

The Book Of Revelation Study 86

Revelation 17:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ *"And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.*

¹⁷ *"For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.*

In this study we want to look at the Extermination of the Harlot,
We have already looked at the;

Exposure of the Harlot,
 The Authority of the Harlot,
 The Alliances of the Harlot,
 The Apparel of the Harlot,
 The Abominations of the Harlot,
 The Accusations of the Harlot,
 And the Explanations of the Harlot.

And those studies lead us to the extermination of the Harlot and to her fall.

First:

THE EXTERMINATION OF THE HARLOT

Antichrist's alliance with the false religious system will not last. Eventually **the ten horns** (the ten kings who rule under Antichrist) and **the beast** (Antichrist himself) will come to **hate the harlot**.

Having used the false religious system to help him gain control of the world, Antichrist will discard it. In his rampant megalomania, he will want the world to worship only him.

He will no doubt covet the vast wealth of the false religious system.

So, he will turn on the harlot **and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire**.

That graphic language of extreme violence is used to make clear that Antichrist and his henchmen will utterly and completely obliterate all vestiges of the false religious system.

Antichrist's self-serving, satanically inspired actions are, however, precisely in the scope of God's sovereign plan. In fact, it is **God** who will **put it in the hearts** of Antichrist's followers **to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast**.

God's power is behind the destruction and consolidation of the evil empire; as always, Satan is the instrument of God's purposes.

The one world unification government so long sought by the humanists will have finally arrived, only to be destroyed in one great act of divine judgment.

All **the words of God**, every prophecy of Christ's return and the setting up of His kingdom **will be fulfilled** completely.

God hates every form of false religion and will not tolerate those who seek to rob Him of His glory;

Isaiah 42:8 (NASB)

⁸ *"I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.*

Antichrist's religious empire will be judged and destroyed along with the political and economic aspects of that evil world empire as chapter 18 reveals.

Now this brings us to Chapter 18, and we see Babylon Fallen.

BABYLON IS FALLEN

Revelation 18:1-24 (NASB)

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

² *And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.*

³ *"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."*

⁴ *I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;*

⁵ *for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.*

⁶ *"Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.*

⁷ *"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'*

⁸ *"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.*

⁹ *"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,*

¹⁰ *standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come."*

¹¹ *"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—*

¹² *cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,*

¹³ *and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.*

¹⁴ *"The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.*

¹⁵ *"The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,*

¹⁶ *saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;*

¹⁷ *for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!'" And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,*

¹⁸ *and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, "What city is like the great city?"*

¹⁹ *"And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!"*

²⁰ *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."*

²¹ *Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.*

²² *"And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;*

²³ *and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.*

²⁴ *"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."*

Throughout history the petty kingdoms and empires built by proud, arrogant, God-rejecting rebels have come and gone. The spirit of humanism first expressed at Babel, has permeated human history ever since.

Unshakably optimistic, despite centuries of war, slaughter, injustice and cruelty, people still seek a utopia, to be brought about by humanity's upward scientific progress.

Having taken control (so they think) of their own destiny through science, sinners have no use for God and haughtily replace Him as self-styled gods devoted to their own sovereignty.

But God cannot be so easily replaced, nor His plans thwarted by the whims of sinful men;

Isaiah 33:13 (NASB)

¹³ ***"You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might."***

Isaiah 46:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ ***Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';***

In fact, in a profound, if brief, statement in acts scripture says that God permitted the nations to go their own way.

Acts 14:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ ***"In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;***

In Psalms;

Psalm 2:2-4 (NASB)

² ***The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,***

³ ***"Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!"***

⁴ ***He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.***

Compared to the glorious, indescribable majesty of the omnipotent God, all of man's vaunted empires are a mere "drop from a bucket, or a speck of dust on the scales"

Isaiah 40:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ ***Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.***

They are so insignificant that they are as nothing before Him, they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless;

Isaiah 40:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ ***All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.***

The inescapable reality is that God, not man, will have the last word in human history, and that word will be a word of judgment.

From beginning to end, the Bible warns of coming judgment on sinners who reject God and blaspheme His holy name.

Job 21:30 (NASB)

³⁰ ***"For the wicked is reserved for the day of calamity; They will be led forth at the day of fury.***

David noted ;

Psalm 9:7-8 (NASB)

⁷ **But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,**

⁸ **And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.**

Psalm 96:12-13 (NASB)

¹² **Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy**

¹³ **Before the LORD, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness.**

Isaiah notes;

Isaiah 59:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ **According to their deeds, so He will repay, Wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; To the coastlands He will make recompense.**

The Apostle Paul said in his sermon to the Greek philosophers gathered at Mars Hill in Athens;

Acts 17:31 (NASB)

³¹ **because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."**

This Babylon involved a religious and a commercial aspect.

At mid-point of the Tribulation, Antichrist will destroy the false Babylonian religious system, which will be absorbed into commercial Babylon.

Religion will not cease to exist, but will be restricted to the worship of Antichrist.

That Antichrist will be able to build the greatest commercial empire the world has ever know in the midst of the devastating judgments of the Tribulation reveals his incredible power.

God's destruction of commercial Babylon is the theme of chapter 18

It is a somber chapter, it is a requiem, a dirge for the funeral of humanity.

With the destruction of the satanic last and greatest human empire, the stage is set for the triumphant return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now chapter 18 records seven aspects of that judgment on Antichrist's commercial empire;

Judgment pronounced,

Judgment avoided,

Judgment defined,

Judgment lamented,

Judgment enjoyed,

Judgment completed,

Judgment justified.

JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED

Revelation 18:1-3 (NASB)

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

² **And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.**

³ **"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."**

This solemn opening pronouncement of judgment gives two reasons for Babylon's impending destruction:

Pervasive demonic activity,
Wretched sensuality.

Now the words **after these things** marks the beginning of a new vision.

While still discussing the general theme of Antichrist's world empire, destroyed finally by the seven bowl judgments (Chapt. 16), chapter 18 moves from its religious aspects to its commercial aspects.

As this new vision opened, John **saw another angel**, distinct from the one in 17:1. Some view this angel as Christ, but the use of *allos* (another of the same kind) instead of *heteros* (another of a different kind) indicates that this is an angel of the same type as the one in 17:1. He may be the angel who had earlier predicted Babylon's downfall (14:8).

Three features in the text reveal his unusual power and importance.

First, he came **down from heaven** with **great authority**. He left the presence of God with delegated authority to act on God's behalf.

Second, when he arrived, **the earth was illumined with his glory**. He will make his dramatic appearance onto a darkened stage, for the fifth bowl will have plunged the world into darkness (16:10).

Manifesting the flashing brilliance of a glorious heavenly being against the blackness, the angel will be an awe-inspiring sight to the shocked and terrified earth dwellers.

Third, the angel **cried out with a mighty voice**. No one will be able to ignore him: everyone will hear him as well as see him. His message will add to the consternation and terror caused by his appearance. It will be a word of woe, ill tidings for Antichrist and his followers: "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**"

The judgment predicted in 14:8 will now be carried out.

This will be a greater and more far-reaching judgment than the one pronounced in identical words on ancient Babylon;

Isaiah 21:9 (NASB)

⁹ *"Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."*

A comparison of this passage with 16:17-19, suggests that this judgment takes place when the seventh bowl is poured out:

Revelation 16:17-19 (NASB)

¹⁷ *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."*

¹⁸ *And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.*

¹⁹ *The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.*

The first cause given for Babylon's destruction is that **she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit** (a synonym for **demons 16:13-14**).

It was in the vicinity of Babylon that 200 million formerly bound demons were released at the sounding of the sixth trumpet (9:13-16).

They along with the demons released from the abyss at the sounding of the fifth trumpet (9:1-11), those cast down from heaven with Satan (12:4, 9), and those previously on earth, will be confined in Babylon.

God will so to speak, gather all the rotten eggs into one basket before disposing of them.

Babylon will also be a **prison of every unclean and hateful bird**.

That phrase, symbolizes the city's total destruction

Isaiah 34:11 (NASB)

¹¹ But pelican and hedgehog will possess it, And owl and raven will dwell in it; And He will stretch over it the line of desolation And the plumb line of emptiness.

Like grotesque carrion birds, the demons will hover over the doomed city, waiting for its fall. The depiction of the demons as **unclean and hateful** reflects heaven's view of them.

Secondly, Babylon's destruction will also come because **all nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.**

Antichrist's evil religious and commercial empire will spread its hellish influence to **all the nations** of the world. Having **drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality.** (14:8; 17:2), the people of the world will fall into a religious and materialistic stupor.

The all-encompassing terms **all the nations, the kings of the earth, and the merchants of the earth** reveal that Babylon will seduce the entire world.

The unregenerate people of the world will lust for Babylon, passionately desiring to commit **acts of spiritual immorality** with her.

Likewise, **the merchants of the earth will have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.**

In the beginning, the world will cash in on Babylon's financial prosperity.

Having thrown off any semblance of self-control or self-restraint, sinners will indulge in a wild materialistic orgy. Like those in ancient Babylon, they will be partying when their city is destroyed.

Daniel 5:1-30 (NASB)

¹ Belshazzar the king held a great feast for a thousand of his nobles, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

² When Belshazzar tasted the wine, he gave orders to bring the gold and silver vessels which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem, so that the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines might drink from them.

³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God which was in Jerusalem; and the king and his nobles, his wives and his concubines drank from them.

⁴ They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, of bronze, iron, wood and stone.

⁵ Suddenly the fingers of a man's hand emerged and began writing opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the back of the hand that did the writing.

⁶ Then the king's face grew pale and his thoughts alarmed him, and his hip joints went slack and his knees began knocking together.

⁷ The king called aloud to bring in the conjurers, the Chaldeans and the diviners. The king spoke and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who can read this inscription and explain its interpretation to me shall be clothed with purple and have a necklace of gold around his neck, and have authority as third ruler in the kingdom."

⁸ Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the inscription or make known its interpretation to the king.

⁹ Then King Belshazzar was greatly alarmed, his face grew even paler, and his nobles were perplexed.

¹⁰ The queen entered the banquet hall because of the words of the king and his nobles; the queen spoke and said, "O king, live forever! Do not let your thoughts alarm you or your face be pale.

¹¹ "There is a man in your kingdom in whom is a spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of your father, illumination, insight and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him. And King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, your father the king, appointed him chief of the magicians, conjurers, Chaldeans and diviners.

¹² "This was because an extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas and solving of difficult problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Let Daniel now be summoned and he will declare the interpretation."

¹³ Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Are you that Daniel who is one

of the exiles from Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah?

¹⁴ "Now I have heard about you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that illumination, insight and extraordinary wisdom have been found in you.

¹⁵ "Just now the wise men and the conjurers were brought in before me that they might read this inscription and make its interpretation known to me, but they could not declare the interpretation of the message.

¹⁶ "But I personally have heard about you, that you are able to give interpretations and solve difficult problems. Now if you are able to read the inscription and make its interpretation known to me, you will be clothed with purple and wear a necklace of gold around your neck, and you will have authority as the third ruler in the kingdom."

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, "Keep your gifts for yourself or give your rewards to someone else; however, I will read the inscription to the king and make the interpretation known to him.

¹⁸ "O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.

¹⁹ "Because of the grandeur which He bestowed on him, all the peoples, nations and men of every language feared and trembled before him; whomever he wished he killed and whomever he wished he spared alive; and whomever he wished he elevated and whomever he wished he humbled.

²⁰ "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.

²¹ "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like that of beasts, and his dwelling place was with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind and that He sets over it whomever He wishes.

²² "Yet you, his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this,

²³ but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and all your ways, you have not glorified.

²⁴ "Then the hand was sent from Him and this inscription was written out.

²⁵ "Now this is the inscription that was written out: 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.'

²⁶ "This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE'—God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it.

²⁷ "'TEKEL'—you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient.

²⁸ "'PERES'—your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians."

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain.

James's condemnation of the ruthless wealthy could also apply to them:

James 5:1-5 (NASB)

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

² Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

³ Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

⁴ Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

⁵ You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.