

Revelation Chapter 18 – One-World Economic/Political System Judged

Revelation Chapter 17 depicts the judgment of the demonic worldwide religious system whereas chapter 18 explains the destruction of the ***worldwide political and economic system*** which Satan has organized to control humanity and cause them to turn from submitting to the Living God and instead serving himself.

Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51 – Destruction of Babylon

Isaiah 47 – Lament for Babylon

Vs. 1 – After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated from his glory.

Not the return of Jesus – yet!

Angels pictured throughout Rev. with authority, loud voices, etc: Rev. 5:2, 10:3; 14:15.

This is a new angel not one of the 7 with the Bowl judgments. An angel reserved for the final hour of Babylon's destruction (light and sound energy-great power-whole Earth illuminated). Earth had experienced total darkness under 5th Bowl judgment (16:10) – now the lights are on).

Vs. 2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

Fallen: X's 2 – emphasis (verily, verily), same as in Rev. 14:8.

Vs. 3 For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury.”

symbolism of 'the wine'

Vs.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 any of her plagues;

Gen. 19:12-13 (Lot); Num. 16:26-27 (Korah's rebellion); Isa. 48:20; Matt. 24:15-16 (flee Jerusalem); **2 Cor. 6:14-18** – Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says

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the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Jeremiah 51:6 – “Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her.

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

At the tower of Babel mankind had attempted to reach the heaven (Gen. 11:4, 7) – by the end of the Tribulation they have reached the heavens but not in the manner they had hoped. Nebuchadnezzar attempted the same thing with his stature, empire and influence (Dan. 4:20) but ended up being humbled.

Gen 4:10 – the blood of your brother Abel cries up to me from the ground

Gen 18:20-21 – the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah

Jonah 1:2 – cry out against the sins of Nineveh because their evil has reached my attention

Revelation 6:10 – how long O Lord until you avenge your blood

Vs. 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.

This is the 6th reference to the 'cup of wickedness' with which Babylon as well as all the nations of the Earth have been made drunk (Rev. 14:8; 17:2, 4, 6; 18:3, 6).

Vs. 7 – To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent 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.’

Israel as the wife of Jehovah

Isaiah 47:7-8 – You said, “*I shall be mistress forever*,” so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end. Now ~~therefore hear this~~, *you lover of pleasures*, who sit securely, who say in your heart, “I am, and there is no one besides me; *I shall not sit as a widow* or know the loss of children”:

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

One day/hour: vss. 8, 10, 17, 19

“burned up”: 'hatakaio' – not an ordinary fire. If this is a rebuilt Babylon the building materials would have to be of fire-resistant construction yet they will be utterly consumed by the supernatural fire.

Isaiah 47:9, 11 – These two things shall come to you in *a moment*, in *one day*; the loss of children [remember the "seed" of Satan in Genesis 3:15] and *widowhood* shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments. But evil shall come upon you, which you will not know how to charm away; disaster shall fall upon you, for which you will not be able to atone; and ruin shall come upon you suddenly, of which you know nothing.

Vs.9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of sexual immorality and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and mourn over her when they *see the smoke of her burning*,

Joel 2:30 -- “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and *columns of smoke*. (Kings marching with their armies toward Har-mageddo will see the destruction of the city of Babylon in the distance.

Isaiah 47:14 – Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. No coal for warming oneself is this, no fire to sit before!

Vs.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”: 'ouai' – grief and horror at the sudden fate of the world's newest and most important city.

One day/hour: vss. 8, 10, 17, 19

Vs.11 “And the *merchants* of the earth weep and mourn over her, because *no one buys their cargo any more*—

'merchants' (Gr. 'emporos') – used only in Revelation 18 (4 x's), those who deal in large quantities for the purpose of international trade. (a relationship to the '10 horns'?)

Isaiah 47:15 – Such to you are those with whom you have labored, who have done business with you from your youth; they wander about, each in his own direction; there is *no one to save* you.

Vs.12 cargo of *gold, silver*, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet;

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every kind of citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article made from very valuable wood, bronze, iron, and marble,

Twenty-eight (28) commodities are characterized here (7 x 4). “7” the number of completeness and “4” the number corresponding to the physical Earth.

- 4 kinds of precious metals and jewels
- 4 kinds of valuable cloth and apparel
- 6 kinds of materials used for commercial and industrial applications

Vs.13 cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, and cargo of horses, carriages, *slaves*, and *human lives*.

- 4 types of luxury items, spices, perfumes, ointments
- Oil and the wine (see Rev. 6:6)
- “fine flour” 'semidalis' – used only here in the N.T., the finest grade of wheat.
- “wheat” (Gr. 'sitos') Also refers to corn, so, all manner of agricultural items
- Cattle, sheep, horses: 'ktenos' – livestock & domesticated animals
- “carriages” (Gr. 'rheda' meaning a “four-wheeled wagon for traveling” not a two-wheeled war chariot. (cars???)
- “slaves” (Gr. 'soma', meaning “body”). This is referring to modern-day human trafficking for sex, forced labor, etc.
- “human lives” (souls)

Vs.14 The fruit *you long for* has left you, and all things that were *luxurious and splendid* have passed away from you and people will no longer find them.

1 Tim. 6:6-9 – But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Covetousness: Achan coveted a Babylonian garment (Joshua 7:21, 25) and it led to Israel's defeat at the village of Ai.

Vs.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,

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

Vs.17 for in *one hour* such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and all who make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

One day/hour: vss. 8, 10, 17, 19

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

Vs.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 from her prosperity, for in *one hour* she has been laid waste!’

One day/hour: vss. 8, 10, 17, 19

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

Vs.21 Then a strong angel picked 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 never be found again.

Matthew 18:6; Jer. 51:63-64

Vs.22 And the sound of harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; and no craftsman of any craft will ever be found in you again; and the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again;

Vs.23 and the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of the groom and bride will never be heard in you again; for your merchants were the powerful people of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your witchcraft.

Vs.24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth.”

God has Ordained forms of Government

1) Self-governance:

1 Thess. 4:1, 4: Finally then, brothers and sisters, we request and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received instruction from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel even more, that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

2 Cor. 10:5: *We are* destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Gen. 2:16-17: The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may freely eat; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for on the day that you eat from it you will certainly die.”

The ability to self-govern: Body-soul-spirit; gift of free-will; power of the Holy Spirit at work in you

Family: Christ is head of the husband, husband is head of the wife, parents are to jointly train up their children in the way they should go, children are to obey their parents in the Lord (Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-21; Prov. 22:6)

Church: God has given some Apostles, prophets, teaching pastors, Elders, Deacons (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 14:23, 20:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-19; Acts 6:3)

Civil:

1 Tim. 2:1-3: First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

Titus 3:1-2: Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to slander no one, not to be contentious, to be gentle, showing every consideration for all people.

Romans 13:1-5: Every person is to be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from

the same; for it is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a servant of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for the sake of conscience.

As Christians are we to exercise unlimited submission?

Examples of committed believers defying governmental authority and receiving approval from God for doing so . . .

- Hebrew midwives defying the command of Pharaoh to kill all male Hebrew children (including Moses mother) (Ex. 1:15-21; 2:1-10),
- Moses refusing Pharaoh and siding with the Jews (Hebrews 11:27)
- Queen Esther approaching the king uninvited to intercede for the Jews (Esther 4:10-16)
- Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-Nego refusing to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue (Daniel 3)
- Daniel's refusal to stop praying to Yahweh (Daniel 6)
- Jesus refusing to abide by Jewish Sabbath laws (Matthew 12; John 18:31)
- Apostles refusal to stop preaching the gospel (Acts 5:27-29; 12:1-4; 16:19-24)

God sometimes works in ways we do not understand (Isaiah 55:8-9). As God, He can never act against His own nature nor contradict Himself yet He can and has used evil men and disasters to carry out His eternal plans. God sometimes even allows evil men to rule over “good” people who suffer because of it, yet God promises to care for those who love and serve Him despite godless rule.

Satan's Tools to Tear Down Civic Order/Structure

Critical Theory: Psalm 11:3 – “If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”

Critical theory is a social theory oriented toward critiquing and changing society as a whole. It differs from traditional theory, which focuses only on understanding or explaining society [emancipation from slavery].

Critical theory emerged out of the Marxist tradition and was developed by a group of sociologists at the University of Frankfurt in Germany who referred to themselves as The Frankfurt School (Institute for Social Research in the years 1929–1930).

Over the years, many social scientists and philosophers who rose to prominence after the Frankfurt School have adopted the goals and tenets of critical theory. We can recognize critical theory today in many feminist theories and approaches to conducting social science. It is also

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found in critical race theory, cultural theory, gender, and queer theory, as well as in media theory and media studies. (because thru media you can control the narrative)

Marxist/socialism: destroy nuclear family/home; schools; government; gender roles

BLM: Create division: the issue is never the issue

Social Justice: can't compartmentalize; justice is justice