

## Chapter 18

**Are we captured with this world and its trappings? Have we changed at all now or are we still fighting or sin nature just as we did in the beginning in Genesis?**

Let's look at Lot's choice in led him to near disaster. Read Genesis 13:5-13. - **Where are you pitching tent toward?**

**When the time comes will you be ready? Will your loved ones be ready to drop this world and go?**

Let's read about Lot when that time came. Sodom and Gomorrah Gen 19:12-29.

**Had Lot changed? Did Lot lead his family to always put God first? Will your loved ones hesitate, look back, choose not to go when the angels says it is time?**

### **Top 5 Reasons the Roman Empire Fell - Any of these sound like us today?**

1. Undermine the dignity of the family
2. Higher and Higher Taxes ( Public paid for the Bread)
3. Mad Craze for pleasure
4. Build-up of great armament when the enemy was within
5. Decay of Religion

V1-8 Announcement of the fall

V9-19 Anguish of the World

V 20-24 Anticipation of Joy in Heaven

Judgment on Commercial/Political Babylon

<b>Commercial Babylon</b>	<b>Apostate Church</b>
Kings Loved	Kings Hated
Destroyed by Christ	Destroyed by Kings
Ancient Babylon	Rome (Destroyed) then Jerusalem

***Revelation 18:1-3 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!" She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."***

After these things – Key meaning after the Great Tribulation. Here, we see a high ranking Angel. The angel is speaking in the prophetic past tense again - Prophecy so sure that it is spoken in past tense even though it has yet to occur. **Have you heard of an Angel that the earth was lightened with his glory? Why the reference for the unclean and detestable birds? What do birds typically represent in the bible spiritually?**

Babylon is interpreted here to be the place where the demons of the spirit world and unclean birds will be incarcerated for the Millennium (Isaiah 13:19-22 and Jeremiah 50:38-40).

This is a judgment on Big Business and Government which has an unholy alliance. Merchant – here means those that travel indicating brokers or middlemen not actually manufacturers. **What is the reference to the merchants? Is this something we should watch for today that we don't become a merchant grow rich from societies sins?**

***Revelation 18:4 –8 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “Come out of her, my people, ’so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torment and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.’ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.***

**What does this tell us about believers in that day? Who could these believers be? Do you see a parallel with Sodom and Gomorrah?** There are still some of God's people. This is likely the call to physically get out of Babylon. This could also be the call for the 144,000 to get out before the Judgment – much like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Just as the rewards are given for even a cup of cold water, here we see the evil being repaid in double. God is holy and will not be mocked.

**Do you remember the third seal?** Rev 6:6 “Two pounds of wheat for a day's wages, and six pounds of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!”

**Do the material things of this world blind us to the judgment that will come?**

Prosperity blinded her to Judgment. The world drank the Kool aid and believed the peace of the Antichrist.

***Revelation 18:9-10 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, you mighty city of Babylon! In one hour your doom has come!”***

Death Mourning, & plagues (They will come in fast like 3 horseman). Total Destruction will come upon Babylon. Remember: Isaiah 63 “Lord will tread the Wine Press. This will be the day of Vengeance and it will be Lord's.

**Do you remember the imagery of the cup God filling the cup of wrath? What do you think Babylon trusted in? Do we and the world today trust in some of these same or similar things? Why do you think she is to be consumed by fire?**

Babylon will be Center of World at this point – Stock Market, Fashion, Entertainment, lobbyists and etc. The world which lined its pockets with Babylon and loved it will mourn, wail and grieve for the commercial Babylon. **The Kings and Merchants mourn, but why? Are there any parallels today? Are we in the world mourning over the plummeting of the stock market and the dollar? Where is your treasure? There is where you heart is as well.**

One hour indicates the swiftness. This could be a nuclear bomb, or simply a devastating Judgment from God similar to that as far as the impact.

**18:11-16** *“The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves. “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn and cry out: “Woe! Woe to you, great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!*

These verses indicate the products of an affluent society. All are luxury items in our society we tend to think of many of these as necessities now-Fine toiletries, liquor, spices and meat. Oh, how close we are to these days. Note: When bath tubs were first introduced into mass production doctors were the ones that opposed them saying that bathing more than once a week would shorten life. **Are these items listed necessities or luxuries? How many do you have? What strikes you as odd in this list?**

Even the Bodies and Souls of men are bought and sold. **Is this any different than today? Do you know anyone who the company they work for has them?** We have slavery today here, but it is generally based on greed in our society now.

**Revelation 18:17-19** **In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!’ “Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city like this great city?’ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: ““Woe! Woe to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth. In one hour she has been brought to ruin!’**

**Are you too captured with this world? Will you mourn when it passes?** They mourn the wealth they thought they had - just as Laodicea did in Rev 3:17-18. That day is coming. You will need to decide. **What will it be like that Merchants, sailors and others stand far off, terrified at her torment? In one hour all the great wealth is brought to ruin? In light of the debt crisis and events today can you see how quickly something could happen?**

Sailors and Distribution now mourn as the ripple effect continues. Picture it this way. If Walmart were to cease operation in one hour, think of all the suppliers, customers, vendors, merchants will loaded trucks and warehouses that would be left weeping. The stock prices that would drop and the ripple effects.

Babylon will be like a stone thrown into the sea. There will be a big splash and then in only a moment it will disappear without even a trace.

**Revelation 18:20-24** **“Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you. Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: “With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.**

**Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."**

All the attractions of Babylon will be gone – music, night life, lights, business. This is will grow just as the sorcery will grow. Sorceries" in some translations is translated directly from the Greek as pharmaceuticals. **Why is that word more meaningful to us than the typical witchcraft definition in the NIV?**

The final sin was the murder of God's people for this the cup will be pressed against the lips in a double portion.

## Chapter 19

### Return of Christ

Overview:

- 1-6 Hallelujah! Chorus 4 times
- 7-10 Bride & Marriage of the Lamb
- 11-16 Return of Christ – Lord of Lords – King of Kings
- 17-18 Armageddon
- 19-21 Hell Opens – Great Supper of God (birds) in contrast to the Marriage Supper

This chapter is a bridge from darkness to light – from Great Tribulation to Millennium, and two suppers stand in contrast both on earth.

**Revelation 19:1-3 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants." And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."**

**What is the significance of "After This" or in King James "After these things"? How many references are in the New Testament of Hallelujah?**

This is a division in the same language John originally introduced "After these things" in King James Version. This is the first of four references to Hallelujah in the New Testament. All are contained in this chapter. There are 172 references in the Old Testament and 19 Psalms alone.

**Do you see any contrast in how God's Judgments are viewed here compared to Heaven?**

All of Heaven knows His judgments are true and right. They know much more than we do down here. The apostate church is taken out first to make way for the marriage supper which is here on earth.

**What do you think is the significance/symbolism of her smoke goes up forever and ever?**

**Revelation 19:4-6 The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: "Amen, Hallelujah!" Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!" Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."**