

Life after Death Part 18

Revelation Chapter 18

Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation

We will continue our discussion about life after death and the events at the second coming of Christ and the period of tribulation from the book of Revelation.

Here the events in **Revelation 18**, we will continue to discuss the judgment of God in the second part of tribulation on the kingdom of darkness, the devil and its demons, and we will witness the fall of Babylon. Let us now read and meditate on **Revelation 18**.

“1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 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. (Here the angel who came from Heaven from where the judgment of God was coming, declared as an act of holy proclamation, decree and worship, the downfall of the whorish empire, Babylon, the kingdom and city of Satan. Here the angel that was sent from Heaven, attended with great power and luster for the earth was lightened with his glory. He had not only light in himself, to discern the truth of his own prediction, but to inform and enlighten the world about that great event, and the power to accomplish it. This angel published the fall of Babylon, as a thing already came to pass; and this he did with a mighty strong voice, that all might hear his cry, and might see how well this angel was pleased to be the messenger of such news. The downfall and destruction of Babylon as an event was so fully determined in the counsels of God; which was for His interests and glory, therefore the visions and the predictions concerning it were repeated as we read here, ***“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen”***. The same we read ***“is fallen, is fallen”***, about the fall of the earthly Babylon in the writing of Isaiah a we read here, ***“And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.” (Isaiah 21:9 KJV)*** Some have thought a double fall is here intended, first her apostasy, and then second her ruin. **There are two falls; the first fall is when you fall in sin, and the second fall when you fail to repent and in such situation you will be liable to destruction by God’s judgment. Therefore you need to be earnest and quickly repent of your sin.** When it says, ***“and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird”***, this is also borrowed from **Isaiah 21:9**, which not describes her idols and her idol worship, but as her punishment and as consequence of such idols that it kept and became a place for demons which are called here devils and every kind of unclean spirits, as ill-omened and hateful birds, used to disturb a city or house that lay in its ruins. **Therefore if you will not repent of your sins then in such you are allowing demons to come and occupy your body and the place of your living.) 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.** (Here the angel of God declared the reason why Babylon was ruined; though God is not obliged to give any account of His matters, yet He is pleased to do so, especially in such situations when He brings His great judgment so He is clarifying the sin that they were doing. The

wickedness of Babylon was in forsaking the true God, set up idols, greed and love of money, using power to control money transaction and wealth through the mark of the beast, and using that to enforce fornication and immoralities. So Babylon was not only in idol worship and in spiritual adultery, that by her wealth and luxury had drawn all sorts of men and retained them in her interest into the spiritual adultery, but as well as promoting immoralities and fornications, as we explained in **Revelation 17**; like sex without marriage, adultery among married people, and in divorce and remarriage. ***“and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.”*** Those merchants were deceived by money. Therefore the declaration of the angel included this central role, that commerce, the ability to buy and sell through the control of the mark of the beast was at the deceptive heart of the harlot’s empire and world’s system as we read here, ***“17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.” (Revelation 13:17-18 KJV)*** 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.*** (Here through a voice came from Heaven God was giving warning to the people to come out from Babylon; that they should come out of her, first so they should not be partakers of her sins, and second so they will not receive with her the plagues of the judgment of God due to her sins. We can also understand from this verse 4 that the work of the harlot and her empire may even be part of the great and final deception, battle, and judgment described in **Revelation 20:7-10**. So here is the mercy of God to offer redemption to those that were deceived asking them to come out from her. A voice from Heaven from where the judgment of God comes calling the people who have been deceived to reject the attraction of the harlot’s empire and the world’s system. *** Therefore we need to be merciful and continue to evangelize to reach out the deceived to be saved. * God may have a people even in Babylon, and so we found God calling them out, that is why we need to evangelize to reach the lost, and so we would expect fruit from every attempt from evangelism.** But those that are resolved to partake with wicked men in their sins must receive of their plagues. *** God wants us to come out completely from all the works of the devil and its instruments which are worldliness, corruption, injustices, greed, immoralities, abominations, fornications and corruptions. * God here is warning you to come out from sin, to come out from certain relationships and communities so that you can come out from worldliness, the love of money, the idol worship, immoralities, and from the rest of the sins so you will not be partakers of God’s judgment on those who do such.) 5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.** (Here observe, when the sins of a people reach up to Heaven, the wrath of God will reach down to the earth. There is many times we ask God which time Lord that you will judge. The iniquities of the harlot were known by God and were judged by God. **God will wait to judge until the sin will reach a certain level then the Lord will send His judgment. The Lord will keep patience until certain sins that when it will take place, the Lord will bring His judgment and it is irreversible.) 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 harlot’s judgment will doubly administered by God. What she had done against God and against the people of God she will be punished in double measure. Though private revenge is forbidden, yet God will have His people act under Him, when they are called to it, in pulling down His and their persistent ruthless enemies. **Here the people of God were called to take part in the punishment of the harlot, Babylon; not that God is telling us to punish our enemies, but here God ask His**

people to take part in that because that is in the final stage of the period of tribulation and the harlot was not repenting. Also we need to understand that we are part of God's divine power and we need to take part of this work of Him as we can read here: ***"3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." (2 Peter 1:3-4 KJV)*** ***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 harlot is described here, to find out the reason of God's judgment on her. She glorified herself, she lived deliciously, she was given much torment and sorrow as we read here, ***"so much torment and sorrow give her"***, but she was not aware because as she was deceiving others she herself was deceived; that is why believing in herself that she is a queen, and is not a widow without husband and that she will see no sorrow in spite of her sinful path. God will proportionate the punishment of sinners to the measure of their wickedness, pride, and false security. Therefore be aware and avoid glorifying yourself. Be aware and avoid careless living in indulging in delicacies. Be aware and not belittling the punishment and judgment that you are receiving from God due to your sin. Be aware and not to give yourself high titles which are not true. Don't reject abandonment, bereavement, sorrows and sufferings that God may allow that to come across your life.) ***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.*** (When the harlot continued in her wrong path in spite of all the warnings and the conditions that she was placed in to be aware of God's displeasure, and continued in her pride, her wickedness and self security, then the plagues of God came on her all of a sudden. Yes, all of a sudden all came on her in one day; the death, the mourning, the famine, and utterly burned in the fire of God; for strong He is who judged her. The same with what had happened with COVID-19; there was with it death, mourning, and famine due to economic collapses. ***When destruction comes on a people suddenly, the surprise is a great aggravation of their misery, therefore now take heed and repent of all your sins before the coming of the judgment of God.***) ***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, 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.*** (Here the kings of the earth who took part of her sins started to lament for her a miserable lamentation. Those were Babylon's friends who had been bewitched and deceived by her fornication; they were mourners for her. Those kings took part in her sensual pleasures and had gained by her wealth and trade; being the merchants of the earth. Those kings of the earth were those whom she gave privileges into her idolatry by allowing them to have tyrannical power over their subjects, while they were submissive to her. Those were the merchants who trafficked with her for pleasures, for luxuries, for indulgences, and for the rest of the evil privileges; those they mourned when they saw the smoke of her burning, because by the harlot's craft they got their wealth and their material things, and in her fall they lost their wealth, power, indulgences and privileges. But what was the manner of their mourning? ***"Standing afar off for the fear of her torment"***; they stood afar off, afraid to come near to her. Though they had been partakers with her in her sins, and in her sinful pleasures and profits, they were not willing to bear a share in her plagues and

punishments. They made a grievous outcry: ***"Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city!"*** They wept, and cast dust upon their heads as we read in 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."*** The pleasures of sin are but for a season, and will end in dismal sorrow. All those who rejoice in the success of the church's enemies will share with them in their downfall and punishment; and those who have most indulged themselves in pride and pleasures are the least able to bear calamities; their sorrows will be as excessive as their previous pleasure and jollity. Therefore be earnest and repent of your sins as the Word of God is directed to you. This declaration of the swift judgment on the empire of the harlot can also suggest of the swift final judgment at the last battle described in ***Revelation 20:7-10***; that on one day, in a sudden manner the judgment will come on her in the form of death, famine, sorrows and she shall be totally destroyed by fire. ***Church listens and heeds those who live their lives for the devil they will be suddenly and utterly destroyed for strong and Almighty is the Lord who judges the wicked.*** The kings of the earth who shared in her sins and commit fornications with her will witness her destruction by the Lord. ***The judgment of God on her may have caused the fear of the Lord to impart that may work repentance in them. The same we had read in 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."*** God wants those who were deceived by the harlot to awake and come back to Him.) ***11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*** What was the cause of their mourning? Not their sin, but their punishment. They did not lament their fall into spiritual idolatry, greed, fornication, luxury, oppressing and abusing people and persecuting those who were resisting the beast and its mark, but they lamented their fall into ruin because the loss of their traffic and of their wealth and power. The spirit of antichrist is a worldly spirit, and their sorrow is a mere worldly sorrow and not a Godly sorrow that leads to repentance. They did not lament for the anger of God that had now fallen upon the harlot, but for the loss of their outward comfort. ***Their weeping and mourning was over the commercial control that they lost by the fall of the harlot. They were attracted by the power of the mark of beast, 666, that was controlling buying and selling as we read here, "17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."*** (Revelation 13:17-18 KJV) ***They mourned not in repentance of their sins but in loss of their trade. Even today many people are not mourning for their sins when God is disciplining them but for their financial losses. Therefore take heed and repent of all such.*** Now with God's judgment such control was broken and they lost the trade of the followings:) ***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. 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.*** (The preceding was inventory of the wealth and merchandises of this city. Those merchandises were at the heart of the harlot's deception and empire, were taken away as a result of God's victorious judgment. All such was suddenly lost, irrecoverably as we read in verse 14 ***"all things which were dainty and***

goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.”) 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, 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! (Here we saw the response of the merchants deceived by the harlot of commerce, who were made rich by the harlot. They stood afar off because they were in fear because of the torment, weeping and wailing of the harlot that was under God’s judgment. They mourned over what the harlot was attracting them with of colors, raiment, gold, precious stones and pearls. But they did not mourn their sins of greed, fornication and worldliness. Listen and heed to repent and come back to God. Those who are made rich by wrong ways of life and living they will be punished by the Lord and all what they had collected in a wrong way will be taken away from them.) 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, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 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. (They mourned the swiftness with which commerce and the harlot were judged. They mourned the fall of the former harlot of commerce. They mourned the stock market collapsing. They mourned the great city that was formerly rich and controlling the commerce but now swiftly judged and ended in one hour when they saw the smoke of her burning. The fall of Babylon was an utter overthrow, like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. But their mourning was not a Godly sorrow that lead to repentance, but was a worldly sorrow that will lead to calamity.) 20 Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. (To the contrast to the mourning of those kings for the destruction of the harlot, here the voice from Heaven from where God’s judgment came calls for rejoicing in Heaven, and call for rejoicing by the apostles and prophets, because God’s judgment had brought vengeance. So here an account of the joy and triumph in Heaven and earth took place at the irrecoverable fall of Babylon. So while her own people were bewailing her, the servants of God were called to rejoice over her. Heaven and earth, angels and saints, would join in this universal rejoicing, because the fall of Babylon was an act of God’s justice. God was avenging His people’s cause. They had committed their cause to Him to whom vengeance belongs, and now the time of recompense had come to relieve them. They did not take pleasure in the miseries of any, yet they have the reason to rejoice in the glorious justice of God. Again, we are not called to rejoice over our enemies but here the call to rejoice was made toward the end of the tribulation where people were not willing to repent from their wicked ways and they had made their choice to be against God and His Christ and on whom God sent His judgment.) 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. (The destruction of Babylon here was an irrecoverable ruin. This enemy should never molest them anymore, and of this they were assured by a remarkable sign: An angel from Heaven 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.”) 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; 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. (Several times repeated the statement “no more at all”, that indicate the Lord shall remove certain blessings and causing them not to return back. No more music instruments, no more rejoicing, no more parties and celebrations for the harlot. No more comfort enjoyed in that place. No more boasting with skills and high technology, and no more craftsman works shall be done there. No more new harvest and no more food production will be done there. No more joy, weddings, and new families’ formation and celebration are found there. No more light and decorations shall be seen there, but utter darkness and desolation, as the reward of her great wickedness in deceiving the nations with her sorceries. The judgment of God during the COVID 19 was similar of that of economic collapses everywhere. When God shall judge He will prevail, therefore be earnest and repent.) 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” (God judged her not only because of her wickedness, fornication, idol worship, greed, and spiritual adultery, but because they were destroying and murdering those whom she could not deceive. Such abominable sins deserved so great a ruin, so the attacks of this evil commercial empire will no more come against nor kill the prophets and the saints of God. In the same way God shall judge all the wicked who are working against God and against us, His church, and He will reward us and relief us from them.) (Revelation 18:1-24 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Let us now be encouraged to continue to persevere to live for God and for His cause and purpose. Let us persevere to serve Him and to do His will, knowing that one day He will come and judge the wicked and those who persecute us. Let us persevere in Evangelism and reaching new souls with the gospel of Jesus Christ, showing mercy to the worse of sinners trusting God that He may save some of those whom we are reaching out. Let us continue to trust God in doing our ministry who promised that He will be with us always, unto the end of the world, Amen.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your warning, the encouragements and the direction for life and Godliness that we received from your Word.

Come now to God and confess and renounce your sins. Renounce your worldliness, your love of money and greed. Renounce of your spiritual adultery, your idol worship and your deviation from the path that God had ordained for you to pass through. Renounce your immoralities, corruptions and your opposition to those who hold on the truth. Renounce your love for pleasures and your non willingness to suffer for God and to serve Him.

Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord save me and deliver me out from this problem _____, and from this people _____.

Lord I commit myself to live for you and to serve you and to abide with the plan that you had ordained for me to pass through. Lord I commit myself to persevere in suffering and

persecution. Lord I commit myself to be merciful and be willing to reach out and evangelize sinners with the gospel of Jesus.

Lord thank you for my Brethren and Sisters who repented and committed their lives to serve you and be obedient to the call that you have for them in their lives. Lord use them to reach the lost in spreading your Word. Lord shield them with the blood of Jesus and protect them from all persecution, and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless your church, refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. Lord protect us from persecution, and provide for us to continue to serve you. Lord enable us to make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Life after Death Part 18. Revelation Chapter 18. Christ Second Coming - the Tribulation. Revelation 18:1-24. Isaiah 21:9. 2 Peter 1:3-4. Revelation 13:17-18.

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