

God's Judgment on Satan's Evil world System

Revelation 18

"When the Lord was here on earth He spoke of the great hatred that 'the world' had for Him and His own (John 15:18,19). What is this world but a great combination of religion, government and commerce? In other words, Babylon in all its parts stands for that which Christ called the world." Barnhouse

"The destruction of Babylon in chapter 18 should be compared with the preceding announcement in 16:19 where the great city is divided and the cities of the Gentiles fall. This even comes late in the great tribulation, just prior to the second coming of Christ, in contrast to the destruction of the harlot of chapter 17 which seems to precede the great tribulation and paves the way for the worship of the Beast (13:8)." Walvoord

Rev. 16:19 *19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.*

Rev. 13:8 *All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.*

- I. Babylon's power and prestige come from a system Satan sets up during the tribulation; it is ***in opposition*** to the true riches of God's kingdom. This evil world system has been in place since the tower of Babel but reaches its full potential under the one world government of the Antichrist. It has no true value but instead is a home for demons, a haunt/prison/cage for evil and an enticing, deceptive adulteress who plies for the heart of man. It will have an extremely powerful and deceptive grip, and anyone who puts their hope in it, will lose their souls to its demonic influence.

Rev 18:1-3
Zech. 5:5-11

2 Cor. 4:4 *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

- II. The Lord makes it very clear to us that he does not want His children caught up in the allurements of Satan's evil world system. We are not to look toward his system, be it religious or economic, for our emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing. Instead, we are to put our hope in an Almighty God who works in our lives to satisfy the desires of the heart. God will judge and destroy Satan's system; therefore, we must be very careful to not let it define who we are. Jesus is the one who defines us and desires to continue to do so, by conforming us more and more into his likeness.

Rev. 18:4-8

Ps. 103:11-12

2 Cor. 6:14-18

Matt. 6:19-24

Luke 12:15

Luke 12:20

Psalm 37:3-4 *Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
4 Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

- III. John tells believers not to love the world or anything in the world for if they do, the love of the Father is not in them (**1 Jn. 2:15-16**). One of the reasons we are not to do that is because of the casualties Satan's evil world system inflicts on mankind. It not only has a disregard for the bodies and souls of men who don't know Christ, it has an even deeper contempt for those who do. The damage it has inflicted over time on souls is incomprehensible. The damage it will exact on believers during the last 3 ½ years of Satan's rule will exceed no bounds, therefore and with much rejoicing, God will destroy it for the way it has treated the saints, apostles, and prophets.

Rev 18:9-24

1 Jn. 2:17 *The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.*

pharmakeia -- magic spell

Sorcery is the Greek word pharmakia, which means, "to prepare drugs." The lure of commercial Babylon is like a drug addiction, fed by deceptive advertising. Guzik