

Revelation 17

Part 4/Summary

The Harlot on the Beast
Mystery Babylon



Bo, Adonai!

Bo, Yeshua, Bo

Come Lord Jesus, Come



Revelation 17

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

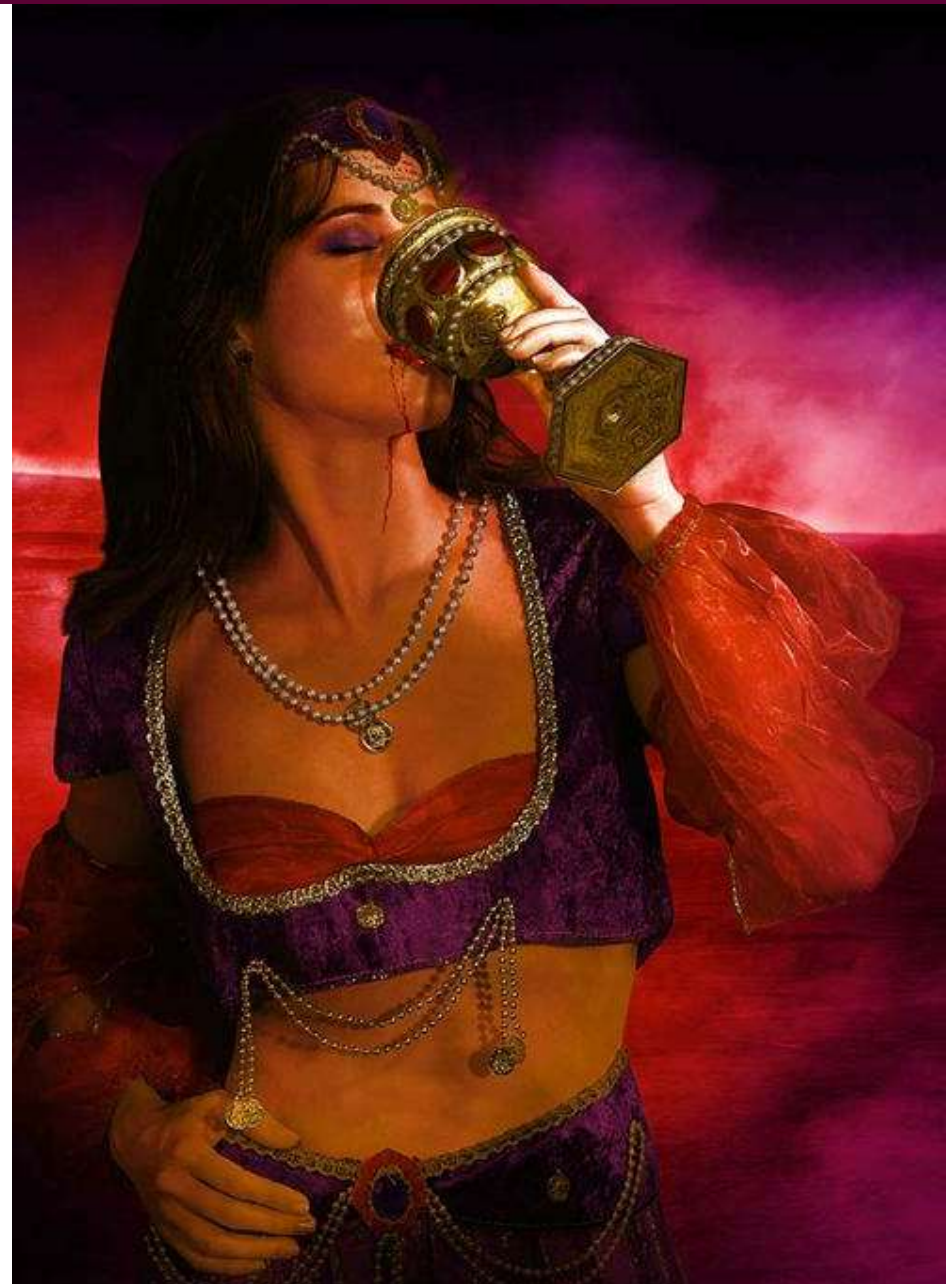
³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Revelation 17

⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

***MYSTERY, BABYLON
THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE
ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.***

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.



Revelation 17

⁷ But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

⁹ “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. ¹¹ The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

Revelation 17

¹² “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

¹⁵ Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Revelation 17

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

OK, so what do we know from all this?

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

From these passages we understand **the Harlot...**

- 1) **Is a prostitute.** Ultimate in promiscuous, unfaithful behavior; depicts unfaithfulness to God by someone who *claims* to honor God.
- 2) **Has universal influence;** all over the world.
- 3) **Is seated upon the beast** (*Steers, dominates*). She is in control, even over government.
- 4) **Is adorned with Purple, Scarlet, Gold and Jewels.** Conspicuously wealthy, expensively adorned; outwardly attractive, with adornment (vestments) of organized “church.”

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

- 5) **Holds a Golden cup:** precious, shining, pleasant to behold; “ostensibly” utensil in God’s service; yet counterfeit, filled with abominable things, making her “drunk,” *and will bring her judgment.*
- 6) Has writing on her, **Mystery, Babylon the Great.** A mystery, linked with Babylon of Nimrod (*See Revelation 11:8, used as an idiom*). Something not revealed before, shown now.
- 7) **Is the Mother of Prostitutes:** has spiritual offspring, not alone. Spawned other “harlots.”
- 8) **Is Persecutor of Christians** (*true believers*). In fact, revels in their blood, drunk on persecution.

Revelation 17

The Harlot: 10 Big Clues

- 9) **Is sitting on a beast with seven heads, identified as Seven “mountains.”** Rome built on 7 hills; Aventine, Caelian, Capitoline, Esquiline, Palatine, Quirinal and Viminal. Possible may not be direct reference to Rome, since word used can either be “mountain” or “hill,” may instead represent earthly kingdoms that have come and gone in world history.
- 10) **Is The Great City that rules over the kings of the earth.** In John’s day, could only be Rome, birth place of first organized Christianity, Holy Roman Catholic Church. No question about this identity, which gives previous clue more weight as Rome.

Revelation 17

The Harlot...

- We know at this point harlot riding the beast **representative of final one-world religion**, a completely apostate, false religion.
- Roots all the way back to beginning of organized religion. Her corruption continued to grow not only in the “mother harlot” church, but also in many “daughter harlot” churches she has spawned.
- **Cannot say harlot is “Catholic Church.”** Instead, she is *only* church at this time, completely corrupt. She is result of man’s *religious* attempts, in complete opposition to God’s call of true worship.

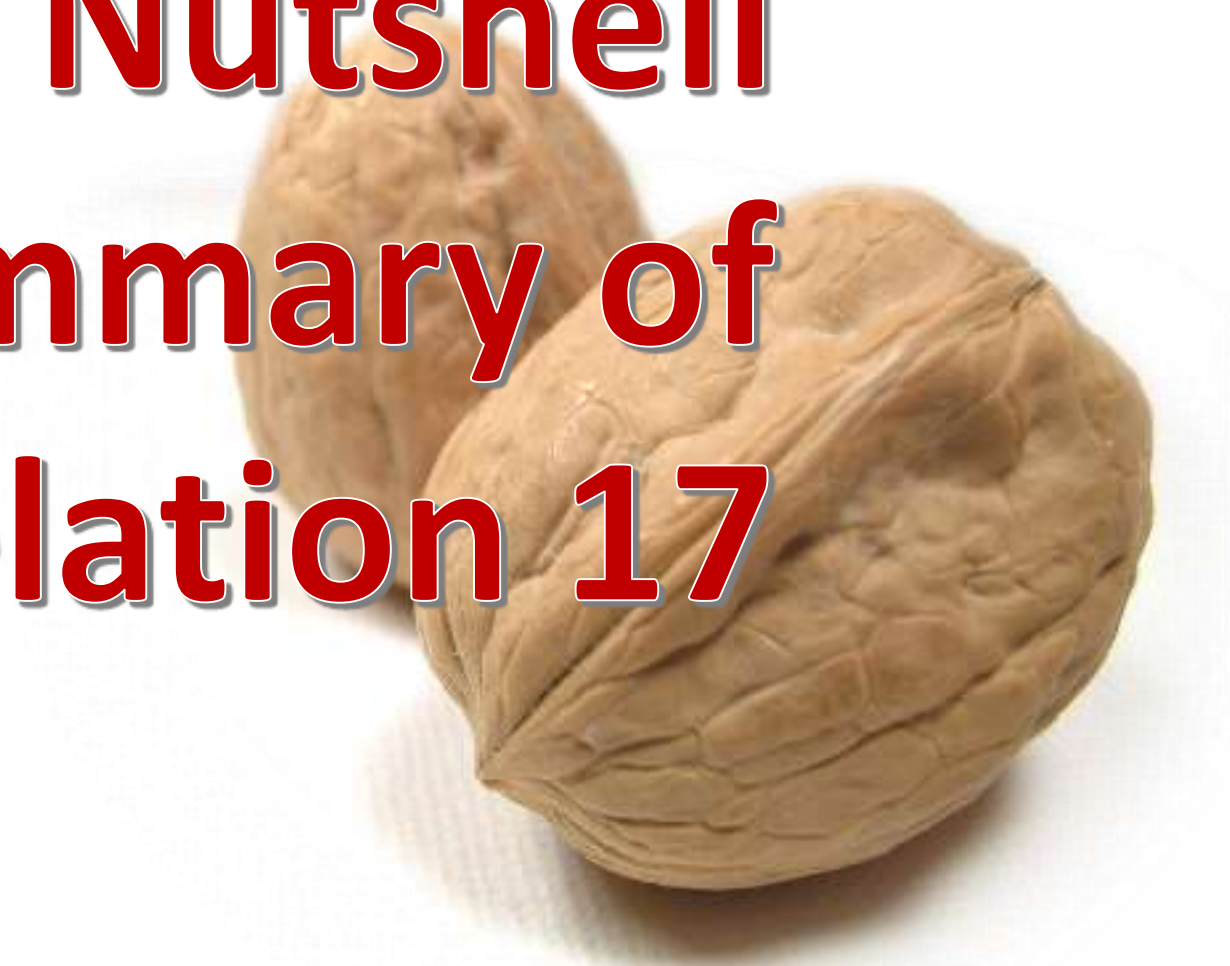
Revelation 17

The Harlot...

- She is combination of all man-made religions, all churches (*called Christian or otherwise*) in last days. She began in Rome, as a manmade attempt to combine truth with error, true belief with paganism. She will end in total destruction, replaced by worship of the beast.
- Whether “great city” is physical/spiritual Rome (Church) or physical/spiritual Babylon is difficult to discern, remains to be seen.
- So many interpretations ch 17, in combination with Daniel 7, would take libraries to explain them. Well meaning Christians tried to explain, but they are beyond universal understanding at the moment.

Revelation 17

A Nutshell Summary of Revelation 17

Two walnuts are shown on a white surface. One walnut is in the foreground, slightly to the right, and is in sharp focus. The other walnut is behind it and to the left, slightly out of focus. The walnuts have a characteristic brown, wrinkled shell. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Revelation 17

A Note First...

- Much said about "Catholic" Church. Do not intend to accuse today's Catholic Church of being "harlot," but throughout history first "organized" Christian church meets all clues regarding harlot riding beast.
- Probable today's Catholic Church will abandon truth, morph and **join with other world religions and apostate ideas**, and become the harlot.
- Anticipate one world religion during Tribulation, world's largest religion *will be a major player* in final false religion - *but so will many, many others*.
- No offense meant here. **Denomination does not matter - only true belief in Jesus the Messiah.** (the true "Church.")

Revelation 17

15
statements
to provide
direction...

Don't want to
end up like this!



#1: Rebellion & Apostasy

- Since beginning of time, man's flesh has been in opposition to God, and continues in this.
- Scripture equates this rebellion to prostitution, calls all who go after "other gods" harlots, whores, prostitutes. One of most powerful types and symbols in scripture.
- **God is a jealous God**, requires our complete dedication and faithfulness. ANYTHING other than God as top priority is an idol, and *our attention to it before God is spiritual harlotry*.
- Scripturally, anything that deviates from God's Word in practice or teaching *considered an abomination*, and a form of spiritual fornication.

#2: Religious Rituals, Practices

- Nimrod was in rebellion to God, started Tower of Bab-el, began city of Babylon, cited throughout scripture as city in opposition to God. (*“Tale of Two Cities” – Babylon and Jerusalem*)
- **All pagan, demonic and false religious rituals and teachings can be traced to origin in Babylon.** Rituals associated with Babylonian religious system were considered “mysteries” and secret rites.
- These pagan/demonic practices began in **Babylon**, transferred to **Pergamos**, then moved to **Rome**, incorporated in organized church.

#3: Truth & False Combined

- False religious practices perpetuated by Roman Emperors (*fully participated in “mystery” rites*).
- Later combined with Christian teachings (*under Constantine, 3rd century AD*) to yield world church **not true** to God’s word (*already corrupt at origin*). Called Catholic (*means “universal”*).
- First organized “Christian” religion, but full of abominations.
- All Catholic rituals (*including rosary, confession to priests, celibacy for priests, order of nuns, holy water, pomp and circumstance, etc.*) can be traced to pagan beginnings in Babylon. Continues today.



#4: “Universal” Church

- Catholic church **very bloody history**, persecution of true believers, greed, lust for power and attempts to rule world through the church.
- Catholic Church has been most powerful, longest lasting entity in history, including all other world powers combined. Has political agenda. *(Still does)*
- This continues today but in a more subtle, and *thus more deceptive way*.
- In every way, in all 10 clues provided for identity of the harlot in chapter 17, **the Catholic Church matches the description.**

#5: Children of the Harlot

- Catholic Church spawned all current (*originally so-called “Christian”*) churches today, in some form or another.
- All religious systems, including protestants, Christian cults, new agers, mystics, etc.
- All contain false teachings, and pagan influences.
- Catholic Church not alone in its “harlotry.”

#6: The True “Ekklesia”

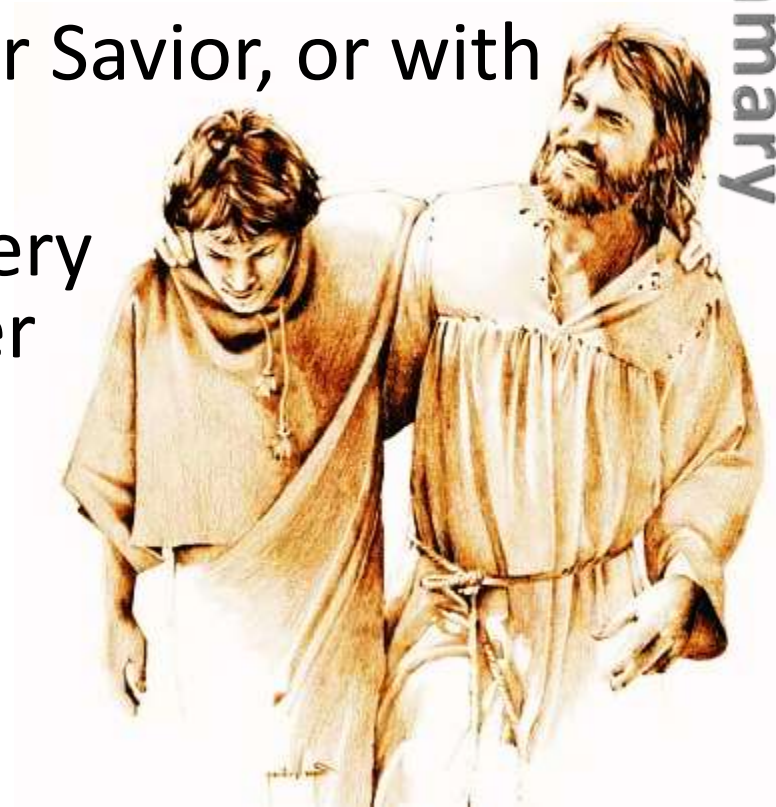
- Only “Church” on planet today acceptable in God’s eyes is group of believers *who hold true to Yeshua HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah), God the Father, and His perfect plan and word.*
- These are not organized in man’s view of this word, but guided by Holy Spirit alone. These are saints who have been persecuted throughout history by both Catholic Church and other political and religious entities.
- This group also continues today, and has **throughout all generations** as God has preserved her.

#6: The True “Ekklesia” *(continued)*

- True believers can be found in all of these harlot religions, however. Some found there less concerned with **rituals**, most concerned with **relationship** with God and His Son, relying upon guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- *Traditionalism and ritualism do not save people* – Jesus does – and many, although they are “members” or attend what we might label as man-made religious groups, believe this, and know and love Jesus.
- **God does not care what church we attend. He cares about what is in our hearts.**

#6: The True “Ekklesia” *(continued)*

- Biggest question for us, **are we loyal to our “church”** (*denomination, or whatever earthly group we belong to*), or are we loyal to God alone?
- Is our relationship with our Savior, or with our organized “church?”
- Our eternal destiny may very well depend on our answer to this question.



#7: False Church of Future

- In end times, a religious system will rise and will depart completely from God's teachings.
- May or may not spring from Catholic Church, but seems likely from Revelation, and fact it is **largest in world.**
- Will become world religious system opposing truth of God's Word, relying heavily on pagan ritual, rather than God's Word.
- Will persecute all other "religions" until they submit, or go underground. Will **masquerade** as REAL religion (deception), *taking people away from God, not toward Him.*
- Will be "state sponsored" (*in the beginning*).

#8: The Harlot

- This world church will be **harlot** of Revelation 17, riding the beast, (*antichrist and his world political system*) for a time.
- This harlot church will control and be supported by antichrist, *but only temporarily*.
- Antichrist will not tolerate worship of anyone or anything other than himself at some point.

#9: 7 Heads & 10 Horns

- Beast has 7 heads and 10 horns. 7 heads most likely 7 greatest world powers through history: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medes and Persians, Greece, and Rome...and last kingdom belonging to Antichrist. (*reference Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel chapter 2, and Daniel's vision in Chapter 7*).
- **10 horns indicate 10 kings/kingdoms** (*or regions of power*) in end times, before Antichrist takes complete dominion. These 10 powers will eventually yield their power to Antichrist for short time before the end.
- **These kings and kingdoms have not yet happened.**

#10: 7 World Powers

- 7 kings in Chapter 17 relate to these 7 world powers. **It says 5 have fallen.** Those would be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece.
- Also says **one IS** (*at time of John's writing*), that is original Roman Empire (*there is no other answer for this one*).
- Possible these 7 kings also seven "mountains" indicated immediately prior (*v. 9 and 10*), rather than 7 "*hills of Rome*." God uses mountains as allusions to powerful kingdoms. **Up for debate.** Either interpretation fits bottom line of apostate religious system sponsored by Antichrist.

#11: Was and Is Not and will...

- References beast (Antichrist) as one who **“was, and is not, and will ascend,”** later as one who **“was, and is not, is himself also the eighth...”**
- **Counterfeit** of description of Jesus (*one who “was, and is, and shall be...”*).
- May relate to person (“king,” Antichrist) or his kingdom (*his world empire*), or both. Words interchangeable in the Greek.
- “Eighth” indicates Antichrist will **come from 7th world power**, in place at end times, perhaps consisting of 10 kings. **He is then the eighth world power.**

#11: Was and Is Not and will... *(continued)*

- 10 kings will give Antichrist their power, making him sole dictator, thus an *entirely new, or eighth, world kingdom*.
- Description *“was, and is not, and will be”* promotes all sorts of speculation. Speaking of **only the kingdom**, may indicate Roman imperialism rises again, after being “dead” for some time (*remember, however, that it only completely died in 1918!*), and then coming back to life for a short time.
- Speaking of **man himself**, may also be allusion to so-called “fatal wound” of beast, who then *apparently (deception!)* comes back to life.

#11: Was and Is Not and will... *(continued)*

- Both may be true. Often the case in prophecy.
- Some even speculate a now dead world dictator (*such as Nero or Hitler, or others*), or even Judas Iscariot, **will come back to life** (*reincarnated or resurrected?*) as the final world ruler we call Antichrist. Seems far fetched, and quite probably in violation of God's ways.



#12: Harlot Destroyed

- The harlot, false church, will have control over all people, all nations, everywhere. Deception will reach across globe.
- Eventually with 10 kings, Antichrist will hate false church (harlot) because it takes away power and worship from him. **Will destroy harlot completely.** She will not rise again.
- In her place even more dangerous “religion” – **worship of Antichrist.** Refusal fatal. However, taking his mark and worshipping him **has even MORE fatal consequences** – **complete separation from God for eternity.**

#13: War!

- During Antichrist's rise, with 10 kings, world (*both false church and political system*) **will engage real believers, saints, in war**. They will persecute saints and kill many.
- Eventually, Antichrist in sole command, will step up persecution of saints. **At war with God, and the Lamb** (*Yeshua HaMashiach*).
- Chapter **17** deals mostly with Babylon (harlot here) **as a religious deception** – a false church. Chapter **18** deals with Babylon as entire world system (**political, economical, social, commercial**) under Antichrist, opposed to (at war with) God. **BOTH ultimately destroyed**.

#14: The End In Sight

- This chapter fast forwards to the end (in combination with chapter 18).
- Lamb returns with His saints (*true believers, the “REAL” Church*), however in chapter 19.
- **Armageddon occurs, and the Lamb overcomes the enemy.**
- **In the midst of all this ugliness, we cannot forget the ending! WE WIN!**



#15: Those Alive at the Time

- Likely scriptures that relate to antichrist, false prophet and harlot will **only become crystal clear as they are happening in real time, or after the fact.**
- Have mentioned before, people with greatest insights into mysteries of Revelation **will be those living through Tribulation**, able to put pieces together with actual fulfillments.

Revelation 17

Summary Thoughts...

- Chapters (17 and 18) generate more speculation than just about any other scriptural passages.
- Must remember we have great *hindsight*. Only God has foresight.
- When these events occur, they will make sense and be clear to those who are faithfully pursuing answers and truth in scripture.
- However these passages are fulfilled, God has made it clear that **all these things will happen because He has a plan, and all His Words will be fulfilled exactly as He has given them to us.**



Revelation 18

Part 1

**Babylon is Fallen
Sinful World Mourns Her Loss**

Revelation 18

¹ 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."

Revelation 18

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.

Revelation 18

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;*

Revelation 18

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!

Revelation 18

- 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!"*

Revelation 18

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."

Revelation 18

- **Babylon** thru history and God's Word is a **type or symbol**, for everything in opposition to God.
- Chapter 17 very graphic rise and fall of the "harlot," all false religions, who do not hold true to God's Word. She is called "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."
- In chapter 18, story of demise and destruction of Babylon continues, but here Babylon portrayed as a **commercial system**, way of doing business, way of life, also in opposition to God

Revelation 18

- MUST REMEMBER... **everything in opposition to God will be destroyed.**
- The Mother of Harlots and her offspring (false worship) is destroyed in chapter 17 by the kings of the earth, **by man.**
- Here, Babylon, representing all ways of life in rebellion to God, is destroyed by **God Himself.**
- HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THIS!!

Revelation 18

THE QUESTION OF LITERAL VS. SYMBOLIC:

- Any interpretation of God's Word brings up question ***“is this literal, or is it symbolic?”***
- Best rule of thumb to fully understand God's Word, is to take whatever is said as literally as possible, and if something does not make literal sense, look for the symbolic meanings. In many cases it is both.
- Question here is ***“does chapter 18 (and chapter 17) refer to the actual physical city of Babylon, or is it just symbolic of religions and commercial systems in opposition to God?”***
- Lots of controversy, differences of opinions.

Revelation 18

- Some say only symbolic, others say *actual* city. **And, some say both.** We agree with this latter opinion.
- Destruction (*complete annihilation*) of Babylon (physical and spiritual city) prophesied in six classic chapters : Isaiah 13 and 14, Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Revelation 17 and 18, as well as many other prophetic passages.
- Bible says “**ruins**” **will never be inhabited.** So far, that has *not yet happened*.
- Should *not confuse* **FALL** of Babylon (*as an empire in 539 BC*) with **DESTRUCTION** of Babylon. God will fulfill His prophecies **TO THE LETTER.**

Revelation 18

- Earlier discussed these prophecies, including strange passage in Zechariah 5: *“⁵Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth.” ⁶So I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “It is a basket that is going forth.” He also said, “This is their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. ⁹Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. ¹⁰So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?” ¹¹And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base.” (5:5-11)*

Revelation 18

- In Zechariah 5, woman's name is **wickedness** (*she may be same one as harlot in Revelation 17*). Kept in basket until end of time, she will be taken where a "house is built for her" in Babylon.
- Because of these verses, some speculate *literal* city of Babylon will be rebuilt, used as headquarters for final world government and leader.
- Some even think there will be a return to **Babylon as head of religious power as well**.
- Makes sense if antichrist is headquartered here, as he desires worship of himself alone.

Revelation 18

- If this happens, **wickedness will migrate back to its original place of rebellion: Bab-el.**
- This is where all wickedness, opposition to God, is portrayed in scripture, where it began and where it will be judged, and end.
- Many other scriptural references lead us to believe a literal physical city of Babylon will be rebuilt and will be instrumental in eschatological prophecy, end time events.
- **The fall of the city of Babylon, the **physical** city, may also be implied in these passages.**

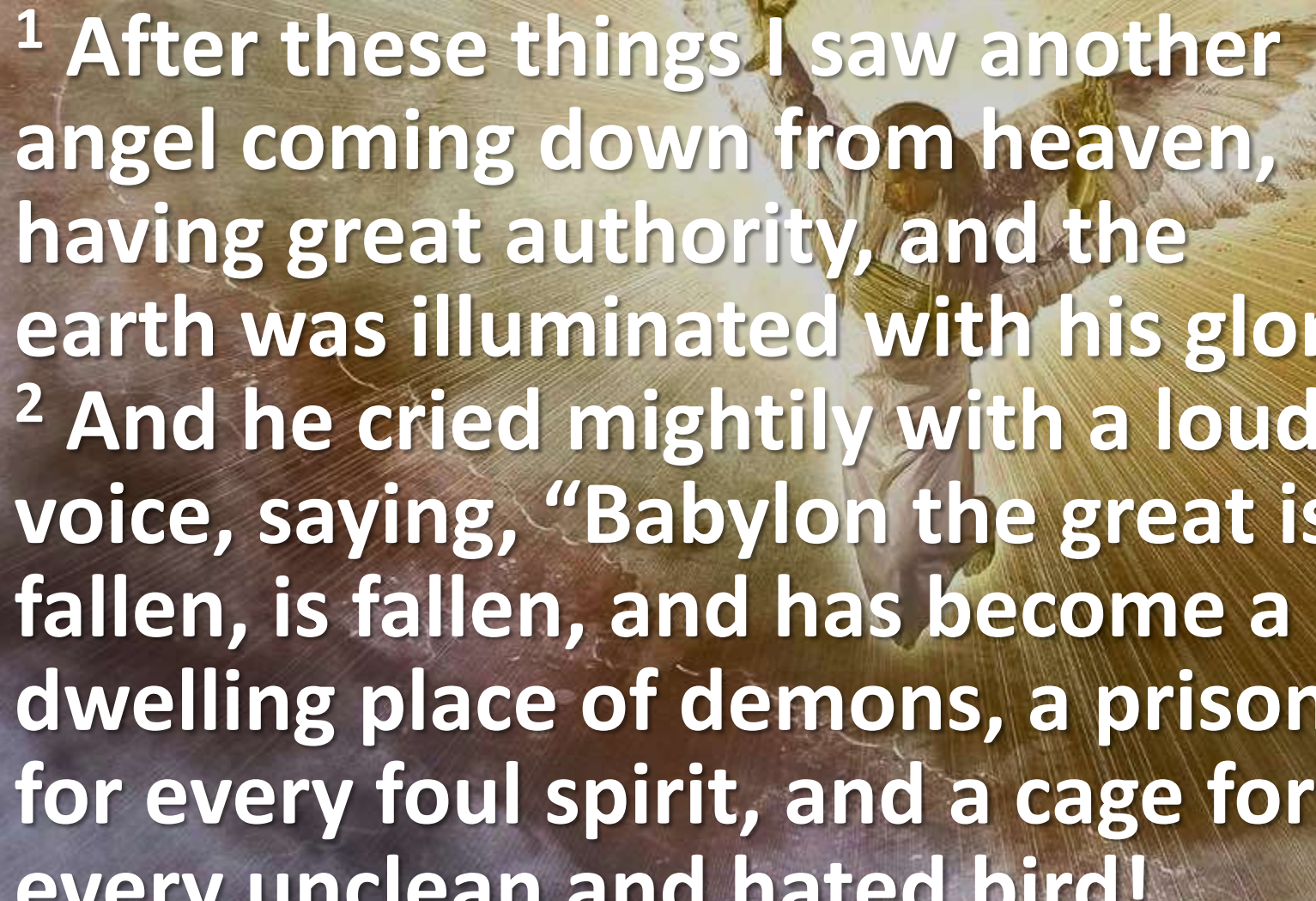
Revelation 18

- In *symbolic meaning*, chapters 17 and 18 represent ALL ways mankind opposes God (religious and societal).
- We oppose Him by worshipping what WE want, rather than what HE wants, in our own way, rather than His Way. We make up lies to pass for truths and corrupt our worship. An abomination to Him, represented by the harlot of chapter 17.
- We also LIVE in opposition to him. Includes how we do business, how we relate to each other, what we (world) exalt and hold in high esteem. Represented by doom of “commercial Babylon” in chapter 18.

Revelation 18

- **All wickedness** (*woman in basket in chapter 5 of Zechariah*) **destroyed here**. Wickedness in worship and wickedness in secular life.
- No imagination to see that wickedness rules this world, both in the “spiritual” and the “physical.”
- These two chapters indicate **it will all be destroyed**. What this world holds near and dear will be gone, replaced by Truth.
- **OPPOSITION TO GOD, in any form, WILL BE DESTROYED**. Will include both physical city of Babylon as it is now, or as it is rebuilt later, and all that it represents symbolically/spiritually.

Revelation 18



¹ 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!

Revelation 18

NOTICE IMMEDIATELY....

Babylon IS fallen....

God inhabits eternity.

***As far as He is concerned it is
already done.***

This isn't a "maybe."

It is a certainty.

Revelation 18

- ***“After these things...”*** After what things? This chapter immediately follows the destruction of the harlot, or false worship systems. Seems false religious system destroyed before rest of wickedness, or what is referenced in chapter 18 as worldly economic/commercial system in opposition to God.
- Together, these two equal man’s complete opposition to good and right, to God Himself.
- As in chapter 14, a great angel with great authority (*perhaps one of the “angels of the Presence” since the earth is “illuminated with his glory”*) announces doom of Babylon.

Revelation 18

- 300+ references to Babylon in scripture are of its wickedness and its ultimate destruction. All of these prophecies are now being fulfilled.
- Called “Babylon the great” because world in opposition to God has *made* it great.
- Instead of God being great, world has exalted wickedness to place of “greatness” (*human eyes only*).
- **“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,”...** Perhaps loudness of voice to proclaim to entire world that wickedness is judged, finally. Entire world may hear!

Revelation 18

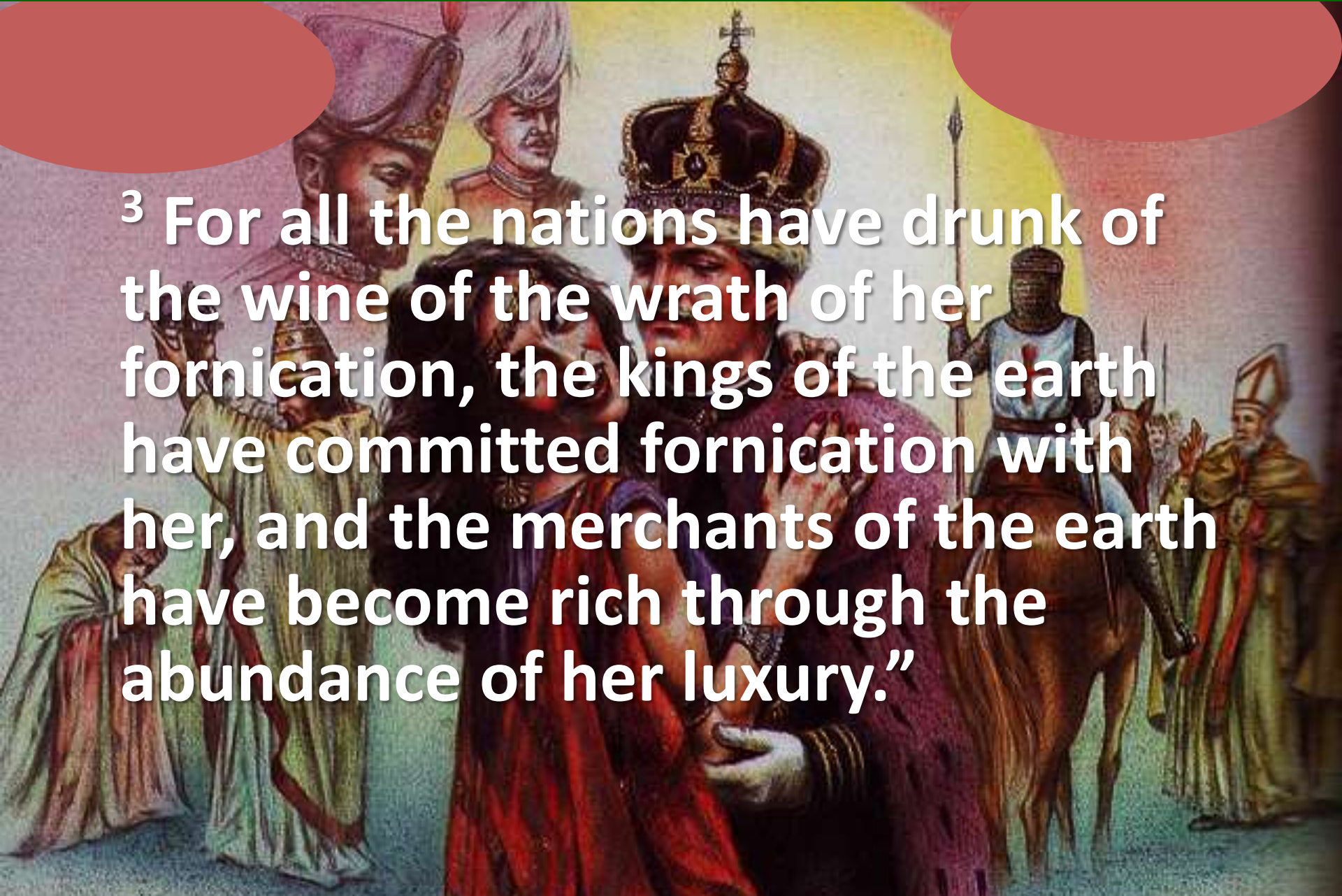
- Phrase **“is fallen, is fallen...”** is offered two times, as it is in chapter 14, and also Isaiah 21:9. An underscore, way of saying to the world, ***“make no mistake here. All wickedness will be judged and destroyed.” IS judged.***
- As we read these words she may still be thriving, but **in God’s timeline, has already happened. She IS fallen.**
- ***“a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!”*** Notice reference to unclean birds. Saw two of these in Zechariah 5, ones who lifted the basket with the woman.

Revelation 18

- Unclean birds often **related to demonic activity**. Seems Babylon has become place of every type and kind of wickedness, evil and “foul spirit.” *May be both literal and symbolic.*
- And, it may indicate, at least spiritually, that perhaps all evil is contained here and it may become a jail or prison of sorts for evil spirits in the Millennium. *(See Isaiah 13:19-22, speculation only)*
- Also, will be the **carrion birds** (unclean) who “clean up” at the great bird feast referenced in Revelation 19 *(following Armageddon).*

Revelation 18

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.”



Revelation 18

- Case against “Babylon the Great” building. In chapter 17 **kings of the earth** were said to have “committed fornication with her” (harlot).
- This is repeated here in chapter 18, but one more element is added to those who have aligned themselves with her: “**the merchants of the earth.**” Representative of economies, business, commerce.
- “**kings of the earth**” represent *political* aspect (kingdoms, powers) of the world, and “**merchants of the earth**” represent *commercial and economic* aspects.

Revelation 18

- Together have joined themselves to false worship **because it benefits them**. They have grown rich.
- Indication that **governments, false worship systems and commerce** have joined forces to become rich, all in opposition to God's truth.
- Our history full of such alignments of church, state and commerce, all for purpose of growing rich. Mankind truly drunk on quest for power and riches. **Seeks only to worship itself.**

Revelation 18

- “*...all the nations...*” pretty clear. No one exempt. All governments, all leaders, kings and political entities have embraced harlot and strayed from truth.
- “*have drunk...*” Verb tense here includes all the past, and the present.
- Focus of chapter 17 was alignment of *governments* with harlot. Focus of chapter 18 is alignment of *commerce* with the harlot. Trio, joined together for one purpose:
wealth and power.

Revelation 18

- This trio of worship, government and commerce pretty much represents *total opposition to God*.
- First organized church “**in bed with**” (*as we are fond of saying, and truly applies here to harlot*) government and commerce from its beginning in 3rd century AD.
- William R. Newell wrote an excellent commentary on Revelation. Startling how appropriate his comments then are now. This is condensed version of what he wrote about commerce and this chapter 18 of Revelation (*keep in mind this was written in 1935!*)

Revelation 18

“THE CHARACTER OF COMMERCE: *(select portions)*

1. It is not of God – especially world commerce, but is of man and of Satan.
2. God placed His nation, Israel, in a land where commerce with other nations was very nearly impossible. It had no harbors. On the East and South were deserts; at the North, mountains with only a narrow “entering in.” Jehovah expressly forbade the multiplying of horses, and also of silver and gold (Deuteronomy 17:16-17)....
5. International commerce; a) Enables man to avoid as far as possible God’s command to till the earth and to live by the sweat of his brow...

Revelation 18

5. International commerce; b) Tends to unify the humanity that God has definitely divided into nations, for the very purpose of covering the earth with the spirit of self-confidence and rebellion as before Babel (Genesis 11). c) enables individuals, cities and nations to become unduly swollen with riches. It begets universal covetousness, which is idolatry – in that the man who has money can be independent of God.

Govett well says: 'The opposition to the spirit of commerce which the Book of God shows, is very remarkable, especially as running in direct contrast to the avowed plans of rulers and peoples of our day. 'Cherish COMMERCE' is one of the great admitted ends of statesmanship. But its effects upon the mind are generally productive of covetousness

Revelation 18

6. The nature of commerce is very simple. You take your products (generally by ships, where you can get the highest price; fill your ship there and again sail where you get the high price, and again load your ship at a low cost with wares desirable in other countries, and so on and on. Now this is not tilling the ground and living quietly. God hates it and will destroy it utterly. What God wants, is that each man live beneath “his own vine and fig-tree,” “content with such things” as he has. “Big Business” is an abomination. It will be the ruination of the world.
7. “Business” is an excuse most common in the thoughts of men for not serving God (and yet shortly they will stand before God!) Millions of men really think that “business” has a real claim upon them

Revelation 18

8. We see the wickedness of the spirit of commercialism both from the fearful power exercised by the Beast of Rev 13, forbidding either selling or buying without “his mark” stamped upon the hand or upon the forehead, and also from chapter 18 of Revelation. It is atheistic; it is self-indulgent; it is self-confident: “I sit a queen.”
9. The difficulties experienced by God’s dear saints of all days on account of “business” claims is proverbial. The spirit of commercialism, which has seized upon the human race, is fast blotting out real human ties (home, church or country). We scarcely know how far we have drifted. Our forefathers were content with their living. ...

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9. *(continued)* They had domestic ties, “family reunions,” quiet church affiliations, gladly worshipping in the same old church, generation after generation. They had deep, kind, loving patriotism. But the forgetting of God is fast falling upon earth under the soul-stifling power of universal greed. Such delusive catch words as “a higher standard of living” have poisoned the streams of the life of the world....Everybody wants to be rich – which damns its tens of millions!....
10. Commercialism brings spiritual deadness and insensibility as nothing else does. Once consent in your heart that “business” has a claim upon you and your spiritual life begins to shrivel. For a man to do an honest day’s work is not to yield to the claims that “business” makes upon humanity

Revelation 18

10. (continued) God told us to work, to work with our hands, to do with our might what our hands find to do, to do the humblest tasks, even those of a slave, as unto the Lord. The thing called “business” has to be discerned distinctly by you if you are to understand the hideousness into which the whole world will leap, and alas, how shortly! “Depression” [*economic*] is, I have no doubt, as answer to prayer, as was the famine in Ahab’s idolatrous days an answer to Elijah’s prayers. Civilization goes mad to get rich – anything to get rich! Now this simply means anything to gain independence of God. The Lord Jesus said, *“Take heed, and keep yourselves from all covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”*

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(William R. Newell, “Revelation: Chapter-By-Chapter, A Classic Devotional Commentary,” **originally published 1935.**)

So do you agree with this analysis of commerce?

What are your thoughts about this commentary?

And one more...

Revelation 18

“In what indeed, does the mightiest and farthest reaching power on earth now already center? A power which looms up in all lands, far above all individual or combined powers of church, or state, or caste, or creed? What is it that today monopolizes nearly all legislation, dictates international treaties, governs the conferences of kings for the regulation of the balance of power, builds railways, cuts ship canals, sends forth steamer lines to the ends of the earth, unwinds electric wires across continents, under the seas and around the world, employs thousands of engineers, subsidizes the press, tells the state of the markets of the world yesterday that everyone may know how to move today, and has her living organizations in every land and city,

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...interlinked with each other, and coming daily into closer and closer combination, so that no great government under the sun can any longer move or act against her will, or without her concurrence and consent? Think for a moment, for there is such a power; a power that is everywhere clamoring for a common code, a common currency, a common weights and measures, and which is not likely to be silenced or to stop till it has secured a common center on its own independent basis, whence to dictate to all countries and to exercise its own peculiar rule on all the kings and nations of the earth. That power is **COMMERCE**; the power of the ephah and the talent – the power borne by the winged women of Zechariah 5; the one with her hand on the sea and the other with her hand on the land – ...

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...the power which even in its present dismemberment is mightier than any pope, any throne, any government, of any other one human power on the face of the globe. Let it go on as it has been going, and will go, in spite of everything that earth can interpose to hinder, dissolving every tie of nationality, every bond of family or kindred, every principle or right and religion which it cannot bend and render subservient to its own ends and interests; and the time must come when it will settle itself down somewhere on its own independent base, and where Judaism and heathenism, Romanism and Protestantism, Mohomedanism and Buddhism, and every distinction of nationality – English, German, French, Italian, Greek, Turk, Hindu, Arab, Chinese, Japanese, or what not – **shall be sunk in one great universal fellowship and kingdom of commerce!**”

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- This commentary was **written over 140 years ago!** (70 years before the one by Newell). *(August Seiss, 1865)*
- Sobering. Would appear condition of *Commerce today has fulfilled, and is fulfilling, this prediction made more than a century and a half earlier.*
- Both of these commentaries are accurate in their portrayal of commerce, as it relates to Revelation chapter 18.
- Not how God designed His people to live. **The way of “commerce” today is the way of the Harlot**, in opposition to God’s ways.

Revelation 18

Remainder of this lesson in file titled “Revelation 18”