

---

## Revelation 18:1-16

Ch17 & 18 are the 2 most difficult chapters in the entire bible to study, understand, and/or teach. In Ch 17, the first part of is a vision of John; the second part is the angel's explanation. Ch 17 is the middle of the tribulation period. The real church is raptured, the antichrist is here, and a false one-world religion has been set up that raised from the old Roman Empire. This religion will have a power over the earth like no political empire has ever had before. Others will get jealous and take away the power of this false church. Satan will get his lethal injury, the world will think he's dead, he will raise from the dead in imitation of Christ, he will set up an abomination that says...you will worship the antichrist or die. When the antichrist comes on the scene after the church is raptured, he will set up economic security, solve world hunger, solve all men's problems. The world will love him.

### The Fall of Babylon

Vs1: and after these things...what things? The destruction of the church that we just saw in chapter 17.

Vs2: He saw another angel come on down, saying Babylon has fallen. Babylon represents a system that mankind has set up without including God. It has become the habitation of demons, foul spirits, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. Birds in scripture represent evil spirits. Satan and his demons are behind the scenes of our political system today.

Vs3: the economic system of the world set up by Satan is making people rich.

Vs4-5: God's people are not to partake of this system. At this time there are 144,000 people on earth warning people to get out of the city, get out from under this system run by Satan. There is a city set up to control the commerce of the world. God is about to destroy it.

Vs6: if you're not part of this system, you'll be persecuted. Without the mark of the beast, Christians can't get a job, can't go shopping, will be hunted down and killed.

Vs7: Besides being wealthy, the rich are also arrogant. They think this economic system is so powerful, so rich, that it will control their internal destiny. Wealth can disappear in a heartbeat.

Vs8: God will destroy this city, this center of the world's economic system, in one day.

Vs9: The people who did underhanded dealing, behind the scenes dealing, those who participate in killing the Christians and made immoral profits, they will of course be sad that their system is gone.

Vs10: They will be dealt with harshly from far off. Some think it from the Mideast, but we don't know for sure.

Vs11: The people who see the destruction of this great city will be wailing. They will be afraid to go back in to retrieve their wealth or belongings because they will be afraid that they will die, too. The 7<sup>th</sup> and last bowl of judgements that we read about is probably the one that is causing this destruction.

Vs12: starts a list: starts with gold and ends with souls of men. Gold is just a piece of metal, the streets of heaven will be lined with gold. Men put gold on top of old wealth. This type of commerce system is dealing with everything from gold to souls of men, the lives of men.

Vs14: Everything men liked and cherished will all be destroyed.

Vs15: All the merchants of the world will be devastated.

Turn to Matthew 6:19-21-Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.