

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #54  
9/12/2007

**The Explanatory Interlude of Chapter Eighteen: Commercial Babylon  
Part 3**

God first calls for **“my people,”** the descendants of Jacob, the very special people of God, to **“come out of her,”** i.e., Babylon. We have seen that **“Babylon”** can mean either the city of Babylon, the system of spiritual fornication which is false religion, the system of the abuse of material possessions by commercial Babylon, or some combination of these identifications. In verse four it is likely used as a combination of these definitions. The call of God to His people to **“come out of her”** could certainly be understood as meaning a separation from not only the city, but also the systems mentioned above.

To understand what is happening we need to remember that, in addition to judging and punishing His enemies, one of God’s purposes for this seven-year Tribulation Period is to discipline, as a father disciplines his children, the descendants of Jacob, the people He has sovereignly chosen to be His people and to whom He has given unconditional covenants.

In regard to God’s special people we find that Jeremiah spoke of them in regard to this time, prophesying about the distant future even as he was prophesying the Israelites’ return from Babylon during his current day. He spoke of how Jacob’s descendants would be affected by these last things and that God would not forsake them:

*“And these are the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah. For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them”* (Jeremiah 30:4-9).

After calling for His **“people”** to separate themselves from **“Babylon”** and, in essence, come to Him for His protection and provision, God, used a little Greek word, **hoti** (3754), translated **“for,”** to indicate the reason why He is judging **“Babylon.”** **Hoti** is what is known as a casual conjunction. It could be translated as: **“for this reason,”** or **“because of these things.”** Thus, a paraphrase of verse five could be read as **“Because the accumulation of her sins over the years have reached unto heaven, God hath remembered her**

**Revelation 18:1-24**

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 foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

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.

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.

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*iniquities.*” As we study God’s holy Word it is important to note that every word is dictated by God for a purpose and should not be passed over or ignored. Here, this little word indicates that what follows is a result of the accumulation of the sins of the wicked that He has recorded and to which He is now responding.

By using the expression, **“her sins have reached unto heaven,”** God reminds us of an event many years ago. In Genesis 11:4 we find that Nimrod and his followers said: **“... Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”** God would not allow them to achieve their goal of building something that would **“reach unto heaven”** and making **“a name for themselves,”** which is another way of expressing Lucifer’s desire as expressed in Isaiah 14:13 where he said: **“... I will ascend into heaven,”** but God did allow them to reach into heaven in another way — their **“sins have reached unto heaven.”** **“Babylon,”** as a system representing rebellion against God, came into existence at **“Babel.”** Over the centuries the rebellion born and organized at **“Babel”** had grown and multiplied until it had polluted and affected the entire world. What is being judged by God during this Tribulation Period as **“Babylon”** is the full-grown expression of what was first attempted at **“Babel.”**

God has been keeping a record, totalling up the sin debt of the wicked, and is now ready to respond. The ability of God to know and record each act of wickedness should not be questioned. After the **Tribulation Period** is finished, after our Lord’s victorious return, and after the thousand-year reign of our Lord in His **Millennial Kingdom** on this renewed earth, comes the **“great white throne”** (Rev. 20:11). On that throne sits none other than the One Who died to pay for all of the wickedness of every man. Before that throne each wicked man, who has rejected the grace of our Lord’s forgiveness, is summoned to come and answer for his wicked life’s deeds. A book is opened wherein is recorded each and every wicked deed of each of these. Each wicked person is then to be punished in accordance with the total of these deeds. Until recent years skeptics have scoffed at this account saying that it is impossible to record and store a record of so many deeds. As is usually true, the discoveries of man, along with his technological advances, now show that trillions of bits of data can be stored electronically, and immediately accessed, on tiny devices. While man is just recently learning about the use of such things, God is not so limited. For centuries He has been recording and storing each deed of each man. Those who trust the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord find that God washes

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away those records with the blood of Jesus. God's desire and ability to pardon the guilty and to forgive and forget their sins, when His atoning sacrifice has been accepted by the guilty sinner, is simply amazing. Even though the sins of the Israelites are documented repeatedly in detail through out God's Word, God tells us an amazing thing in Jeremiah 50:20 where He says:

***“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.”***

The phrase, **“in those days,”** indicates that this statement refers to those who respond to God's invitation to separate themselves from **“Babylon,”** and all of its wickedness and turn to Him in faith and trust, and receive His marvelous grace and mercy. When God's people respond to His invitation to separate themselves and come to Him, He has something marvelous waiting for them which He tells us about in Jeremiah 31:31-34 where He says:

***“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”***

This is such an important truth that God emphasizes and restates it several times. For instance, in Psalm 103:12 God says: **“As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”** And then in Hebrews 10:16-18 God repeats this wonderful truth: **“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”**

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All of the other records remain and are available to Him at His desire. God tells us in Galatians 6:7-8: ***“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*** God should be taken at His Word! God’s gracious, supernatural forgiveness and total removal of sins is available to all sinners. None is so wicked or evil that God cannot or will not forgive if such a person will simply respond to God’s invitation, turn to Him in repentance and faith, acknowledging his responsibility for his wickedness, and accepting God’s atoning substitutionary sacrifice as the full payment due for his sin. Only the foolish, the totally depraved, and mentally illogical person would reject such an invitation to grace and insist on justice. If that is what the sinner wants, he will surely get it.

**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.**

The time has come for payday. What the wicked have long deserved, they now receive. As they have sown, they shall reap, and with a double harvest. In Jeremiah 16:17-18 God says: ***“For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.”*** For **“Babylon,”** the very cup which once held that which produced intoxication, now produces judgment. She filled it. Now, she drinks what she has put into her cup!

**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.**

In Isaiah 47:8 God told us about **“Babylon’s”** sinful, overblown pride: ***“Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children.”*** Pride not only makes fools out of men, it also blinds them to reality as it distorts life and convinces self-centered sinners that the whole world revolves around them. God says in Romans 1:22 that as they are: ***“Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools.”*** It is true for **“Babylon”** as it always has been and always will be for all who indulge in such. Pride is a reproduction of Lucifer’s self-destructive attitude and produces the same destiny for foolish men as it did for him.

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