

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

"THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM"

I. THE RECOMPENSE FOR THE ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM (1 -8)

A. Is announced by another one of God's angels (1-3).

1. In this angelic announcement it is said of Babylon that she "is fallen, is fallen"(2).

This might well indicate judgment upon the city of _____ (17:18; 18:18), not only as ecclesiastical Babylon, but also as political Babylon where Antichrist's empire will be centered.

2. It seems apparent when ecclesiastical Babylon (the apostate one world church) falls, the political system of Antichrist will take over the _____ gained through religious means. Notice in Rev. 17:15-18. So this judgment here is going to come upon the economic system of the Antichrist.

3. Notice this system will be the dwelling place of _____ which are characterized in a threefold way to indicate their evil character (2).

4. In this announcement Babylon is said to have made those rich with whom she committed fornication (3). It seems that the worldly associations of the apostate church (ecclesiastical Babylon) will be an intoxicating thing that will make men rich and _____ will no doubt be the only thing that matters to them.

B. Is delayed for a shameful but gracious reason (4-5).

1. From this appeal it seems that some of the tribulation _____ will be involved in this economic system which will intoxicate men with its wealth (4).

2. Notice this appeal is twofold: so they won't be partakers of Babylon's sins and so they won't receive the plagues as a consequence. The plagues that Babylon will receive are contained in the _____ bowl judgment (16:17-21).

C. Will be destruction for leading others to trust in the wealth of the world (6-8).

1. Notice Babylon will receive _____ judgment for her works (6).

2. Among her abominations are pride, self-glorification, and self-exaltation (7).

3. Her destruction will come in one day or be carried out swiftly (8). Note the parallel when ancient Babylon fell (Dan. 5:5).

II. THE REACTION TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

A. Will be lamentation by the kings of the earth (9-10).

1. Those who committed fornication with her in rejecting God and idolatrously following after _____ and what it can afford will at this time wail at Babylon's destruction (9).

2. Notice those who have depended upon the economic system of the revived Roman Empire and been made rich by it will see this all come to an _____ (10).

B. Will be lamentation by the merchants of the earth (11-19).

1. The merchants will _____ because they will see all the merchandise of Babylon taken away (11-18).

2. Notice the reason for which the merchants of the earth will lament Babylon's destruction - because the wealth gained through trade with her will no longer be possible (19).

3. Some hold that Babylon as a city will be rebuilt during the tribulation period and destroyed by Christ at His coming. This however is in conflict with Isaiah 13:19-22. Also the destruction symbolized in Babylon refers to that of the ecclesiastical and economic (political) powers centered at Rome.

III. THE REJOICING OVER THE DESTRUCTION OF ANTICHRIST'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM

A. Is preceded by a command to those martyred (20).

1. This judgment upon Babylon will avenge the blood of the martyred saints and provide the reason for heaven to _____.

2. Notice while those on the earth are mourning this destruction those in heaven will be _____ as Babylon ecclesiastically and economically is destroyed.

B. Comes after the casting down of a heavenly millstone (21-23).

1. This millstone is apparently symbolizing the suddenness and completeness of Babylon's

destruction (21).

2. The sea once again is representative of the Gentile world (21).
3. Notice those things which will be "no more" concerning Babylon.
 - a. Babylon shall be found no more (21).
 - b. Musicians in Babylon shall be heard no more (22).
 - c. There will be no more craftsmen (22).
 - d. The sound of a millstone will be heard no more (22).
 - e. No more will the light of a lamp shine or will the voices of those given in marriage be heard (23).

C. Comes about because of what she did (23-24).

1. Babylon deceived the merchants and great men of the earth in thinking that _____ and material things were all that mattered (23).
2. Babylon was guilty of the blood of the prophets and the saints as an ecclesiastical and political system controlled by Satan.
3. Notice with the destruction of ecclesiastical (religious) Babylon (Rev. 17) and economic (political) Babylon (Rev. 18), the revived Roman Empire of the Antichrist is destroyed except for his armies. These Christ will destroy at His coming (Rev. 19:11-16).