***Babylon is Destroyed

RV218-02***

Please open your Bibles once more to Revelation 18:1-24. Our subject is "Political Babylon." This is segment number two.

**The New World Order**

It is increasingly evident that national sovereignty will soon be a thing of the past. In our world, there are political forces around the earth today which are cooperating with one another in an unprecedented way to fashion and to achieve their goal of uniting mankind into a new world order. There was a time when the people who called the plays (the insiders) didn't dare use the phrase "new world order," but that is no longer a problem for them. Their boldness has now escalated because the people of the world are uninformed. The goal of all this is a world government with a single economic system of socialism which is dominated by the government.

During World War II, the countries of Germany and of Italy were called fascist countries. "Fascist" means that people may own their own businesses, but the government will tell you how to run it. That is what is coming about in nations all around the world. You still own your business, as if you were private ownership, but the government makes the regulations upon which you must operate.

There is, furthermore, a close cooperation between the globalists and the religious group that comes under the category of the New Age movement. The New Age movement is Hinduism rearranged for Western tastes. But at the heart of Hinduism is the concept that man is a potential God. And at the heart of the New Age movement is the concept that we are all working our way to discovering our own deity. The object of the globalist is to create a universal world religion, and that world religion is just another expression of the religion of Babel, the religion of idolatry.

**Babylon**

We have covered Revelation 17 in detail. That has been a review of God's plan for the ultimate disposition of ecclesiastical Babylon. Revelation 18 now deals with political and economic Babylon. The revelation about political economic Babylon is made to John by a powerful angel who comes from heaven. The angel transmits to all the world his authority from God, and he is surrounded by brilliant light, which is the reflected glory of God. So, the whole earth looks up and sees this angel coming down, and they're impressed. They don't like him, and they don't welcome him, but they cannot ignore him. The angel from God then, in a very loud voice, proclaims the destruction that is imminent upon Babylon the city, with its religious and its political economic systems. In fact, he expresses it in a way that it's already an effected fall. Babylon has not yet fallen, but he speaks of it as if it has already taken place.

Babylon on the Euphrates is going to be rebuilt before this total destruction comes from God. When the destruction comes, it will be total obliteration. We get this from the Bible because the prophets of old said that the destruction of Babylon would be in the same pattern as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. When God was through with the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, you had a few ashes on the ground, and that was it. There was nothing to be found. This is going to be the obliteration of this horrendous, ugly system of Babylon. That, of course, has never yet taken place. Babylon, when it is rebuilt on the Euphrates, will be externally a very beautiful place once more. But it will be a place of internal wickedness in its idolatry; its occultism; its witchcraft; and, its sensuality.

**Babylon the Great**

Babylon is called great because it always has been a great city with great influence on mankind, from the time of the Tower of Babel. The greatness of Babylon is part of what's going to make its obliteration by God all the much more shocking to the people of the world.

**Destroyed by God**

So, let's look at the site of destroyed Babylon. In Revelation 18:2, after declaring that Babylon is fallen the angel says to John, "And she has become a dwelling place of demons." To the city which was the center of world government; world commerce; world religion; and, a world military force, the seemingly impossible will happen. The city is totally destroyed by God. And when it is wiped out, and nothing is left, then, we are told, that it will become the dwelling place. The Greek word for "dwelling place" actually means a "haunt" or a "hangout." It's going to be a hangout, we're told, of demons. Demons are angels which joined Satan in his rebellion against God. They are loyal to Satan, and they're under his control.

Idolatry is always accompanied by the presence of demons. It is demons that empower the idols to do things for its adherents. With the fall of Babylon, and the slaughter of its inhabitants, the idol system of religion is destroyed. The result is that you have a lot of unemployed demons. Suddenly, they're on-site with nothing to do, because the idolatry religion has been totally devastated. Babylon will have been the scene of enormous demonic activity in her prime, in the Satanism that is practiced there; the spiritism; the witchcraft; and, the astrology. But demons from everywhere gravitate toward Babylon. They find a great ease in that territory.

This territory today in Iraq is dominated by Saddam Hussein, who is a devotee of Islam, one of Satan's religions which worships a demon god named Allah. I have no doubt that if we had spiritual eyes to see, as lovely and as beautiful as Babylon on the Euphrates is today, we would see the place swarming with demons. It is a natural haunt (a natural hangout) for demons.

Furthermore, we're told in verse 18 that it is also a prison of every unclean spirit. The word "prison," again, is a word which actually means "a haunt" or a "hangout." It is not only the place of demons, but then the demons are identified a little more specifically, and that is by the word "unclean." In the Greek language, this means "filthy." Demons are filthy creatures. That is the nature of these spirits which are roaming the site of Babylon. They are filthy creatures, and the filthiness of demons is evidenced by the practices of those who are subject to demonic powers. Demons may parade under a lot of external culture and refinement, and indeed they do, because they learn that from their master Satan, whom the Bible tells parades himself as an angel of God: one of enlightenment. But angels who obey Satan (the demon angels) are very filthy creatures. And when they don't have to hide what they are by nature, it can become very horrendous.

The ceremonies and the rituals of demon worshipers are acts of degradation. They're just acts that we would call filthy acts. Unless you've stood there in a covenant meeting, you wouldn't be able to understand how downright dirty is the practice of demon worship.

Furthermore, we're told that the old site where Babylon once existed before God destroys it is also going to become another prison or a haunt. This is for hateful birds. The word "hateful" means something which is loathsome and disgusting. The site of Babylon is now destroyed. Along with that are all the people. The place is littered with corpses. So, Babylon becomes the site of a lot of vulture-like birds picking over these dead bodies.

Most of you probably would not choose a turkey buzzard or a vulture as a pet. They look terrible. They have a slick head. They don't have hair. They're disgusting to look at, and they eat dead things, and the more rotten the better. So, people who sell vultures have a hard time at the pet store getting rid of their vulture stock. People don't go too much for vultures, so that's what this is saying. These are disgusting birds, and they do disgusting things, but it's fitting with the fact that this is a disgusting place where demons for centuries have gathered.

In looking ahead down the centuries, Jeremiah 51:37 says that Babylon will become a heap of ruins. This was hundreds of years in the past when this prediction was being made, and it is now being reiterated here in Revelation 18: "Babylon will become a heap of ruins and a haunt, a hangout of jackals, an object of horror, and hissing without inhabitants." These things are going to fight one another. Part of this hissing is going to be demons hissing at one another. Demons are not only dirty, but they don't have a friendliness toward one another. This is one of the things that demons do. They hiss at one another. So, the loathsome birds stress the moral filthiness of the congregation of demons which are present. And Babylon the beauty thus becomes, in effect, a filthy zoo.

The prophet Isaiah also spoke on this in Isaiah 13:20-21. It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation, nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lay down there. But desert creatures will lie down there. Their houses will be full of owls. Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there." The shaggy goats is probably a reference to Saters – goats which we call "unicorns," with one horn coming out of his forehead. That is a symbol of a demonic spirit.

So, in Revelation 18:2, we're told by this angel that Babylon, in its commercial and its religious and its economic aspects, is going to be totally destroyed. She will continue to be what she has always been – a place where unclean spirits live, and where unclean and hateful birds make their residence.

This is a terrible judgment to bring upon this city and upon the inhabitants of this city. Why would God do this? In verse 3, we see that it is because of the moral perversion of the nations: "For" introduces the reason for the divine obliteration of Babylon: "For all of the nations," referring to the gentile nations, and none of them is excluded. Every one of them practices this: "For all of the nations are drunk on the wine of the passion." The Greek word there for "passion" is actually the word "thumos." That means "wrath:" "They become drunk on the wrath of her immorality" (her 'porneia" – her fornication). Sexual immorality and sexual perversion brings upon it the wrath of God.

The Word of God says that immoral sexual practices like homosexuality are an abomination, and must not be practiced. There is a whole chapter in the book of Romans (Romans 1) which delineates what happens to a society when homosexuality is practiced and tolerated and the nation does that. You should be fearful of the fact to realize that along with that is connected the wrath of God. That's what we're saying here. For all of these gentile nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her immorality. These gentile nations (whole nations) have a form of Babylon's religion of idolatry, such as a nation like India. The whole nation is a nation of idol worshipers. This is also true of a nation like China or Japan. These are nations of vital worshipers, or of ancestor worshipers, which is another kind of idol. That is a greater immorality, because it's substituting a false God for the true God, and that brings upon the perpetrators the very great wrath of God.

This spiritual corruption away from God's truth is the work of Babylon. That's why nations deviate from the Word of God. It is Babylon which has pitted all nations against God and against His word. Babylon has led humanity to Satan, and away from the love of the Creator God, and directly into His wrath.

This is not unfair, as if people didn't know better. I am increasingly amazed how the Bible is being treated by Christians. I almost hear this with regularity now – that we say something is in the Bible, and therefore, this is the truth of God on that subject, and the response is, "No, it isn't. That's just the way you're looking at it. That's your opinion." Suddenly, we have these arrogant mentalities that are giving the teachers of the Word of God the back of the hand, and saying, "You don't know what you're talking about. I read that Bible, and homosexuality is OK. I read that Bible, and Baalism (which sacrificed its infants, as we do with the issue of abortion today) – it's OK."

**Public Relations**

Now, I've noticed also that when Christians say that, they're not doing it because that's really what the Bible teaches. They're doing it for what they call PR (Public Relations). Whole churches (whole congregations) are structured on the principle of not offending the people in the congregation. And if you find some idea that they don't like, do not offend them. This is what is happening in our universities today. We have all kinds of crazies in the universities. They're called "students." They come up and they say, "We need a certain kind of study. We need a course in women's study. We need a course in black studies. We need a course in Chicano studies. We need a course on the life and times of firemen," or whatever is your particular thing. Instead of administrators saying, "We can't do that. We're here to give you a broad cultural background of education. Those things you may pursue on your own. They would not contribute to your liberal arts education."

Instead, you have these administrators who have long since prostituted their manhood, who are afraid to stand up to these maggot heads, who want to have these particular kinds of studies. That's the same thing as saying, "The truth is not the truth." I am now telling certain Christians to be sure that they take a couple of handkerchiefs to heaven with them to stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ. When they give me some of these expressions, you've got to have some handkerchiefs, because, boy, are they going to weep? Are your words ever going to come back to haunt you? You will realize that you spoke the vileness of Babylon. Yes, you pleased men. Yes, you were popular. Yes, people stayed with you, and they didn't desert you, but you did it at the expense of compromising with your Heavenly Father. And that's not worth it.

All of these nations will have drunk of the wine of the immorality that the harlot religion holds out to them, because it's a sensual system. And they will come into the wrath of God for having turned their back upon the clear statements of Scripture. Our last two sessions have been devoted to showing you about the doctrine of verbal plenary inspiration? Every word is the Word of God. Every part is the Word of God. You must understand that. You must not for one moment be intimidated. You must not at all ever compromise the fact that you know what you're talking about. And don't let anybody ever try to tell you that it's how you're looking at it, because the Bible is not a complex book to read.

Not only have whole nations gone into this Babylonian perversion, but also the political leaders. The kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her. These kings of the earth have been guilty of spiritual fornication. Leaders of nations have deliberately led the way in the rejection of the Bible as God's truth.

Have you ever seen that done? Have you ever seen where the head of a nation deliberately leads a nation into the abominations in contrast to the Word of God? If you have not seen that, you should see your doctor immediately, because you're brain dead, or else something is wrong with your ears. You can't listen to TV without seeing that the leaders of nations are deliberately leading people into the rejection of the Bible as God's truth. And I'll tell you that when you get away from God's truth, these leaders become fools. They look like fools; they act like fools; and, they talk like fools.

I listened to Mrs Gore, who was speaking about the health programs. Her theme is "A lot of you people are in depression, but you don't know it. As I watched her carrying on and on: "Call this 800 number," I did get depressed, and when she was through, I headed for the phone to call, and I couldn't remember the number. Then I really was depressed. But then here came Secretary Reich, and what he does is talk about anxiety – a variant of the same thing. I sat there and I listened to this man 15 times (in a matter of a short discourse), and he explained how the American people are shot-through with anxiety, and it is the duty of government to try to bring relief to our people. Folks, there are crazies out there, and these are the same people who thumb their noses at the Word of God. And those of us who know doctrine, and who have a voice (whatever small voice we have) should not allow them to get away with it. We should expose them, as the Scripture says, "For the evil that they're being guilty of.

So, the kings (the leaders of the earth) have also entered into the principles of immorality. Leaders of nations are deliberately guiding their citizens into violation of the principles of God's word. Political leaders promote what the Bible calls moral abominations.

Eventually, the worship of the antichrist as God will, in fact, be decreed by government. The government of the tribulation will enforce this religious viewpoint. You'll either worship the antichrist, or you will die by government edict. The world's political leaders yield themselves to the harlot's religion of sensuality, which is a great insult to God. Fornication was used in the Old Testament as a symbol of spiritual falsehood, and that's what we're talking about.

**Feminism and Abortion**

Babylon, of course, portrays yourself as a glamorous, liberated woman. Therefore, as a liberated woman, she is free of biblical moral principles. Here's one place I'm seeing Christians who are being corrupted by the women's movement. They're amazing. They are not saying, "You ladies are wrong. You don't know what you're talking about." Of course, we have huge women's organizations that are biblically oriented, which indeed do that. We have powerful women's groups. You don't hear much about them on nightly news because they're not politically correct. But these women are promoting violations of God's moral laws, for what reason? As an expression of their freedom; of their sophistication; and, of their political correctness. The feminist movement today is centered, if you have not already noticed, is centered on abortion – the slaughter of our unborn children under the religion of Baalism from Nimrod is where it’s all centered. The finest tradition of Babylon in its Baal worship, the feminist movement, really begins to foam at the mouth when you challenge the concept of abortion.

Political leaders are attracted to the heart of Babylon because she encourages them to indulge the lusts of the old sin nature as an act of religious devotion. This is an ancient line in the ancient world. Temple prostitution was the way that you worshiped your God under the Babel system. The system of devil worship, indeed, just put on an impressive display in its rituals; in the buildings in which it meets; in the garments which the priest wear; and, in the great appeals to the emotions. This goes over big with people who are spiritually blind. But it is still a system which is worshiping Satan. This apostate system holds its devotees by the fear that they will be sent into the lake of fire if they displease the system, because only through the system, as is true in Roman Catholicism, can people go into heaven.

So, what we're saying is that, in a society, once the Bible has been thrown off as the controlling guideline upon that society, there's then little restraint on the attraction that the harlot's religion will hold for both political leaders and for the citizens of that nation. God says that He is going to take this whole system of Babylon, and set it up for its final destruction.

We have an interesting vision about this in Zechariah 5:5-11. Please turn to that section of the Word of God. Here, God, under an analogy, portrays the transfer from other cities all over the world to Babylon: all the commercial; the religious; and, the political, economic institutions of the world. God is talking about the end of the tribulation, and Zachariah is giving us an insight down the centuries. This is a picture of a woman in an ephah. An ephah is something like a bushel basket. It is a basic measuring unit in the Jewish system, and it was about the size of a bushel basket.

So, in Zechariah 5:5, we read, "And the angel who was speaking with me went out and said to me, 'Lift up now your eyes, and see what this is going forth." So, Zachariah looks up, and he sees something floating by up in the air.'"

Verse 6: "I said, 'What is it?' And he said, 'This is the ephah' (the bushel basket) going forth. Again, he said, 'This is their appearance in all the land." The angel identifies this object as a large container, and it represents the appearance of Israel's sinfulness in all the land. This ephah contain the sinfulness of Israel in all the land. Their eye is evil, and they fill this ephah (this container) with their evil.

This measuring basket is a symbol of the measure of Israel's national evil. That is quite fitting in view of the wide spread evil that was taking place in Israel of cheating on weights and measures. This is one reason that God uses this particular symbol.

In Amos 8:5, Amos points out that godless commercialism is one of the reasons that God has brought destruction upon Israel. It is about businessmen who cheat: "Saying, 'When will the new moon be over, so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, that we may open the market?'" The people of Israel were saying, "When can we get past these holidays so that we can start doing business again:" "To make the bushel smaller, and the shekel bigger. They were cheating on the size of the measures, and they were cheating on the size of their money by mixing it with base metals: And to cheat with dishonest scales." In the way they weighed things out, they were cheating. This was characteristic of Israel of old, and one of the reasons for which God brought judgment upon them.

So, here is this woman with this ephah containing the national sinfulness of Israel.

In verse 7-8, Zechariah observes that this ephah has a cover on it made of lead: "And, behold, the lead cover was lifted up." When they lifted up the lead cover, this is the woman sitting inside the ephah. Obviously, while this is about a bushel basket size, this was an oversize container. While it represented the ephah, it was big enough for a woman to be in it: "Then he said, 'This is wickedness,' and he threw her down into the middle of the ephah, and cast the lead weight on its opening." He opened it, and he looked into it. He identified this woman as Israel's wickedness personified: civil, religious, and economic evils. Then the angel slammed the lead cover back down on the top of the ephah to keep the woman confined. Jerusalem was imbued with the spirit of covetousness. The Jews were imbued with the spirit of covetousness. That, the Bible tells us, is a form of idolatry.

So, part of this woman's wickedness was the covetousness that caused them to cheat in business. This mercantile covetousness was found to be the driving force of evil, in fact, in all nations.

Then, in verses 9-11, two women appeared in Zechariah's vision. These women are not angels, since angels are always (Can I say it?) masculine. There are no female angels just like there are no female priests, and there are no female apostles. And for those of you down at the charismatic church, there are no female pastors either. All the way through Scripture this is very clear. So, these are not angels because these are females: "Then I lifted up my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings, because they had wings like the wings of the stork. And they lifted up the ephah between the earth and heaven."

These women have the wings of a stork, and the stork was an unclean bird under the Jewish system. And their wings are caught in the wind, so that the women are capable of flying. They lift up this ephah with the cover, keeping the woman of wickedness inside. And they lifted up off the earth into the air.

Vere 10 said, "And I said to the angel who was speaking with me, 'Where are they taking the ephah?'" Zechariah wanted to know where the two women were going to take this container.

Verse 11 said, "And he said to me, 'To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar (the land of Babylon). And when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal.'", Zechariah said that Babylon is the ancient and original site of idolatry with its attendant moral wickedness. So, religious and political wickedness is seen being taken from all over the world in this ephah back to its home where it all began. That includes the economic wickedness of the covetous. In 1 Timothy 6:10, this is the godlessness and the idolatry of covetousness.

This ephah is going to be used to build a temple in Babylon for a pedestal upon which this woman, the heart of religion, will be placed. This is the woman of wickedness that the people of the tribulation will be worshiping. This woman is sat on an idol pedestal at her own place in the temple in Babylon. So, the wickedness of idolatry, which has been so tempting to the Jews, will be returned to its place of origin.

Interestingly enough, it was not until the 70 years of captivity of the Jews in Babylon that they finally got over their propensity to worship idols. After they came back from that time in Babylon, they never went nationally again for idol worship.

This sets the stage now for the final judgment on Babylon. It will become the world's center on the Euphrates of finances and commerce. The kings of the earth who covered financial favors from Babylon will more and more support her religious system. Revelation 18 is about the threat; the murder; and, the immorality of businessmen in order to satisfy their greed. The kings of the earth and the merchants are going to enrich themselves, and do it through the power of wealth to be found in Babylon's sensual luxuries. Babylon is the power base upon wealth for the world's rulers.

So, suddenly, these international bankers (the few powerful financial families, and the tax-exempt foundations) are in a position of enormous power. Then, in Revelation 18, we have one other group. We have had nations who have subjected themselves to the immorality of the harlot religion and her political economic system. We have had the leaders of those nations who have themselves to moral abominations and to economic and political advantages. Now we come to the merchants of the earth (the "emporos"). That refers to the financiers of the tribulation world. And, we read, "And the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth." Really, it's literally "by the power of her sensuality," and the word "sensuality" is really the word "luxury." They have become rich by the power of her luxuries. Rebuilt Babylon is going to become the world's financial center.

**Socialism**

Babylon inherited from ancient Babel the economic system of socialism, and that's what will predominate in the world. This socialism will be under government control, and it will be distributed, in its favors, to those whom the government favors. Babylon represents the world's ruthless, godless, commercial powers which consume the fruits of the labors of the common people.

One of the most ludicrous things is when governments begin to take upon themselves the role of establishing equity, equality, and justice in the financial realm. Yet, that very government is controlled by people who themselves at heart are deceitful, and who will do anything to cheat. We have seen people who have been appointed to government positions such that, when the Senate began to confirm them, the kinds of people they were (in their own cheating in material things) caused them to have to be rejected. Yet, outwardly they were presented as paragons of great virtue. Babylon represents the world's ruthless, commercial interests.

These businessmen include, as I said, the international bankers – the few dominant financial families: the Rothschilds family; the Carnegie family; the Ford family; and, the Rockefeller family, and their tax-free foundations. These financial forces are controlled by those who are seeking a world government. All of these forces I have mentioned have one thing in common. They want to see the world united economically. That is because then they will have the greatest opportunity for financial benefits. Government proceed to strip their people through taxation so that the wealth of people depends upon the favor of the government. The American government is systematically trying to create anxieties in its citizens that only submission to the government can resolve. Dishonesty among businessmen is commonplace. We hear it all the time. And that dishonesty is a source of great wealth. How many do we not hear about?

These businessmen of the earth have become rich. As they have abandoned God, Satan has prospered these nations. Satan will also make rich the churches in proportion to their wicked liberalism expressed in their rejection of the Bible as God's Word. If you want a prosperous church financially, so that your deacons don't hand you (as they did me) a need a $3,000, while we have only $650 today. If you want to avoid that, then the way to do that is to abandon the clear declaration of the Word of God.

I have noticed that when people become antagonistic to the Berean ministry for some reason (usually wrong), that they do not come and speak to me. They don't come and say, "I'm not going to come here anymore because of this." That's not entirely cowardice on their part. It is because everything is so clear here that they know what I'm going to say. That causes a little bit of a chill to go through me, because they are acting against spiritual enlightenment. They know what is the truth, but they say, "You're wrong about it."

**Freemasonry**

So, Satan will make you rich if you play ball with him. Babylon has combined morality and religion with economic alliance to prosper its adherents. This is very intricate. It has a lot of woven strands. One of them is freemasonry. I'm going to spend a little time with you on Freemasonry, and show you some things visually.

Some months ago, I went to a funeral of somebody who was a mason. I walked into this funeral home, and there stands, next to the casket, this great emblem. It has a carpenter's square on the bottom, and there is a compass over that square. It has the letter "G" in the middle. And few of you know what those three things stand for. You would recoil if you did. But I'll tell you what – what it means comes directly out of Babylon.

Freemasonry originated in the occult world. It is devoted to the concept of morality and good works while dispensing economic favors to fellow Masons. When you shake a man's hand, you have that center finger that you pull over to shake a hand, and somebody who feels that in his palm says, "Oh, oh. This is a brother mason." And Masons do economic favors toward one another.

Many years ago (I think it was my first year here at Berean Church), I began to be astounded by how many Southern Baptists (which we were associated with that group at the time) preachers were masons. And only some months ago did I hear W. R. Criswell, at First Baptist church, making a very commendatory remark about the masons in one of his sermons. It meant, "The masons are OK guys." But when I began, I said, "There's something wrong with this," but I didn't know how wrong it was. But I had the good fortune to come across some materials written by a man named John R. Rice, who used to operate out of Wheaton, Illinois. He was a splendid writer, and he knew a lot of things. He knew a lot of things wrong, but one thing he would do would be to talk about the system of masonry because he had been in it.

I remember one Sunday night in that little academy library when I spoke about masonry, and I told the people that most masons are only in the Blue Lodge, which are the first three degrees that you take in masonry. And I showed them the occult, and the godless oaths that a man takes. He never hears it and he never sees it until he's in that room, and they take that blindfold off his eyes and say, "You have now come into enlightenment," and they have him repeat this godless, bloody oath (by ministers). And when I read those oaths that night, I sensed a tremor of distress. Boy, did I find it afterwards, because I found one family who was very prominent in masonry. They thought that it was just a wonderful, doing-good organization. And the women were part of the women's organization, the Daughters of the Eastern Star. They were all up in arms that I was saying these things masonry.

Well, going to review this for you, but I'm able to better connect it now to the occult origin. Masons are part of the Babylonian religious system, and they're part of the economic system. That's why preachers are in masonry – so that they can get favors from a congregation. And businessmen are in masonry so that they may get economic advantages, because they help their fellow masons. It is interesting that Joseph Smith of the Mormons was a mason. What the Masons practice up in their secret lodge rooms are what are called "the endowment ceremonies" in Mormonism today. And it's pure, satanic, demonic occultism. These businessmen have enriched themselves with the wealth or the power. This is the Greek word "dunamis," which means inherent power that is to be found in sensuality or luxuries. False religion always has been a powerful means by which unscrupulous leaders can enrich themselves.

No greater example of that can be the TV charismatic religious con artists who capitalize on the credulity of the spiritually ignorant and naive who follow them. Babylon's abundant luxuries are bestowed by her on the faithful, and those who will worship money with her. No matter what happens to these TV evangelists, they're still telling you: "Put your hand out and touch the screen. I have the power. It's flowing through me." They never run out of the fools who follow the Babylonian system. But all of this is going to change, because, in time, as the world's trafficker's in sacred things have God's judgment finally upon Babylon, they will weep, and they will well over the ruin and the suffering that they have experienced when they get God's destruction. When civil authorities combine civil superpowers with religious powers, there's always corruption. The Roman Catholic Church is an example of this, because the two are combining two facets of Babylonianism.

These merchants are going to profit even during the plagues, but they are going to suffer, in the end, what James 5:1-3 promises to the greedy, godless merchant: "Come now, you rich. Weep and how for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches of rotted, and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted, and there will be a witness against you, and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure."

Babylon is going to be the world's leader in the use of vice for financial gain. Babylon is going to be one mafia-organized, crime operation. This godless commercialism will reach its peak at the end of the tribulation. Then God will bring His destruction.

Jeremiah 16:49-50 says that one of the reasons that God brought the destruction om Sodom and Gomorrah is because of the economic cheating that was practiced by the inhabitants of those cities.

One thing more: There are many Christians among us today who have little time for serving God because they too are so tied up in their business ventures, and they're enjoying the good life. These are Christians who, in effect, are Babylonians. That's something that even we believers have to be very careful of. What is the change, as God has prospered you, from your spiritual devotion; from the services that you used to perform; from your attendance at Sunday school; and, from your taking of notes? As commercialism has risen, you've exchanged it that bowl of porridge, like Esau. And someday, you weep and wonder where it all went. Babylon offers the great promises of power, and of wealth, of prestige, and of luxury to its victims, and that victim can indeed be you and me as Christians.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1993

[**Back to the Revelation index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/revelation.htm)

[**Back to the Bible Questions index**](http://www.christiandataresources.com/allarticles.htm)