

REVELATION: Lesson 158

Chapter 18:8-17, The Fall of This World's System of Commerce

17 May 2021

- Vs 8** The Babylonian system of commerce will be the greatest achievement of human government in the last days, but God will destroy it in one day.
- Vs 9** Government leaders will be pleasure-seeking fornicators, not denying themselves of any pleasures.
- Vs 10** The world's governments will lament for Babylon after God destroys her in one hour.
- Vs 11** Here's the real reason for the lamenting. The merchants will lose business profits.
- 12-13** Here we see a long list of the things that are counted as merchandise, listed in order of importance to unregenerate mankind. Gold and silver is of most importance. Souls of men is last.
- When a person becomes born-again, that order is flipped. Souls become the most important. Gold and silver are only important as they aid in the furtherance of the gospel.
- 14-17** People weep and wail because of the loss of great riches. They don't consider that God is the one who sent the judgment because of the wickedness of that system.
- Citizens of nations today tolerate gross violations and wicked practices from politicians as long as they are benefitting or profiting from that politician.
 - A nation may be prosperous today, but if that prosperity is a product of unrighteous practices, God could destroy that nation overnight.

WORLD COMMERCE AND MERCHANDISE

1. It is not of God. It is of man and Satan. God will destroy the system of world commerce. It will not exist in the millennial kingdom.
2. God placed His nation, Israel, in a land where they could not easily join in with the world's system of commerce and merchandise. He forbade them from multiplying horses and trading in silver and gold (Deut 17:16-17). These limitations were to protect Israel from the fellowship of the world that loves money and does not love God.
3. God pronounced a terrible judgment upon Tyre, the greatest city of commerce on earth (Ezekiel 26-28). The worldly ways of this city drew the interest of Solomon and turned him into a covetous, money-loving idolator.
 - a. The King of Tyre is the greatest type in the Bible of Satan.
 - b. The Prince of Tyre is the greatest type of the Antichrist.
4. Israel's international dealings in merchandise and commerce corrupted her and led to idolatry (Ezekiel 27:17).

5. Here are the results of international commerce.
 - a. Enables man to avoid God's command to till the earth and live by the sweat of his brow (Genesis 3:19).
 - b. Unifies the humanity which God divided into nations (Genesis 11). This creates a spirit of self-confidence and rebellion against God.
 - i. People of the world will not unite around the Bible and a love for God. They will unite around trade and commerce until it brings in a Beast and an Antichrist.
 - c. Enables individuals, cities, and nations to become rich, covetous, idolatrous, and independent of God. Rich people don't see a need for God. (1 Timothy 6:9).
 6. The nature of commerce: you take your products, by ships, to a place where you can sell them at a higher price. Buy low, sell higher. This is the system God will destroy. God wants every man to sit under his own vine tree and fig tree (Micah 4:4) and be content with what he has (1 Timothy 3:8).
 7. Business is the most common excuse that men use for not serving God. (I had to work).
 8. Commercialism is wicked in nature. (Mark of the Beast, Rev. 13, Babylon the "Queen," Rev. 18). It is atheistic, self-indulgent, self-confident.
 9. Business is the cause of many difficulties for people and erodes true human ties found in the home, farm, country, and church.
 10. Commercialism is the greatest cause of spiritual deadness and insensibility. It will kill your spiritual life.
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Here's the key. A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth (Lk 12:15).

- You can use riches to aid in Christian ministry (1 Cor 7:31). Souls are top priority.
 - If riches become your life's ambition, it will ruin your life.
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Revelation 18:12-13 28 items of merchandise are listed in Revelation 18:12-13 whereby men hoped to profit. *These things are created by men and will all pass away.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11: 28 items are listed as things which are done at certain times or seasons. The profit (Vs 9) comes from the balance that is presented in these verses. If you don't have this balance, you will fall. *The items on this list were ordained by God and will last.*

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the WHOLE WORLD, and LOSE his own soul?"

Mark 8:36