

Revelation 18

False Economic System

- **Intro:** Lives are led astray and even destroyed as a result of commercialism.
 - Advertisers understand our weaknesses.
 - ...That we all have a void in our hearts, and we desire to be fulfilled.
 - Advertisers offer you the idea that you need some *thing* in order to be happy.
 - Total iPhones Sold Worldwide, March 2011 - 108 million
 - Total iPod Sold, Worldwide January 2011 - 304 million
 - Cabbage patch doll, Tickle me Elmo.
 - John 7:38 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."
 - John 4:13 Jesus answered the woman at the well, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again."
 - See how many people are going hopelessly into debt.
 - You become a slave to your debt.
 - Prov. 22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.
 - God hates this bondage, we are designed to be satisfied by God Himself.
 - Here we will get a glimpse of Babylon's utter destruction.

I. Babylon The Great Destroyed.

1. The introduction of the chapter.
 - A. This chapter speaks of something different than the previous one.
 1. The chapter is introduced with the words "after these things."
 2. And I saw another Angel.
 - a. This is a different angel than the one in chapter 17.
 - i. having great authority,
 - ii. and the earth was illuminated with his glory.
2. Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen...
 - A. Babylon could be the name for the economic center of the revived Roman empire.
 - B. Or this could be the literal city of Babylon in Iraq. (to be rebuilt)
 - C. Babylon The *Great* – in what ways...?
 1. The city has world-wide influence, to the point of dominance.

2. The city is very wealthy.
 3. Wealth and resources are very diversified.
 4. The city is home to many powerful business men.
 5. The city is home to many gifted craftsmen.
3. All nations have suffered God's judgment on account of following her sinful ways.
4. Come out of her My People. Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.
 - A. These people are to make a clean break with this city and everything that it represents.
 1. 2Cor. 6:17 Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty".
 2. 1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
 - B. Lot is an example of this.
 1. The city of the plain was prosperous
 2. But the men of Sodom were exceedingly sinful.
 3. In the judgment of God against Sodom Lot lost...
 - a. His daughters and their families, his wife, and all their possessions.
5. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
 - A. Gen. 19:13 The outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord.
6. Babylon's proud look.
 - A. She glorified herself
 - B. lived luxuriously,
 - C. She says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.
 - D. Therefore her plagues will come in one day-for strong is the Lord God who judges her.
 1. Prov. 6:16-17 These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look.
 2. Isaiah 2:11 The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day.
 3. 1Peter 5:5 God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.

II. Earth mourns Babylon's Destruction.

1. The kings of the earth weep and lament for her. (9-10)
2. The merchants of the earth weep over her. (11-16)
 - A. Their merchandise.
 1. Jewelry: Gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls.
 2. Clothing: Fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet.
 3. Furniture: Citron wood, ivory, most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;
 4. Perfumes: cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense
 5. Wine and Oil.
 6. Automobiles: Chariots.
 7. Merchandising of people: Bodies and souls of men.
 - a. Prostitution.
 - b. Selling of Children.
 - c. Cloning?
 - B. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you...and you shall find them no more at all. Hell will include missing what our soul longs for.
 1. In contrast in the kingdom age.
 - a. Isaiah 55:11 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.
 - i. Isaiah 55:12 Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.
 - C. For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.
 1. Worldly magnificence will end in one day!
 2. Mark 8:36 What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
 3. Luke 12:15-21 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be

required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

3. Every shipmaster stood at a distance and cried out. (17-19)

III. Heaven Rejoices.

A. God has judged you on her.

1. (niv) "God has judged her for the way she has treated you."

2. For by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

A. Deceived about what really matters in life.

B. 1Tim. 6:6-11:

1. Now godliness with contentment is great gain.
2. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.
3. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
4. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

C. 1Tim. 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.