

Revelation 18

Good morning, church!

This morning we are going to continue our verse-by-verse study of the Book of Revelation.

Before we begin... Let us pray.

The year was 1987, I was 7 years old embarking into my new journey into second grade.

And as I went out to recess, I noticed many of the cool kids were hopping around on the newest hot toy.

Pogo-Ball Picture

The Pogo-Ball had taken our kid culture by storm.

I could not participate in all the fun, because I had no pogo-ball.

I was forced to play tetherball, and swing on the swings by myself.

I so wanted a pogo-ball to jump on at recess.

On Saturday morning, as I watched cartoons, the commercials would come on showing how amazing these Pogo-balls were.

Kids doing all kinds of tricks, smiles on their faces, it look as though my life was missing the thing that could make a childhood the best and most memorable.

My parents were depriving me of true happiness because they would not buy me a pogo-ball.

I spent weeks, just wishing and wishing, wanting and wanting, the commercials were torture, and my jealousy almost drove me crazy.

Well, turns out as fast as pogo-balls rose to popularity, they went out of style quick.

I remember walking through the mall with my mother, and KB Toy store had a clearance box full of pogo-balls, I grabbed one, and they had marked down the price so much, they were practically giving them away.

I showed my mother the price tag, and she said, “We can afford that now.”

I was so excited; I finally had my own pogo-ball, finally my life had meaning.

I went home, excited to get practicing so I could show all my friends the tricks I could do, like the ones I saw on the commercial.

I took it out in the garage, and took my first jump.

I thought, “That is weird, I only got like an inch off the ground,” so I decided to give it another go at it.

And a couple more hops on this thing, and I thought to myself, “the commercials showed me that this would complete my childhood, and bring me the greatest experience ever known to a young child.”

But the reality of this toy was so much further than that.

I thought, “Maybe it is more fun with friends, like the commercial showed me,” plus I saw all the cool kids jumping together, they looked like they were having a blast.

So I brought my Pogo-Ball to school, to try to find the thrills I thought I was going to experience.

Well, turns out, I was a few months behind the cool kids, they had already moved on to the next thing.

Not one of those kids I saw jumping before brought theirs, and I was the soul pogo-ball jumper at recess.

I still was not good at this thing, and I was made fun of, so much so I was embarrassed to even have it at school.

The thing broke after a couple weeks, and looking back at my life, this was the first of many let downs in this world.

You see in every human, we have this incredible thirst for more.

And this world capitalizes upon that thirst, and markets it.

But EVERYTHING, again EVERYTHING that is in this world will come up short to satisfying that thirst.

And many people spend their whole life chasing one disappointing thing after another, being let down each time, but always hoping the next things will satisfy their craving.

I chased after materialism for many years, never finding anything that satisfied.

I chased more money, and found it was not enough, I thought trucks, motorcycles, and toys would fulfill my life, and I found, there is always just one more thing to get, before it is enough.

I chased woman, relationships, drugs and alcohol, and found none of it quenched my thirst.

In fact, the Billionaire Oil tycoon J.D. Rockefeller was asked once, "How much money is enough money?" He replied, "Just a little bit more."

King Solomon, who had everything this world says you need to find happiness, and he summed up his life with... **Eccl 12:8 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."**

This world's system is a sham, a satanic ruse, a distraction that keeps you racing and chasing, and never grabbing ahold of, or finding.

Remember what Jesus told the woman at the well, who tried to find her life in one relationship after another.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her,
"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but
whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will
never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will
become in him a fountain of water springing up into
everlasting life."

You see, only Jesus can fill that need in your life, Jesus
is the only source of life giving water that will quench
your thirst.

He stopped my personal pursuit of Vanities in its
tracks, as I found my life satisfied in Him.

He is our only rest from this pursuit, this grasping of
the wind.

Now, there has been no greater propagator of the
empty pursuits of this world, than the system set up in
Ancient Babylon.

Commercialism and materialism all find their roots and
foundations in that system that has opposed God from
its birth.

And here this morning, as we look at chapter 18, we will look ahead to a time when it is finally destroyed once and for all.

This system that has enslaved billions of souls.

Now, remember John is in a parenthetical section right now, last week, we saw the final defeat of the religious part of Babylon.

As the beast and his empire used Religious Babylon, the Mystery Babylon, the Great, the mother of harlots and all abominations.

She was used for the power she held over the nations, and when she was needed no longer, the beast and his empire destroyed her in a humiliating fashion.

So the religious part of Babylon is destroyed, and this happens, perhaps at the midpoint of the tribulation, where the Beast declares himself to be god, and turns her whole system of worship toward himself.

Now commercial Babylon will continue on, as it is the system that maintains this one world economy until Christ comes and destroys it for the last time.

So understand we have two distinct Babylons in Revelation 17 and 18.

It is important to understand the separation here.

So let us get into this commercial system and understand its ways and corruption.

The Fall of Babylon the Great

18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

We see here in verse 1, John uses the phrase "after these things."

This separates this portion from chapter 17, also John explains he saw another angel, not the same angel from the last part of the vision.

This angel is a powerful angel, that illuminates the earth, showing us that this angel has been given a great responsibility from the Lord on behalf of the Lord.

This angel comes from the presence of the Lord, and carries the Lord's light.

Henry Barclay Swete explains, "So recently has he come from the Presence (of God) that in passing he flings a broad belt of light across the dark earth."

And we see the powerful angel announces "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen."

This solemn cry indicates a sudden event is taken place.

This announcement comes very close to the destruction of the Harlot in the previous chapter, but we will see the details of this event are altogether

different then the calamity of the woman who rides the beast.

You see Babylon was made up of more than false worship, it also was a political and economic power.

We will see a separation from the Harlot, as the kings of the earth betrayed her, but the kings of the earth will mourn the death of commercial Babylon.

This event here will be late in the tribulation, and will be one of the final events before Christ comes back to this earth.

We see in verse 2 this great city has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird.

We see a threefold description of the evil that is present in this demonic system.

We see it is a system and a home to the fallen angels and their various titles.

Demons, evil spirits, and foul birds.

Jesus all throughout His parables associated the birds with evil.

We have what some call Expository Consistency, as a rule of interpreting scripture.

Chuck Smith used this often, if the scripture associated something with evil in scripture, you can interpret it to be evil when you came across it again when used symbolically.

Remember, Jesus in the parable of the sower, He explained that some of the seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured them.

Then He gave the interpretation **Matt 13:18-19**

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

We see the birds represent the working of the wicked one, or workers of Satan when used symbolically.

So here in verse 2, they are representing a satanic creature.

We see God has judged this city and handed it over fully to the demons.

Then in verse 3 we see Babylon in its political form has also intoxicated the all the nations.

So this cities influence can be felt across the world.

Commercial Babylon also has fornicated with the kings of the earth, and this system has made rich the merchants of the earth.

The nations have prospered under this system, as they exalt themselves against God, and abandon His ways.

The system has worked humanity up into a frenzy to seek the luxuries or delicacies of this world.

To accumulate the wealth of this world.

John in his first Epistle paints a picture of this world, the world in essence is not literally this earth, but the world represents the system built within it in opposition to God.

John says 1 John 2:16-17 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

This Babylonian commercial enterprise uses the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

And this system enraptures the world, and steals the heart of man away from God.

Notice this system has fattened those merchants who participate within it through luxury and not necessity.

Now think about this, can you imagine a system at work in this world that can work up humanity to overlook their necessities in life, their basic needs, and puts them into a quest for more luxury?

A system that puts the poor into debt, so much so they are enslaved to that debt, but can never break free of it?

A system that is set up on grabbing the soul of man, and convincing him that he needs things of luxury, and

to keep buying and buying filling the lust of their hearts.

This system has made the world drunk with its delicacies, and those stuck in are no more than slaves to its marketing scheme.

Man, mad with their lust for more turn into no more than crazed animals, pouring money into the merchant's pockets.

The picture in my mind looks something like this...

Black Friday Video

I have been all over the world, I remember being in Russia, and seeing men whose families live in poverty carrying the latest iPhone, wearing New Balance shoes, which cost hundreds of dollars more than they do here.

This system has invaded every crevice of the world, and the marketing for luxury even preys on the poorest.

This Babylonian system can use communism, it also thrives in capitalism. There is no place that is not affected by its influence.

We will see through the imagery here that this system seems to stem from one city.

The city many believe is symbolic, and not necessarily the actual Babylon.

And it's interesting, the wealth of this world has moved from region to region throughout different times in history.

Right now, and perhaps temporarily the volatile world markets seem to watch one market more than all the rest.

Picture of World Market

70 of the world's largest corporations trade within the NYSE. <https://www.thebalance.com/what-is-the-new-york-stock-exchange-3306243>

It is interesting however, that it was bought out in 2013 by Intercontinental Exchange. [https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nyse-shareholders-](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nyse-shareholders-vote-to-approve-ice-merger-2013-06-03?siteid=rss)

[vote-to-approve-ice-merger-2013-06-03?siteid=rss](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/nyse-shareholders-vote-to-approve-ice-merger-2013-06-03?siteid=rss)

It is linked to many world markets, and the ups and downs all over the world sometimes are directly affected by it.

Also, do you know who is the number one coveted consumer in the world?

Close to 50% of the U.S. adult population is 50 and older and they control 70% of the country's disposable income. <https://drumcreative.com/worlds-sought-consumer/>

Understand if you are a 'baby boomer', you are the most targeted consumer.

The merchants of this world want your money.

The world's wealth is all dependent on the American consumer.

Now perhaps right now, the US has the seat of this demonically influenced commercial Babylon.

Some commentators believe the literal city could be Babylon in Iraq, the literal city will be rebuilt, and you know when Saddam Hussain started rebuilding it, many prophecy students got really excited.

Saddam Hussain even claimed to be a decedent of Nebuchadnezzar II.

Picture - Babylon Ruins for Saddam's House

But the US military made a quick work of that tyrant, and literal Babylon sits in ruins right now, the United States Military and I believe the Polish military destroyed much of the ancient cities footprint to make for a helicopter landing base.

So currently, at this point in history, it is hard to see that this city will be rebuilt and become a center for the world's commerce.

It is, I believe an 8-hour drive to the nearest ocean, and sits in the middle of Iraq.

I can say that there are some Old Testament prophecies in Isaiah and Jeremiah that give credence to this this idea of literal Babylon being rebuilt and destroyed by the Lord.

Think of all the years' commentators could not see a literal Israel, and they had to spiritualize it.

Things could change very rapidly in the Middle East, they hold so much wealth in oil, and this city could very well rise to powerful heights in the future.

All we can say for sure, right now, Commercial Babylon is a system, and if you look at this world, you will see its influence in every corner.

As for what city it will manifest itself in during the final world empire, I cannot say anyone knows for sure.

But look at the instruction next...

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.

And the instruction to God's people is the same in the tribulation as it is in every dispensation.

Separate yourself from Babylon, this worldly influence.

When the people of God were taken captive in the Old Testament, they were given the instruction

Jer. 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And every one save his life!
Do not be cut off in her iniquity,
For this is the time of the Lord's vengeance;
He shall recompense her.

Also in...

Jer. 51:44-45 I will punish Bel in Babylon,
And I will bring out of his mouth what he has
swallowed; And the nations shall not stream to him
anymore. Yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 "My people, go out of the midst of her!

And let everyone deliver himself from the fierce anger
of the Lord.

The people of God were given the notice in advance to
get away from the judgment that was to come upon
that wicked empire.

And here a similar warning is given.

Their wickedness once again has come before God.

We see in verse 5 an illusion to the original Babel.

Remember they made bricks that built a tower that's top was to reach the heavens.

God came down to the city and dealt with the rebellion.

God did not completely wipe out the city then, and Babylon as of yet has not been completely judged.

But one day its iniquity will reach its climax and judgment is inescapable.

The instruction is similar to us today, God is calling His people out of the world, and Babylon's system.

To the church, He declares...

2 Cor. 6:17-18 Therefore "Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is
unclean, And I will receive you." 18 'I will be a Father to
you, And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty."

Paul also told the church in Philippi

Phil 3:18-21 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things. 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

We are not of this world, and we are to live separate from its system of greed, lust and pride.

Next, the judgment is pronounced...

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.

The voice from heaven calls for judgement according to her works.

The law of retribution is called for here.

We see this woman is held up to God's standard of an eye for eye and a tooth for a tooth.

In the same measure that she lifted herself up to the heights, so too will be the depth of her torment and sorrow.

What a terrifying thing to ponder, in facing God through His Divine Justice.

And not to have the Blood of Jesus Christ protecting you from the Divine Wrath of God.

And here is her fate, the voice calls for double the portion.

John Walvoord explains, “The cup of iniquity which Babylon filled is now to be filled twice with the measure of judgment.”

A plague is called down, and death and mourning and famine.

And she will be burned with fire.

Notice the separation from the Harlot of chapter 17, who met her end through the kings of the earth, here on commercial Babylon God acts personally in the plague.

The Harlot’s power was given to the Antichrist and his empire.

Here we see a different picture altogether, next the empire weep and lament...

The World Mourns Babylon's Fall

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.'

The destruction of commercialism from which the kings of the earth maintained and manipulated their power, and it is crushed in one hour.

Now many thought the pictures from this fateful day fulfilled this...

Picture of Port City on Fire

As the heads of every country wept and lamented the world's center for trade being toppled.

The merchants stayed at a distance as the ripple of this hour was felt across the world.

However, this was not the end of commercialism, and what did man do?

The Babylonian spirit within this world's heartbeat built an even more magnificent building in its place.

Picture of Freedom Tower.

And today the system is stronger than ever.

This prophecy has not been fulfilled yet.

We see Babylon seems to be some sort of seaport where the world's trade centers at.

But, notice everything listed here is luxury items.

This system has made humanity feel as though they cannot go on without these things.

12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet,

The latest styles, jewelry.

I have seen deadbeat parents, who can careless to put food in their children's bellies, or diapers on their behinds, and they are wearing \$100 shoes and gold chains.

We get people asking for money a lot here at the church, and some will give their sob story, while wearing a \$1000 watch.

I have had people come in to ask for money to pay bills, while they are drinking a Starbucks.

And If you explain to them, that maybe if they did not buy Starbucks everyday they might be able to pay their gas bill.

“Oh no, I need my Starbucks everyday.”

Why? Because this Babylonian system tells you that you deserve it.

It is maddening, that the luxuries of this world are put before the basic necessities in life.

Next, we see nice furniture and remodeled homes built with the finest material will only do in this system...

every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;

I remember seeing poor drug addicts, who cannot cloth their children, having a big 70inch TV screen to play their brand new Xbox on.

They have to have it. The Super Bowl is coming up, I need to go get a new TV to watch it.

Why? Because the Babylonian Commercial system so cleverly and subtly puts a picture of it on the Billboard, then on the commercial at home, at the gym you see their nice TV's, you see the one's in the restaurant, and something inside you tells you your life will only be complete when you get that new TV, because your old HD TV is outdated, and if your friends come over and your TV is not 4K then you will be made fun of.

And the whole system is set up this way.

I was pumping my gas the other day, and they even have advertisements on the handle.

This system is everywhere pushing luxury and delicacies onto the heart of man.

Next, we see, not food itself, but the stuff that flavors our food is put at the higher priority.

Incense and perfumes, wine and oil.

All these unnecessary items put in front of us to consume.

They are all billed as something you need.

Get this drink, go on this diet, eat this pill, and it is all marketing.

Everyone wants you to buy their special product, and it is presented like you are missing out if you do not use it or take it.

13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots,

Fine flour and wheat, not barley. Only the expensive food is good for you, if anything but the finer purest stuff is consumed you are poisoning your body.

The rich man's food, is put before us, and we feel as though we are poisoning our children, unless we spend double on the finer things.

We see cattle, sheep, horses and chariots, which are the new fast cars of John's day.

Lastly we see where it all leads, and bodies and souls of men.

To slavery, in all the big cities and trade centers of the world prostitution is found near by.

The sex industry feeds the lust of humanity; it makes over \$10 billion every year.

Woman sell their bodies, and porn is marketed to even young children.

It grabs the souls of people and destroys their lives.

Now, this system built on greed, has also enslaved people into debt.

Americans' total credit card debt continues to climb in 2017, it reached an estimated \$905 billion — a nearly 8% increase from the previous year — according to a NerdWallet analysis.

This need for more luxury almost always out paces our income, by design, and leaves people's lives enslaved to the debtor.

**Prov. 22:7 The rich rules over the poor,
And the borrower is servant to the lender.**

And this system will ruin your life, as it enslaves you to its merchandise.

And one day God will judge it doubly for its sins, in one hour He will turn the city into ashes where this system rules from.

Chuck Smith believes the imagery here is describing a nuclear bomb detonated, because of the fear of the kings and merchants to come near.

And maybe he is right, however, God does not need a nuclear bomb, he can do this without the help of human ingenuity.

Sodom and Gomorrah can testify to His Almighty Judgments.

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.'

This is a tormenting scene for the earth dwellers; all who thought this system was too big to fail.

We see here weeping from earth, but in heaven, every person of God from the Old Testament dispensation until today who has been tormented by Babylon's treacherous ways, will finally see vengeance.

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

This judgement is right and good for those who are of the faith, and not of this world.

James, Jesus' brother had an interesting prophecy in his writing.

James 5:1-8 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion

will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. 4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. 5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. 6 You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you.

Be Patient and Persevering

7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Listen, perhaps you are beat down this morning by this world's system, and overwhelmed by the reality of the cruelty of this fallen place.

Trust the Word of God this morning and be patient, the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Things will be made right one day; the injustice will be met by the justice of God.

Do not lose heart Christian, Christ is coming.

Look what happens next...

Finality of Babylon's Fall

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."

This is the end of what the Bible refers to as the "world."

This earth is not destroyed here, that will take place after Christ reigns for 1000 years.

But here is the end of the world's anti-God, humanistic system, and Babylon is the name given to it.

We see in this vision, a picture that declares this great pompous cities downfall.

A similar picture is given in Jeremiah 51:61-64.

In that passage, Seraiah, a prince who went with Zedekiah into Babylon, into captivity, was instructed after reading the book of Jeremiah to bind a stone to it and cast into the midst of the Euphrates River.

Walvoord

The instructions from Jeremiah were....

Jer. 51:63-64 Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and

throw it out into the Euphrates. 64 Then you shall say, 'Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.'"

We see a similar instance here in John's vision.

Except the millstone is cast into the sea by an angel.

John's vision doesn't just tell of the kingdom of Babylon being destroyed, but here in Revelation, the vision is intensified.

Here we see the ultimate end of Babylon in all of its evil and rebellious forms.

At the end of the tribulation God's judgement which has been longsuffering and patient until the very end, will utterly destroy Babylon, and it will be found no more.

Luxury, money, fame, celebrations, will be stopped in a moment.

All the fanfare of the harpists, musicians, flutists and trumpeters shall be silenced.

Everything Satanic Babylon gave to mankind to numb the curse of sin, to deceive man's wicked heart, everything Babylon did to please and tickle the heart of man.

All of the building up, toiling to achieve, all of the machines of man's progress will be stopped.

Everything that has exalted itself to God, and presented a deceptive hope, a false light will be brought under the full wrath of God.

Verse 23 shed's light as too who is really at the top of Babylon's system, it is not the kings...

Rev 18:23 For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived

The merchants, the CEO's, the corporations, the traders, deceived the world's nations and leaders by her sorceries.

The merchandisers deceived the world.

Consumers were the means to their rise, and they used clever sorceries, to dumb down those who would buy, buy, buy.

Understand Satan is a consumer, a destroyer, and he loves to watch humanity waste and consume, he loves to fill your trash cans with junk that you tried to find fulfillment in.

His merchants are the beneficiaries of all our consumption.

And look at the word sorceries here.

Pharmakia.

This pill will fix all your ailments, drink our special drink and watch miracles happen, eat this healthy food with this specific labeling, and never have to worry about dying to young.

Smoke this it is a miraculous therapy.

They use the advertising to grab your imagination, putting their products before your eyes day in and day out, until you must buy it.

This brand is the best brand, these shoes are the greatest shoes, they put their products on the movie stars, musicians, sports players, and they make you feel worthless if you do not have one.

You are a lesser class of citizen if you do not have what they are offering.

I watch my kids, and the commercials come on, and they are mesmerized by all the new toys, and the same ploys I fell for as a kid they are falling for.

I am trying to teach them the truth behind advertising early, when they say “I have to have that.” I tell them “Those commercials are lies.” I am hoping I can train them to despise the sorceries of Babylon.

Of course the commercials also make the parent feel like if your child does not have whatever it is presenting, then you are a second rate parent.

But it is all a sham, a ruse, see through it.

The merchants of the world, the wealthy men, are made powerful off us buying their junk.

And it never satisfies, it never cures, and there is always more to get.

And Babylon is a soul stealer, life destroyer, and God hater, and burden maker.

Look at verse 24, She has always hated those who oppose her ways, she has slain God's people in every dispensation.

Those who have seen through her sorceries, and found the One who calls Himself the Way the Truth and the Life.

Listen church, if you have Jesus Christ this morning, you have found all that you ever need in this short life.

See through this system of bondage; understand your culture and country is the greatest propagator of this Babylonian system.

Babylon's merchants center their greatest efforts right now on your TV's, through the radio, on the Billboards, through pop culture, and they even use our politicians.

Next week, these merchants will pay \$5 Million to out one 30-minute ad in front of your face during a football game.

See through this system of lies.

Began to train yourself and your family to distain her ways, to see through it all.

Nothing the merchants of this world can offer will satisfy your thirst, and in the end, it will all be no more.

And everything we worked to achieve, everything we tried to grasp ahold of, everything we stored up, everything we saved, everything we had to have will be worthless when the fierceness of God's Wrath burn's it all up.

When you leave this life, you will take none of your treasure with you.

Everything in this world is passing away. Her system cannot quench your thirst for more.

Remember what Jesus explained.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said to her,
"Whoever drinks of this water (of this world) will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

In the end, it only matters what you did with Jesus.

Have you drank of the water He offers you this morning?

Have you found the rest He can offer you?

Or are you still chasing the next thing, do you find your worth in your bank account, your nice home?

Do you go from relationship to relationship hoping each lover will satisfy you?

Maybe this morning Babylon's system has left you with enormous debt, and every morning you wake up burdened down, weighed down, because you do not think you will ever be free of the creditors.

Maybe you chase pleasures, maybe comfort is your god.

And as you sit here this morning, whatever you are chasing, it has left you as empty as you were when you began.

Come to Jesus this morning, and be satisfied once and for all.

He is what your heart is longing for, come to Him, and put those other pursuits behind you.

The water He offers is plentiful, anyone can come.

Now whatever your struggle is this morning, come up during this last song, and give it to the Lord.

You are not here by accident, Jesus wanted you to hear this message this morning, please come and receive from Him.

Now for us Christians the message is simple, I will use the words of Paul to his young student Timothy.

1 Tim 6:6-10 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a

snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Be content with your life, where God has you.

We are to be givers, not takers, that is how we stand out in this world.

Maybe you have found yourself this morning discontent, always running, always looking, always chasing something.

Come back to your first love this morning, the elders and pastors will be up here, they want to minister to you.

Jesus is your rest.

Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Come to Him this morning.

Well church, it has been an incredible journey so far in Revelation, but the chapters ahead of us now, will depict the victorious coming King of kings and Lord of lords, and His Kingdom into eternity.

The best is yet to come.

Let's Pray!