"SATAN'S MATERIALISTIC CITY"

Revelation 18:1-24

9-11-2022



I. *God's destruction of "materialistic Babylon" should teach us* NOT to LAY UP for ourselves "TREASURES on earth"! (Mt.6:19)

A. God's ANNOUNCEMENT of the FALL of materialistic Babylon (v. 1-3)

B. God's WARNING to FLEE materialistic Babylon (v. 4)

C. God's REASONS for JUDGING materialistic Babylon (v. 5-8)

II. *God's destruction of "materialistic Babylon" should warn us* NOT to "TRUST in uncertain riches" (I Tim. 6:17).

A. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish VIOLENTLY (v. 9-10, 21)
("...smoke...torment...judgment...")

B. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish TOTALLY (v. 11-14)
("No man buyeth their merchandise any more...v. 11;
"Thou shalt find them no more at all" v. 14)

C. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish QUICKLY (v. 15-19)
("For in one hour so great riches is come to nought" v. 17;
"...For in one hour is she made desolate" v. 19)

D. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish JUSTLY (v. 20, 23b-24)
("God hath avenged you on her" v. 20;
"in her was found the blood of prophets..." v. 24)

E. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish PERMANENTLY (v. 22-23a)
("no more at all...no more at all...")

CONCLUSION: SEE: I Timothy 6:6-11, 17-18

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A. God's <u>ANNOUNCEMENT</u> of the _____ of materialistic Babylon (v. 1-3)

B. God's <u>WARNING</u> to _____ materialistic Babylon (v. 4)

C. God's <u>REASONS</u> for <u>JUDGING</u> materialistic Babylon (v. 5-8)

II. *God's destruction of "materialistic Babylon" should warn us _____ in uncertain _____" (I Tim. 6:17).*

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("...smoke...torment...judgment...")

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According to: https://libertythroughwealth.com/2020/07/09/10-most-influential-cities-in-the-world/The Rise of Global Cities. The World's Most Influential Cities
by Nicholas Vardy, July 9, 2020

"Urbanization has exploded over the past 120 years.
In 1900, there were only 16 cities around the world with a population of more than 1 million.

Today, there are more than 512. And they account for 23% of the world's population.

Cities are now an essential part of modern life. More than half of the world's population currently lives in urban areas.

In 2018, the 300 largest metropolitan economies in the world accounted for nearly half of global GDP.

The leading global cities rival countries in terms of GDP.

New York and Tokyo have economies about as large as Russia's. London's economy is the size of Switzerland's.

Here are some highlights from the 2019 Global Cities Report.

New York and London top the list, with both cities far ahead of their nearest rivals. Paris rounds out the decade-long dominance of this powerful triad.

The United States boasts four cities in the top 10 (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington, D.C.).

Asia is also home to four cities (Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing).

Europe's two cities in the top 10 – London and Paris – punch above their economic weight and account for two out of the top three.

China, the world's other superpower, has a single city in the top 10 – Beijing, ranking at No. 9."

Large cities of influence are sprouting up worldwide. However, Just as God's city of Jerusalem (Zion) will be the one global city in the Kingdom, you can bet that Satan is currently working on his one big rival city today. Eventually, there will be ONE city which will entice and influence the entire world for last days ultimate wealth, corruption and evil.

Two things blind people and bind people:

1) False <u>Religion</u>

2) <u>Materialism</u> (money)

God shows the outcome of both in sequential order in Revelation 17 & 18!

* Whereas Revelation 17 describes God's destruction of Satan's religious system (a "Mystery Babylon" system that began at Babel), Rev. 18 unfolds God's destruction of Satan's materialistic system.

* Whereas God used the 10 kings (pictured by the "10 horns" - 17:16) to destroy religious mystery Babylon (17:16-17), God will Himself destroy commercial (materialistic) Babylon; and the kings of the earth shall weep and mourn her destruction (18:8-9).

* This fact is strong proof that the woman identified as "Mystery Babylon" in Rev. 17 is a different aspect of the Babylonian system.

* It is important to note, that while the 10 kings destroy the "harlot religious system" (17:16-17), they mourn and weep when "Materialistic Babylon" crumbles (18:9).

* The fall of the "harlot religious system" (Rev. 17) occurs near the middle of the Tribulation (when all worship and world-control is given to the Antichrist - II Thes. 2:4; Rev. 17:13, 17).

* In contrast, the fall of "Satan's commercial Babylon" occurs near the end of the Tribulation in "the Day of the Lord"; just prior to Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21).

I. *God's destruction of "materialistic Babylon" should teach us* NOT to LAY UP for ourselves "TREASURES on earth"! (Mt.6:19)

A. God's ANNOUNCEMENT of the FALL of materialistic Babylon (v. 1-3)

V. 1

"After these things" - this phrase may indicate a slight transition both in time and subject matter.

The Angel described is evidently the same angel that John spoke of earlier (10:1-3). That angel bearing a similar description announced the future "mystery" of God being finished (10:7), and now the same Angel is declaring the fulfillment of God's destruction of "mystery Babylon."

V. 2

The words ***"great"*** and ***"fallen"*** indicate the height from which Babylon will be thrown down.

In the eyes of the world this Satanic system seemed impeccable and insurmountable, but God will alone be shown to be "great" in the end. *("The bigger they are, the harder they fall")*

It is possible that the reference to "Babylon" is to a literal city that will be rebuilt, where O.T. Babylon existed:

*Proofs for a literal city:

1. Babylon is called a literal "city" ("great city" - 18:10, 18)
2. Babylon is described as a literal city
   a. She is a hub for commerce (trade) (18:11, 15)
   b. The detailed list of merchandise (18:12-13) points to a literal city.
   c. The ships and sailors will be able to stand "afar off" and see the burning of the city (18:15, 17-19)
   d. She is described as a place of business and industry (v. 22)

*Possible proofs for a rebuilt city of Babylon:

1. O.T. Babylon was never literally destroyed the way God said Babylon would be

(Jer. 51:63; Rev. 18:21 - when O.T. Babylon fell, the city was not destroyed by the Medes and Persians, but taken over - Dan. 5:30-6:1).

2. O.T. Babylon was inhabited; however, God said when Babylon was destroyed it would never be inhabited again (Is. 13:19-22; Jer. 51:24-26, 61-64)

3. The destruction of Babylon was to happen in "the Day of the Lord" (Is. 13:6, 9-11) prior to Israel's millennial rest (Is. 14:1-6)

4. The stones of destroyed Babylon will not be able to be reused which has not been the case of the ruins of historical Babylon (Jer. 51:26, 64; Rev. 18:21)

5. The Israelites according to prophecy were told to flee out of Babylon before its destruction, but no time historically has Israel ("My people") fled out of Babylon (Jer. 51:45; Rev. 18:4)

6. The location of O.T. Babylon is a prime location for a rebuilt city.

The city, located just north of the Persian gulf, is situated in the midst of the main source for the world's oil supply.

Everything will be in favor of the rapid growth of Babylon. It holds a unique position on the face of the earth, and is the most suitable position which a world empire, such as the Antichrist's, could choose for his seat of government . . . the land around the site is immensely fertile and with proper irrigation and cultivation will be capable of supporting a high population (Marr Murray, Bible Prophecies and the Plain Man, London: Hadder and Sloughton, 1915, p. 272).

*Possible proofs for the USA's NYC being Babylon:

1. Several New World order globalist organizations exist in NYC whose primary purpose is global unity. These new world order organizations include:

   a. The Council on Foreign Relations
   (The CFR includes "most of the top leaders in government, business, education, labor, the military, the media, and banking…(this) most powerful clique in these elitist groups have one objective in common—they want to bring about the surrender of the sovereignty and the national independence of the United States" Former CFR member Rear Admiral Chester Ward, cited by Gary H. Kah, En Route to Global Occupation, p. 32)

   The CFR wants to bring about…
   a world banking monopoly
   a new international order [which] may be responsible to world aspirations for peace [and] for social and economic change
   On February 17, 1950, CFR member James Warburg, testifying before he Senate Foreign Relations Committee, stated, "We shall have world government whether or not you like it—by conquest or consent."
   (Kah, p.33)

   b. The United Nations
   A modern day "Tower of Babel" founded in 1945 in NYC and situated on land "graciously" donated by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (American soil which was given over to an international cause), the UN is totally devoted to the concept of achieving a new system of world government.

   c. The Trilateral Commission
   An organization dedicated to the new world order is composed of leaders from the world's three economic superpowers-North America, Western Europe, and Japan. Hence, the term "trilateral." (Kah, p.46)

2. NYC is most obviously the financial capital of the world (with the power of wall street and the NY stock exchange)
   The city described in Revelation 18 is noted for it's wealth

3. NYC is the major trading city in the world (with the world trade towers looming over south Manhattan)
   The city described in Revelation 18 is noted for it's trade with other nations (Rev.18:3,15)

4. NYC fits the description of a city lavished with wealth (both in money and material goods) (Rev.18:16)

5. NYC is a city which when destroyed by God, can be seen from the ocean waters as Revelation 18:17-19 indicates.

V. 2
The words ***"habitation"*** and ***"hold"*** indicate that materialistic Babylon will be a prison house for demons and every unclean (impure) spirit.
In other words, Babylon along with Satan and his cohorts (demons) will sink together into hell (SEE: Isaiah 14:4-23).

V. 3
"For all nations" (v. 3)...***"The kings of the earth . . ."*** (v. 9)
The fact that the world's rulers had part in Babylon's material goods is indicative of the Common Market that will exist in the last days.
[Today, in 1995, with the collapse of the Iron Curtain, the unification of Europe, and the development of the E.E.C. (The European Common Market, we see trade opening up, a one world economy in the making, and the prospective fulfillment of Rev. 18 around the corner!]

B. God's WARNING to FLEE materialistic Babylon (v. 4)

God's command is always ***"come out"*** of the world's system and be different! (Rom. 12:2; II Cor. 6:14-17; I Jn. 2:15-17).

God gives 2 reasons in Rev. 18:4 as to why we should "come out." --

1) Those who don't come out share in the guilt
"That ye be not partakers (co-sharers; joint participants) ***in her sins"***
Even though you may not be directly involved in corruption - if you are associated with it, God holds you accountable.
2) Those who don't come out will share the penalty (judgment)
"That ye receive not of her plagues"

God's appeal to flee out of "Babylon" prior to judgment is reminiscent of Lot's fleeing from Sodom before its destruction (Gen. 19:12-17).

C. God's REASONS for JUDGING materialistic Babylon (v. 5-8)

V. 5

God never forgets about man's sin.
Payday someday!
(the only forgotten sin is the forgiven sin)

V. 6

"Reward" - the angel calls on God to "give back" to her as she gave to others.
"Whatever is sown will be reaped" (Gal. 6:7).

"Double unto her" - the appeal is to go a step above causing her to reap to the same extent as she sowed. But to give her 2 times the judgment her works earned.
In other words, "Spare the mercy and unload a double whammy!"

"The cup" - no doubt the same cup filled with abominations and filthiness described in 17:4.

V. 7

Pride is often associated with material wealth. Such self-security and independence will not last forever! Don't ever glorify yourself. God hates such arrogancy.

Four truths can be learned about pride:

1) Pride comes from the heart - ***"She saith in her heart"*** (Mark. 7:21, 22)

2) Pride boasts of position - ***"I sit a queen"*** (I am high, lofty, above all).

3) Pride boasts of provision - ***"I ...am no widow"***
A widow is someone left all alone, with no husband; hence, this "harlot system" had all the "men" and income she needed.
She thought, I will never be abandoned by my lovers nor forsaken by those who provide for me."

4) Pride boasts of preservation or protection - ***"I...shall see not sorrow."***
Pride gives one a false sense of security for the future. She says, "Nothing will ever change for me."

V. 8

Just like O.T. Babylon was proud and judged for it, so will eschatalogical Babylon be (SEE: Jeremiah 50:29-34).

"...In one day" - the destruction of material Babylon will not be a process, but she will be destroyed like Sodom and Gomorreh in one day (Is. 13:19ff).
In one day, Material Babylon will be stripped of those things she boasted in (namely, life, happiness, and food).

"Death" - corresponds to "I am no widow" (v. 7)

"Mourning" - corresponds to "shall see no sorrow"

"Famine" - corresponds to "lived deliciously"

"Burned with <u>fire</u>" - when God judged the earth the first time, it was with <u>water</u> (the flood); when God judges the second time, it will be by <u>fire</u>.

[SEE II Peter 3:10-13 - When we realize what is in store for this world, it will change:

1. Our present <u>lifestyles</u> ("holy conversation" - v. 11) and
2. Our <u>morals</u> ("godliness" as opposed to worldliness) and
3. Our <u>plans</u> for the future (planning our future with eternity in mind [v. 12-13]).

II. *God's destruction of "materialistic Babylon" should warn us* NOT to "TRUST in uncertain riches" (I Tim. 6:17).

Much anguish (emotional torment) is caused by lost wealth in this world.
A point of emphasis in verses 9-24 is that of the misery (suffering, agony, grief, heartache, regret, and torment) caused by lost (destroyed) wealth.

V. 9 - ***"Bewail"*** = to cry with <u>tears</u> or other expressions of grief.
"Lament" = to beat or smite oneself as an expression of sorrow (EX: "Beating the breast" - Mk. 11:8
V. 11 - ***"Mourn"*** - to mourn for the dead
V. 15 - ***"Weeping and wailing"***
v. 18 - ***"Cried"*** - to cry out loud.. to scream
V. 19 - ***"Cast dust"*** a sign of mourning ("cried, weeping and wailing - present tense, showing <u>continual</u> weeping)

A. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish <u>VIOLENTLY</u> (v. 9-10, 21)

("...smoke...torment...judgment...")

V. 9

"The kings of the earth" = apparently including the same kings illustrated by the ten horns (17:12-16, 17).
Whereas the 10 kings of the earth destroy the false religious Babylon (Rev. 17); they now weep and wail when economic Babylon is destroyed by God.
"Committed fornication and lived deliciously with her" - whereas the <u>harlot</u> religion in Rev. 17 <u>used</u> the 10 kings (involved in the Beast system), now the <u>kings</u> are described as having <u>used</u> the harlot city.

V. 10

"Standing afar off" - because of the fear of the torment of burning Babylon, no one will dare get close. The world's greatness and might is only <u>temporary</u>

B. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish <u>TOTALLY</u> (v. 11-14)

("<u>No man</u> buyeth their merchandise any more...v. 11;
"Thou shalt <u>find them</u> <u>no more</u> at all" v. 14)

V. 11

"Merchants" - those who bought from Babylon and resold items elsewhere around the world.
"Merchandise" - cargo; those goods which are loaded on ships and exported.

V. 12

Everything from ***"gold"*** (the most precious of metals) to the ***"souls of men"*** (the most precious of God's creation) were the acquisitions of Babylon.

V. 12-13
NOTE: The spectrum of goods to be stripped from the lustful clutches of materialistic Babylon:

1. Ornamental materials (jewelry materials)
   ("gold...silver...pearls")

2. Clothing materials
   ("fine linen...silk...scarlet")

3. Building materials
   ("wood...brass...iron...marble")

4. Cosmetic materials
   ("cinnamon...odors...ointments...frankincense")

5. Food
   ("wine...oil...flour...wheat...beasts...sheep")

6. Transportation
   ("horses and chariots")

7. Labor
   ("slaves...souls of men")

V. 14
"Are departed from thee" - to go away; to pass away

"Dainty and goodly" -
"Dainty" = that which is expensive (an appeal to the palate - rich, dainty food)
"Goodly" = that which shines (an appeal to the eye)
"Thou shalt find them no more at all" -
God invites us to true, lasting abundance that will never fail (Isaiah 55:1-3).

C. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish QUICKLY (v. 15-19)

("For in one hour so great riches is come to nought" v. 17;
"...For in one hour is she made desolate" v. 19)

V. 16
The attire of a harlot
(Ladies, your attire is described in I Peter 3:3-4)
V. 17
"...come to naught"
Riches are called "uncertain" (I Tim. 6:17) because they have a way of taking wings and flying away!
V. 18
The economic status of "Babylon" will be incomparable to any other city ever.
V. 19

"Desolate" - she who boasted "I am no widow..." (v. 7) is now stripped of everything she took security in. Beware of pride!

D. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish JUSTLY (v. 20, 23b-24)

("God hath avenged you on her" v. 20;
"in her was found the blood of prophets..." v. 24)

V. 20

The destruction of Babylon is a reason for rejoicing because God is repaying her for how she treated God's people.
Babylon is reaping for what she has sown (cp. 18:6; Gal. 6:7).

E. Babylon's materialistic splendor shall vanish PERMANENTLY (v. 22-23a)

("no more at all...no more at all...")

V. 22-23

NOTE: the spectrum of judgment:

1. No more entertainment (***"harpers..musicians..pipers..trumpeters"***)
2. No more employment (***"craftsman...millstone"***)
3. No more night life (***"the light of a candle"*** - depicts night life)
4. No more happiness (***"the voice of the bridegroom...bride"***)

Just as "Babylon's" wealth and prosperity will be destroyed never to be replaced, so those who die without Christ will lose all (Mk. 8:36), only to be desolate for ETERNITY! (Luke 16:19-26)

CONCLUSION:
SEE: I Timothy 6:6-11, 17-18