

## LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

### Rev. 18

Jesus said in **Matthew 24:21** **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

The seven year Tribulation is going to be a terrible time in which to live. Praise God He did not appoint those of us who trust in Christ to \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thess. 5:9), and He has promised to keep us from the hour of \_\_\_\_\_ that is coming on the world (Rev. 3:10). **16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17)**

The first 3 ½ years will be terrible. \_\_\_\_\_ of the people on the earth die. But the second half, The Great Tribulation, is far more horrific, almost indescribable. In order to understand what is revealed in chapter 18, we need to remember a few major events that have already been shown to us which will take place during these seven years.

- The antichrist rises to power. He will or already has brokered a \_\_\_\_\_ with Israel to guarantee their security. Israel thinks he may be their \_\_\_\_\_.
- The War of Gog and Magog allows antichrist to enter Israel to fight against \_\_\_\_\_ and Iran and other Muslim nations, but God Himself soundly defeats Israel's enemies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and widespread \_\_\_\_\_ follow this huge war, but the antichrist rides on the winds of victory and begins to set up his kingdom, which we now know will have its capital in \_\_\_\_\_, Iraq (which did not fight against Israel, and is now the most \_\_\_\_\_ Muslim nation in the region.) Massive building with incredible speed develops Babylon into a \_\_\_\_\_ in just a few years.
- Persecution of those who are believing the gospel preached by the Two \_\_\_\_\_ and the 144,000 continually increases through this seven year period. In spite of this, some people from every people group and nation of the earth are saved, together making a multitude. Many of these are \_\_\_\_\_.
- The rest of the Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments fall in sequence upon the earth. People suffer greatly, but the \_\_\_\_\_ continues to consolidate his power around the world. He allies himself with a man known in Scripture as the False \_\_\_\_\_, who succeeds in bringing every religion (except genuine Christianity) into a syncretistic one world religion. \_\_\_\_\_ and Catholicism both become a part of this system, creating an alliance between New Babylon and \_\_\_\_\_.
- With the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, The Day of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribulation begin. Satan is permanently expelled from heaven and cast to the earth where he promptly \_\_\_\_\_ the antichrist. The antichrist sets up his throne in the \_\_\_\_\_ and claims to be God. Satan and the antichrist make war on the \_\_\_\_\_, and the False Prophet sets up an image of antichrist, gives it pseudo life, and orders that all who refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ it will be killed.
- He also establishes a world \_\_\_\_\_ system (centered in the New Babylon) that requires an identification mark on the right hand or forehead in order to participate in the new world economy. He declares that those who \_\_\_\_\_ the mark will be killed. God says that those who \_\_\_\_\_ the mark will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Choices are clear. Time to decide is short.

- The antichrist \_\_\_\_\_ the Two Witnesses, and God takes them and the 144,000 on to heaven. He sends three angels to give the people of the earth a final opportunity to hear the truth. The angels proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_, declare that Babylon will be \_\_\_\_\_, and warn people not to take the mark of the antichrist. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity to be saved until the end of the tribulation.
- As the people of the earth \_\_\_\_\_ follow the devil and the antichrist, wickedness and iniquity grow exponentially. Babylon is both the \_\_\_\_\_ and financial center of the world and in clear league with Rome and the new world \_\_\_\_\_ of the False Prophet.
- On this kingdom of iniquity, God sends seven angels to pour out His righteous \_\_\_\_\_ upon the world and especially upon the kingdom of the antichrist, without \_\_\_\_\_ or mercy. People are inflicted with loathsome \_\_\_\_\_ that will not heal. The seas and then the sources of fresh water turn to dead men’s \_\_\_\_\_. The sun begins to shine with greater intensity, \_\_\_\_\_ people who step into its light. New Babylon and the surrounding area are suddenly plunged into absolute \_\_\_\_\_. Demonic spirits deceive the heads of state who have yielded power to antichrist to send their armies to surround Jerusalem and fight \_\_\_\_\_.
- God leads these kings to become jealous and hateful toward \_\_\_\_\_ and the new world religion. Perhaps she is draining wealth they desire, but they turn on her and \_\_\_\_\_ her offices and officials in Rome.
- The final bowl judgment on the earth is a worldwide \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ city will have massive destruction except \_\_\_\_\_. The New Babylon will not only have destruction from the earthquake, but even greater judgment and destruction is foretold in chapter 18.

With what we have learned, now we can pretty much let the plain sense make sense.

<p><b>Revelation 18:1</b> <i>After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.</i></p>	<p>Rebuilt Babylon is the world’s capital, the center of world finance, and now the center of whatever _____ remains as well. The hope of the lost rests in her and the antichrist. Since the pouring out of the fifth bowl, Babylon and the surrounding area have been plunged into darkness. Perhaps this was mediated for a while in the city proper by artificial illumination, but with the _____ up of the Euphrates (taking away hydro electric power) and the earthquake, the only means of illumination remaining are old fashioned candles and oil lamps. In the midst of the blackness (day and night) suddenly appears an angel, shining with the brilliance of heavenly _____, and lighting the earth beneath his feet.</p>
<p><b>2</b> <i>And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!</i></p>	<p>He announces the ultimate and total _____ of “the great city.” He declares the city has become the place of refuge for demonic _____ of all types of wickedness. It will soon be a place for _____ to come and eat the flesh off dead men’s bones.</p>
<p><b>3</b> <i>For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the</i></p>	<p>The reason for her destruction is because she, Babylon, has once again led the kings of the earth to</p>

<p><b><i>kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”</i></b></p>	<p>chase after false gods and deny the one True and Living God. Thus they shall share in the _____ of God. The merchants (_____ people) have also not cared what god was honored, but only cared about the riches to be gained.</p>
<p><b><i>4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.</i></b></p>	<p>Then the Lord Himself issues a plea for any _____ who remain in Babylon to evacuate. Some believers remain there because of the massive construction and financial enterprise. Perhaps because of the size of the city, they have been able to escape _____ and martyrdom. Now they must leave or themselves be caught up in the destruction of God’s judgment on the city.</p>
<p><b><i>6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.</i></b></p>	<p>Now an imprecatory prayer (one that invokes judgment upon the _____ of God) is offered. It is based on Isaiah 47, the prophecy of the destruction of the virgin daughter of Babylon – the new, rebuilt Babylon! Isaiah foretold her boast, “I shall be a lady forever,” and “I shall not sit as a _____.” He declares her judgment shall come with darkness, _____, and with fire because of her wickedness and _____.</p>
<p><b><i>9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’</i></b></p>	<p>The heads of state around the globe weep and mourn, but not because of their _____ and the sin of their people. They cry because their partner and enabler of every kind of wickedness is being destroyed. The city everyone thought was so great and mighty it could never fall, is destroyed in the space of an _____!</p>
<p><b><i>11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.</i></b></p>	<p>Not only do the world leaders mourn the destruction of New Babylon but all the business people of the world as well because the world _____ crashed with the fall of the city. Babylon replaced Wall Street and Fleet Street and every other financial center around the world. She had been the hub for marketing of every known commodity, even the hidden trading of the bodies and souls of _____ – human trafficking. And why should we be surprised? The _____ are gone. Man is in open rebellion against God. The semblance of propriety need not be maintained, and Babylon is the center of all commerce, including the sale of people into _____.</p>
<p><b><i>14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you,</i></b></p>	<p>Everything lost people longed for: riches, luxury, notoriety, has been taken away with the destruction of Babylon. The business people do not try to come to</p>

<p><b><i>and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'</i></b></p>	<p>Babylon to _____ the city, but in fear, they keep their distance, watching from afar. They are not mourning the fall of the city itself or the millions killed within it, but for their own _____ losses as a result of the destruction of the financial center of the economy of the world. There is no hope for the _____ of their own cities or the rebuilding of the economy of the world. All they had was the things of the _____. Now, all they had is gone, and they have no _____ of regaining any of it.</p>
<p><b><i>Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' 19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'</i></b></p>	<p>Shipmasters probably include airships (_____) as well, since so much is transported today by air. The point here is the worldwide impact of the destruction of Babylon on every type of commerce. The first mention is made here of the smoke and _____ of Babylon. All the cities of the world have experienced heavy destruction of buildings, and undoubtedly some resulting fires, but the _____ of Babylon is on fire. The whole place is burning up.</p>
<p><b><i>20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"</i></b></p>	<p>The lost men and women of the world grieve the loss of their capital, but the righteous in Heaven rejoice over the holy _____ of Almighty God.</p>
<p><b><i>21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.</i></b></p>	<p>Finally God sends an angel who drops a huge chunk of rock like a _____ in the sea, probably the upper end of the Persian Gulf, where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers join and empty into the sea. Perhaps it is a tsunami that runs up the valley to inundate Babylon (only a little over _____ feet above sea level) or perhaps the entire valley drops as a result of the earthquakes and tsunami, allowing the Persian Gulf to expand northward and putting the ruins of Babylon on the floor of the _____.</p>
<p><b><i>22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. 23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.</i></b></p>	<p>Whichever it is, Babylon will be _____. Nothing will be left. Even the candles and lamps that provided illumination in painful darkness will not shine any more.</p>
<p><b><i>For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."</i></b></p>	<p>She who shed so much _____ of the prophets and saints will have at last reaped the judgment God prepared for her.</p>