

REVELATION: Lesson 159

Chapter 18:17-24, The Destruction of Commercial Babylon

24 May 2021

It doesn't matter how great and powerful the men, the Devil, and the Principalities are that have been deceiving the world. They are no match for the God who is going to stop all of them in one hour.

Vs 17 Great riches will come to naught. God doesn't value our money, gold, or silver. The only thing of value to God is the blood of Jesus Christ. In that day, the person without the blood of Christ will be poor no matter how much money they have.

The destruction of Babylon will affect every level of commerce, from the richest to the poorest.\

Vs 18 Lost men will praise the great city even though it is gone. They can only praise what was (the past, the "good old days"). They have no future to rejoice in.

Saved people can praise the Lord Jesus Christ, "**Which is, and which was, and which is to come**" (Rev 1:8) (Past, present, future). When a saved person dies, we can rejoice that they have a wonderful future with the Lord for eternity.

Vs 19 "**They cast dust on their heads.**" This symbolizes a feeling that you'd be better off dead and buried.

Job 2:12 Job's friends did this because they did not have faith in God concerning Job's future.

Lam 2:10-11 The elders of Zion cast dust on their heads at the destruction of Jerusalem.

Ezek 27:30-33 Those whose riches depended on the great cities of Tarshish and Tyrus casted dust on their heads at the destruction of those cities. Note the similarity to Rev 18.

All of the lamenting, wailing, gnashing, and casting dust on the head is done by people who do not have a right relationship with God.

1 Thess 4:13-17 We do not have to sorrow "**as others which have no hope.**" We have a wonderful future in Jesus Christ. Because He rose again, we shall rise to meet Him in the air one day. Whether we sleep in Jesus or we remain unto the coming of the Lord, we can rejoice in knowing that we are going to be with the Lord forever. We have a comfort that the lost person does not have.

Vs 20 "**Rejoice over her, thou heaven...**" While the lost are weeping and lamenting, those with the Lord are rejoicing because God has avenged them by destroying their enemies who persecuted them. The Christian tries to win their enemies to Christ. If any vengeance is needed, we leave that to the Lord (Rom 12:19). We don't rejoice today when our enemy falls (Prov 24:7), but we will then.

We will rejoice because the commercial system of this world is against the Christian. We are content with what we have (Php 4:11, Heb 13:5). The world tries to make us dissatisfied with what we have so that we'll spend money. Our treasures are in heaven (Mt 6:20). The world tries to get us to lust after treasures on earth.

Acts 19:24-27 Paul's preaching resulted in idolators getting saved and abandoning their idols. Paul was viewed as a threat by the people who made money from making or selling idols.

Christians today need to watch out for those who try to get them to desire worldly riches and fame. There is a lot of pressure on Christian singers and preachers to compromise their beliefs for money.

Be willing to preach the gospel whether you get paid or not. Don't do it for the money. God will bless that motive in serving.

Vs 21 A great millstone is cast into the sea to portray the violence of Babylon's overthrow. Gone forever.

Jer 51:63 This is a prophecy of the destruction of Babylon. A stone is cast into the Euphrates River.

Mt 18:3, 6 Those who destroy the confidence, walk, or testimony of a believer will face something worse than death itself. Jesus spoke of a millstone around the neck to emphasize this point.

Rev 18:24 Here's the reason for this total destruction. The blood of prophets and saints were in Babylon. Jesus Christ gave the warning! Millstone around the neck!

21-23 "No more at all." These words occur five times in this passage. The complete death of the Babylonian system is seen here. There will be no remnant of anything cherished there.

Jer 25:9-11 is the prophecy of the "no more's" of Babylon's destruction.

Vs 22 Harpers, musicians, pipers, trumpeters...no more. This is where commercial music dies. From this point forward, all music will be for praising God.

Today, churches encourage the congregation to applaud and praise and glorify the singer. In the Millennial kingdom, there will be no more glorifying man.

Vs 23 All nations were deceived by the sorceries of Commercial Babylon. This does not speak of pharmaceuticals or drug addiction. It speaks of the lure with which Babylon draws the world under her power, convincing people that wrong is right (Isaiah 5:20) and self-love is important (Lk 9:46).

The penalty for sorcery is death (Exod 22:18).

Vs 24 God stopped this system because of what they did to His prophets and saints. God gave the warning (1 Chron 16:22, Psalm 105:15). They didn't listen.