

## Prophetical Babylon (Isa 13:1-22; 21:1-10; 47-48; Jer 50-51; Rev 17-18)

### Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5

#### 13. Religious and Prophetical Babylon 17:1-18

##### c. The Intoxicant of Wealth 18:1-3

#### The Heavenly Messenger. Rev 18:1

After these things (META TAUTA = 4:1; 7:1,9; 18:1; clearly a sequential advance in the narrative; Rapture; Seals; Sealing of 144K, destruction of BR; The events of chapter 17) I saw another angel (ALLOS = another of the same kind as 17:1; one who empties a "Bowl") coming down from (the) heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined (Aor Pas Ind PHWTIDZW = 11x; 3x in Rev; caused to light up) with his glory.

L.T. = After these things I saw another angel coming down out of the heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

#### Summary:

1. John sees another angel of the type who pours out the bowl judgments.
2. This is probably the angel of 14:8 who proclaimed, "Fallen, Fallen, is Babylon."
3. He is a high ranking angel with a special commission to light up the earth with his announcement.
4. This light might be necessary after the sun dimmed with the Fourth Trumpet Judgment, shortly before the mid-point of the Tribulation. Rev 8:12

#### The Announcement. Rev 18:2

And he (the angel) cried out (Aor Act Ind KRADZW = one time) with a mighty (ISCHUROS = physically strong, loud) voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen (Aor Act Ind PIPTW = repeated; the first is for Religious Babylon. The same phrase is found in Isa 21:9 in the Qal Perf; the second is a Dramatic Aorist that draws attention to a second event, not yet done, that is as certain as the first) is Babylon the great (different from 17:5 in that not all capital letters are used here)! And she has become (Aor Act Ind GINOMAI = something she was not) a dwelling place (KATOIK8T8RIOV = 2x; Eph 2:22 of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Believers) of demons and a prison (PHULAK8 = to guard, the basic meaning is to

be caged; looks at a saturated atmosphere and thus a "haunt") of every unclean spirit, and a prison (**PHULAKE = prison**) of every unclean and hateful (**despicable**) bird (**ORNEON = 3x**; cf. 19:17,21; carrion birds).

**L.T. = And he cried out with a mighty voice saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every category of unclean spirit, and a prison of every category of unclean and despicable carrion bird.**

**Summary:**

1. This announcement immediately follows the destruction of Religious Babylon (cf. 18:1—after these things).
2. The second Babylon has also become a stronghold of evil.
3. The term "demons" refers to the influx and infiltration of high-ranking angelic officers of Satan.
4. The "unclean spirits" are lesser angels of Satan who specialize in contamination by means of ritual or legalism.
5. They will flock to the idols of the land, of which there are plenty. Cf. Isa 21:9
6. The carrion birds refer to unclean birds that wait for people to die so that they may prey on their corpses. Cf. Deut 14:11-20
7. It is called a "prison" to denote the density of these creatures, which are often overcrowded.

**The "Why" of Verse Two. Rev 18:3**

"For all the nations have drunk (**Perf Act Ind PINW = to drink with lasting results and thus denotes an existing condition and an intoxication level not subject to rapid dissipation**) of the wine of the passion (**THUMOS = anger; used to denote the passion with which expectations are sought**) of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants (**EMPOROS = a person on a journey; specifically includes international merchants**) of the earth have become rich by the wealth (**DUNAMIS = inherent power**) of her sensuality (**STR8NOS = 1x; the basic meaning is to run a riot; old English is "waxed wanton;" means to run amuck in luxury; the hapax, which means the word is used only one time, means that it is unprecedented**)."

**L.T. = "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the anger of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have fornicated with her, and the international merchants of the earth have become rich by the power of her arrogant luxury.**

**Summary:**

1. All the end-time nations are under the influence of this entity.
2. The events of the end-time prophecies affect the entirety of the world, not just a localized area around Israel.
3. This nation offered favors to other nations that were so intoxicating that they freely accepted them and had no resolve to refuse them.
4. The nations compromised integrity for the love of money. 1 Tim 6:10

5. Three groups are mentioned:
  - a. Nations which look at the common people within a certain political boundary.
  - b. Kings which look at the rulers of those nations.
  - c. Merchants who covertly affect many major decisions.
6. Her anger is brought about by her greed and quest for power that does not meet her expectations.
7. She never has enough and never gains total control of the world.
8. The Bowl Judgments are poured out in part for complicity with this entity.  
Cf. Rev 16:19-20

**Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5**

**13. Religious and Prophetical Babylon 17:1-18**

**d. The Description of the Entity 18:4-20**

**The Divine Announcement. Rev 18:4**

And I heard another (**ALLOS = of the same kind; mighty and strong but not from the angel**) voice from (**the**) heaven (**singular**), saying, "Come out (**Aor Act Imp EXERCHOMAI = i.e. now**) of her, my people, that you may not participate (**Aor Act Subj SUGKOINWNEW = 3x; to fellowship with; cf Eph 5:11; Php 4:14**) in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues (**PL8G8 = 22x**)

**L.T. = And I heard another voice from the heaven, saying, "Come out of her my people, that you may not fellowship with her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.**

**Summary:**

1. Jesus Christ makes this announcement because the recipients are "His" people.
2. It is not stated how long they will be given to depart but it is directed specifically at Tribulational believers and would probably include some of the 144,000.
3. They are commanded to separate from the "security" and affluence of this entity in order to separate from her sins and discipline.
4. This command is found multiple times in the Old Testament, so some prophecies are going to be fulfilled. Jer 50:4,5,8,28; 51:6,9, 44b-46,50
5. These Believers must obey or die.
6. The number that will actually exit will probably be small.

**The Reason for the Command. Rev 18:5**

for her sins have piled up (**Aor Pas Ind KOLLAW = to join fast, cleave, glue, cement as in the Tower of Babel**) as high as (**the**) heaven (**singular**), and (**the**) God has remembered her iniquities (**ADIK8MA = 3x; Acts 18:14; 24:20; the overt act of unrighteousness; punishable by law**).

**L.T. = For her sins have been cemented together as high as the heaven, and the God has remembered her crimes.**

**Summary:**

- 1. The "joining of sins" has a direct allusion to the Tower of Babel. Gen 11:3-6**
- 2. This is similar to the pre-Flood days of Noah. Matt 24:37-42**
- 3. The pattern of destruction for this level of evil is found in Sodom and Gomorrah. Gen 18:20-21; Jer 50:40**
- 4. This mass of unrepentant sin demands a temporal judgment. Jer 51:9**
- 5. God's judgment is not "asleep." 2 Pet 2:1-3**

**The Judgment on Her Thievery. Rev 18:6**

**(You all = the agents of judgment) "Pay her back (Aor Act Imp APODIDWMI = 48x; to pay back in the sense of reward; literally means to "give from" and hence implies righteousness) 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.**

**L.T. = You all render to her as indeed she has rendered, and you all pay back double the doubles according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, you all mix a double for her.**

**Summary:**

- 1. This judgment is for her thievery as documented by the Mosaic Law. Exo 22:4,7,9**
- 2. An equal amount of legitimately gained wealth is lost.**
- 3. Based on the extent of judgment the illegitimately gained wealth of the nation will meet or exceed 50% of the national income.**
- 4. Divine permission has been given to earthly agents to execute this judgment.**
- 5. This nation has used her prosperity for evil and has rendered evil to those loyal to her.**
- 6. To whom much is entrusted, much is required. Luke 12:48**

**The Judgment on Arrogance and Idolatry. Rev 18:7**

**"To the degree (HOSOS in Neuter Plural; to the degrees) that she glorified herself and lived sensuously (Aor Act Ind STR8NIAW = arrogant luxury), to the same degree give her torment (BASANISMOS = 6x; all in Rev; 9:5 2x; 14:11; 18:7,10,15; physical 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.'**

**L.T. = "To the degrees that she glorified herself and lived in arrogant luxury, to the same degree you all give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I am sitting as a queen and I am not a widow, and may never see sorrow.'**

**Summary:**

- 1. This judgment is on the arrogance and idolatry of this entity.**

2. This entity becomes a materialistic pantheist.
3. The judgment is both physical and mental. Cf. Isa 13:6-9
4. The farther this entity descends into evil, the more arrogant she becomes. Isa 47:7-8; Jer 50:31
5. The arrogance comes from a massive increase in human knowledge, prophesied by Daniel. Isa 47:10; Dan 12:4
6. The national conscience rejects the idea of personal destruction.
7. They are deluded by an incorrect evaluation of their past history and their "Messiah Complex."
8. The New Age Movement promotes glorification of self, which this entity has embraced. Cf 2 Tim 3:1

### **The Type of Judgment and End of Announcements. Rev 18:8**

"For this reason in one day (numeral is expressed here, not implied, thus it is looking at a literal 24 hour day and not an image for a period of time) her plagues (PL8G8) will come (HEKO = arrive), pestilence (THANATOS = death) and mourning (PENTHOS = sorrow) and famine (LIMOS = 12x; only 2x in Rev. cf 6:8, part of the pale horse judgments; also found in the Olivet discourse in Matt 24:7 & Mark 13:8 and Luke 21:11) and she will be burned up with fire (Fut Pas Ind KATAKAIW = 13x; utterly burned up with fire); for the Lord God who judges her is strong (ISCHUROS = physically strong).

L.T. = For this reason in one day her plagues will arrive, death and sorrow and famine, and she will be utterly burned down with fire, for the Lord God, the One having judged her is strong.

### **Summary:**

1. The arrogance of this entity is the primary basis for the swiftness and totality of the destruction.
2. Jesus Christ made the decision that is ultimately behind the judgment although He is not the agent of the destruction. Jer 51:11,12,24,36,44,52,55
3. The King of the North will be the agent. Isa 13:3,17-20; Jer 50:9,41; 51:1-2
4. All the inhabitants will die. Jer 50:13,21,26,29,39,40
5. All will experience sorrow before they die. Jer 50:43
6. The total burning indicates it will be as devastating as a nuclear holocaust. Isa 13:8,18; 47:14; Jer 50:32; 51:25, 32 cf. Rev 18:10,15,17

### **The Reaction of the World Leaders. Rev 18:9**

"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality (Aor Act Ptc PORNEUW = 8x; 5x in Revelation; 2:14,20; 17:2; 18:9) and lived sensuously with her (Aor Act Ind STR8NIAW = 2x; cf 18:7; verb form of noun in 18:3; arrogant luxury), will weep (Fut Act Ind KLAIW = to let out a loud wail) and lament (Fut Mid Ind KOPTW = 8x; to cut off as branches of a tree; cut by a blow; in Middle means to beat one's chest) over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

**L.T. = And the kings of the earth, the ones having fornicated, even having lived in arrogant luxury with her, will wail and beat themselves over her when they may see the smoke of her burning.**

**Summary:**

- 1. The loss of this prostitute brings universal mourning.**
- 2. Once again notice that this affects the world and not just a small part of it.**
- 3. The destruction described that occurs in one literal day requires a technology far beyond that of the first century.**
- 4. It is clearly a judgment by fire.**

### **Nuclear Destruction? Rev 18:10**

**standing at a distance (MAKROTHEN = 14x; a far distance, visible but not near; also mentioned in 18:15,17 that they stood at a distance) because of the fear of her torment, saying, ' Woe, woe, the great (MEGAL8 = great, mighty) city, Babylon, the strong city (ISCHUROS)! For in one hour your judgment has come.' (context set in 18:8 with a literal day in view, thus this is a literal hour, and not simply a time of testing as in 3:10)**

**L.T. = Standing at a long distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city"! For in one hour your judgment has come.**

**Summary:**

- 1. Prophetical Babylon is unapproachable by man after the destruction. Isa 13:20; Jer 50:3,39,40; 51:26,37,43**
- 2. This occurs much earlier in the Tribulation as great earthquakes, 100 pound hailstones, torture by demons and the nova of the sun would be much more pressing problems than mourning the loss of money.**
- 3. The two "Woes" are probably for the economic loss and the military protection that this entity offered. "Woes" are words of impending doom.**
- 4. A literal hour of 60 minutes demands weapons that were not in existence in the ancient world.**
- 5. The Sequence of events:**
  - a. The First Angel-14:6**
  - b. The Seal Judgments-Chapter 6**
  - c. The Second Angel-14:7-8; 18:1**
  - d. Religious Babylon Destroyed-Chapter 17**
  - e. Prophetical Babylon Destroyed-Chapter 18**
  - f. The Third Angel-14:9**

### **The Reaction of the Merchants. Rev 18:11**

**"And the merchants (EMPOROS = 5x; Matt 13:45; Rev 18:3,11,15,23; international merchants) of the earth weep (Pres Act Ind KLAIW = to wail; at the time of destruction; futuristic present used to denote certainty) and mourn (Pres Act Ind**

**PENTHEW = 10x; also used in 18:15,19; to anguish) over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more;**

**L.T. = And the international merchants of the earth are wailing and anguishing over her, because no one buys their cargo any more.**

**Summary:**

- 1. This Babylon is the cornerstone of the world's economy.**
- 2. Thus, the loss of this entity will collapse the world's economy.**
- 3. To date, there has only been one nation in the history of the world that could impact the world's economy to such an extent.**

### **Imports. Rev 18:12**

**cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones (precious gemstones) and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet (fine fabrics), and every kind of citron wood (fine woods) and every article of ivory (valuable commodity) and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, (finest building materials)**

**L.T. = Cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls, and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet and every sandarac tree and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood, and bronze and iron and marble.**

### **More Imports. Rev 18:13**

**and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense (finest fragrances and spices) and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep (finest agricultural products), and cargoes of horses and chariots (RHEDA = 1x; a four-wheeled chariot whose chief use was transportation as compared to an ARMA meaning a war chariot; notice the hapax; not the normal chariot) and slaves (SWMA = bodies) and human lives (souls of men; cheap labor).**

**L.T. = And cinnamon and ointment and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and grain and cattle and sheep and cargoes of horses and four-wheeled wagons and bodies and souls of men.**

**Summary:**

- 1. This entity is the major importer of the world's finest items.**
- 2. With the current addition of "tariffs" we have begun to see just how much is imported.**
- 3. Men will "sell their souls" to partake of this wealth.**
- 4. All these valuable commodities will become nearly worthless as soon as the supply exceeds the demand.**

### **Exports. Rev 18:14**

**"And the fruit (HOPWRA = 1x; ripe fruit) you long for has gone from you (and your ripe fruit of the lust of the soul has departed), and all things that were luxurious (LIPAROS = 1x; uniquely dainty) and splendid (LAMPROS = shining things; things**

which catch the eye); have passed away from you (**Aor Act Ind APOLLUMI = destroy in the sense of ruining**) and men will no longer find them (**OUKETI OU M8**).

**L.T. = And your ripe fruit of the lust of the soul has gone from you, and all things which are the dainty things and the bedazzling things; it is destroyed from you and they will positively never find them again.**

**Summary:**

- 1. This entity dies while expecting even greater wealth.**
- 2. The souls of the inhabitants of this nation are focused completely on the things of life.**
- 3. They offer unique luxuries and the superlative of past luxuries.**
- 4. They forgot that wealth is transitory and therefore never to be trusted. 1 Tim 6:9-10,17-19; Jas 4:14-15**

#### **The Merchants' Response. Rev 18:15**

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

**L.T. = The international merchants of these things who became rich from her, stand at a long distance because of the fear of her torment, wailing and anguishing,**

#### **Their "Wail." Rev 18:16**

saying,' Woe, woe, (**loss of imports and exports**) the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold (**Perf Pas Ptc CHRUSSW = 2x; cf. 17:4**) and precious stones and pearls;

**L.T. = Saying, "Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and having been gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls;**

#### **Their Amazement. Rev 18:17**

for in one hour (**the numeral does appear which is further indication of a literal 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,

**L.T. = For in one hour such great wealth has been desolated!" And every shipmaster and everyone who is upon a place of sailing and sailor, and as many as are working the sea, stood at a long distance,**

#### **Their Statement. Rev 18:18**

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

**L.T. = And were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like to the great city?'"**

**The Workers' Response. Rev 18:19**

**"And they (shipmasters, passengers, sailors who were not on the ocean any more because dust is not prevalent on ships) threw dust on their heads (an ancient custom denoting intense grief; cf. Eze 27:29-30) 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 (again the numeral is expressed) hour she has been laid waste!'"**

**L.T. = And they threw dust on their heads and kept crying out, wailing and anguishing, 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 desolated."**

**Summary:**

- 1. The double "woes" are used by kings, merchants and workers.**
- 2. The kings wail over the loss of economics and military.**
- 3. The merchants wail over the loss of imports and exports.**
- 4. The workers wail over the loss of potential wealth and present unemployment.**
- 5. Neither wealth nor prominence will deliver a nation or individual from God's judgment.**
- 6. Amazement stems from the totality and speed of the devastation.**
- 7. These verses also document a geography that could have only been reached by ship in the ancient world. Jer 51:13**
- 8. The "Great City" refers to the financial capital of the nation in view.**
- 9. A rebuilt Historical Babylon could never fulfill this description because the Euphrates runs alongside it. It is by a river in a desert and not adjoined by a sea.**
- 10. The world will realize that the greatest economic power in history is gone.**

**The Heavenly Command. Rev 18:20**

**"Rejoice (Pres Pas Imp EUPHRAINW = 14x; cf 11:10) over her, O heaven, and you saints (HO HAGIOS = includes angels) and apostles (highest ranking church age officers) and prophets (highest rank of Age of Israel), because God has pronounced judgment (judged the judgment) for you against her."**

**L.T. = Keep rejoicing over her, O Heaven, namely the Holy Ones and the apostles and the prophets because the God has judged the judgment for you against them.**

**Summary:**

- 1. There will be a celebration in heaven after the fall of this nation.**
- 2. All Believers, angels, apostles and prophets will join in.**
- 3. The rejoicing is because of prophetic fulfillment. Jer 51:48**
- 4. The judgment belongs to Jesus Christ. John 5:22**

5. The greatest example of the economic viewpoint of the Tower of Babel will be gone.
6. This viewpoint has persecuted Believers throughout history.
7. Therefore the judgment is rendered for all Believers.

**Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5**

**13. Religious and Prophetical Babylon 17:1-18**

**e. The Destruction 18:21-24**

**An Illustration. Rev 18:21**

And a strong (**physically**) angel took up a stone (**LITHOS = a shaped or cut stone; like a tombstone, building stone, or tablets of the Law**) like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus (**in this manner**) will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence (**ORM8MA = 1x; a result of a headlong rush; it will be unique**), and will not be found any longer.

**L.T. = And one strong angel lifted up a shaped stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "In this manner will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down by an impulsive assault, and may never be found again.**

**Summary:**

1. This angel dramatizes the fall of Prophetical Babylon.
2. Based on what he picks up, the world will know exactly who is the object of this prophecy.
3. The large millstone represents great commerce.
4. It specifically includes agriculture. Cf. Jer 50:16
5. "Casting it into the sea" denotes the totality of judgment.
6. Sinking to the bottom indicates it has no future.
7. The "impulsive assault" denotes that the enemy from the North will make a relatively quick decision to attack.
8. Like the angel's action, it will be without warning to those who do not know God's word.
9. The "millstone" may be the Statue of Liberty.
10. The Inscription: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door."
11. The Description: A stone pedestal upon which stands a woman made from hammered copper wearing robes. Her right hand holds a torch, her left hand a tablet with the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On her head is a crown (a queen?). Around her feet lie broken chains. She is 305 feet tall and weighs 450,000 pounds.

**Specific Categories Judged. Rev 18:22**

"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;

**L.T. = And the sound of harpists and minstrels and flute-players and trumpeters may never be heard in you again; and every artisan of every craft may never be found in you again; and the sound of a millstone may never be heard in you again.**

**Summary:**

- 1. Musicians, artisans and factory workers will disappear.**
- 2. The evil of those industries evidently contributed to the fall.**
- 3. All occupations are not inherently evil but all can become so.**

#### **Other Categories. Rev 18:23**

and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer (**electric grid destroyed and no need for it**); and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your (**international**) merchants were the great(**est**) men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery (**PHARMAKEIA = drug abuse**).

**L.T. = And the light of a lamp may never shine in you again; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride may never be heard in you again; because your international merchants were the greatest men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your drug abuse.**

**Summary:**

- 1. Even legitimate activities will cease.**
- 2. The main reason is the uncontrolled economic fornication by the international merchants.**
- 3. This was the major factor in people losing their ability to reason. 1 Tim 6:10**
- 4. The pursuit of pleasure and money will cease mainly because of evil foreign policy.**
- 5. The love of money was their main drug.**

#### **The Fruits of Deceit. Rev 18:24**

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

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

**Summary:**

- 1. Prophetic Babylon is responsible for Christians who have been murdered since Israel returned to the land. Jer 51:49**
- 2. She had the power to stop the slaughter but didn't.**
- 3. "Prophets" refer to communicators as they are:**

- a. **Proclaimers of a divine message.**
  - b. **Interpreters of the oracles of God.**
  - c. **Givers of new revelation.**
- 4. **Saints refer to Believers.**
  - 5. **"All who have been slain" refers to unbelievers who died because of her.**
  - 6. **The first written book of the New Testament, James, contained a prophecy about the rich of the last days and how to live as saints. Jas 5:1-11**