

“PANORAMIC VIEW OF REVELATION”

Revelation 18: 21 – 24

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 (v. 21). And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee (v. 22). 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 the nations deceived (v. 23). And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth (v. 24).

INTRODUCTION

Now last week talked about the judgment of this world system Babylon the Great Harlot and how those merchants lamented over the fall of her, because of the loosing of their financial status. In the previous verses, such as (v. 9), the scripture made mention of various earthly kings who have participated in the Babylonian system. So, the lament pictures utter chaos taking place on the earth at the end of the Tribulation period. The merchants will find nothing to buy or sale. In one hour, the destruction will come suddenly and quickly as stated in verse 17. But the entire pagan economic system will have collapsed, and they will cast dust on their heads as a sign of mourning and sorrow.

So, we closed our study discussing, how heaven rejoiced because God at last had judged the Babylonian system for its ill treatment of God’s people and particularly those who were martyred during the Tribulation.

However, verses 21 – 24, provide us with a picture of the collapse of the Babylonian system from within.

V. 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. The phrase “no more at all” speaks of the finality and certain destruction of the Babylonian system by the six-fold repetition of the phrase in verses 21, 22, and 23. This states that her ruin is final, complete, and irreversible as related to the symbolism in (Reader, Jeremiah 51: 63 – 64). The stone that was spoken of represented the sinking of Babylon. Mill-stones were large, heavy stones used to grind grain. And it refers to the violence the will take place when Babylon is overthrown.

In Jeremiah, Seraiah was instructed to read the oracle against Babylon to the exiles and take them and bind them to a stone and cast it into the sea, as a visual sign to the exiles of Babylon sinking.

V. 22 - And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee. Since the judgment of Babylon is final and certain, the angel tells us that the lively hood of the harlot's cities and rejoicing will come to an end.

Along with the destruction of the cities, there will be an end of music, crafts, housekeeping, and even the sound of the mill-stone, or the rejoicing of those being given in marriage (**Reader, Matthew 24: 36 – 42**). When Jesus said, "This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled," in verse 34. He was speaking in reference of the generation, in whose lifetime all these signs occur.

Now, as the scripture says, the signs will continue to multiply throughout the church age and reach their ultimate climax at the end of the age, in the generation of those who will live to see the entire matter fulfilled in their life time.

V. 24 - And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. Now, another thing we need to understand is that this is a partial reason for her fall. The judgment which is being poured on this world system is because, she is guilty of the blood of prophets, saints, and all that were slain upon the earth.

At this point and junction of the book of revelation, the scripture reveals that there is more than one apostate organization involved here. It involves the totality of all of the apostate kings, kingdoms, and nations from the beginning of human existence, until the coming of the Son of Man (**second advent**).

The political, religious, and commercial systems embodied in Babylon will commit unspeakable atrocities against God's people (**Revelation 6:10 ; 11: 7; 13: 7, 15; 17: 6; 19: 2**). But God will avenge the slaughter of all his people even from the blood of Abel (**Revelation 19: 2**).

PRESENTED BY BISHOP PAUL MOSS, JR., PASTOR

<https://www.smfwbc.org/paulemossjr>

ST. MATTHEWS FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

6700 N W 2ND AVENUE, MIAMI, FL 33150

Church Website: <https://www.smfwbc.org>