

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

—THE FALL OF BABYLON— THE EARTH WEEPS, HEAVEN REJOICES

Chapter 18:1-24

In the next twenty-four verses, we shall witness the destruction of political Babylon. This Babylon is different from the one just discussed. **Chapter 17** concerned religious Babylon, whereas **Chapter 18** pictures political, or commercial, Babylon. Religious Babylon was called “*Mystery Babylon*,” but commercial Babylon is referred to as “*Babylon the Great*.” Religious Babylon was presented as a woman or a mother, while commercial Babylon is portrayed as a city — a *great city*, a *mighty city*, and eventually a burning city. Religious Babylon was situated on seven hills, whereas political Babylon is visible from the sea (see **verses 17, 18, & 21**). Religious Babylon was destroyed by the kings of the earth (**Revelation 17:16**), but political Babylon will be destroyed by horrendous judgments from the hand of God. When religious Babylon was destroyed, the kings rejoiced. When political Babylon is demolished, however, the kings and merchants of the earth *lament* [and weep] *for her* (**Revelation 18:9,15**). Let’s study political Babylon.

- I. **Verses 1-2** “⁽¹⁾And after these things I saw another angel come down from Heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ⁽²⁾And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great, is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every fowl spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”

After what things? After the fulfillment of religious Babylon’s destruction. John’s statement is further proof that the two Babylons are entirely different and distinctive of one another. Only after the events of **Chapter 17** does John see God’s judgment upon political Babylon in the verses that follow.

The angel bringing the warning of impending judgment is powerful and glorious, His appearance lightens the entire globe. Quite possibly, this is a Christophany or appearance of Christ, as He is *the light of the world* (**John 8:12**).

- A. Babylon is still the subject – but here we have the introduction of a new set of circumstances. In this chapter, the Beast is not named once, nor do we find the ten kings mentioned. This chapter is given over entirely to the destruction of Babylon. Human agents disappear; the ruin of that awful system of corruption is the predominating theme of the entire chapter. The chapter opens with “*and after these things I saw another angel*.” After what things?
1. After the fulfillment of religious Babylon’s destruction. John’s statement is further proof that the two Babylons are entirely different and distinctive of one another.
 2. Only after the events of **Chapter 17** does John see God’s judgment upon political Babylon in the verses that follow.
 3. The angel announces the fall of Babylon; he has authority to deal thoroughly with the subject of the destruction of Babylon. The fall of Babylon will be a public event. Here we see one of the seven angels who administered one of

the seven judgments speaking to the disciple, John, inviting him to view the judgment of the great harlot who *sitteth upon many waters*.

4. This phrase, *many waters*, speaks of religious control over humanity, internationally. Proof? **Verse 15:** *The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*
- B. The woman (the system she represents) will be brought down to the lowest insults that can be heaped upon her. She will be a total wreck. Then, after the victory over the woman, the ten kings yield themselves to the world dictator. As bad as the situation under the woman will be, after her destruction a much worse condition will follow under the unchecked will of the brutal Beast, satanically inspired and empowered.

So here we are, God's judgment of commercial Babylon has begun. The angel's cry is, *Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen*. Why? She has *become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every [evil] spirit imaginable*. She is a cage containing every vicious, filthy, and hateful bird in existence.

A walk through New York City, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Hollywood, or San Francisco [even closer, smaller venues such as Fayetteville or Wilmington] would be helpful at this point. America's major cities—and minor ones as well—are loaded with lust-ridden sinners seeking sex thrills through prostitutes on just about every street corner, R- and X to XXX-rated movies, and pornographic bookstores. Beyond that this lascivious life style has moved into the mainstream and become an industry in and of itself. It generates billions of dollars and because it accommodates the well-to-do of our society it now has corporate charters with boards of directors, need I say more? Our beloved America could possibly fit the description of political Babylon as a *cage* [containing] *every unclean and hateful bird* controlled by foul spirits and demons who inhabit the land and its people. God help us to have an old-fashioned, Holy Spirit-empowered revival in "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Otherwise, God's judgment may soon fall.

1. Here we discover that this worldwide religious system holds both earth's leaders and people within its grasp. The fornication committed is between these worldly leaders and the church. Remember that fornication, spiritually speaking, has to do with idolatry, including all its evil connotations and associations.
2. Spiritual fornication also has to do with Christianity embracing the world—leaping out of Christ's arms into those of another lover (cultist religions resembling the true church in it's structure. Their so called assembly on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday have programs, bulletins that can't be distinguished from the true church!

Let me depart for a moment here because I am troubled in my spirit. That bulletin that I spoke of comes from one of our new enlightened worship centers, a mega-church if you will. They have blended worship services. They cater to all the flavor of worship one desires. During one of those flavored services emotions were high. The young people in that service seemed to be uplifted in the spirit. Their hands were uplifted in praise to God? At least that what the leader of the service said, lift your hands in praise to God! I thought it was God [JEHOVAH, GOD]. One of the sound technicians decided to play a joke on the people so he inserted a secular selection of music in the format. You know they didn't miss a beat. They kept right on going as before. I have come to a point in my life that I think we need to return to a time when we call God that we call him by His name. Too many people drop the name god around when referring to their brand of religion. God's name is invoked when psychic healers lead their services. Faith healers have caravans of followers while they invoke the name of God while they serve the god of money. Be careful my children of the faith. Begin again to call God by his true name YAHWEH—I am, that I am—suffice it to say we know the Lord, God's name however it is translated from the original tongue, Yahweh, Jehovah, it must be invoked for clarity. Let no one be deceived.

The world is embracing that part of the church and that part of the word that suits their needs. The world will take what they want for the new super religion that is designed, they say, to include all people. At last word the humanist say that Christianity discriminates against everyone except for a select few. Judaism is just as bad if not worse. What they fail to see is that the word is clear. Jesus said “...*come unto me **all** ye who labour and are heavy-laden...*” and most assuredly when John quoted the Saviour “*For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten son, that **whosoever** beleiveth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)* Britannica World Language Dictionary defines **whosoever** as a pronoun meaning “Any person whatever; who; whoever.” Noone disagrees with that meaning but what this new religion has a real problem with is another verse of scripture where John once again quotes the Saviour, “...*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* Here is where things begin to get problematic.

A study in Systematic Theology and the history of the church can show the problems brought about when the leaders of the church and the leaders of nations became one and the same. The world can never be a part of the church except by the salvation of one soul at the time. The word is too and for all people. We are the salt of the earth and as such we are to influence the world by the life we live and the impact we have in people's live. We effect people by sharing the word of God, not by ruling people lives. When the so-called church attempts to rule the lives of people it is a clear indication that it no longer believes that the Jehovah God is able to carry out His divine plan, that He has become inert and inept so the church must intervene. This is a clear indication that fellowship with Jehovah God no longer exist. Take care brethren, we are beginning to see clear indications that these factors are showing themselves in many congregations around the world and since this atmosphere exist in so many churches and pulpits the final change to the one-world church is not far away. Now lets us return to the study.

3. God's Word instructs true Christians to be separated from the world (see **Romans 12:2**), specifically cautioning them not to fall in love with the world or anything that it contains (see **1 John 2:15**). Those who disregard these commands are spiritual adulterers or fornicators. That's why **James 4:4** declares, *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.* Harlotry and whoredom, then, speak of idolatry and worldliness.
- C. During the Tribulation hour, a vast international religious system (the great whore of **Verse 1**) creates impure alignments with kings, rulers, and presidents in an unprecedented way. Her control is so overwhelming that humanity becomes mentally stupefied or hypnotically drugged as they are made drunk with the intoxicating brew of these religious/political alliances.
- II.** *Verse 3: For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*
- A. John lists; the grounds for God's judgment poured out upon Babylon.
 1. She has captivated the people and nations by her splendor, her services, etc.
 2. They are, totally ignorant of the Spirit of God.
 3. She claims what she is not.
 - B. The merchants of the earth gain wealth.
 1. This group follows the apostate system for gain.
 - a. Just like religious Babylon, this political system has turned to idolatry and fornication.
 - b. As we saw in **Chapter 17**, these terms refer to the worship of strange gods and a love of this world's material goods.
 2. There have always been some who use the church for their selfish gain.
 - a. Seeking prestige and power, commercial or political Babylon has promoted and joined ungodly world alliances.
 - b. When the system is destroyed these merchants weep and wail over their loss.
 3. The text states that the nations of earth have partaken *of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed* [spiritual] *fornication with her* for gain.

4. Hence, the merchants of the earth have become exceedingly wealthy by “wheeling and dealing” with this nation who is super-abundantly loaded with *delicacies*.

III. Verses 4-5 ^{4} *And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.* ^{5} *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.*

- A. No doubt in the very closing days and hours of time there will be true believers
 1. The believers of the Tribulation hour—those who trusted in the shed blood of the Lamb and refused the mark of the beast—are told to *come out of her* [and partake not] *of her* [evil deeds].
 2. They are to live holy lives in the midst of *a cage* [full of] *unclean and hateful bird[s]* whose sins have *reached unto heaven* and caused an abominable stench in the nostrils of the Almighty. They are to be careful of materialism and to refrain from illegal gain through the love of the delicacies of this world.
- B. There is a warning here for us, get away from the ways of Satan or there is the danger of the wrath that is due him to fall upon you.

IV. Verse 6 *“Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*

- A. Babylon is to be rewarded as she treated the people of God.
- B. In severity, God is going to pour out double what Babylon has meted out to the people of God whom she butchered and tormented during the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation Period.

V. Verses 7-8 ^{7} *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.* ^{8} *Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.*

- A. Facing utter destruction, the judgment of God hanging heavy over her head, she yet cries out, *“I shall in no wise see grief!”* The devil does not easily acknowledge defeat: he fights to the last bitter second before his complete downfall.

- B. *“She shall be burned with fire.”* The fire here will make an utter end to Babylon with all her ungodly systems.
- C. Here we see God’s law of sowing and reaping coming into effect:
1. *They that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same (Job 4:8).*
 2. Humanity cannot get away with sin forever.
 - a. God hates sin. It is inconsistent with His holiness. If not for God’s mercy, most of us would have been dead and in hell long ago.
 - b. His grace, however, passes all human understanding.
 - (1) *The Lord is...longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).*
 - (2) God cannot tolerate sin forever, and the reaping of political Babylon’s iniquity must finally take place.
 3. What a terrible experience as Babylon receives a double portion of judgment.
 - a. Literally, the verse should say, *“The double is to be doubled.”* This was the punishment under the law of Moses. *“^{4}If the theft be certainly found in his hand alive, whether it be ox, or ass, or sheep; he shall restore double. Exodus 22:4 (KJV)”* *“^{7}If a man shall deliver unto his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man’s house; if the thief be found, let him pay double. Exodus 22:7 (KJV)”*
 - b. Now God says, *“Double the judgment upon Babylon according to her works. Reward her even as she rewarded you.”* Babylon has glorified herself and lived deliciously. Her wealthy became wealthier and her poor became poorer. As a nation, she did not care about the poor, for she said, *“I am a queen. I shall see no sorrow. I do not want to look at the needs of the impoverished.”*
 - c. There is a possibility that James predicted the judgment administered in **Revelation 18:1,7**. *“^{1}Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. ^{2}Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ^{3}Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. ^{4}Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped [the poor] are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. ^{5}Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. ^{6}Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. (James 5:1-6)”*

4. The end of the age will not see communism enthroned. Instead, capitalism will be the ruling power as ten western nations bleed the world's inhabitants of their possessions. Now, don't misunderstand. I hate the atheistic, godless monstrosity called "communism." It will be destroyed, as will Russia, in the Middle East (see *Ezekiel 39:1,2*). However, "double trouble" is also coming for those exploiters of the masses—the rich who starve the poor—according to the verses just investigated. Their judgment takes place as Babylon is burned.

VI. Verses 9-10 ^{9}*And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, ^{10}Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

- A. The lamentation over the great Babylon is demonstrated by all classes. All will be affected by the downfall. The downfall will seriously affect the whole commercial and social life of a world at that time, and it is on this account that the judgment is so deplored by those who shared the glory and wealth of the woman.
- B. The kings of the earth lead the mourning. Bear in mind that this does not refer to the ten kings who unite with the Beast to destroy the woman. These are distinguished leaders who have greatly benefitted and served the woman.
- C. They tremble and fear at the awfulness and the suddenness of the judgment of Babylon “...for in one hour is thy judgment come.”
 1. When the news of Babylon's destruction is received, earth's kings, monarchs, potentates, and presidents immediately begin to weep.
 2. Their source of wealth has been disintegrated. They are joined by members of the Boards of Directors of Banking Concerns, All World Trade Organizations, every civic organization, on and on, the list is too immense to share here. Remember wherever money, and power are brokered and shared people will always come out from everywhere for all is lost as we are about to see.

VII. Verses 11-13 ^{11}*And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more. ^{12}The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls [for investment portfolios], and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet [for fashionable dress], and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble [for high-class furniture], ^{13} And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense [for sensuousness. Also, a stockpile of] wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses [for the satisfying of flesh], and chariots [for the getaway], and slaves [for labour to increase wealth], and [finally the] souls of men [for lust and other demeaning practices].*

- A. The next group names... “the merchants of the earth.” They sorrow over the destruction of Babylon - not because of their love for the system but for the trade they had with the system. The source of their wealth is destroyed. The products named signify that it is a world-wide system. Think of the gigantic set up of this great combination of secular and religious trading in the different commodities named, even to the souls of men. The bodies and souls of men are named last as of least account.
- B. Let’s view the commodities. Note that not a single item is really necessary. In fact, the entire display may be classified as “luxurious worldly baubles used to impress high society.” Imagine, even the mark of the beast won’t hinder wealth in the western world! As you read the next verse pay close attention to the expensive dainties listed. The various articles named are listed under seven divisions:
1. Valuables such as gold, silver, etc.
 2. Costly wearing apparel.
 3. Furniture and ornaments.
 4. Rich odours are named.
 5. Items that make for luxurious living.
 6. Horses and chariots (transportation of the finest, *Customized vehicles for the rich are splashed all over cable channels in various shows from California, it has become a billion-dollar business that only the wealthiest can afford*).
 7. The souls of men. (*Be careful my children for the airways are filled with many deceivers attempting to take the souls of many in deception, stay in your local church where you are fed the Word of God and are ministered to by a man of God who will visit you when you are sick, or comfort you when you are bereaved. Peter warned us that in these latter days many deceivers would come making merchandise of the saints, using the format of the church for their own gain!*)
- C. Much of religion today, right now, is making merchandise of the souls of men. Religions that sell the right to heaven are growing by the hundreds. Religions that teach that you can live like you please, do anything you want to do, come to church at the appointed time, make an offering, go through a ritual and then go back and commit the same sin over and over again, this is making merchandise over the souls of men. Religious leaders accepting money to pray for and intercede in behalf of wicked sinners is nothing short of merchandising in souls. ¹³¹*And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. 2 Peter 2:3 (KJV)*

- D. This is big–big business. As prophesied in God’s Word, in the very end of time there will be a world government and a world church. All other aspects of life will be headed up or divided under these two main world powers. But judgment must come. The treasures of the Tribulation enterprises do not last. Neither will they last for you, if this is all you want out of life.

VIII. Verses 14-17 “^{14}*And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shall find them no more at all. ^{15}The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ^{16}And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! ^{17}For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,...*”

- A. The weeping of the merchants is interrupted by an episode given to us in **Verse 14**, but the mournful strain is continued in **Verse 15**.
- B. The resources of the woman are gone. They will be destroyed in one hour note (**Verses 10&17**). Everything essential for her life [her life-style] is destroyed or taken away. Heaven is here announcing to this woman that her playhouse is wrecked forever, and she is down, never to rise again.

IX. Verses 18-19 “^{18}*And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! ^{19}And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.*”

- A. The merchants express their lamentation in words similar to those of the kings as recorded in **Verse 10**. However, there is a difference. The kings cried out, “*In one hour is thy judgment come.*” But the merchants cry out, “*In one hour so great riches is come to naught.*” The merchants are thinking only of the gain they derived from the system.
- B. The Lord Jesus told us when He was on earth, “*Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” (**Luke 12:34**)
- C. It isn’t rocket science here! It doesn’t take someone with a genius IQ to understand the preceding verses, they are self-explanatory. As the world weeps over the destruction of political Babylon, all heaven breaks forth in praise. Think about the many illustrations gleaned from the Bible and especially where James was so eloquently “*...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity [sleeping with the enemy] with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (James 4:4)*” Conclusive readings such as this can be found throughout the teaching of Holy Writ.

X. *Verse 20* *Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

- A. We have heard the voice from Heaven, first in *Verse 4* and now in *Verse 20*. In this latter case Heaven is called upon to rejoice and be exceeding glad. Note the difference:
1. On the earth there is lamentation.
 2. Heaven unites in a song, of victory.
- B. The hosts of heaven are called upon to rejoice and sing praises because God has judged the greatest enemy of righteousness that has ever existed or ever will exist, and she suffered at the hands of Almighty God.
- C. To this point there has only been one other command to rejoice recorded in the Book of Revelation. All has been solemn and sad. At the overthrow of Babylon, however, the cherubim, seraphim, and other angelic orders are told to praise the Lord. The holy apostles and prophets—representatives of all Old and New Testament saints—are instructed to join them. Why? The chief enemy of the people has been destroyed.
1. The world persecuted the prophets, apostles, and saints of God during every age.
 2. Oftentimes great suffering was inflicted upon them: [Some] *were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (Hebrews 11:35-38).*
 3. Now such oppression is finished forever! *Babylon...is fallen, is fallen.* Praise the Lord!
 - a. The world can no longer touch God's people or God hath avenged you on her
 - b. From the Greek, which is stronger: "*God hath judged your judgment on her.*"

XI. *Verses 21-24: UTTER RUIN AND EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON!*

- A. *Verse 21* *And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.*
1. The stone is cast down with terrible violence into the sea, signifying that thus will Babylon be utterly and totally destroyed, never to rise again.
 - a. Some Bible scholars identify this stone as Christ. *Acts 4:11* states: [Christ] *is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the*

head of the corner.

- b. The stone strikes at the end time when ten toes or ten western nations are aligned. **Daniel 2:34** states: *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [composed of ten toes] that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*
 - c. This explanation is repeated in **Daniel 2:44-45**: *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*
 - d. The Lord Jesus Christ may well be the stone that pulverizes Babylon. So thorough is the stone's destruction that Babylon is finished forever. Not a trace!
2. The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, suffered in the days of old wherein there was no trace of those two cities to have ever been found, now awaits, the calendar of God's judgment is sure and true minutes, hours, days, weeks, years all have passed but now it is near the midnight hour—it is to be that these of Babylon are totally destroyed, and Babylon will suffer the same fate. The clock will strike midnight.
- B.** **Verse 22:** *“And the voice of harpers and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no crafts- man, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found no more in thee; and the sound of the millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee.”*
1. We learn that the musicians will be heard no more. No craftsmen will be there. All industry, all music, will be utterly crushed and destroyed.
 2. Entertainment ceases in this “laugh-a-minute” commercial empire. All music and hilarity is forever silenced.
 - a. The craftsmen—including tool and die makers.
 - b. Auto mechanics, and machinists—are put out of business as all production is halted in Babylon, once the international center of commerce.
 3. One need not travel far to see the effect such lifestyle has upon people. An entire city has be built and perpetuated upon this entire notion. Las Vegas is perhaps one of the fastest growing cities in the world and their only industry is that of entertainment.
- C.** **Verse 23:** *And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.*

1. In this verse we learn that the light of the candle will shine no more.
2. The voice of the Bridegroom will be heard no more in Babylon.
3. The merchants of the earth and great men were deceived by, the “miracles” of Babylon.
4. All the nations were deceived.

D. Verse 24: *And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*

1. When the last check was made, according to this verse, much blood will be found... the blood of prophets, and the blood of all that were slain upon the earth. (The last statement refers to the terrible, bloody slaughter during the height of the reign of Babylon - both civil and religious.)
2. How complete the destruction! Babylon is left joyless, in utter darkness and total silence.
3. The closing verses of this chapter reveal three reasons for God’s judgment of Babylon:
 - a. Her love; of wealth and riches—[her] merchants were the great men of earth.
 - b. Her abusive usage of drugs—*for by [her] sorceries were all nations deceived.* (The word *sorceries* in this text again comes from the Greek word *pharmakeia*, translated *pharmacy* in English. The term connotes “getting high on” or “getting kicks out of” drugs.)
 - c. Her hatred, abuse, and persecution of the people of God—for *in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.*
4. Who is Babylon? Certain scholars think that the term refers to the ancient city of Babylon on the banks of the Euphrates River in present-day Iraq. Interestingly, the city is currently being rebuilt. Others, including such prophecy scholars as Dr. S. Franklin Logsdon, believe Babylon to be the United States of America—a leader of the western world aligned with the Antichrist’s ten-toed kingdom.

Some great scholars believe that America and *Babylon the great* are one and the same because of the information presented in the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah, plus the words of John the seer in *Revelation, Chapter 18*.

Consider the following momentarily. *Isaiah 18:1-2* depicts a latter-day nation that amazingly resembles modern America. This nation

- (1) Has the insignia of wings—similar to our national emblem, the bald eagle.
- (2) Is a land that is beyond the sea from Israel.
- (3) Is scattered and peeled—meaning it is widely spread out or has great land areas.
- (4) Is meted out— or staked out—by acres and miles.
- (5) Is a land whose rivers are spoiled—or polluted.

Likewise, in *Jeremiah 50* and *51* of the book bearing his name, Jeremiah presents conclusive evidence that a latter-day Babylon—far different from and superior to ancient Babylon—will spring into existence with explosive growth in wealth, technology and is a melting pot of all peoples. As one studies Jeremiah’s remarks, he is amazed to see that modern America seems to be the fulfillment of these predictions because:

- (1) She is a nation *of mingled people (Jeremiah 50:37)*
- (2) She is a nation whose *mother shall be sorely confounded* and who coexists with the “*mother*” at the hour of her decline (*50:12*)
- (3) She *dwellest upon many waters (51:13)*
- (4) Her wealth plagues the nations of the earth to the point of insane jealousy (*51:7*)
- (5) Her space exploits are so utterly fantastic that she tries to *mount up to heaven (51:53)*.
- (6) She exists when Israel is back in her land.

Next Chapter 19, *The Alleluia Chorus sings “Praises to Jehovah”*