



Revelation 18

Part 2

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

Do you love Him, more than anything?

**I love you, Lord,
and I lift my voice
To worship you, oh, my soul,
rejoice.**

**Take joy my King,
in what you hear
May it be a sweet, sweet
sound in your ear.**



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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."

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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.

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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;*

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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!

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- 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!"*

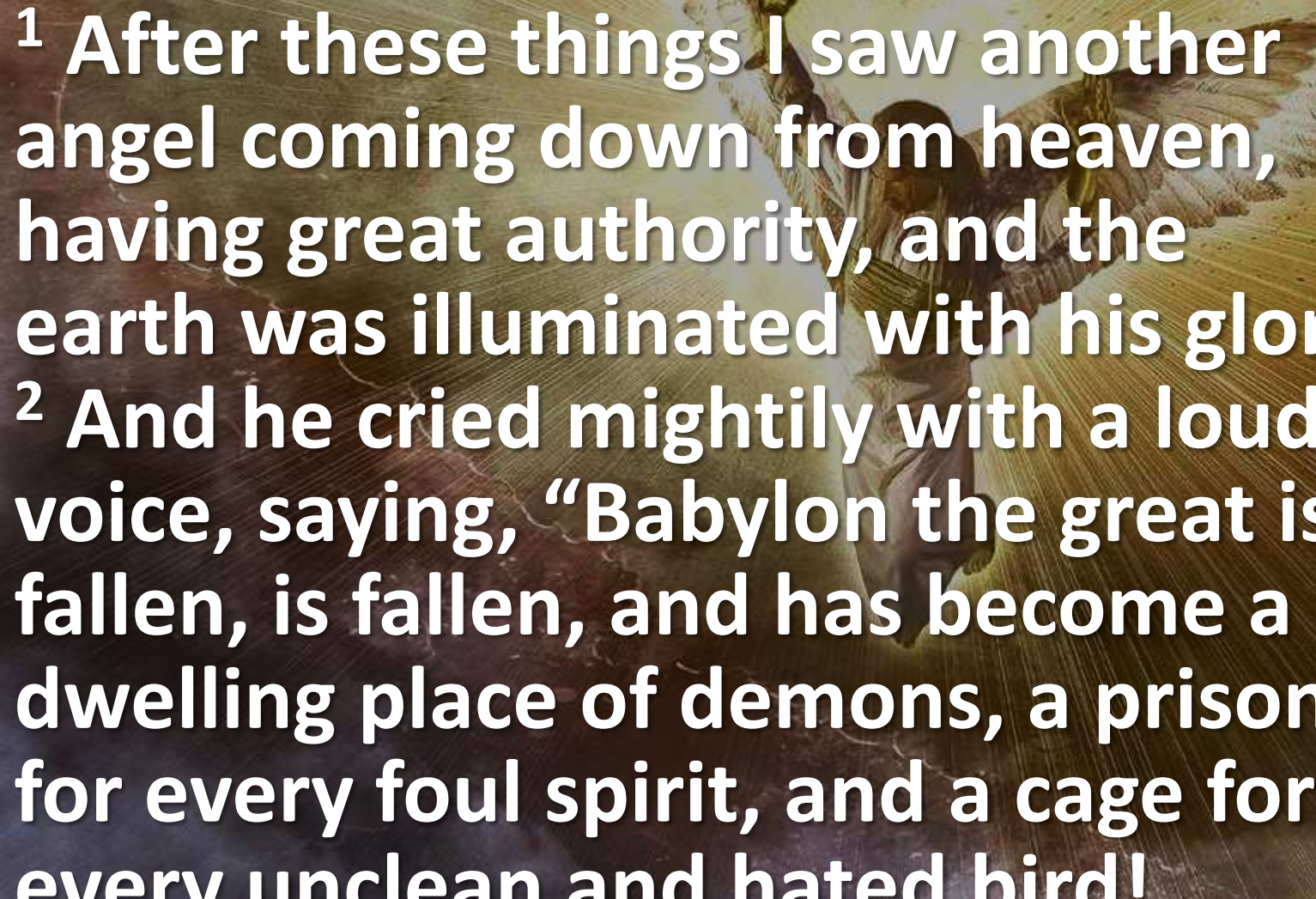
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²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters 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."

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- **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.
- 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.
- MUST REMEMBER... **everything in opposition to God will be destroyed.**
- Discussed issue of **literal vs. symbolic** Babylon.
- Implications of **Zechariah 5** (Woman in basket)

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¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

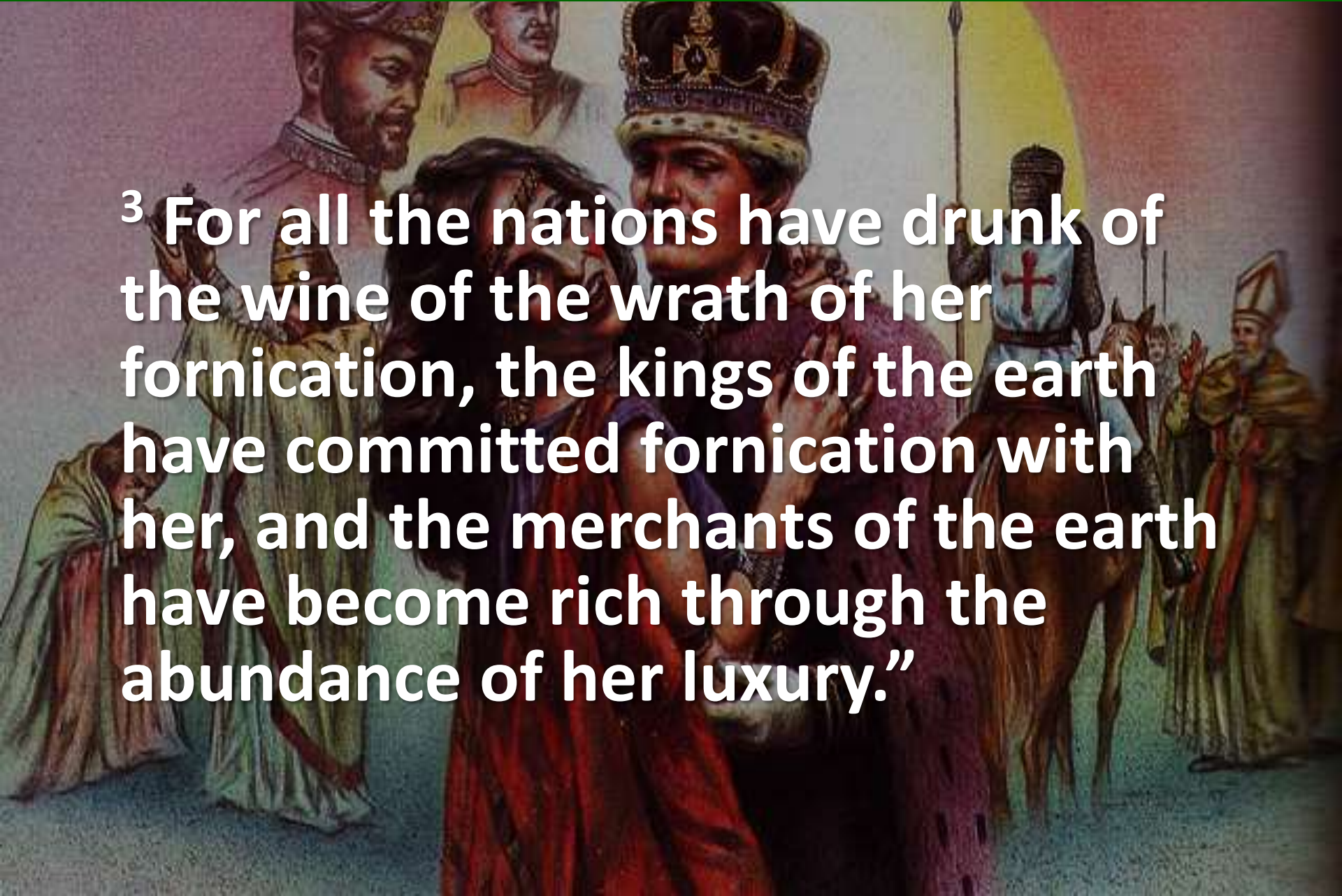
² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

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- Destruction of Babylon continues...
- 300+ references to Babylon in scripture are of its wickedness and its ultimate destruction.
- Called “Babylon the great” because world in opposition to God has *made* it great.
- ***“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,”***... Double statement insures certainty, God inhabits eternity – already done.
- Unclean birds related to demonic activity.

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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.”

A painting depicting a scene from Revelation 18. In the center, a man wearing a crown and a purple robe embraces a woman in a red dress. To the left, a man in a green robe kneels in prayer. In the background, a man in a blue tunic with a red cross on his chest stands on a horse. To the right, a man in a yellow robe and a tall hat stands. The scene is set in a palace or a similar grand interior.

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- Chapter 17 **kings of the earth** “committed fornication with her” (harlot). Now add **“the merchants of the earth.”**
- **“kings of the earth”** = *political* aspect (kingdoms, powers) of the world;
- **“merchants of the earth”** = *commercial and economic* aspects.
- History full of alignments of church, state and commerce, all for purpose of growing rich.
- No exceptions, “all have drunk...”
- *Powerful commentaries* about commerce, Worship/government/commerce represents *total opposition to God* – **the way of the harlot.**

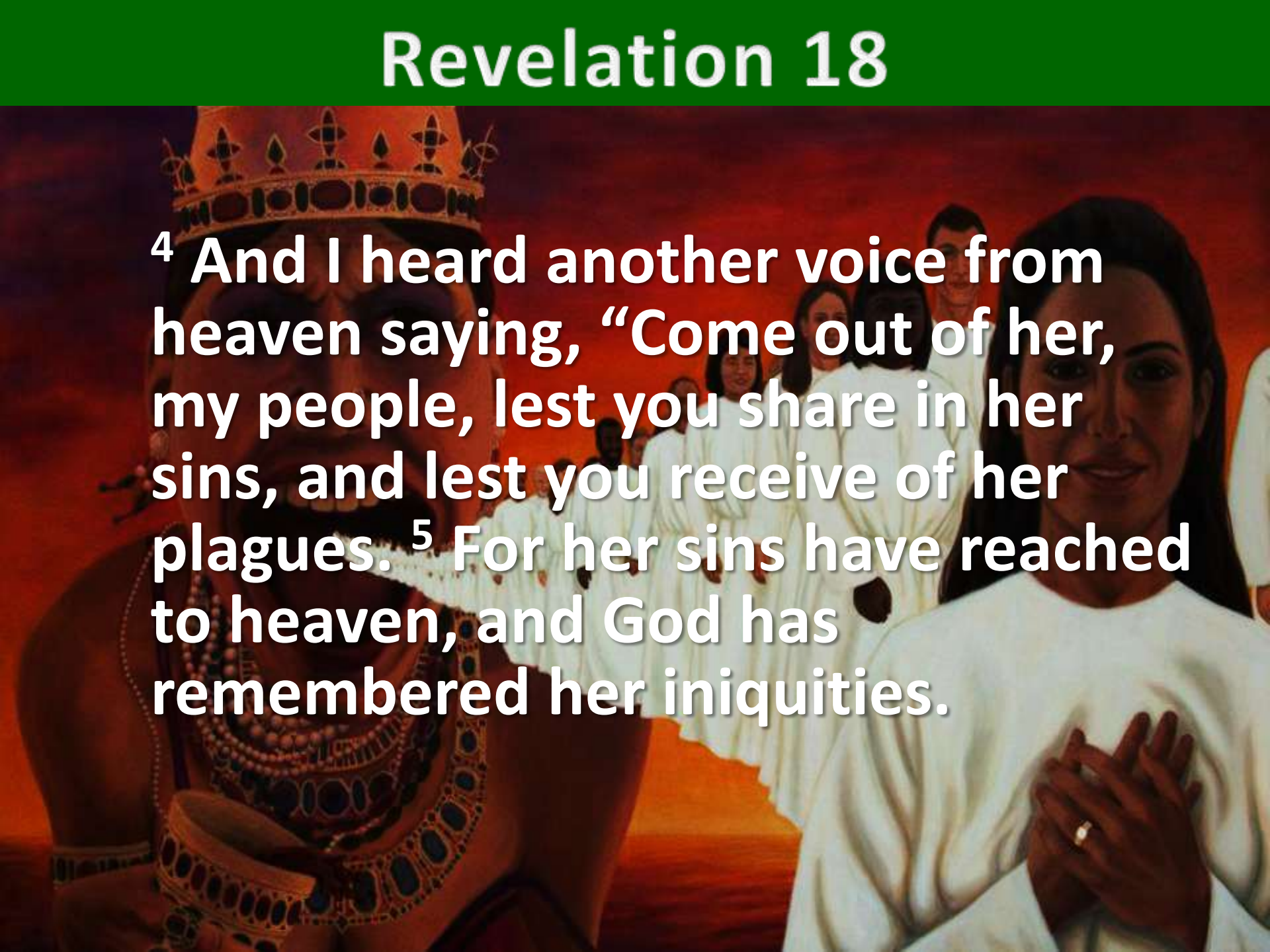
Personal Commentary

The path of true believers today?

- **Prayer**
- **Presence**
- **Perseverance**
- **Persecution**

- Too late to change the culture....**don't try**, waste of time, **MY WILL** and plan
- Stay in prayer
- Don't withdraw
- Don't give up
- I am coming **sooner than you think**

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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.

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- ***“Come out of her, my people,...”*** Must be God’s voice, as He says *“my” people*. This call is a **consistent theme throughout scripture**, and here final call to come out of Babylon.
- May or may not be *literal* Babylon, although possible a call to literally get out of the physical city of Babylon at this point in the tribulation because of coming judgment.
- However, throughout scripture it is a call to God’s people to **be separate from the world’s ways of doing things**. (*Does not mean we are not present, we don’t behave the way they do.*)

Come out of her my people!

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- Chapter 18 concerned with commerce and big business, **God's people are called OUT of this worldly system**, or at the least called to do business in a much different way than world.
- We are not to think or act like the world. We have a different standard, and we are not to have the same worldly behaviors or lusts. **We are not to get caught up in the frenzy (or harlotry) of commerce and business.**
- We are the **“called out ones”** (*ekklesia*, we translate this “church”)
- (See 2 Corinthians 6:16-18, Isaiah 52:11, James 1:27, Mark 4:15-20, Luke 8:14, 1 John 2:15-17)

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- **7 instances** in scripture where God's people are commanded to specifically come out of Babylon: Isaiah 48:20, Isaiah 52:11, Jeremiah 50:8-9, Jeremiah 51:6-8; Zechariah 2:6-7, 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, and here in Rev. 18:4.
- Call for God's people to **remove themselves from the world system** in order to live differently, as well as escape the coming judgment of Babylon, and all she represents.
- Another commentator said it well: “[**this is**] **not necessarily a coming out at a particular moment, or out of a particular place, but an aloofness of spirit maintained in the very heart of the world's traffic.**” (Swete)

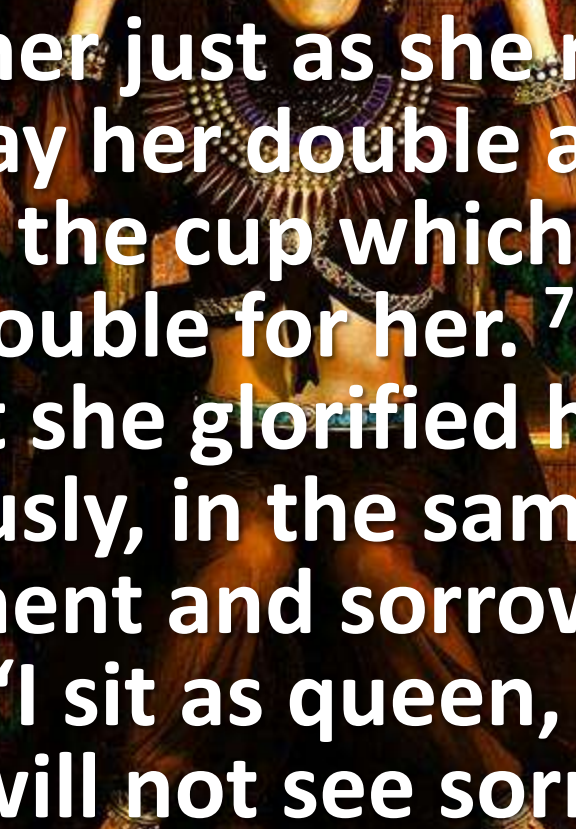
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- *“...lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.”* This is a **clear warning to God’s people**. Cannot remain “in Babylon” (*in the world’s system, in opposition to God, behaving the way the world behaves*) and be saved.
- **If you remain in her, you will share her sins**. If you share her sins, you will share her judgment (plagues). Just as true today as when first written. *Perhaps even more so*, as **lure of world stronger** in many ways, and commerce and business is the way of the world today.

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- ***“For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”***
Reference to first world opposition to God, the **Tower of Babel**, currently being reconstructed in a spiritual sense (*and literal physical sense currently!*).
- World attempts to “reach heaven” on its own, without God. Now the only thing reaching heaven is the world’s sin.
- Also interesting to note God remembers these sins, yet **forgets the sins of believers.**

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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.'

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- Don't know specifically to whom this directive is addressed.
- Could be to “Angels of the Presence” who will be pouring out these plagues of judgment, or could be a general statement that whore of the earth deserves what she gets.
- A reminder God's judgment is fair, and impending doom of Babylon and world's system against God is fulfillment of prophecy.
- *“O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed,
Happy the one who repays you as you have served us!
⁹ Happy the one who takes and dashes
Your little ones against the rock!” (Psalm 137:8-9)*

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- “The whore” will receive exactly what she deserves for taking the hearts of God’s people, and for acting in rebellion toward Him.
- She has placed wealth and power above God. Now she will receive torment and sorrow.
- ***“...for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’”***
Seems to be the attitude today. People caught up in this tangled web of commerce, politics and false religion tend to be arrogant, thinking no one can touch him or her, and they will not pay for this way of life. **Deadly wrong.**

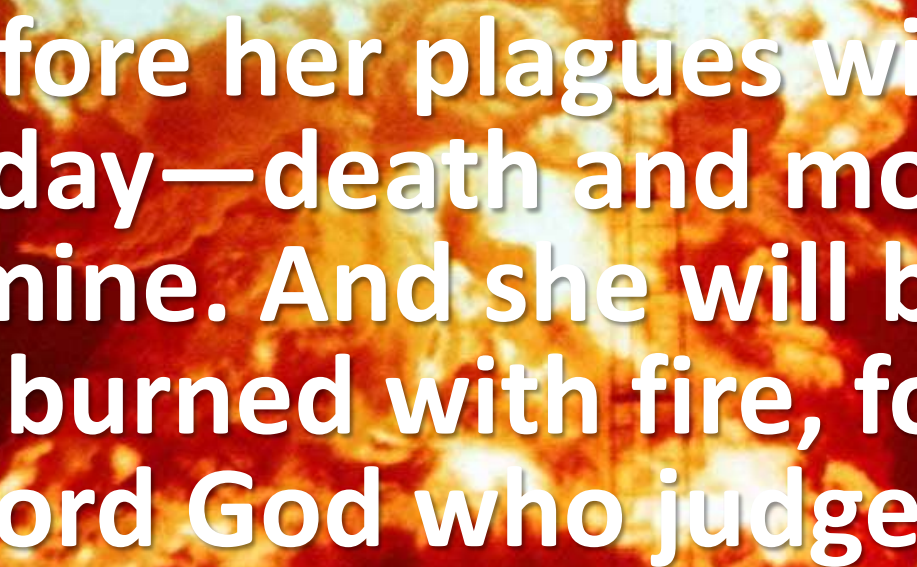
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- Greeks had a name for this sinful attitude: **“HUBRIS”** (*also in French*), which is an arrogance that comes to feel that it is self-sufficient, all powerful, with no need of God.
- **“sit as queen”** may be reference to her as the “queen of heaven” which is a growing cult these days, honored by many religions, including Christianity.
- **“No widow...”** A widow in Old Testament scripture was not a virgin, and hence was not a suitable or acceptable bride for a priest (Leviticus 22:13).

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- The comment the harlot makes here is **typical of the arrogance of those who rebel against God**. She, and they, believe there will be no consequences for this rebellion, and they can do as they like. *They are in for a huge surprise!*

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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.



Aaaiigghhhh!

crunch

Eat her flesh and burn her!



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- This verse **quoted often** following tragic events of September 11, 2001 in New York City.
- Collapse of twin trade towers within one hour (verse 17) made these passages a bit scary and uncanny to some.
- World Trade Center **represented world's financial/commercial systems**, for that reason many believe these verses fulfilled at that time.
- However, the phrase ***“will come in one day”*** merely means it will come suddenly, and it will be catastrophic, not over time. May or may not be a literal time reference.

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- Tragedy of 911 merely “tip of iceberg” regarding fulfillment. **More to come.** Entire global commercial system will be destroyed.
- Note “*she will be utterly burned with fire...*” Obviously world’s financial system suffered a blow, but continues to thrive, perhaps even stronger than before 911.
- Events of 911 may have been pre-cursor, a “**coming attraction,**” but **not complete fulfillment.** Final complete destruction of “Babylon”, as physical place and as spiritual entity (way of living), will be ultimately and completely fulfilled by God.

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- In previous chapter John identified Babylon as Rome. Many scholars think these **two cities are interchangeable, in a spiritual sense.**
- COMMENTARY: *“In the time when John was writing a kind of insanity of wanton extravagance to which it is very difficult to find any parallel in history had invaded Rome.”*
- Same arrogance and extravagance here today. Some have even said US is Babylon. **Ultimately Babylon is every city, every person, every system that stands in opposition to God. And as such, it, they, will be utterly destroyed.**

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- Every nation on earth should note the 5 reasons why the mighty Roman Empire fell, according to Edward Gibbon, author of “The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire:” (*these should sound shockingly familiar to us*)
 - 1) Undermining the **sanctity of the home** as the foundation for human society.
 - 2) Ever **increasing taxes**, spending public money for free bread and “circuses” for the people.
 - 3) **Madness for pleasure**, increasing violence of sports, extravagances, lusts, increasing immorality.

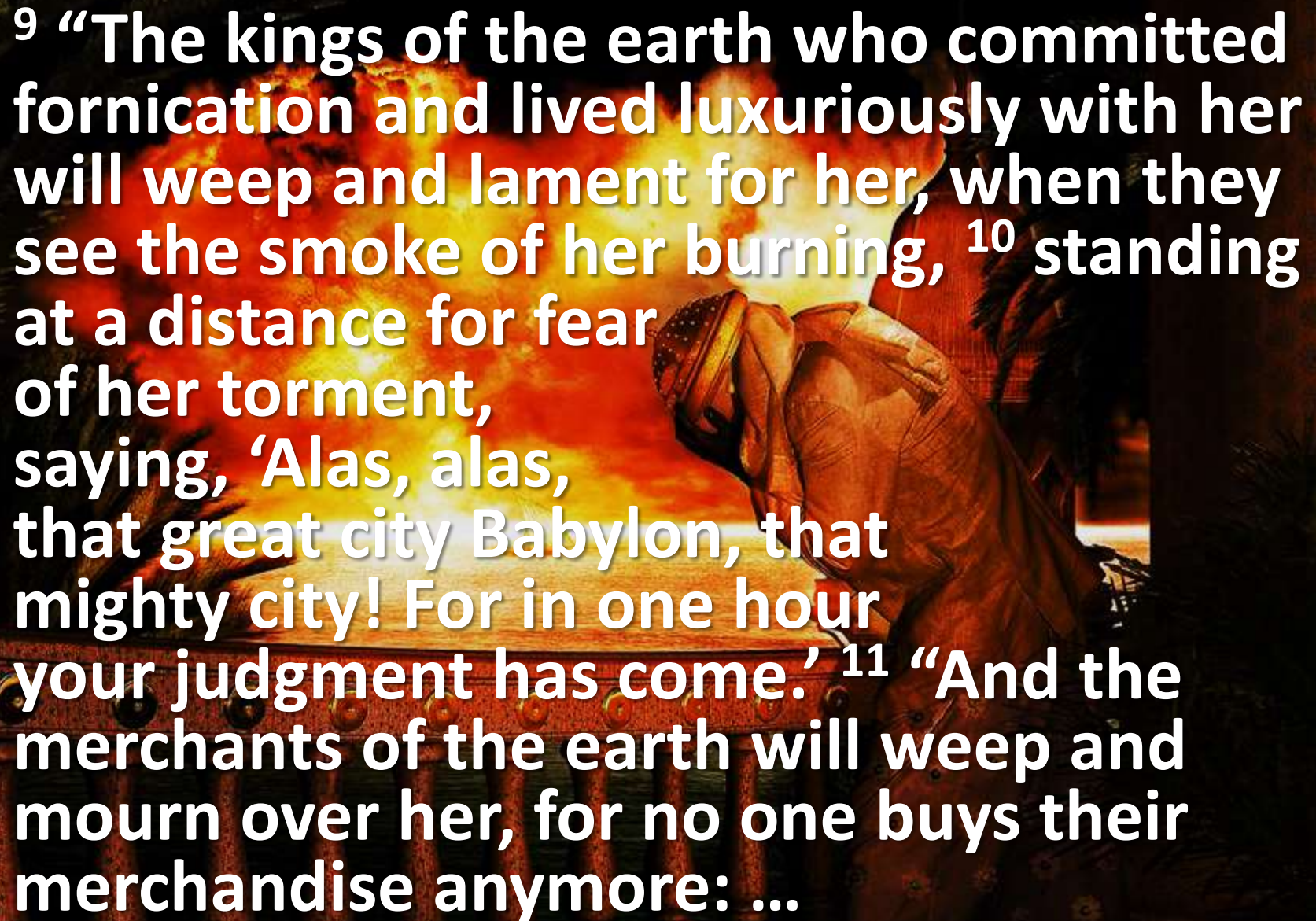
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- 4) **Armaments and military build-up**, when real enemy was within (*including decay of individual responsibility*)
- 5) **Decay of worship**, faith leading to form (ritual), losing touch with reality, no power to guide the people.

Wow, that's sobering. Is this author speaking of Rome, or the United States, or any nation on the planet at this very moment? The rebellion of mankind looks the same in any nation or generation.

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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: ...



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This next passage (verses 9 -18) should initially be read all together to understand basic message:

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...

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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.

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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?'

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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.’

- **Three groups** singled out here, the “kings of the earth,” and “the merchants of the earth,” and then “every shipmaster, all who travel by ship...”
- These three groups represent government, commerce and world trade which have joined with false religion to gain power and wealth.

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- **Shipmasters and sailors** those who moved goods, are also in allegiance with the harlot, the kings and the merchants.
- This is about **spiritual adultery**, a heart against God. Doing things in direct opposition to God's ways. Taking advantage of others for personal gain.
- Now all these groups see their extravagant and rebellious way of life is **gone, totally destroyed**. They weep and lament her passing, only because it means their loss of power and wealth. They are **not sorry for the harlot, but for their own losses**.

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- ***“standing at a distance for fear of her torment...”*** These people and systems are standing back because they fear the same judgment. They have good reason to fear.
- Government and politics lament her loss, because it means their loss. Merchants and seaman lament over her loss, because it means an end to their wealth.

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COMMENTARY: In that day Babylon will dominate and rule the world. The capital of Antichrist will be Babylon, and he will have the first total dictatorship. The world will become an awful place. In that day everything will center in Babylon. ...Everything in that city will be in rebellion against almighty God, and it centers in Antichrist. No one dreamed that this great city would be judged. Yet by the time the sun goes down, Babylon is nothing but smoldering ruins. When the news goes out, the world is stunned, and then begins the wail. The whole world will howl when Babylon goes down. ...In chapter 17 we saw that the kings of the earth hated religious Babylon and that Antichrist got rid of it in order that he might be worshiped without any competition.... And the kings of the earth joined in her destruction.

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In contrast to this, here in chapter 18 we see that the kings of the earth love commercial Babylon because of the revenue she brought to their coffers. In fact, it is called here fornication—you can't find a better word for it than that! All the lobbyists were in Babylon, not Washington, D.C. They were representing all the great corporations in the world. But the kings desert Babylon like rats leaving a sinking ship; their mourning is both pathetic and contemptible. They eulogize her with panegyrics of praise, but there is a hopelessness in their anguish. They marvel at the sudden destruction of that which they thought was gilt-edged security. The judgment came in the space of one hour, reminding us of the sudden devastation caused by atomic explosions.

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This is a frightful picture presented to us, and it is the final conflagration and catastrophic judgment that will bring Christ to the earth to set up His Kingdom. (*McGee*)

- This commentator obviously believes the city of Babylon will be physically rebuilt and will serve as headquarters for final world ruler.
- Whether or not this is true, this commentary is true of the world's powers, kings, merchants and seaman, wherever their "headquarters" are.
- It speaks more of a system, rather than a literal place, but both may very well be true.

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- Three times we're told Babylon's demise happens in "one hour." (v. 10, v. 17, v. 20) *May or may not be literal*, but appears three times to underscore how quickly and suddenly this happens. No one expects it.
- Immediately following each statement we see **destruction is complete**, Babylon is desolate (*riches come to nothing*).
- ***"...for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of..."*** beginning in verse 11 and continuing through verse 13 a long list of "merchandise" traded.
- This is a list of **28 different cargoes** (4 X 7). These are both literal and symbolic. Represent all commerce, all riches, all material goods that man lusts for.

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The List...

1. Gold
2. silver
3. precious stones
4. pearls
5. fine linen
6. Purple
7. Silk
8. scarlet
9. citron wood
10. ivory
11. most precious wood
12. bronze
13. Iron
14. marble
15. cinnamon
16. incense
17. fragrant oil
18. frankincense
19. wine
20. oil
21. fine flour
22. wheat
23. cattle
24. sheep
25. horses
26. chariots
27. bodies of men
28. souls of men

28??

number "4"
represents
earth, all
creation,
also human
government
*[four corners,
four winds,
etc.]* and "7"
**is perfectly
complete.**
Intended to
be
complete
list of **all
world's
"goods and
services."**

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- Includes items from every material list: **mineral, plant, animal and human**. Represents everything of any material value. Also includes and represents luxuries as well as necessities.
- **Also includes human cargo: “...bodies and souls of men.”** May represent:
 - physical *slaves* (*in Rome a third of the population were slaves and they were traded as a commodity like anything else*) Today, very active “slave” market.
 - addictions (slaves to substances),
 - even souls, sold out to the enemy.
- List represents all that can be bought/sold for profit. (similar list in **Ezekiel 27**, a lament for *Tyre, a well-known sinful commercial center of the ancient world*.)

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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!

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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.'

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- ***“They threw dust on their heads...”*** an ancient symbol of mourning found throughout scripture.
- Notice lament repeated 3 times. Intended to underscore the significance of:
 - 1) its **ENTIRE destruction**, all sinful wealth and power seeking world
 - 2) **great, complete and fierce judgment** Babylon receives (*very serious, solemn, terrible*)
 - 3) **finality** of this judgment and destruction, and
 - 4) **suddenness** of destruction.
- A **summary of these “mourners”** (*who they are*) in Romans 1:18-32. *Worth reading here.*

Revelation 18

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

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24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

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²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

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These people (*of Romans 1*) are the “mourners” of Revelation 18.

These represent the world in rebellion against God.

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20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

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- Command to rejoice in middle of destruction and chaos. Seems like a very strange thing to say. Why would we rejoice over such tragedy? **Who is this directed to?**
- **All of heaven, the citizenry of God's kingdom.**
- ***"O heaven..."*** Includes all saints who now reside in heaven, as well as all heavenly spiritual forces (angels) that serve God.
- Especially ***"holy apostles and prophets,"*** who prophesied this destruction, suffered greatly, and often gave their lives, because of this evil now judged.

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- Two groups of apostles and prophets may be deliberate to represent New Testament Church (apostles, disciples, saints) and Old Testament prophets, **combined Church**.
- A true believer will be in distress, troubled, saddened at immoral conduct around us in world today. Should cause us to weep, mourn and lament.
- But in this judgment, *is time to rejoice*, because sin is being judged and destroyed completely.
- Just the opposite for the world. Lived high and mighty rejoicing in their wealth and power and sin. **Now they weep... as believers rejoice**.

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- Believers celebrate end of apostasy, idolatry, materialism, hedonism, humanism, or any other kind of “ism” that exalts itself against God.
- End of sinful world = freedom from corruption. All sin must be destroyed before we can enter God’s perfect world.
- Recall souls under the altar in chapter 6 who cried out **“how long?”** **God says, NOW.** Now is time of His judgment and restoration. Indeed time to rejoice!
- Jeremiah 51 predicts rejoicing over destruction of Babylon.



Lord, how long until you judge the inhabitants
of the earth and avenge our blood?

Revelation 18

An angel with large, feathered wings is shown from behind, carrying a large, dark, circular millstone. The angel is wearing a white robe and a golden sash. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a bright light source on the right, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene. The angel's wings are spread wide, and the millstone is held prominently in front of them.

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.

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- This verse is a **strong visual aid to the reader**. Intended to completely underscore and emphasize this chapter.
- Most of us don't realize how large a millstone is. They were used for milling grains, and could be as large as six feet in diameter, or even bigger, hewn of solid stone.
- If such a stone were thrown into the sea, it would disappear almost immediately.
- Angel demonstrating just **how fast, how complete, how violent** and how permanent will be the end of Babylon.

Revelation 18

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.

Revelation 18

- Again, intended to show finality and complete destruction of way of life in opposition to God.
- ***“shall not be found, ... shall not be heard, ... shall not shine, e.g.”*** repeated **7 times** this section for emphasis (*perfectly complete 7. This list is complete, and encompasses all typical sounds and sights of world’s endeavors/daily life.*)
- No workers, no daily life sounds (*millstone, grinding, etc.*), no business, no industry, no night life, no light, period. **No evidence of life.**
- Final comments of ultimate, complete and permanent destruction of world system apart from God. **Come out of her! Now!** (*before too late*)

Revelation 18



23... 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

- *Did you catch that? **WHO were considered the “great people” of the earth?** The heroes, icons, role models? Interesting to note phrase **“For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”***
- Earth **exalts commerce**, and men of commerce (business) as great men of the earth.
- **Who are our world’s heroes?** Business icons, sports icons, television personalities. For most part corrupt, openly sinful/immoral, yet world considers them “the great men of the earth.”
- Indicates what and who world places its value, trust and worship in.

Revelation 18

- “Sorcery” here again is Greek *“pharmakeia,”* may indicate **drugs, delusions, addictions**, etc. Many cults/false religions put emphasis on “experiences” in false worship, drugs common.
- Through sorcery and trickery all nations have been deceived and hearts stolen. About **fulfilling personal sinful lusts**, whether in drugs, sex, money, or power.
- Sinful “flesh” intoxicated with sin, regardless of what called (*all about human lusts*), just like the harlot is drunk on the blood of the saints.
- Fulfillment of lusts fueled the harlot, made her **able to gain control of the whole earth**.

Revelation 18

- **3 reasons** presented here for **judgment of “Babylon:”**
 - 1) Commerce, pursuit of wealth, power, other lusts, being most important in life, more important than God, and therefore considered idolatry (*and harlotry*), punishable in Old Testament by stoning;
 - 2) all nations, peoples have been deceived into this pursuit, **away from God**;
 - 3) through pursuit of power and wealth, the nations have killed, persecuted and otherwise mistreated those who loved and served God through all ages.

Revelation 18

- More than just marking end of Babylon, or predicting its demise and judgment, this passage carries a **BIG message to all readers**, to all people everywhere through the ages.
- MESSAGE: **“come out of her, my people.”** Come out of *Babylon*. Come out of the world system.
- *“The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”* These words of this author in another of his letters (1 John 2:17) **should get our attention.**
- Throughout scripture all believers called out of the world, but ***how easy it is to get sucked back into that vortex of self and lust and temptation.***

Revelation 18

- One **commentator** (Dunnet) said ***“God’s people must wear lightly the things of the world, so that they will be enabled to leave them when the call is given.”***
- Good advice. Life saving advice. This call of God may be to each of us individually at any given moment. May not *just* apply to city of Babylon.
- First applies to our lives, our relationship with Him, at anytime. **Come out of her, my people.** These words should ring in our ears.
- This chapter marks **end of the three sets of judgments** (*seals, trumpets, bowls*)

Revelation 18

Now the **big event we all await** comes next in chapter 19.

The glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus!

The Aaronic Blessing: Birkat Kohanim

May the LORD bless you and keep you

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD make His face shine
upon you and be gracious unto you

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and
give you peace.

יְשֵׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּשֵּׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

