

The Spiritual, Governmental, and Material influence of Babylon - Revelation 18 Part I

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[Rev 18:1](#) After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

"After these things"- What things?

Review:

In Chapter 16, 7 bowls of wrath are poured out:

Rev 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

Rev 15:2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

Rev 15:3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

In 15:5 the Temple in Heaven is opened, and from out of the Temple come the seven angels having the seven last plagues.

In 15:8 the Temple in Heaven is closed; no one is able to enter because the smoke from the glory of God and from His power prevent entry by anyone, UNTIL the seven last plagues of the seven angels were completed.

Chapter 16 the bowels (plagues) are poured out: the fierceness of the wrath of almighty God is poured out full strength on a God rejecting world.

Armageddon is unleashed, and the forces of the world are all gathered to the great battle in the land of Israel.

VS 17 the final angel pours out the last plague and pronounces "It is done!"

There follows noises, thunderings and lightnings; and a great earthquake as has not occurred since men were on the earth.

Jerusalem is divided into three parts, the cities of the nations fell.

vs 19- And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Rev 16:20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Rev 16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

The wrath of God is completed in Chapter 16. What follows in Chapters 17-19 are the details of the final stages of His wrath and the culmination of His judgment, which ends when Jesus returns and takes control of the earth He created.

Chapter 17 is symbolism, WITH INTERPRETATION!!!

We're introduced to the great harlot who sits on many waters. (this woman gets more airtime than any other symbol in Revelation)

She is identified as a harlot, and the mother of harlots.

She is full of abomination and idolatry, and has encouraged the kings of the earth to partake of her delicacies, and caused the inhabitants of the earth to be drunk with the wine of her fornication.

She sits on a scarlet beast (which will turn and devour her later) which is covered with the names of blasphemy, with seven heads and ten horns.

The woman is arrayed in purple and scarlet, and is adorned with gold and precious stones, and pearls, with a golden cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications in her hand.

The chapter continues to describe the waters she sits on, the kings (kingdoms- world Gentile empires), her destruction, and finally in vs 18 the interpretation of who she is:

Rev 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

Jerry has done a great job of using Scripture to show the origin of the harlot (Babylon in Genesis 11) as the root of all false religions and man-centric worship and governance.

Many doctrines have arisen because of confusion of one verse:

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Punctuation is an important thing!

If you look at your English Bible, you'll see that there is a comma after the word "MYSTERY".

Mystery is misterion- something previously hidden that is now being revealed.

How you look at vs 5 can determine how you interpret it.

If you say "Mystery Babylon", comma, then Mystery Babylon is her name.

If you say "Mystery", comma, "Babylon the great", then her name is Babylon the Great, who is now being revealed.

The "mystery" is Babylon the great is the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth. She is a city who has a satanically and demonic driving governance behind her to influence and coerce the earth in false religion AND man-centric (anti-God, anti-Christ) governance.

Mystery Babylon is a system of religions, false worship, abominations, fornications, idolatry, and wickedness that has a geographic central location.

(Read Daniel chapter 10 for illumination)

So with that recap, let's look at Rev 18 vs 1 again:

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

"After these things"-

What things?- The symbolism, description, and IDENTIFICATION of Babylon as the great harlot, mother of abominations, seat of false religions, origin of man-centric and rebellious governance, which, according to Zachariah 5, will return to her place- the land of Shinar- for final judgment.

AFTER the symbolism and identification of Chapter 17 comes the LITERAL account of what happens to the symbols described in chap 17, which is the final phase of what began in Chapter 15 (7 last plagues in which the wrath of God is complete).

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Whatever Babylon was, it becomes something different at this announcement.

What it becomes is a dwelling place of demons, a PRISON for every foul spirit, and a CAGE for every unclean and hated bird! Birds are identified by Jesus in Matthew 12- parable of the sower- as minions of satan.

Jer 50:31 "Behold, I am against you, O most haughty one!" says the Lord GOD of hosts; "For your day has come, The time that I will punish you.

Jer 50:32 The most proud shall stumble and fall, And no one will raise him up; I will kindle a fire in his cities, And it will devour all around him."

Jer 50:33 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "The children of Israel were oppressed, Along with the children of Judah; All who took them captive have held them fast; They have refused to let them go.

Jer 50:34 Their Redeemer is strong; The LORD of hosts is His name. He will thoroughly plead their case, That He may give rest to the land, And disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Jer 50:35 "A sword is against the Chaldeans," says the LORD, "Against the inhabitants of Babylon, And against her princes and her wise men.

Jer 50:36 A sword is against the soothsayers, and they will be fools. A sword is against her mighty men, and they will be dismayed.

Jer 50:37 A sword is against their horses, Against their chariots, And against all the mixed peoples who are in her midst; And they will become like women. A sword is against her treasures, and they will be robbed.

Jer 50:38 A drought is against her waters, and they will be dried up. For it is the land of carved images, And they are insane with their idols.

Jer 50:39 "Therefore the wild desert beasts shall dwell there with the jackals, And the ostriches shall dwell in it. It shall be inhabited no more forever, Nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.

Jer 50:40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah And their neighbors," says the LORD, "So no one shall reside there, Nor son of man dwell in it.

Jer 50:9 For behold, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon An assembly of great nations from the north country, And they shall array themselves against her; From there she shall be captured. Their arrows shall be like those of an expert warrior; None shall return in vain.

Jer 50:10 And Chaldea shall become plunder; All who plunder her shall be satisfied," says the LORD.

Jer 50:11 "Because you were glad, because you rejoiced, You destroyers of My heritage, Because you have grown fat like a heifer threshing grain, And you bellow like bulls,

Jer 50:12 Your mother shall be deeply ashamed; She who bore you shall be ashamed. Behold, the least of the nations shall be a wilderness, A dry land and a desert.

Jer 50:13 Because of the wrath of the LORD She shall not be inhabited, But she shall be wholly desolate. Everyone who goes by Babylon shall be horrified And hiss at all her plagues.

It's interesting that there will be at least one prison on Earth during the Millennium- Babylon!

It's not a prison for men, but for demons and foul spirits.

Remember that as we continue through Revelation!

During the Millennial Kingdom the world will not only see Jesus Himself ruling and reigning as the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, in absolute power and perfection, complete righteousness, mercy, love, and justice; but it will also have a visual reminder of the price of rejection!

The land of Babylon will not be inhabited (by men) because it will be a prison for the demons and foul spirits!

What was once the seat of their power is now the place of their imprisonment.

Where once the world marveled and glorified them, now they are hissed at and are a terror and horror for all who see them.

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

The kings of the earth - governing authorities- have committed fornication - spiritual whoring- with Babylon.

And the merchants of the earth have become rich by her luxuries.

Spiritual, religious, and material influence of Babylon will (and has) affected the entire world.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Things to consider;

"Come out of her, my people"

God has called His people to depart from the influences of Babylon, lest they (we) share in her sins and receive her plagues.

Riches, wealth, money...

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1Ti 6:11 But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

2Ti 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:

2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Deu 8:11 "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

Deu 8:12 lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

Deu 8:13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

Deu 8:14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Deu 8:15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

Deu 8:16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—

Deu 8:17 then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

Deu 8:18 "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Deu 8:19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

Deu 8:20 As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

Rebellion...

Babylon the great began with rebellion! See Genesis 11...

Spiritual whoredom...

Spiritual whoredom is having ANY god (anything!) in preference before God, alongside God, or "assisting" God!

Government...

Is the government bad?

Not if done God's way!

The end of all things that man seeks to replace God with is judgment!

Ultimately, this will play out during the Tribulation when His wrath is poured out full strength.