

Revelation Chapter 18

Bible verses are from the New American Standard Bible and are highlighted in blue and italics.

We previously quoted Jeremiah 33:3

"Call to me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things that you do now know."

We quoted Daniel 2:28

"There is a God in Heaven who reveals mysteries."

Isaiah 33:6 says

"The Lord is a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is His treasure."

The fear of the Lord opens the door to His gifts of salvation and wisdom and knowledge. The God in Heaven who shows us great and mighty things and who reveals mysteries is showing us elements of what Scripture calls "The mystery of iniquity", and in particular He is showing the great harlot, mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth" – The real mother earth.

The Lord gives this revelation only to those who fear him and it is treasure from Him.

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of prophecy and heeds the things which are written in it."(Rev 1:3).

Previously we read scriptures in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 that reveal that Lucifer's driving obsession and determination is threefold:

1. To have a throne of rulership above all thrones, in Heaven or on earth.
"I will set my throne above the stars of God."
2. To be worshiped as a God.
"I will be like the most High."
3. He loves riches/wealth and is determined to have those things luxury/splendor.

Lucifer's activity in this world and in Heavenly realms as well, is and always has been, centered on these three things.

Lucifer has had a limited measure of success from time to time through history in establishing these things for himself in this world.

He had limited success at the Tower of Babel/Babylon, from which "Mystery Babylon" gets its name. We studied "Mystery Babylon" previously in chapter 17 and will study it further now in chapter 18. Lucifer has had some success in the 6 empires of history that we've talked about. His ultimate success is now permitted by God in the 7th empire in this great world empire of the last days.

Seven empires of history are energized by one spirit, the spirit of the anti-christ operating across history. That's why we see the single beast from the abyss in chapter 13, with 7 heads.

In this last empire, yet to come, Lucifer successfully establishes his man the anti-christ, as a ruler of the world. It's a counterfeit of Christ as ruler during his millennial reign. So, Lucifer

is successful with one of his 3 obsessions; riches and wealth. He'll create a world economic system to support this empire and it will be a successful engine of wealthy, at least until God judges it. We'll see that economy and judgment in chapter 18.

That economy not only supports the political empire of the last days, it also supports Lucifer's 3rd obsession – to be worshiped as God. That's where this woman, this great harlot we saw in chapter 17 comes in.

In scripture, any false religion is likened to a harlot. To go after a false religion is likened to going in unto a harlot.

In chapters 17 and 18 our Father, the God in Heaven who reveals mysteries, shows us a great and mighty thing. He shows us "Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earthy."

This harlot also operates across history. She operates in all the 7 empires we've spoken of. Their rulers were considered gods; Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. You remember how Pharaoh's magicians could reproduce some of the miracles God wrought through Moses, the same spirit that energized Pharaoh's empire, energized all 7 empires.

This woman of Revelation chapters 17 & 18 is the great harlot and the mother of harlots because she is the one who gives birth to all the lesser harlot religions through time including that of Pharaoh's empire; lesser harlots like Paganism, Hinduism, Apostate Christianity, etc.

This harlot of Revelations 17 & 18 is the final and most successful manifestation of Lucifer's enterprise across history to establish worship of himself.

This religious system of the last days, symbolized by this harlot woman is clothed in purple (Rev 17:4) and scarlet (luxury and splendor).

Lucifer loves wealth/riches/luxury/splendor.

This woman is clothed [the Greek word mean to be "decked out"] kingly luxurious regalia. Decked out with God, precious stones, pearls (Rev. 17:4)

Wealth/Splendor/Luxury/Royalty – all lusted for by Lucifer, as we read in Ezekiel.

"She had in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immortality." (Rev. 17:4)

Murderous and blasphemous activities and trappings of Lucifer's religion based not on God; giving birth to idolatrous and false religions of this present evil age.

According to Revelations 17 & 18, this harlot is representative of a particular city. "The great city" where the last days of a religious enterprise of Satan has its capital.

It's either the city of Rome or it's literally the city of Babylon in Iraq. That would require Babylon to be rebuilt and you would look for the nation of Iraq to take on a major role in the world economically and religiously.

Verse 16 says, amazingly that the political enterprise of Satan in the last days will hate the religious.

"And the ten horns [kings] which you saw, and the beast, these will the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire."

Extreme vengeance and hostility.

Verse 1

1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

After these things, after the vision John saw in chapter 17, he is shown this follow-on vision recorded in chapter 18. The 2 visions are strongly related.

Another angel – (not the one who showed him the vision of chapter 17) had been one of the 7 angels who poured out. One of the 7 golden bowl judgments of God in chapters 15 & 16.

Having great authority

The 4 living ones – the 4 cherubim – John saw in the Throne room of God in chapter 4 have great authority over God's creation, especially over the animate creation. They have deep penetrating insight into it and never cease to praise God because of what they observe in God's creation. Their authority is seen in action in chapter 6 as they give irresistible command to each of the 4 demonic horsemen of the Apocalypse, to simply "COME!" – One word command.

Each of the letters to the 7 churches of Asia in Revelations 2 & 3 were addressed – not to the pastors of the churches, but to the angels with authority over them, as we discussed when we studied these chapters.

Angels have differing levels of rank and authority, so do fallen angels. This angel is so glorious; the whole earth is illuminated by his glory.

Anti-christ and this harlot have world-wide authority but only as perceivable by the physical senses, and only as God with the true authority ordains. God's authority is spiritually perceived and what He ordains is what gets carried out. This angel has great authority invested in him by God and with it he pronounces God's judgment on this harlot city in verse 2.

Verse 2

*2 "With a mighty voice he shouted:
"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
She has become a home for demons
and a haunt for every evil^[a] spirit,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird."*

Fallen, Fallen

Twice – once for the religious aspect of this harlot and once for the material/economic. Final judgment in Lucifer's political kingdom will not occur until chapter 19.

Hateful Bird

Like a carrion eating vulture; the spiritually dead who live in the anti-christ's kingdom have been "devoured" so to speak by the unclean, demonic spirits of Babylon the great.

Scripture says in general that anyone at anytime, not born-again is dead while they live.

Isaiah chapter 21 is a poem and a prophecy about the ancient empire of Babylon, which fell in 539 B.C. Isaiah, wrote the prophecy about 700 B.C. and used the same words that this angel is now using. Isaiah 21:9 says "Fallen, fallen is Babylon." It's the same evil spiritual engine that drives both ancient Babylon and future Babylon and the same judgment is pronounced and prophesied upon both.

Isaiah 13 & 47, Jeremiah 50 & 51 prophecy the same judgment on both ancient and future Babylon.

Isaiah 13:19-22

19"And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;

Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there,

Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

21 But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.

22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers

And jackals in their luxurious palaces.

Her fateful time also will soon come

And her days will not be prolonged.

Verse 3

3"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

Wine of Passion of Immortality

Intoxicating passion of sexual immortality linked to seductive false religion. All the nations are so seduced and will drink of that wine. Give heed to seducing spirits/doctrines devils/ head teacher/itching ears/won't endure sound doctrine.

Merchants of the Earth

A merchant of the ancient world was not like a merchant at the mall. You don't go to their store. A merchant of the ancient world would go on a journey to conduct business. These rich merchants were poor men because their life was just a journey to conduct business. The rich man is the one who "*sets his hope fully on the grace to be brought to him at the Revelation of Jesus Christ.*" (1 Peter 1:13)

Wealth of her Sensuality

The Greek words indicate an insolent luxury, self indulgence with arrogance, exuberant exercise of strength with pride. Great wealth with pride centered on satisfaction of the senses. It's self-centeredness that equates to self-deification.

Verse 4

4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;

Like Abraham was called out of UR of the Chaldees, historians today call ancient Chaldea by the name Babylon.

Like the Lord calls in 2 Corinthians 6:17

*17 "COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord.
"AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;
And I will welcome you.*

*18 And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"
Says the Lord Almighty."*

God's people are called upon to leave the enticements of the self-sufficiency and reliance on wealth. There will be a time when the work is comfortable in it's reliance on wealth and self-sufficiency and is blasphemous toward God.

Verse 5

5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

At the tower of Babel, the first appearance of this Babylon spirit, mankind united to build a tower whose top would reach into Heaven.

No, this ultimate fulfillment of that Babylon has built a tower of sins "piled up as high as Heaven."

Jeremiah 51:6-10

*6 Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And each of you save his life!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
For this is the LORD'S time of vengeance;
He is going to render recompense to her.*
*7 Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD,
Intoxicating all the earth
The nations have drunk of her wine;
Therefore the nations are going mad.*
*8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken;
Wail over her!
Bring balm for her pain;
Perhaps she may be healed.*
*9 We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed;
Forsake her and let us each go to his own country,
For her judgment has reached to heaven
And towers up to the very skies.*
*10 The LORD has brought about our vindication;
Come and let us recount in Zion
The work of the LORD our God!*

Verses 6-7

6"Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.

7"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'

Isaiah 47:1-5

- 1** "Come down and sit in the dust,
 O virgin daughter of Babylon;
 Sit on the ground without a throne,
 O daughter of the Chaldeans!
 For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.
- 2** "Take the millstones and grind meal
 Remove your veil, strip off the skirt,
 Uncover the leg, cross the rivers.
- 3** "Your nakedness will be uncovered,
 Your shame also will be exposed;
 I will take vengeance and will not spare a man."
- 4** "Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name,
 The Holy One of Israel.
- 5** "Sit silently, and go into darkness,
 O daughter of the Chaldeans,
 For you will no longer be called
 The queen of kingdoms.
- 8** "Now, then, hear this, you ^(T)sensual one,
 Who ^(U)dwells securely,
 Who says in your heart,
 '^(V)I am, and there is no one besides me
 I will ^(W)not sit as a widow,
 Nor know loss of children.'
- 9** "But these ^(X)two things will come on you ^(Y)suddenly in one day:
 Loss of children and widowhood
 They will come on you in full measure
 In spite of your many ^(Z)sorceries,
 In spite of the great power of your spells.

Sorcery – getting in touch with the spirit world by means of drugs and meditation.
 Spells – Using just the right words in the right way in just the right order to command spirits to so your will.

- 10** "You felt secure in your wickedness and said,
 'No one sees me,'
 Your wisdom and your knowledge, they have deluded you;
 For you have said in your heart,
 I am, and there is no one besides me.'
- 11** "But evil will come on you
 Which you will not know how to charm away;
 And disaster will fall on you
 For which you cannot atone;
 And destruction about which you do not know
 Will come on you suddenly.
- 12** "Stand fast now in your spells
 And in your many sorceries
 With which you have labored from your youth;
 Perhaps you will be able to profit,
 Perhaps you may cause trembling.
- 13** "You are wearied with your many counsels;
 Let now the astrologers,

*Those who prophesy by the stars,
 Those who predict by the new moons,
 Stand up and save you from what will come upon you.*

14 *"Behold, they have become like stubble,
 Fire burns them;
 They cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame;
 There will be no coal to warm by
 Nor a fire to sit before!*

15 *"So have those become to you with whom you have labored,
 Who have trafficked with you from your youth;
 Each has wandered in his own way;
 There is none to save you.*

These things will characterize the religion of the last days. That religion will have much in common with the occult. There is a reason God told the children of Israel *"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."* (Exodus 22:18) *"Allow a sorceress to live." I am, and there is no one besides me.*" (Isaiah 47:10)

No! "I AM" is God's name.
*"I AM the Lord, and there is no other;
 besides Me there is no God."* (Isaiah 45:5)

"...there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these." (Isaiah 45:6-7)

8 *"Remember this, and be assured;
 Recall it to mind, you transgressors.*

9 *"Remember the former things long past,
 For I am God, and there is no other;
 I am God, and there is no one like Me,*

10 *"Declaring the end from the beginning,
 And from ancient times things which have not been done,
 Saying, 'My purpose will be established,
 And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; (Isaiah 46:8-10)*

"...I am the Lord and there is none else." (Isaiah 45:18)

Jesus said that in the last days, many will come in my name, saying "I am."

At the end of Isaiah 47, The Lord's word is written by inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon the prophet Isaiah – prophecy upon both ancient Babylon of Isaiah's and Daniel's day and upon this Babylon yet in our future. The same evil spirit energizes both mystery Babylon, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

Verse 8

8 *"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.*

Lord God is strong

That's the understatement of the ages. It's not this false religion of Lucifer's that is strong. It's not the anti-christ who is strong.

It's not the anti-holy spirit that is strong from the abyss who energizes all these empires who is strong.

It's not even the great, red dragon, Satan, the anti-God who is strong. The anti-trinity is NOT STRONG.

The Lord who judges mystery Babylon is STRONG.

Verses 9-10

Lament for Babylon

9"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Woe, Woe

Twice – Once this center of Luxury and splendor and wealth that Lucifer loves - burned up in one day like Sodom and Gomorrah. Woe – once for the economic center of wealth.

Twice - This religious center that Lucifer loves, centered upon worship of him – burned up in one day like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lucifer still has his political throne (third obsession) for now. It will be removed too, by Jesus Christ at His 2nd coming. We'll see that in chapter 19.

Verses 11-13

11"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—

12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives."

Virtually everything of great value known in John's day is listed.

Bodies and souls of men among the merchandise is insolent, arrogant self-deification, this love of reliance upon wealth and luxury that engulfs the world, enslaves men and consumes their souls. Like the unclean and hateful vulture of verse 2, consuming the carrion of men who are dead while they live.

Verses 14:21

14"The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

19"And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

20"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

21 Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.

Jeremiah 51: 60-64

60 So Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll the entire calamity which would come upon Babylon, that is, all these words which have been written concerning Babylon.

61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words aloud,

62 and say, 'You, O LORD, have promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual desolation.'

63 "And as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates,

64 and say, 'Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted '"Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Writing about 600 B.C. he himself did not know he was writing not only about the Babylon of his day, but about history-spanning Babylon and about the final appearance of it we're seeing in Revelation 18.

Jeremiah 51:62

Has never occurred to Babylon, in history in fact Saddam Hussein was rebuilding the site of the city of ancient Babylon. This full desolation that Jeremiah writes of won't occur until this judgment of Revelation 18.

Jeremiah 51:63

Just as Jeremiah's prophecy was tied to a stone and thrown into the middle of the Euphrates, so will this strong angel of Revelation 18:21 throw a great stone into the sea, with this prophecy, "so will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence and will not be found any longer."

Verses 22-24

22"And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;

23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

24"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

The 144,000 witnesses killed. The 2 witnesses of Revelation 11 finally killed. People so joyous over it they exchanged gifts like it was Christmas. The image of beast could speak and cause as many as son not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (Rev 13:15) At the 6th trumpet judgment, scripture says "they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts." (Rev. 9:21)

At the 5th seal, scripture says that those who were slain during this period because of the word of God and the testimony that maintained cry out with a loud voice, "How long, O Lord, Holy and true, will you refrain from judging and avenging out blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9, 10)

At the 3rd golden bowl judgment, scripture says, "then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying. 'Righteous are you, who are and who were O Holy One, because you judged these things; for they poured out and the blood of saints and prophets and You have given them blood to drink, they deserve it.'" (Rev. 16:406)

Reading Revelations 18:24 gives the sense that the blood of prophets and saint of all time was found in Babylon, history-spanning Babylon and not just those murdered in this last and most successful eruption of Babylon.

Jesus did say to the hypocritical Pharisees:

Matthew 23:33-36

33" You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

34" Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city,

35 so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

36" Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

All the blood from the 1st martyr of the old testament (Abel) to the last martyr of the Old Testament (Zechariah) required at the hands of these Pharisees who lived at a later date than the Old Testament (400 years later). Because their hearts were in agreement with this spirit of Babylon, the mother of harlots, the hypocritical Pharisees were guilty of all Old

Testament righteous blood. So this last Babylon of Revelations guilty of all righteous blood of all time.

Not all Revelations from the Lord are Sunday school lessons intended to be very basic and heart-warming.

The Lord reveals great and mighty things that we could never know unless the Lord decides to reveal them. The Lord educates like no university ever could.