LORD, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, raze it, raze it, even to the foundation thereof. O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.”

Jeremiah 50:15 “Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.”

- Give her double:

Exodus 22:4, 7, 9. “If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double.”

22:7 “If a man shall deliver unto his neighbor money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, let him pay double.”

22:9 “For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double unto his neighbour.”

Isaiah 40:2 “Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.”

V: 7 “*She has glorified herself*”

Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

Zephaniah 2:15 “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.”

- I will see no sorrow: (I am not accountable to anyone)

Matthew 24:37-38 ³⁷But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,”

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Isaiah 47:8-11 ⁸Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: ⁹But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. ¹⁰For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, none seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. ¹¹Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.”

V: 8 “Therefore” = because of that...

- Plagues, death, mourning, famine, burned with fire!

Hebrews 12: 29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

- For strong is the Lord who judges her:

Matches Revelation:

Jeremiah 50:34-40 ³⁴Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon. ³⁵A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men. ³⁶A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed. ³⁷A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed. ³⁸A drought is upon her

waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols. ³⁹Therefore 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 forever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. ⁴⁰As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour cities thereof, saith the LORD; so shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein.”

V: 9 “With her”, when we talk about being equally yoked, they appear to have been.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

- The world weeps over Babylon:

Jeremiah 50:46 “At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations.”

V: 10 “Alas” = woe

- What city will it be? [Whatever the commercial center is at the time that the Anti-Christ is in power.](#) Right now it changes according to economic changes.
- Notice it says this destruction comes quickly and that we should stand afar off: maybe they get nuked? The fear of radiation would cause many to stand afar off.

V: 11 Weeping & mourning, no more buying and selling.

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

1 John 2:15-16 ¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

V: 12 Starts a list of 28 (4 X 7) items that men have lusted after.

Matthew 6:19-21 “¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

V: 13 Revelation Ch. 6 – mourning and famine, food shortages, but plenty of wine.

- Horses and chariots: weapons of war.

Psalm 20:7 “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”

- “Slaves” = bodies, captives.
- “Souls of men” just like Nimrod.

Genesis 10:9 “He was a mighty hunter against the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter against the LORD.”

V: 14 The fruits that your soul lusted after:

Genesis 13:10 “And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.”

Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way which seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Luke 16:19-25 “¹⁹There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”

Romans 2:11 “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

- No more at all – God is going to clean the slate.

V: 15 No one will stand with her, Babylon, they will distance themselves – all is lost.

V: 16 King Tut's tomb is a tribute to all the things that you can have, none of which you can take with you, and or how much good it will do you when you die.

Zephaniah 1:18 “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

- Craig Quam / Bible college – some day this will all be yours; it already is!

Paul writing to the Corinthians about Christian behavior said:

2 Corinthians 2:6 “... As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

V: 17 “*One hour*” – a short time.

Jesus tells a story about a guy who prospers and wants to build bigger barns to keep all his goods and says that....

Luke 12:20-21 “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

- It all came to nothing!

Matthew 16:26-27 “¹⁶For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For 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.”

V: 18 The OT prophets speak with incredible accuracy.

Ezekiel 27:29-36 “²⁹And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land; ³⁰and shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes: ³¹and they shall make themselves utterly bald for thee, and gird them with sackcloth, and they shall weep for thee with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing. ³²And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, what city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea? ³³When thy wares went forth out of the seas, thou filledst many people; thou didst enrich the kings of the earth with the multitude of thy riches and of thy merchandise. ³⁴In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall. ³⁵All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance. ³⁶The

merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more.”

V: 19 Three different groups are in mourning because of Babylon’s destruction.

1. V: 3 Nations / kings
2. V: 11 Merchants of the Earth
3. V: 17 Ships & sailors, those that trade – transport.

V: 20 Change of perspective: from Earthly to Heavenly.

- While those on the Earth mourn, those in Heaven are instructed to rejoice.
- Why? God has done what He said He would do, He has avenged, made things right.

Deuteronomy 32:35 “To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”

V: 21 “*Great millstone*” – again, God keeping His word!

Matthew 18:6 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

- Jewish culture, there was nothing more terrifying than being drowned in the sea / ocean.
- Babylon will be dealt with forcefully, with great violence:

Jeremiah 51:64 “And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her...”

V: 22-23 No more (8x’s) activity / life.

- For by thy sorceries / pharmakeia / witchcraft; all nations were deceived.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 “¹⁰And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹²That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

V: 24 “In her was found the blood of the prophets and the saints.”

Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

- Was there any repentance indicated in any of these verses on the part of Babylon?

Psalm 73 read the entire Psalm.

- We each need to deal with the commercial Babylon in each of our own lives.

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Philippians 4:11 “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”