

BOOK OF REVELATION

Part 26 – Parenthesis Four – Economic Component of the Great Whore - Chapter 18

I. INTRODUCTION

REVIEW: Now we are continuing in fourth and final parenthetical passage in the book of Revelation. The chronological flow of events is paused while the Apostle John is showed the visions of the Great Whore or Mystery Babylon the Great. Babylon has a religious and economic component which is referred to in Chapter 14 by one of the three angelic messengers of God. One of the two Babylons is mentioned during the seventh vial judgment near the end of Chapter 16. Now we will study in detail the economic division of Babylon.

II. EXEGESIS - The Economic Component of Babylon

A. VERSES 1 - 3: PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE ANGEL.

VERSE 1: And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

The identity of this angel is not given. However we notice that this angel had a tremendous brilliance and glory, typical of many of the angels. Also notice that the angel is referred here with the masculine noun “his”. In scripture you always see angel with a masculine appearance. One does not see in scripture where angels had a feminine appearance. Many greetings cards and other prints that depicts angels often show them to appear either feminine or as children or even both. However scripture does not corroborate these traditions. Most places in scripture show angels to have a masculine and sometimes frightening appearance. However, they are created beings of God that have chosen to do God's will.

VERSE 2: And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

The judgment of Babylon is reiterated here. Notice here that we see the phrase "is fallen, is fallen" is mentioned again. Also notice that the tense of the fall of Babylon both here and in Chapter 14 is past tense.

Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

This is another evidence that even in Chapter 14, which followed the events of Chapter 13 and is part of the third parenthetical passage in Revelation and this chapter which is the fourth and final parenthetical passage in the book of the Revelation, both come after the middle of the tribulation.

Notice what kind of habitation, or home if you please, that Babylon really had become, in God's eyes. It became the home of demons, where they were obviously comfortable. The word "hold" here carries the meaning of a cage or prison. The phrase "foul spirit" is an expression referring to the more sinister demons of Satan's demonic army. In other words, Babylon was the home of all varying degrees of demons with a wide variety of powers.

The phrase "unclean and hateful bird" here is a metaphorical expression for a very possibly real event. There were certain birds, like other animals in creation, that were considered "unclean" under the Old Testament law. Leviticus 11 described in details what animals in creation, including birds were clean and unclean to eat. The children of Israel were forbidden in Leviticus 11:13-20 to eat many kinds of birds as they were classified by God as unclean to eat. To the Jew, an unclean birds, like an unclean animal, was despised and hated. Thus to the Apostle John and to the early New Testament believer, many of which were either converted Jews. Even the Gentile church congregations would have understood the concept of unclean as they would have been taught this by the Apostles. The connotation of this verse would have made perfect sense to them. The vulture was an unclean animal and is aggressive when feeding. The destroyed remains of Babylon would have been ideal feeding for vultures or other scavenging birds, which were all unclean under the Old Testament law.

*VERSE 3: For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication,
and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her,
and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

The angel now pronounces why Babylon was destroyed. This verse reiterates the statements made in Chapter 17. All the people of the earth was overloaded, or intoxicated with the fornication, or illicit relationship of the Great Whore with many of the nations of the earth. However another aspect of the Great Whore is expanded upon here that is not mentioned in Chapter 17. The merchants of earth in conducting financial commerce with the Great Whore ve become very wealthy. The word "delicacies" according to the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary means, "In a general sense, that which delights or pleases." This is the only time the word "delicacies" is used in the Bible. A delicacy is an indication or the visible signs of great wealth, or excess of possessions. Most often the word delicacy is applied to luxury foods but can apply to other areas of excess of material wealth. The delicacies are abundant and not in short supply. This is the first glimpse of the economic component of the Great Whore, or Babylon.

B. VERSES 4 – 20: PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE VOICE FROM HEAVEN.

1. WARNING AND REWARD OF GOD'S PEOPLE:

*VERSE 4: And I heard another voice from heaven, saying,
Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins,
and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

Now a voice from Heaven is speaking and not the voice of the angel previously heard. The identify of the speaker is either the Father or the Lord Jesus Christ. The phrase "come out of her, my people" tells us the identity of the speaker. Only God can refer to the Tribulation Saint

as "my people". An angelic messenger would have not had the right to make that statement. The Tribulation Saint, just like the Church Age saint, has been purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, and therefore are his property.

1 Corinthians 7:22-23 "(22) For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. (23) Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

The Tribulation Saint here is being given a warning to come out of this one world religion and her economic system and to not economically profit from the illicit relationship that the Great Whore is having with the nations of earth. The Great Whore will no doubt persecute many Tribulation Saints because they will not succome to her message of world unity at any cost. The Tribulation Saints is also warned of the consequences of not getting out that they will suffer along with her when she is destroyed by the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist following his ressurection from what appears to be the dead. The destruction of the Great Whore by the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist is God's plague upon her for the illicit relationships with the nations of the earth and her leading the world to believe and trust in the Antichrist.

***VERSE 5: For her sins have reached unto heaven,
and God hath remembered her iniquities.***

The iniquity of the Great Whore, religious and economic systems, have become so great and numerous that if added one upon another reach up all the way to Heaven to God's throne. The world may have forgotten her iniquity but God never forgets her iniquity. God demands payment for the penalty of iniquity or sin. The penalty of our sin was payed for by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and God's remebers our iniquity or sin no longer.

Hebrews 10:16-18 "(16) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; (17) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. (18) Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin."

However the Great Whore, being she is unrepentent, God will never forget her iniquity.

***VERSE 6: Reward her even as she rewarded you,
and double unto her double according to her works:
in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.***

The Tribulation Saint were rewarded for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by persecution from the Great Whore and her predecessors in the Church Age. The Father or the Lord Jesus Christ is saying here that the Great Whore will receive four times the level of punishment than the persecution and trouble she gave the Tribulation Saint. The punishment for sin is always greater than the sin that is committed.

The cup here is a reference to the cup mentioned in Chapter 17

Revelation 17:4 "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:"

*VERSE 7: How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously,
so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart,
I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.*

The Great Whore will indulge in self-glorification. Chapter 17 describes her as being arrayed in the finest clothes and jewelry, which partially is designed to draw attention to her. The words "lived deliciously" here carries the meaning of "lived in luxury". Her luxury will be so great and look so good that if it were food it would taste wonderful. A good modern word for this would be "extravagant".

The Great Whore denies the real truth about her being prostituted to the nations of the earth. Notice she calls herself a "queen" which carries the implications that she is legitimately married to these kings. However she is not a queen but a prostitute. She has not come about her power through lineage or legitimate marriage but through prostitution. She looks good on the outside but her acts are an abomination to God.

The Great Whore is so deluded that she thinks that her prostitution with the nations of the earth will go on forever and the "good times" with them will never come to an end.

*VERSE 8: Therefore shall her plagues come in one day,
death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire:
for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.*

The destruction of the Great Whore by the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist as described in Chapter 17 will come in a very short period of time. This destruction will be without warning or be prolonged. She will have all the symptoms of starvation, sickness, and death strike all at once.

Her destruction with fire is the most thorough kind of destruction that can be endured. Fire not only kills but then consumes the object or person and all that is left are some ashes. Nothing recognizable or substantive remains after consumption with fire. Only God could have set into sequence the events that led to her destruction. No one else is strong enough to judge her for her iniquity.

2. WAILING OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH:

*VERSE 9: And the kings of the earth,
who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her,
shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,*

Remember how the Great Whore was destroyed. She was destroyed by the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist. Even after destroying her, they will be saddened to see her gone. They will be so deceived by the Great Whore that even though she is getting wealthy off of these kings of the earth, that they will weep at her destruction, even though some of them will have participated in her destruction. They themselves have benefited from their fornication with her even though it was a drain on their resources.

*VERSE 10: Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying,
Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city!
for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

Notice that these kings of the earth stand at a distance and weep. It is possible that many of the rulers or kings on earth were still sympathetic to her even after the Ten Kingdoms turn against her and the Ten Kingdoms may have destroyed her out of some sense of self preservation and or more likely influence of the Satan indwelt Antichrist. Satan will not tolerate any opposition or even competition for attention, adoration, or worship. Satan, as Antichrist, will want all the attention, adoration, and worship for himself. So he will no doubt lead the Ten Kingdoms that compose the core of his rule over the world, through deceit, to destroy the Great Whore, even though they have benefited and even prospered economically and materially from their illicit relationship with her. But after Antichrist is animated by Satan, even he truly knows who she is. But God is using Satan to bring about His perfect will: justice for the Tribulation Saint. The Lord Jesus Christ will bring down judgments upon the kingdom of the Antichrist during the Vials Judgments and his final judgment at the end of the Tribulation.

3. WAILING OF THE MERCHANTS

*VERSE 11: And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her;
for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*

The days of selling merchandise are over for the Great Whore. Notice here that she is not rebuilt and does not go back to conducting commerce. Her destruction is final. Satan, animating the Antichrist, takes what is left of her possessions for himself.

*VERSE 12 and 13: (12) The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones,
and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet,
and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory,
and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,
(13) And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments,
and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour,
and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses,
and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.*

Now we see the economic wealth of the Great Whore described in the next few verses in detail. Notice the categories of material wealth covered.

- **Metals:** Gold, Silver
- **Stones:** Precious Stones, Pearls, Marble.
- **Clothing:** Fine Linen, Silk.
- **Dyes:** Purple, Scarlet.
- **Building:** Ivory, Brass.
- **Luxuries:** Frankincense, Oil.
- **Animals:** Sheep, Horses, and other Beasts.
- **Transport:** Chariots.

Notice that the Great Whore even bought and sold slaves and most importantly mentioned the "souls of men". She controlled the souls of men through her deceit of the kings of the earth. This deceit was the main work of the Great Whore. In leading the world to serve the Antichrist and turning men's souls away from the Lord Jesus Christ, the only way of salvation.

*VERSE 14: And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee,
and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee,
and thou shalt find them no more at all.*

All the fine foods that this economic system of the Great Whore had bought and sold are gone as well. The days of economic prosperity during the Tribulation die with her. Poverty begins to take hold of much of the world, especially with the Vials Judgments that will come in Chapter 16.

*VERSE 15: The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her,
shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,*

Those who profited from the economic side of the Great Whore, will wail because of her destruction but will be afraid of what could happen if they go there to weep in the ruins. They are weeping because their economic opportunity has gone with her destruction as well. Also notice that it is not just regret or sorrow, but that the scripture their sorrow with the expression, "weeping and wailing". The sorrow of her destruction is as profound as the death of a loved one who is precious: a beloved mother or father. Again the sorrow we see here is not personal but that of deprived penicuiary gain.

*VERSE 16: And saying, Alas, alas, that great city,
that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet,
and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!*

Again we notice in the description of Babylon, which is the economic component of the Great Whore and the seat of her power, what she is clothed in. Her great wealth is quite evident as it was in Chapter 17 until the time of her destruction.

Revelation 17:4 "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:"

*VERSE 17: For in one hour so great riches is come to nought.
And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors,
and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,*

The length of time taken to complete her destruction is very short. The phrase "one hour" is a reference to a very short period of time. This destruction, brought about by the Ten Kingdoms of the Satan indwelt Antichrist will be carried out in a very short period of time. Babylon is a reference to her headquarters and the seat of her power. Babylon will be destroyed and it will be destroyed so fast that the world will wonder in amazement. Notice here that not only the political powers of the world, the kings of the earth, and the merchants on land will miss her but also the merchant mariners of the world will miss her, specifically the profit they made.

*VERSE 18: And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning,
saying, What city is like unto this great city!*

The merchants of the world will proclaim, when they see Babylon being destroyed, that no other institution or city on the Earth can compare to Babylon. You see the despair of the merchant mariners of the world.

*VERSE 19: And they cast dust on their heads, and cried,
weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city,
wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness!
for in one hour is she made desolate.*

In ancient times, a way to mourn the loss of a loved one was to cast dust, ashes, or dirt upon one's own head to show how the sorrow they endured was very agonizing to them. We see this illustrated in the book of Job when Job's three friends threw dirt upon their heads in response to the sorrow of seeing Job so marred by the boils upon his body and that affliction coming after he had lost his possessions and his children in tragedy.

Job 2:12 "And when they lifted up their eyes afar off, and knew him not, they lifted up their voice, and wept; and they rent every one his mantle, and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven."

*VERSE 20: Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets;
for God hath avenged you on her.*

Compared to the mourning on earth, there is rejoicing in heaven which is quite a stark contrast. Notice here the "God hath avenged you on her". It may be the Ten Kingdoms of the Antichrist that actually carry out the destruction of the Great Whore, but it is all according to God's plan and God impressing his will upon them. God has finally executed righteous judgment upon the Great Whore for her persecution of the Tribulation Saints which has been very intense. Remember the Great Whore has persecuted the Tribulation Saint so much that she "intoxicated" with it or "full to the brim" so to speak. The earth's population will also be "intoxicated" with her persecuting the Tribulation Saint as well.

C. VERSES 21 – 24: PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE MIGHTY ANGEL.

VERSE 21: And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

This angel draws a comparison of her strength and suddenness of her judgment to casting a millstone into a body of water. A millstone was used in ancient times to grind wheat into powder from which to make bread. A millstone is very dense and is very sturdy. When one throws a millstone, which is large into a body of water it creates ripples in the water that go out a considerable distance from the point of impact and last after the event itself. Likewise the judgment, ordained by God, will be very intense and will last after the judgment itself comes to a conclusion.

VERSE 22: And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

The Great Whore had the finest music that the world had to offer. The term "finest" as it is subjective. It will be the finest by the world's standards or the "latest and greatest" the world has to offer. We see two categories: musicians and craftsmen. Musicians provide the finest entertain through their art that the world has to offer. Craftsman provide for construction of different items in existence throughout the world. Millstone was used in ancient times to grind wheat into powder to make bread from. A millstone was used to kill

VERSE 23: And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Celebrations, such as weddings, and other public events would also be ended as well. Also her deceit of the whole world would come to an end as well. This deceit was brought about by what the scripture calls "sceries". Sorcery is attempting to use the power of demonic spirits or attempting to contact them. Specific types of sorcery are necromancing and divination, which attempting to contact spirits to aid in foretelling the future. Sorcery and all its variations were specifically forbidden to the Jews by the Old Testament law.

VERSE 24: And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

Among all the opulence tha the Great Whore had to offer, she did the most horrible things imaginable: the persecution of the saints. She has been persecuting the Tribulation Saint and now has paid the price for that persecution. The judgment of God has been executed and is complete.

III. APPLICATIONS

- **Those who are not born again will be deceived by the Antichrist and the One World Religion in the Tribulation.**
- **However this religion will look good and even seem good to a large number of people and will have considerable wealth and power.**
- **Many false religions even today look good, seem good, and are wealthy and powerful but they are deceivers leading the lost into an eternity in hell.**
- **God will use the ten kingdoms, although they think it is their idea, to bring His will and execute His righteous judgment.**
- **God can use the wicked and even government to bring about His will even though they reject him.**