

Revelation Chapter 18 - 19: v. 6.

Title: God's Judgement upon Babylon - Hallelujah!!!!

After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² 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!" ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 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. 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. 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.' 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. 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, 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.' 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.' ²⁰ "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" 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. 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. 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."

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power *belong* to the Lord our God! ² For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her." ³ Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" ⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" ⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!" ⁶ And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

Introduction

Last week there was another terrorist attack in England.
It was the third attack in a short space of time.

The Prime minister of the U.K. Teresa May is quoted as say **“Enough is enough, it is time to act”**

In a sense God is saying in Revelation Chapter 18, “Enough is enough”, it is time to act.

God is now acting in judgement.

In Revelation recently we have been disturbed by the killing of many believers. Now the time has come for God to bring His vengeance upon Babylon.

The first thing I would like to say is that there are many similarities between this chapter and the original fall of Babylon in **Isaiah 13-21** and also with the **destruction of Tyre in Ezekiel 26-28.**

In the past God has judged societies and destroyed cities like Sodom and Gomorrah.

However, this time God’s judgement is final.

Babylon is both a city and it is also a representative of the big commercial world of the last days.

If you follow world news on the BBC and N.H.K. and U.S. T.V. you will not fail to see that today we are living in a world of **“Global Economics”**.

There is so much inter-dependence on world trade.

Recently China has showed their desire to re-create the old Silk Road.

They are looking for a free trade passage to Europe through Russia.

Never before in world history has there been such a “Global” move towards trade dependency.

One day the world will create a great city and it will be the Head Quarters for the world’s wealth.

The reality of the world is moving closer and closer towards the fulfillment of John’s prophecy in Revelation.

The religious world was destroyed in Chapter 17 and now the commercial world has its doom in Chapter 18.

John’s prophecy tells us that God will destroy the city of Babylon in 1 hour. (v.10)

The rest of the Babylon world will take 24 hours. (v. 8)

I am dividing Chapter 18 through to Chapter 19: v. 6 into 4 sections.

1. The Announcement and Reason for God’s Judgement - v 1-3 and v. 21-24.

We are told by John in v.1 that an Angel came down from Heaven, with great authority.

The Angel’s power was so great that the earth was illuminated with its glory.

The announcement was “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.”

Here is an amazing prophecy from John.

The Prophecy predicts the total destruction of the world-system as we know it today and what it will become in future days.

We already know from v. 10 that this destruction will happen in one hour.

One moment the world will be functioning normally, the next moment God’s judgement will fall upon it.

We are told the reason for this judgement in verses 2-3 and in v. 21-24.

Here are the reasons.

a) Babylon has become a dwelling place for demons.

It is important that we understand a little about demons, so that we can see why God’s judgement came.

Firstly, let us look at Matthew Chapter 25: v.41.

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Next let us look at Revelation Chapter 12: v. 7-9.

⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

From these verses it is clear the Satan has his own Angels.

These Angels are free to carry out his purposes.

It is likely that these are the Angels who fell with Satan at the beginning.

(2 Peter 2 v.4)

⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

These fallen Angels are commonly believed to be identical with the demons mentioned throughout the Old and New Testament.

We need to beware of them, but not afraid of them.

The Bible teaches that the power that is inside every Christian is greater than the power that is in the world, and this includes the demons.

(1 John 4: v.4)

⁴You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

There is no hope for the demons, they are doomed to destruction. (Matt.25:41, Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:v.4)

It is helpful for us to know what these demons do now.

1. They oppose God's purposes - Daniel 10: v.10-14.
2. They afflict God's people - Luke 13: v.16 - a woman bound by Satan for 18 yrs. Matt.17: v. 15-18. -
¹⁵“Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.” ¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.” ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.
3. They execute Satan's purposes - Matt. 25: v.41,12: v. 26-27.
4. They hinder the spiritual life of God's people - Eph. 6:12.
¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age,^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
5. They try to deceive God's people - 1 Samuel 28: v.7-20.

b) **The Kings of the earth have committed fornication with the demons. - v.3.**

This sin mentioned here is quite likely to be the same thing that was happening on the earth just before God destroyed the earth with a world-wide flood.

Genesis 6: v. 4-8.

⁴There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

The judgement of God has come because of sexual perversion and the possibility of demons interacting sexually with the Kings of the earth.

Luke 17: v.26-27 compares the time just before the return of Jesus to be similar to the time just before the flood.

These verses also tell us of the suddenness of the return of Jesus.

c) **Babylon deceived the whole world through sorcery - v.23.**

Nobody likes to be deceived. However, deception is the hallmark of the “Last days”. We have already learnt that people will be deceived by the false prophet through signs and wonders.

Now we discover that the commercial world is also heavily involved in deception.

Q. What actually is deception?

Basically it is making out that something is truth, when in fact it is actually a lie.

Jesus said in John 14: v. 6

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

This is the truth concerning your eternal Salvation, everything else is a lie.

Please do not be deceived!!!

d) The killing of all the Prophets and Saints - v24.

God is going to avenge the killing of all His children and all His Prophets.

As I mentioned last time about 900,000 believers have been killed (Martyred) in recent years for no other reason that that they are God's children, worshipping and obeying Him.

This alone is a good enough reason for God to bring judgement upon those who have killed His people.

2. Avoiding God's Judgement - v. - 4-5.

In v.4 we are told that there was a cry from Heaven.

The cry was to warn God's people to separate from Babylon.

Coming out of this city and system was the only way to avoid the plagues that God was going to inflict upon the people.

The separation of God's people from the worldly system is a topic that has been hotly debated for many years.

Paul was very clear when he wrote to the Church at Corinth about being separate from the world and their ways.

2 Corinthians 6: v.11- 7: v. 1. In New Living Translation.

¹¹ Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you, and our hearts are open to you. ¹² There is no lack of love on our part, but you have withheld your love from us. ¹³ I am asking you to respond as if you were my own children. Open your hearts to us! ¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said:

"I will live in them
and walk among them.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers,
and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD.

Don't touch their filthy things,
and I will welcome you.

¹⁸ And I will be your Father,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the LORD Almighty."

⁷ Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

I hope that everybody here who professes to be a Christian realizes the truth of Paul's challenge to the Corinthian Church. It is also a challenge to all Churches and to O.I.C.

The only way that we can witness effectively to people is by being different. We can only be different if we let the Holy Spirit control our lives.

The closer we get to Jesus through the Holy Spirit, the less we are to desire the things of this world.

3. The scope of God's Judgement - 18 v.6-19.

In the last days, people will be enslaved by money and wealth.

God will destroy this system in one day -v.8 and the actual city will be burnt in 1 hour - v.9.

a) The Measure of the Judgement - v. 6-8.

In v. 6-8 John tells us that God is going to repay the world **double in punishment.**

It was part of the Jewish Law, revealed to us in Exodus 22: v. 4,7, and 9 that if any loss had occurred then the offending person had to repay double the cost of the loss.

God was giving back to worldly "Babylon" double what she had inflicted upon God's people.

Before we leave this point we need to make two personal applications for our lives.

Firstly, there is a Biblical principle that God applies in our lives.

The principle is that we "reap" what we "sow."

Matthew 7: v. 1-2.

"Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

If we are mean with our money, God will be mean with the financial blessings towards us.

We can be careful and wise with our money, **but we need also to be generous.**

Our God is a generous God and our lives should reflect Him.

Matthew 6: v.14-15 (N.K.J.)

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

This is a challenging verse.

Q. Are you holding bitterness in your heart against someone?

Now is the time to forgive them.

If you do not forgive them, then you will reap what you sow.

Life is full of real stories about sowing and reaping.

We must always try and sow good things in life in all that we say and do.

Because one day it is going to come back to bite us or bless us.

Secondly, the truth that all pride will one day be humiliated.

Rev.18: v.7.

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.'

The big sin of Babylon was pride.

John here reproduces something similar to the ancient judgement on Babylon.

There was a sin in ancient days that the Greeks called "hubris".

This word means that you have an arrogance that makes you feel that you have no need of God.

The punishment for that sin is ultimate humiliation.

Remember that great King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4: v.28-33.

²⁸ All *this* came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. ³⁰ The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" ³¹ While the word was *still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! ³² And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." ³³ That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

b) The Sorrow of the Kings and Merchants - v.9-16

In v. 9-16 John explains about the sorrow of the Kings and the Merchants.

A day is coming when the wealthy leaders of this earth will weep and mourn as they see their city burning with fire.

In one hour it will be destroyed.

In v. 12-13 it teaches us that most of the wealth of the world will be held in this great city.

It is no wonder that the Kings and businessmen will be in tears and mourning.

**You may remember hearing about the “Wall Street Stock Market Crash of 1929”
Here is a quote from a newspaper at the time.**

Will Rogers happened to be in New York on "Black Thursday," Oct. 24, 1929.

In his nationally syndicated newspaper column for that day, he wrote:

"When Wall Street took that tail spin, you had to stand in line to get a window to jump out of, and speculators were selling space for bodies in the East River.

"The New York correspondent for one of London's sensationalist tabloids wired home that lower Broadway was clogged with corpses.

This is just a taster of what the Kings and merchants will feel like when the last Babylon crashes and is burnt with fire.

Jesus said, “for what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?”

c) The Sorrow of the Shipmasters - v.17-19.

It appears from our text that the whole merchant fleet of boats from all over the world relied upon this city for their business.

They must have transported the wealth of the world to this one place.

They saw the city destroyed in one hour and their jobs and businesses failed immediately.

4. Praise for God's Judgement - Rev.19: v.1-5.

It might seem strange that a great crowd of people should shout and praise God in Heaven for the execution of God's judgement on this earth.

We must never forget that although God is a God of LOVE, He also is a God of JUDGEMENT.

The shout of rejoicing begins with Hallelujah.

Hallelujah is a very common word in Christian conversation.

When something positive happens we often shout “Hallelujah”

It is interesting to note that the only time that this word appears in the Bible is on the four occasions in chapter 19.

It does appear in the Old Testament Psalms in its translated form.

The series of Psalms from 113 - 118 were called the “Hallel” Psalms or Praise God Psalms.

In Hebrew Halal means to praise and Jah is the name of God.

God is praised for two reasons in these verses.

Firstly, God is praised because of His Salvation, His Glory, and His Power.

All of these attributes of God should awaken a response in our heart.

The Salvation of God should awaken our “Gratitude”.

The Glory of God should awaken our “Reverence towards God”.

The Power of God should stir up our “Trust in God”.

This surely should motivate us to shout “Hallelujah”

Secondly God is praised because He has delivered a just and true judgement.

Someone once said **“judgement is the inescapable consequences of sin.”**

God alone is perfect in judgement, we are not, so we need to be careful.

God is perfect in judgement for 3 reasons.

1. God alone can see the inner thoughts and desires of any person.
2. God alone is the only person who can judge without prejudice.
3. God alone has the wisdom to find the right judgement and He has the power to apply it.

Application Summary

Today we have been exposed to many truths about God through His word.

I will summarize them for you as we close.

1. **Beware of “Demons”, they are real.** They will oppose God’s purposes in your life, they will hinder your spiritual progress, if you let them, and they will try to deceive you.

BUT remember ;

1 John 4: v.4.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

2. **We must live our lives, knowing that we will reap what we sow.**

We must be careful what we do, how we treat people, and how we respond to God’s word, the Bible.

We want our actions to return in blessing and not come back to bite us so to speak.

3. **The way to be blessed and be a blessing in this world is to be separate and come out from the worldly system.**

2 Corinthians 6: v.16-18.

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people.”

¹⁷ Therefore

“Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you.”

¹⁸ “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty.”

4. **God’s Judgements are always correct.**

God knows everything and only He can execute correct judgement. We can trust the Judge of all the earth to do the right thing.