
A person is shown from behind, standing on a grassy hill with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. The background is a vibrant, abstract landscape with diagonal bands of color in shades of yellow, green, blue, and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise over a field. The overall mood is one of celebration and awe.

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

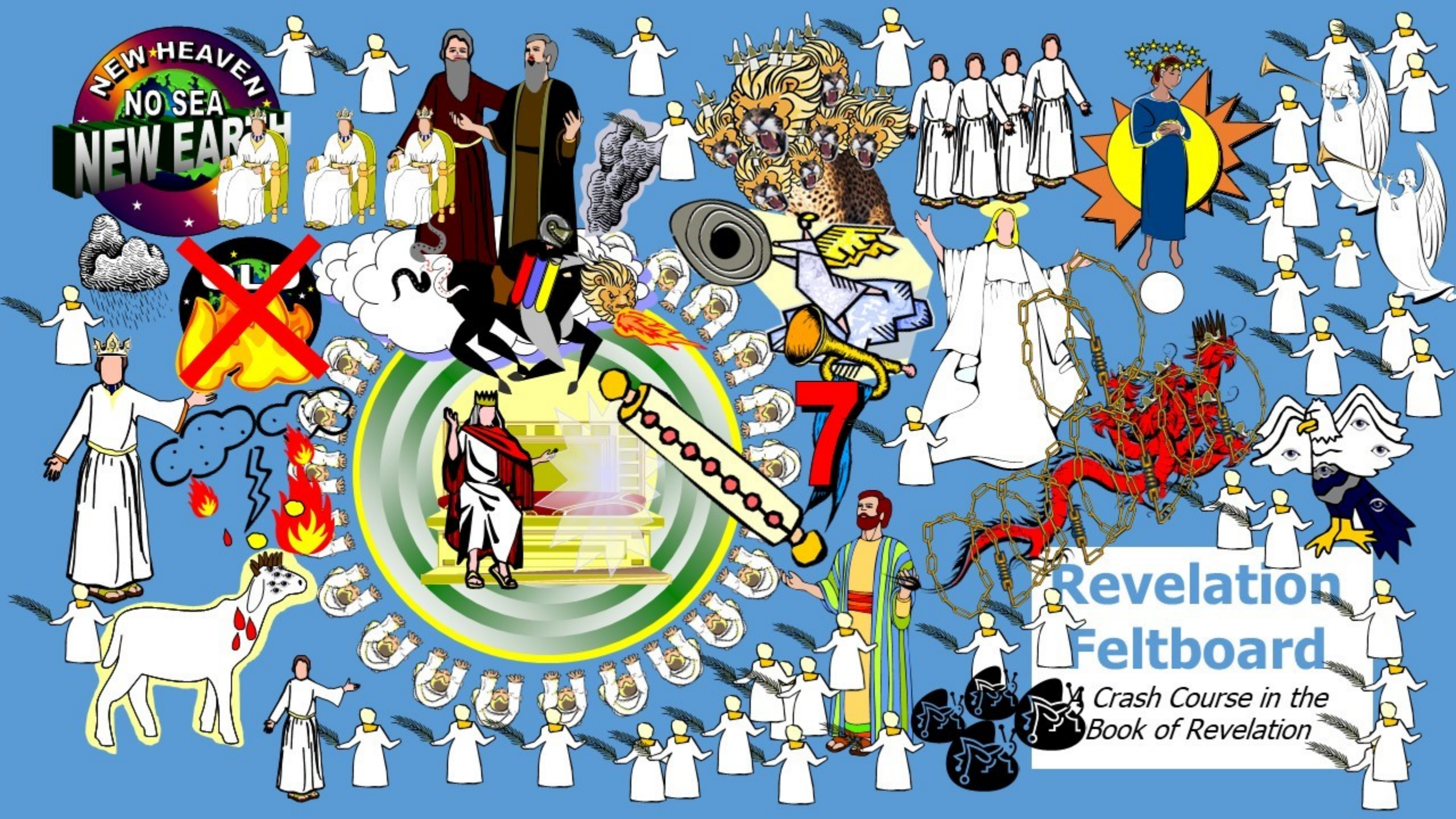
Revelation 18:20



**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed**

**Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.**

NEW HEAVEN
NO SEA
NEW EARTH



Revelation Feltboard

*Crash Course in the
Book of Revelation*



Revelation 18

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

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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. 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.

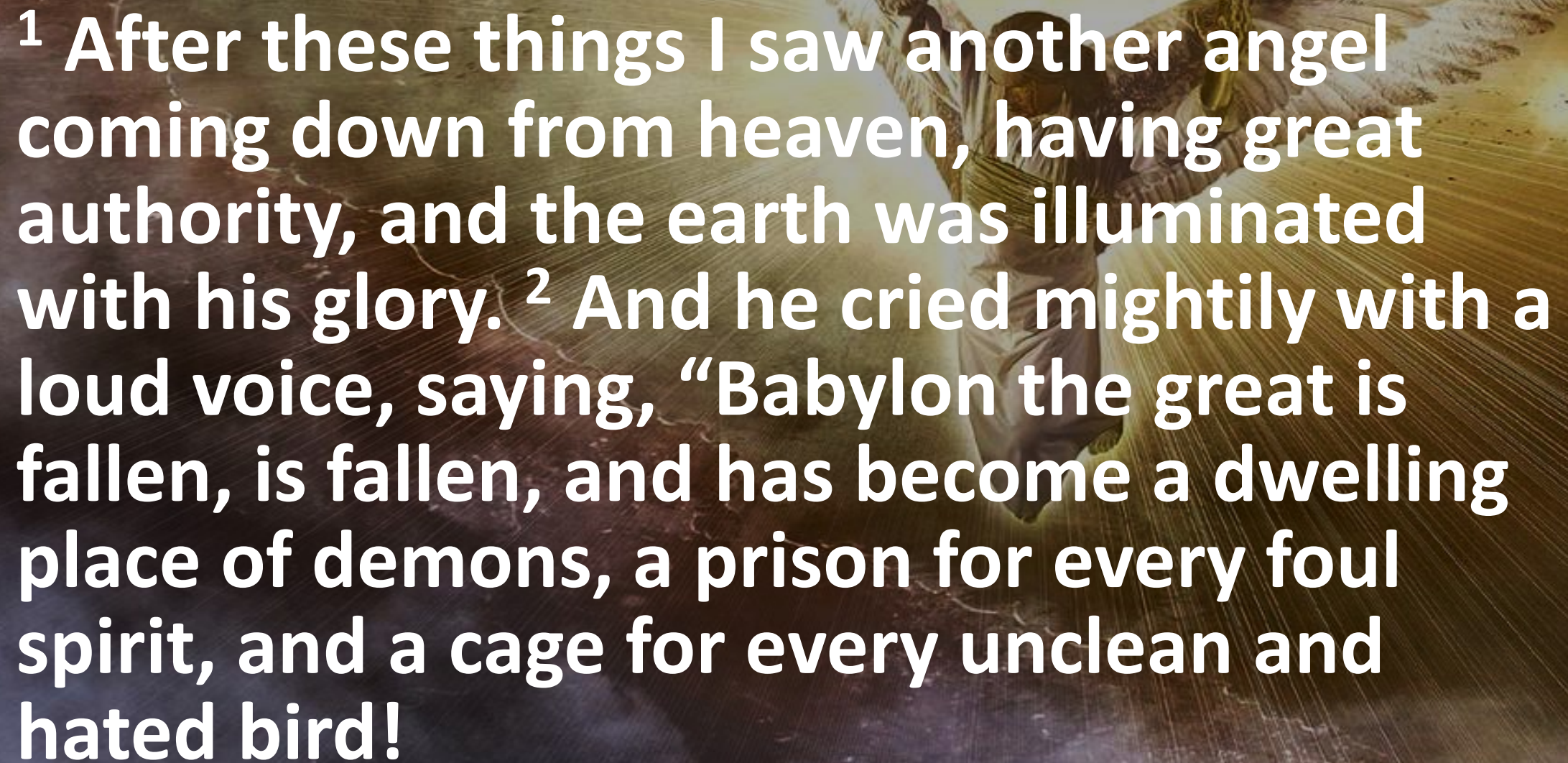
¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷ For in one hour such 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.'

A person is shown from behind, standing on a grassy hill with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or joy. The background is a vibrant, abstract landscape with diagonal bands of color in shades of yellow, green, blue, and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise over a field. The overall mood is one of celebration and triumph.

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

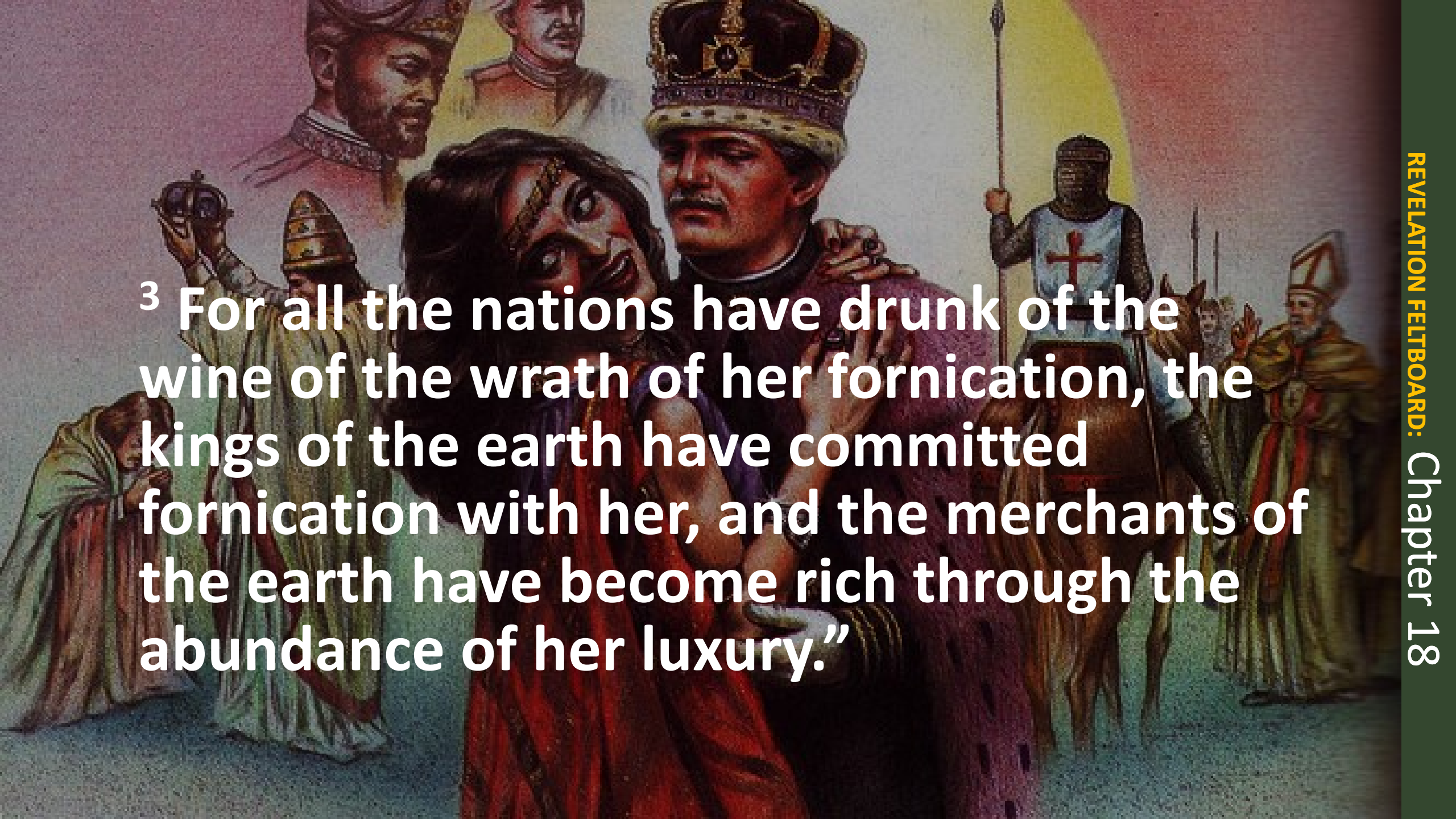
21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. 22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman 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."

- **Babylon = type or symbol** for everything in opposition to God.
- Chapter 17 very graphic **rise and fall of “harlot,”** all false religions.
- Chapter 18, story of demise and destruction of Babylon continues, but now Babylon portrayed as **commercial system**, way of doing business, **way of life**, *also in opposition to God*.
- **MUST REMEMBER... everything in opposition to God is “Babylon” and will be destroyed.**
- Discussed issue of **literal vs. symbolic** Babylon.
- Implications of **Zechariah 5** (Woman in basket)

An angel with large, feathered wings is shown descending from a bright, golden light in a dark, stormy sky. The angel's arms are raised, and the scene is filled with dramatic lighting and a sense of divine power.

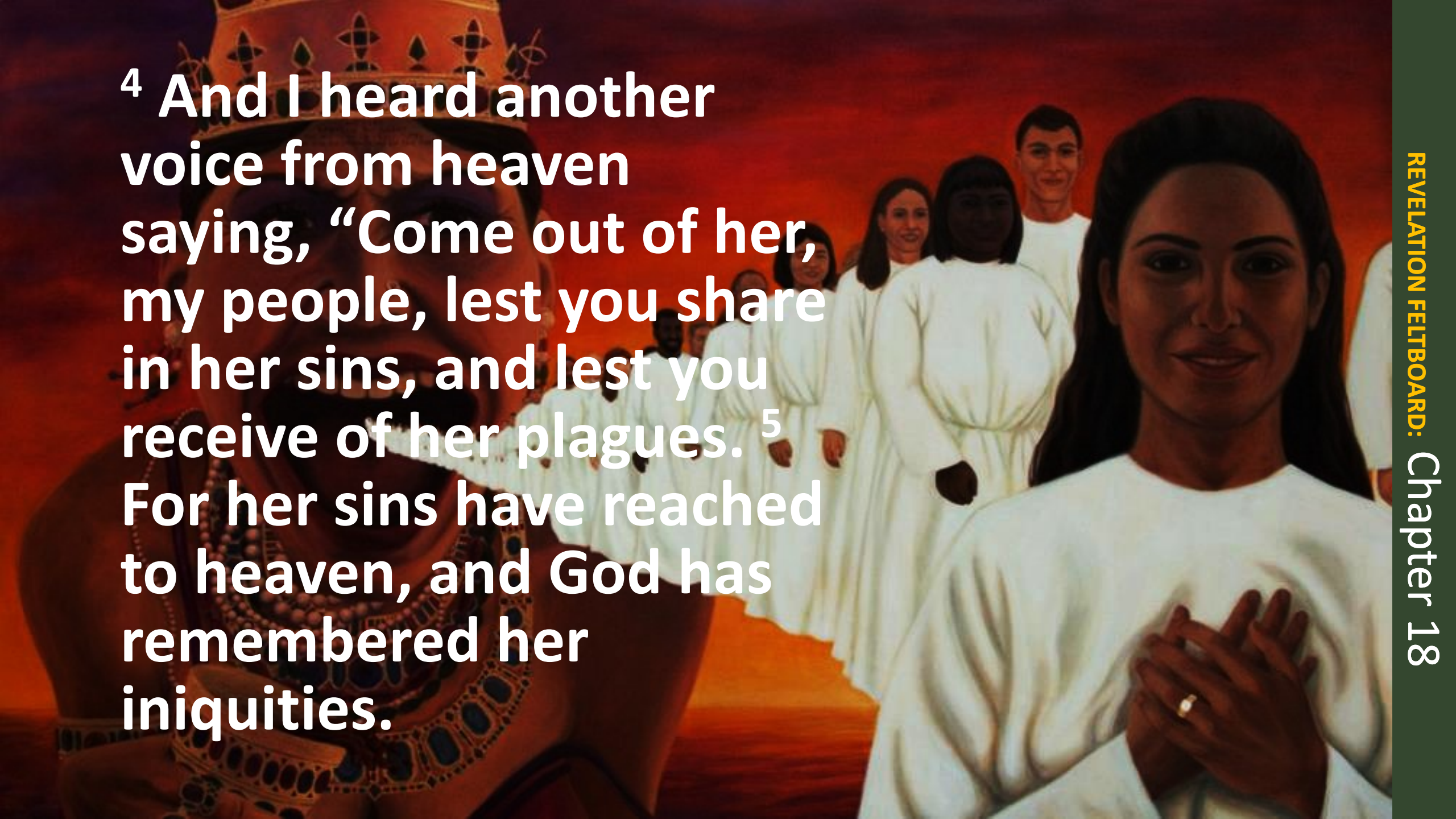
¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

- ***“After these things...”*** destruction of Babylon continues...
- Called “Babylon the great” because world in opposition to God has ***made*** it great.
- ***“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,”***... Double statement ensures certainty, God inhabits eternity – ***already done.***
- ***“...a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!”*** Unclean birds related to demonic activity.



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.”

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



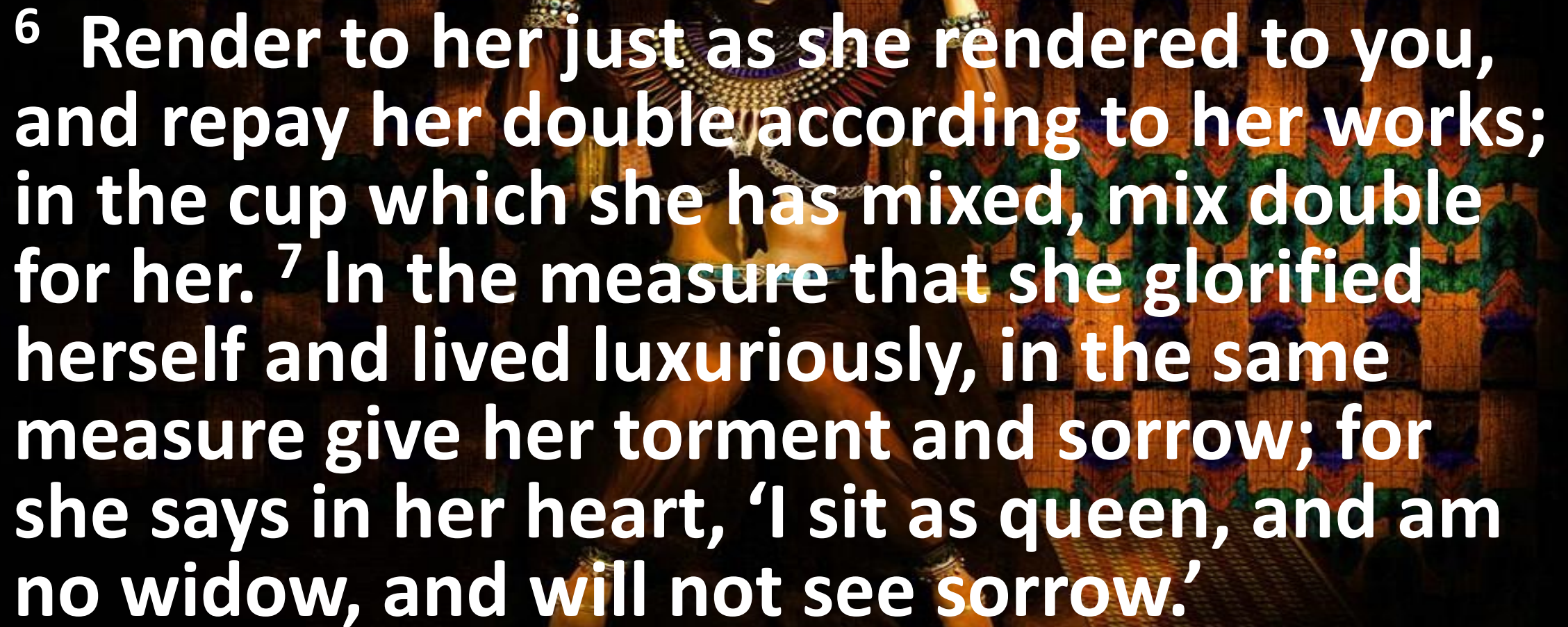
4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

- **“Come out of her, my people,...”** God’s voice, He says “my” people. Call = **consistent theme through scripture**, here final call to come out of Babylon.
- May or may not be *literal* Babylon, although possible: get out of physical Babylon because of coming judgment.
- Always spiritual call to God’s people to **be separate** **from world’s ways of doing things.** (*Does not mean we are not present, we don’t believe/behave way they do.*)
- **God’s people called OUT of worldly system**, or at least called to live, “do business” in much different way than world.

- **We are not to think or act like the world**. Have different standard, not same worldly behaviors or lusts. **Not to get caught up in the frenzy (or harlotry) of commerce and business.**
- Believers “**called out ones**” (*ekklesia* = “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)
- **7 instances** where God’s people 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 Revelation 18:4.

- Call for God's people to **remove themselves from world system** to live differently, as well as escape coming judgment of Babylon, and all she represents.
- 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)
- *"...lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."* **Clear warning to God's people.** Cannot remain "in Babylon" (*world's system, in opposition to God, behaving way world behaves*) and **be saved**.

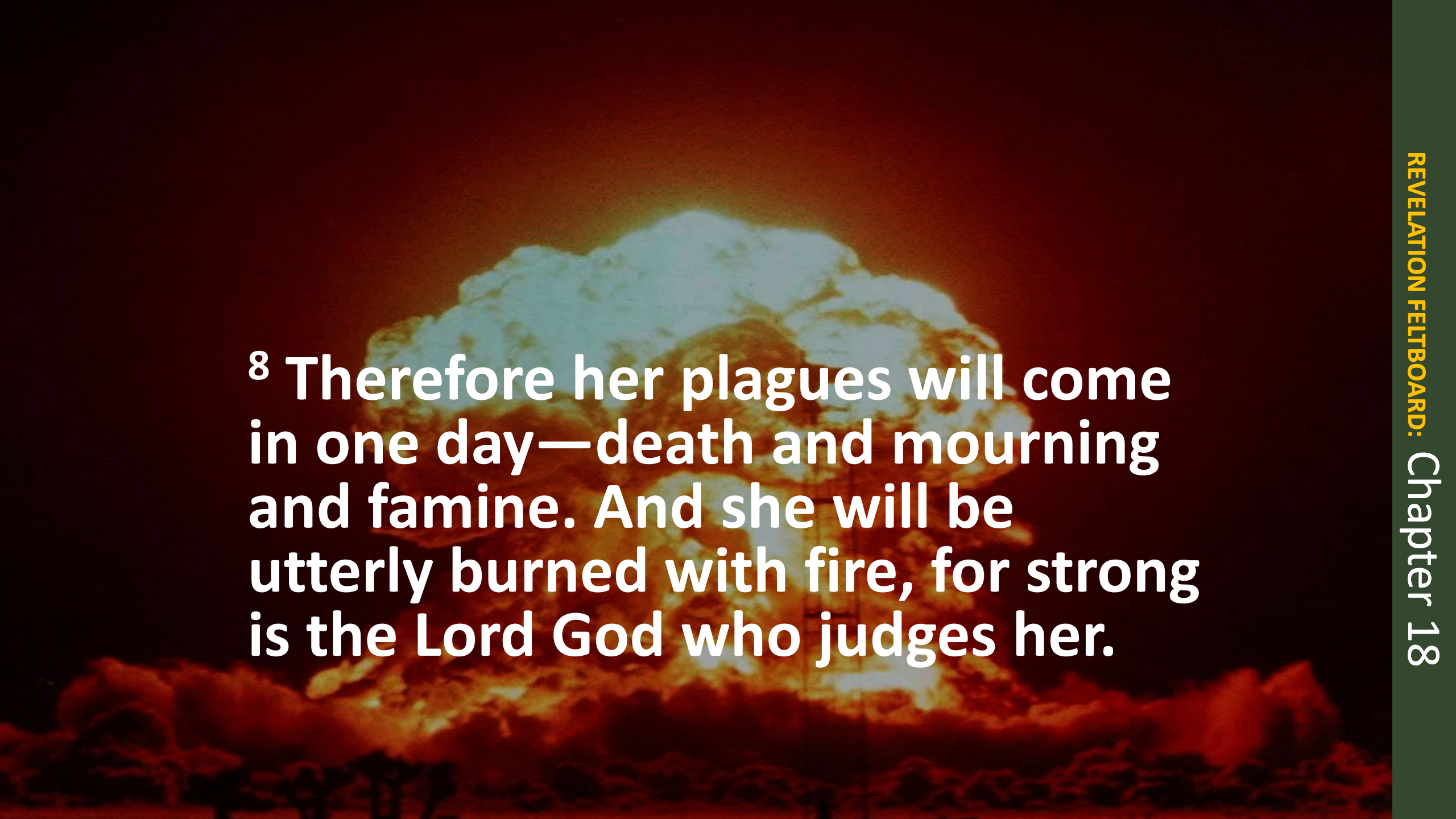
- **If you remain in her, you will share her sins. If you share her sins, you will share her judgment.**
- *Just as true today as when first written. Perhaps more so, as **lure of world stronger** in many ways.*
- ***“For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.”*** Reference to first world rebellion, **Tower of Babel**, now being reconstructed in a spiritual sense (*and literal physical sense!*).
- **World attempts to “reach heaven” on its own, without God. Now only thing reaching heaven = world’s sin.**
- Also interesting to note God remembers these sins, yet **forgets sins of believers.**



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.'

- ***“Render to her...”*** Don’t know specifically to whom this directive addressed.
- Could be “Angels of the Presence” who pour out plagues, or general statement she deserves what she gets.
- Reminder God’s judgment fair, impending doom of Babylon/world’s system = fulfillment of prophecy.
- Interesting... *“O daughter of Babylon, who are to be destroyed, Happy the one who repays you as you have served us! Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock!”* (Psalm 137:8-9)

- “*...for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’*” **Arrogance**. Those in worldly commerce, politics, false religion tend to be arrogant, think they will not pay for this way of life. **Deadly wrong.**
- Greek: “**HUBRIS**” (*also French*), = an arrogance that feels it is self-sufficient, all powerful, no need of God.
- “*sit as queen*” may reference her as “queen of heaven” = growing cult, honored by many religions, including “Christianity,” and Islam.
- “**No widow...**” OT widow was not a virgin, hence not suitable or acceptable bride for a priest (Leviticus 22:13).



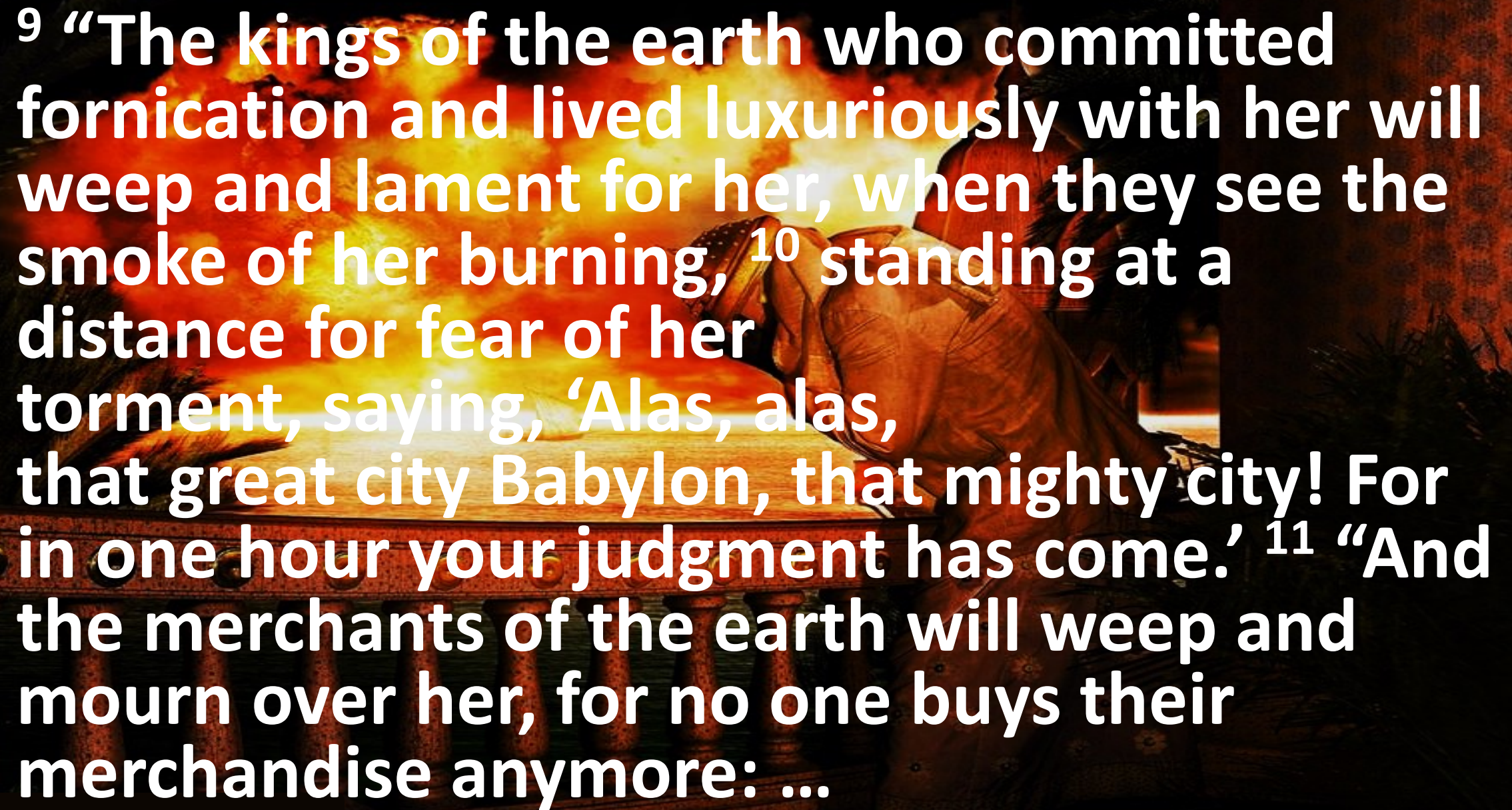
⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

- In previous chapter John related Babylon with Rome. Many think these **cities interchangeable, spiritually.**
- 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/extravagance today. Some say US = Babylon. **Ultimately Babylon = every city, every person, every system that **stands in opposition to God.** And as such, it, they (all of them), will be utterly destroyed.**

- 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 scary and uncanny to many.
- New York's World Trade Center **represented world's financial/commercial systems**. For that reason many believe these verses fulfilled at that time.
- However, ***“will come in one day”*** merely means will come suddenly, and will be catastrophic, not over time. May or may not be a literal time reference.
- Tragedy of 911 “tip of iceberg” re: fulfillment. ***More to come***. Entire global commercial system will be destroyed.

- Note ***“she will be utterly burned with fire...”*** 911 buildings, literal conflagration of fire.
- Do not know how “harlot” will literally be burned with fire. May only reference complete destruction.
- 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, **“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, in His time.

- Every nation should note 5 reasons why Roman Empire fell, per Edward Gibbon, author of “*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*:” (should sound shockingly familiar)
 - 1) **Undermining sanctity of the home** as foundation for human society. (*Erosion of family*)
 - 2) **Increasing taxes**, spending public money for free bread and “circuses” for people. (*Welfare, entitlement*)
 - 3) **Madness for pleasure**, increasing violence of sports, extravagances, lusts, rampant immorality.
 - 4) **Military build-up**, when real enemy was within (*including decay of individual responsibility*)
 - 5) **Decay of worship**, faith leading to form (ritual), false teaching, losing touch/reality, no power to guide.

A dramatic scene of a city burning, with a figure in the foreground looking towards the flames. The background is filled with intense orange and yellow fire, and the foreground shows a dark, metallic structure, possibly a railing or part of a ship's deck. The overall mood is one of destruction and tragedy.

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: ...

Next passage (verses 9 -18) should be read together to understand 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.’

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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.*

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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.'

- **Three groups** singled out, “kings of the earth,” and “merchants of the earth,” then “every shipmaster, all who travel by ship...”
- These three groups represent **government, commerce and world trade**. Have joined with false religion to gain power and wealth.
- **Shipmasters and sailors** those who moved goods, also in allegiance with harlot, kings and merchants.
- About **spiritual adultery**, heart against God. Doing things in direct opposition to God’s ways. Taking advantage of others for personal gain.

- Now all groups see extravagant/rebellious way of life **gone, totally destroyed**. Weep, lament her passing, only because it means their loss of power and wealth. ***Not sorry for harlot, but for their own losses.***
- ***“standing at a distance for fear of her torment...”***
Standing back in fear of same judgment. Have good reason to fear.
- Government and politics lament her loss, because means their loss. Merchants and seaman lament over her loss, because it means an *end to their wealth*.

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.

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. 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)

- *Commentator believes Babylon will be physically rebuilt and serve as headquarters for final world ruler.*
- Whether or not true, commentary is true of world's powers, kings, merchants and seaman, wherever their "headquarters" are.
- **Speaks more of a system**, rather than literal place, but both may be true.
- 3X told Babylon's demise happens in "**one hour.**" (vv. 10, 17, 20) *May or may not be literal*, appears 3 X to underscore **quick and sudden event**. No one expects it.
- Immediately following each statement see **destruction complete**, Babylon desolate (*riches come to nothing*).

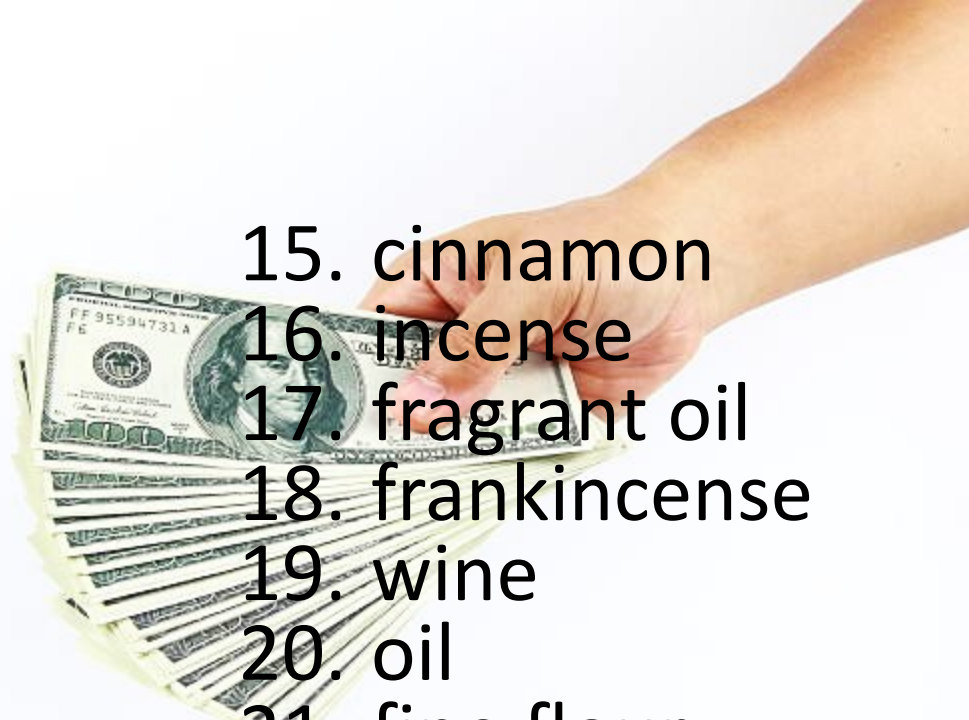
- “*..for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of..*” verse 11 through verse 13 long list of “merchandise” traded.



- **28 cargoes (4 X 7).** Both literal and symbolic. Represent all commerce, all riches, all material goods man lusts for.

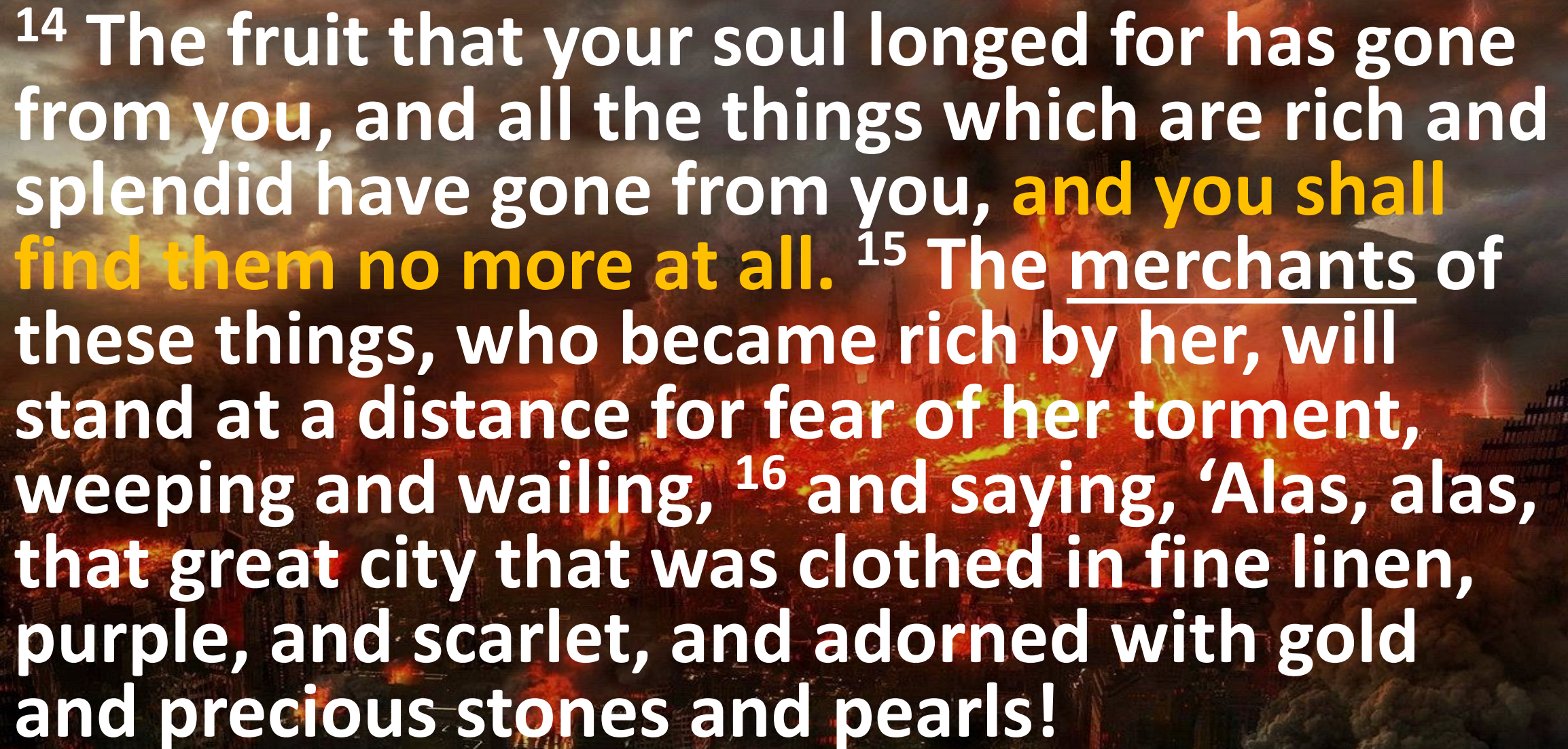
The List...

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



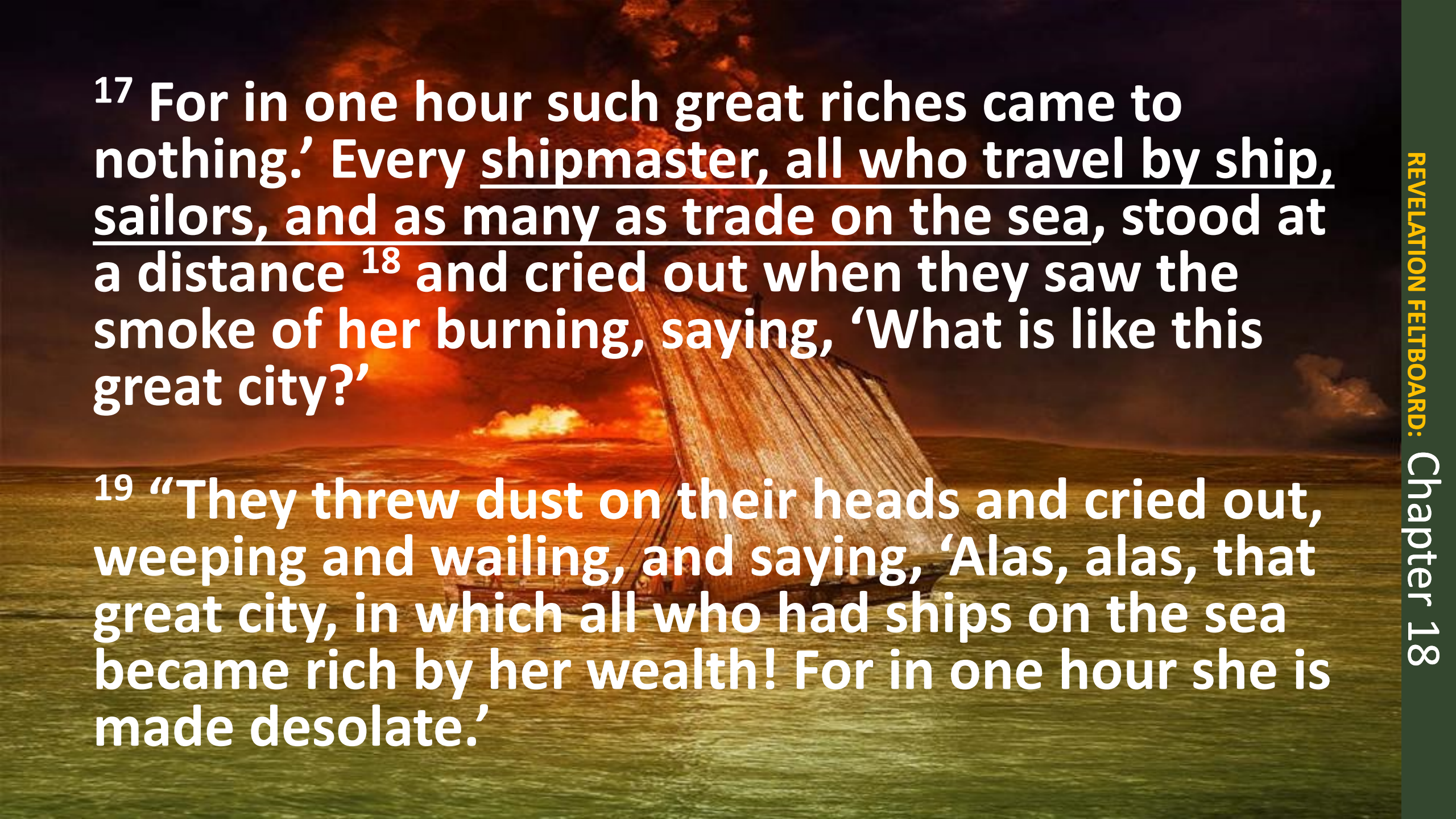
28?? number
“4” represents
earth, all
creation, also
human
government [4
corners, 4
winds, etc.]
and “7” =
**perfectly
complete.**
Intended to be
complete list of
all world’s
**“goods and
services.”**

- Includes items from every material list: **mineral, plant, animal and human**. Represents everything of any material value. Luxuries as well as necessities.
- **Also includes human cargo: “...bodies and souls of men.”**
May represent:
 - physical slaves (*in Rome 1/3 of population slaves and traded as 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.*)



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!

- Whatever those being judged longed for now **gone forever**.
- Here merchants lamenting. All stand back for fear of being consumed also.
- ***“...that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls.”*** Sounds more like Rome than literal city of Babylon.
- Wealth and color typical of organized church. May be seat of end times harlot.



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.’

- Same lament as merchants, now shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea.
- These are **transporters** of all goods. Another group making profit off the harlot.
- ***Laments always the same.***
- Again reference to these events happening in one hour. Underscores suddenness, unexpected.
- ***“They threw dust on their heads...”*** ancient symbol of mourning.

- Lament repeated 3 times. Intended to underscore significance of:
 - 1) **ENTIRE destruction**, of all sinful wealth and power seeking world (*note WORLD lamenting, not believers*)
 - 2) **great, complete and fierce judgment** Babylon receives (*very serious, solemn, terrible*)
 - 3) **finality** of judgment and destruction, and
 - 4) **suddenness** of destruction.
- **Summary of these “mourners”** (*who they are*) in Romans 1:18-32. *Worth reading here.*

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.

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.

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.



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

These represent the world in rebellion against God.



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

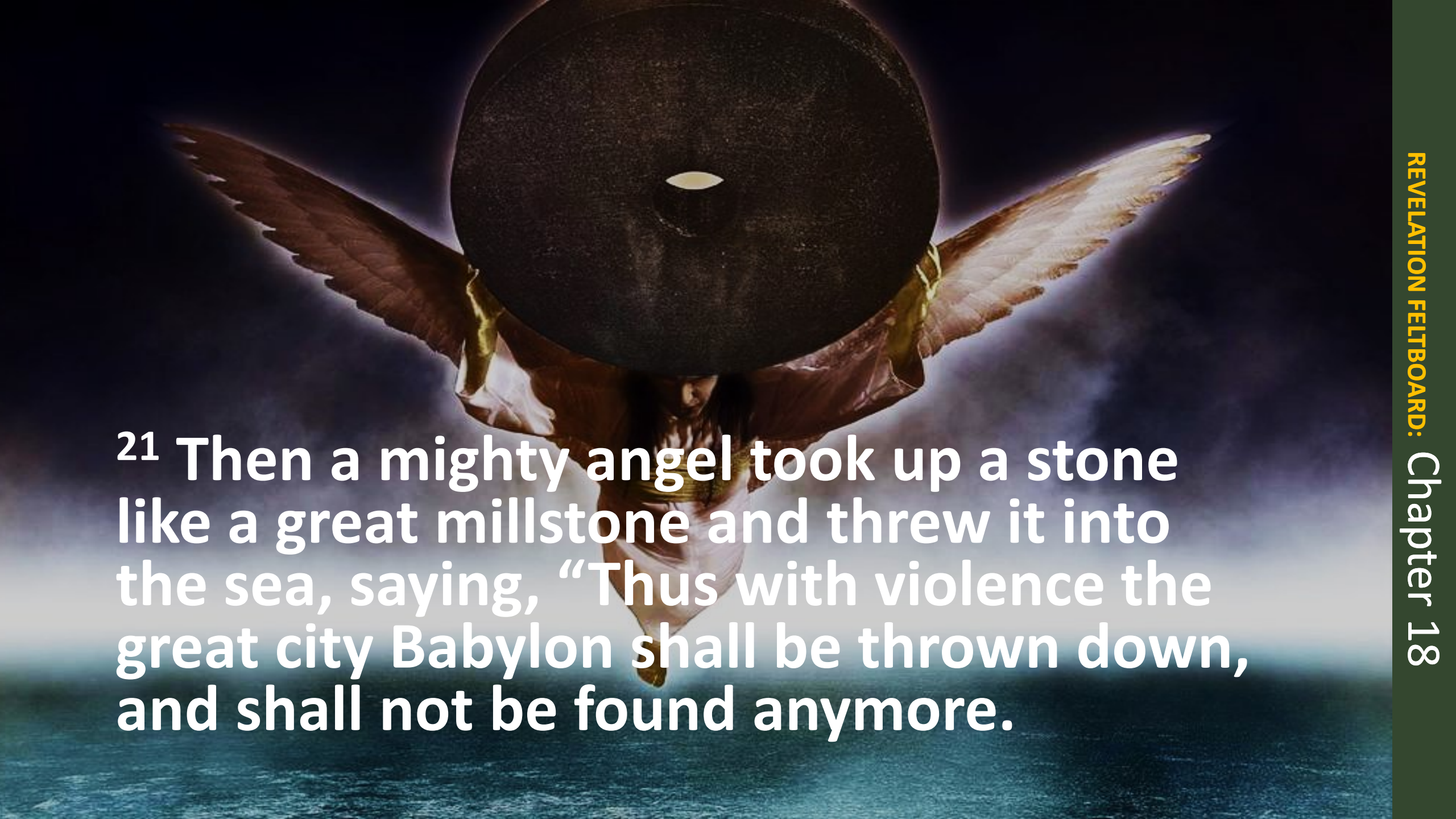
- Command to rejoice in middle of destruction and chaos. *Seems a very strange thing to say.* Why would we rejoice over such tragedy? **Who is this directed to?**
- **All of heaven, the citizenry of God's kingdom.**
- ***"O heaven..."*** Includes all saints whose citizenship is heaven, and all heavenly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

- 2 groups mentioned, apostles + prophets, may be deliberate = NT Church (apostles, disciples, saints) + OT prophets, saints, ***combined called out ones***.
- True believer will be in distress, troubled, saddened at immoral conduct in world today. Should cause us to weep, mourn and lament.
- But in this judgment, ***time to rejoice***, because sin is being judged and destroyed completely.
- Just the opposite for world. Lived high and mighty rejoicing in their wealth and power and sin. ***Now they weep... as believers rejoice***.

- Believers celebrate end of apostasy, idolatry, materialism, hedonism, humanism, 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.
- Souls under altar cried out **“how long?”** God says, **NOW**. Now is time of His judgment.
- Jeremiah 51 predicts rejoicing over destruction of Babylon.



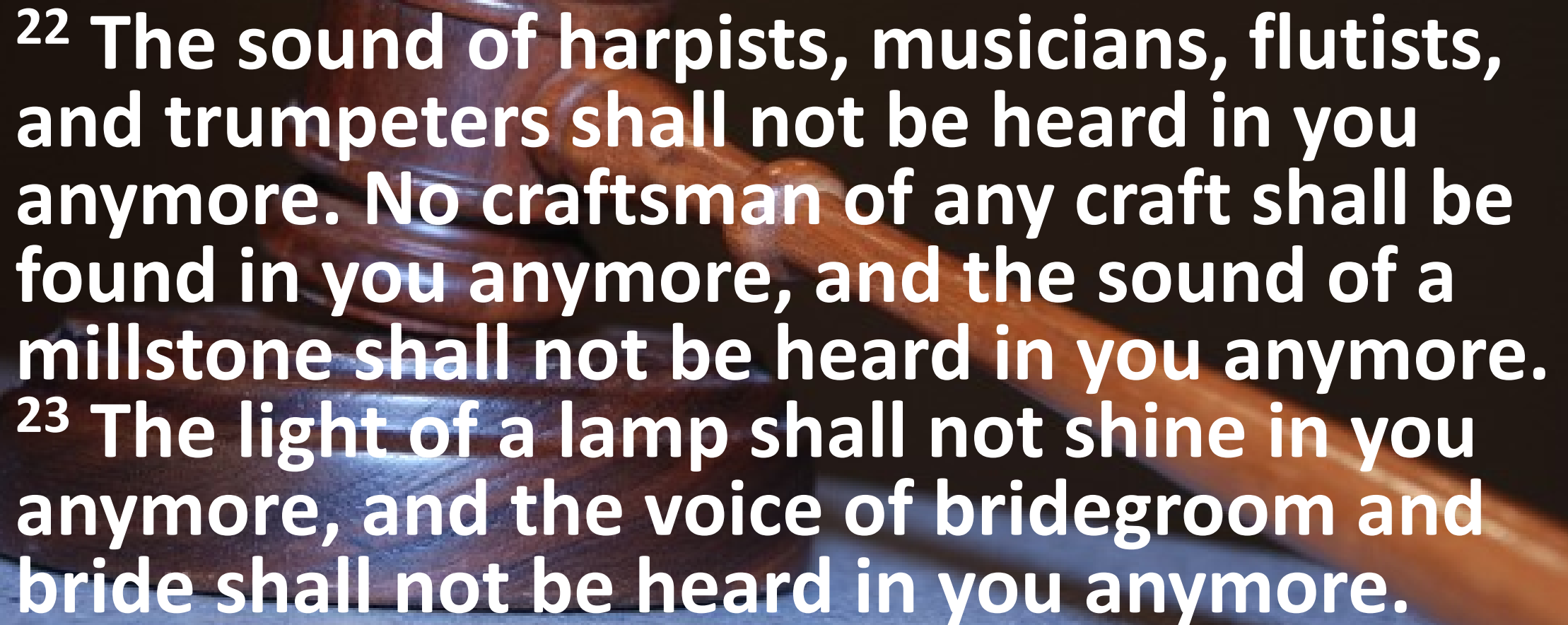
God replies to souls under altar in chapter 6. NOW is the time of rejoicing!

An angel with large, feathered wings is shown from a low angle, 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 blueish-green glow at the bottom, suggesting a sea or a dramatic landscape. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

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.



- **Strong visual aid.** Intended to underscore, emphasize this event.
- *Most don't realize how large a millstone is.* Used for milling grains, could be as big as 6 feet in diameter, even bigger, solid stone.
- If thrown into sea, would disappear almost immediately. So will "Babylon."
- Angel demonstrating just **how fast, how complete, how violent** and how permanent will be end of Babylon.



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.

- 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** for emphasis (*perfectly complete*). *List is complete, 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 at all.**
- Final comments of ultimate, complete and permanent destruction of world system apart from God. **Come out of her! Now!** (*before too late*)



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.”

- *Did you catch that? **WHO were considered “great people” of earth?** Heroes, icons, role models?*
- *“For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”*
- Earth **exalts commerce**, and men/women of commerce (*business*) as great men of earth.
- **Who are our world’s heroes?** Business icons, sports icons, television personalities. *Many of whom are 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.

- “Sorcery” = “*pharmakeia*,” again, may indicate **drugs, delusions, addictions**, etc. Many cults/false religions emphasize “experiences” in worship, *drugs common*.
- By sorcery/trickery all nations deceived, hearts stolen. **Feeding personal sinful lusts**, whether drugs, sex, money, or power.
- “*In her...*” referencing entire sinful world system.
- By fulfilling sinful lusts, have also *directly or indirectly* caused suffering, hardship, persecution and death of “prophets and saints.”

- **3 reasons** presented for **judgment of “Babylon:”**
 - 1) Commerce, pursuit of wealth, power, other lusts, top priority in life, more important than God, and therefore considered idolatry (and harlotry), punishable in OT with death by stoning (the hail!!);
 - 2) all nations, peoples have been deceived into this pursuit, **away from God**; *(no one exempt, except those in Lamb’s Book of Life)*
 - 3) through pursuit of power and wealth, nations have killed, persecuted and otherwise mistreated those who loved and served God through all ages.

- More than just marking end of Babylon, or predicting its demise/judgment, passage carries **BIG message to all readers**, to all people *everywhere* through 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.”** (1 John 2:17) Should get our attention.
- Throughout scripture all believers called out of world, but *how easy it is to get sucked back into that vortex of self and lust and temptation.*

- **Commentator (Dunnet): “*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 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*)



"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons..."



"Come out of her my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven...."

"...Render to her just as she rendered to you...for she says in her heart



"I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow."

"...Therefore her plagues will come in day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly



burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

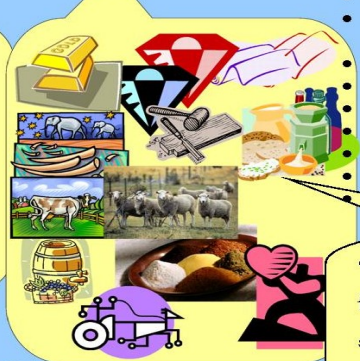


"...Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come."



"...for no one buys their

merchandise anymore:



- Gold and silver
- Precious stones and pearls
- Fine linen and purple
- Silk and scarlet
- Every kind of citron wood
- Every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble
- Cinnamon and incense
- Fragrant oil and frankincense
- Wine and oil
- Fine flour and wheat
- Cattle and sheep
- Horses and chariots
- Bodies and souls of men

"...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..."

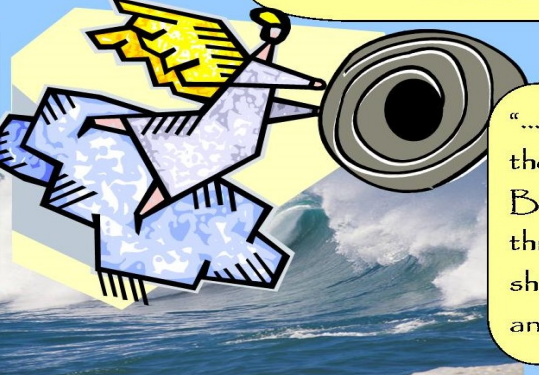


"...Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing."



"...What is like this great city?...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..."

"...Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"



"...thus with violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore...."



"...For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Revelation 18



The big event we all
await comes next in
chapter 19.

*The glorious appearing
of our Lord Jesus!*

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

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

***Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyase
lekha shalom.***

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

