



# Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We now turn our focus to Revelation Chapter 18. We have seen a plethora of events unfold in chapter seventeen as we saw Babylon take her place with the wrath of God. As all the nations and their leadership propped up this capital of the Antichrist's kingdom; we see them instantly turning on, not only the city, but realizing that the end is near, turned against that which they thought was so certain. Chapter 18, opens up with verse one explaining an angel who has been given great authority and the earth is illuminated by this angel's splendor. (Remember this later, true splendor vs. man's vain splendor) Verse two shares that the angel opens with a mighty voice, "Fallen is Babylon the great.". Remember that Babylon gets a lot of its meaning from when mankind decided to build a tower that will reach heaven to make a name for themselves. (Gen. 11:1-9). Babylon is described as being a dwelling place for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, and a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. This is a reference to the idolatrous nature of this city and it's mindset. Remember that this unholy city was referred to earlier in Revelation 11:8 when it was called Egypt and Sodom. Egypt represents idolatry. As we continue to journey through the book of Revelation, we need to not only think of what this means as it relates to the Great Tribulation, but its relevance to us today. This mass deception of idolatry does not happen suddenly. Over time, we notice that behavior continues to allow things to culminate to a major escalation of deception and utter depravity. Verse three reminds us of this word, "adultery" which was brought up in the previous chapter. This refers to the way in which the world has chosen to be "married" to the world as opposed to submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Verse 3b is very important because it states that the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries. This lets us know that during the reign of the antichrist and those who had the mark of the beast lavished in the amount of opulence that was a part of this kingdom. Business people made a killing with those who were reveling in the wealth of this kingdom.

The next part of chapter eighteen reminds us of the heart of the entire book of Revelation. Verse four calls for the people of God to come away from the adulterous deception of this false kingdom of Satan. Once again, the mercy of God encourages people to repent. Since the book of Revelations' beginning, we notice that Jesus is longing for there to be a change of heart by those whom He loves so much. Now this "voice from heaven", which we believe to be the voice of God, basically implores humanity to give back to this deceptive kingdom the misery that she has caused to God's people.



Verse eight lets us know that in ONE DAY her plagues will overtake her. Then those plagues are specified: death, mourning, and famine. The glory of this kingdom is undone in one day. Verse 8b states that she will be consumed by fire. Then the focus of this chapter turns to the response of the people who see the demise of the Antichrist's kingdom. Verse nine says that when they see Babylon's fall, those who shared her luxury weep and mourn over her. Isn't this interesting? They NEVER mourned over their sin or behavior, but now they mourn over the fact that their source of wealth and luxury has dried up and they mourn, not their adulterous love of money, luxury and wealth, but the fact that they have lost their investment. Not only do the kings mourn, but the merchants/businessmen. They mourn because no one is buying their gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, every kind of wood, ivory made objects, bronze, marble, spices, incense, wine, olive oil, fine flower, cattle, horses and carriages and **Human beings sold as slaves**. They were weeping not over this sinful opulence and human trafficking, but over the fact that they have lost so much money because of Babylon's fall. Their mourning is selfish. The last group that mourns other than the kings and merchants, are the sea captains. "In one hour" they all exclaim, she has been brought to ruin! While they are mourning, verse 20 states that heaven and the people of God should rejoice. Apostles and prophets rejoice for God judged her.

Verse 21 then mentions a mighty angel who picks up a boulder the size of a large millstone and throws it into the sea. Then the angel does what seems like a judge's sentencing about the future of Babylon. Lest we think that this is a judgment against just the city, it's representative of God's judgment to the world who, remember, have all pledged their allegiance to the Antichrist's kingdom. So, as you read this list of judgments, this is a global judgment that is coming from God.

- Same violent way that the millstone was thrown into the sea, so will be Babylon's violent demise.
- The music and mirth of the world will stop
- No workers and traders will have any more trade
- Industry will grind to a halt (the sound of the millstone)
- The lights will be turned out
- The magic spell will be broken over the world

Once again, this chapter shows the mercy of God pleading for humanities' repentance. But we also see a greater grief over the end of their luxurious wealth, more than their sins (mark of the beast, human trafficking, etc.). As we take away the principle of not loving the world nor it's things more than we love our Lord, it should remind us of the spiritual discipline of simplicity. When we choose to have things and not allow those things to have us, we truly will not love the world. There is often an incorrect statement many people make about money. Money is the root of all evil. Well, this is not true. I Timothy 6:10 states that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. We can have money and have things (God wants His children to be blessed), but we must caution against any things "having us"!

#### Things to Ponder:

1. What are the three groups of people mentioned in Chapter 18 who are affected by Babylon's demise?
2. Why do you think that there is so many references to the Angels in Revelation? (hint...what is Satan?)
3. How are you personally challenged to rethink your focus on acquiring things?
4. Why do you think it's so hard for the people of the earth to repent?