

**Woe Is Me  
It Is All About Me After All  
Revelation 18:9 – 24  
But It's Party Time In Heaven**

Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

**ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.**

**Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB),  
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,  
1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation  
Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)**

**Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2016 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.**

**Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.**

**The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992**

**Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY.**

Every have something you really enjoyed suddenly taken away from you? I remember having a fun dog as a pet when I was much much younger. He was fun to play with and he loved to run and play with me and my sister, well actually he would knock her down. One day, I came home from school and he was gone. My parents had decided to get rid of him because he would not fit in the yard where we were moving to.

I was mad and sad at the same time. The suddenness of it all caught me by surprise and at first, made me angry, but then I began to feel sorry for myself. I loved that dog and he was now gone. What I liked and what I enjoyed was now gone. It really was best for me and him per my parents, but I still mourned “my” loss. Then we moved and I lost my friends too. Woe is me; I’m going to go eat worms.

Welcome to the world of selfish funeral dirges or, feeling sorry for yourself 101.

We are going to look at three laments or dirges, but as we look at them, we will see that they are all left-handed funeral dirges. The mourning is not over the loss of a valued city or person, no, it is over something much more personal to the three groups of “mourners.”

But it is party time elsewhere.

Verses 9–19 consist of three dirges raised over the fallen city of Babylon. They are chanted by the kings of the earth who have shared in her luxury (vv. 9–10), the merchants of the earth who have grown rich by supplying her insatiable appetite for luxury (vv. 11–17), and the entire maritime trade that had prospered in delivering her desires (vv. 17–19). (Mounce 1997, 331)

It is all about the loss of markets, customers and cash flow. These are funeral dirges of self-absorbed money worshippers.

### Revelation 18:9–10

“And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously (deliciously) with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in **one hour** your judgment has come.’” (NASB95)

As we discussed earlier, this section has a lot of similarity with the laments expressed by the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 27.

The laments are over the city of Babylon, a city that at the time of its destruction is the capital of the world politically, economically and religiously. Worship is of the Beast. By worshiping him, you have “The Ticket” to enter the economic activity of the realm. Politically and economically, you are nothing unless you have sold out to the beast and the unholy trinity. In exchange for worship and taking his mark you get, access to the world economy, access to political power and access to all the goodies that go along with being on the top of the food chain. You also get a one-way ticket to the lake of fire. The city of Babylon has the best of everything all the time and those who are part of the system also enjoy the same. They have totally “souled” out to the man, who is a front for Satan.

The fall of Great Babylon is one of the most marvelous events of time. More is said about it in the Scriptures than perhaps any one great secular occurrence. And when it comes to pass the whole universe is thrilled at the sight. But the emotions are not all of the same kind. (Seiss 1913, 190)

Babylon would have the best of everything to include defense systems. For the past 3 plus years, it has literally been guarded by demons, fallen angels and, more than likely, genetically altered soldiers and augmented humans, cyborgs possibly.

Robot armies surround this city, normally, but wait a minute, the Beast pulled out of town to solve the problem of the Jews and Believers once and for all. When he left, so did the armies and possibly the defense the city enjoyed.

The fallen divine beings who had aligned themselves with Satan are still rebels. Their loyalty, as it has been over the centuries, subject to a “what’s in it for me” mindset.

Machines are expected to have functional autonomy by 2050 to enable human-machine collaborative decision- making. Understanding trust relationships and the associated impacts in the human-machine relationship are key to unlocking the competitive advantage of the human-machine team. (Bosch 2017, Kindle Location 2134)

Machines and drone swarms, all predicted technology of the near future, will be fully enabled and used under demonic control. But considering the bowl judgements, all defensive measures have been ineffective for Babylon and the world.

The bowl judgements being poured out across the planet and affecting **every** earth dweller also has an impact on those in the fallen unseen realm as well. They know what the Bible says. They know what the bowls mean and what the overall timing is. Yet even with that knowledge, they are still working with fallen man who also has free will and they are all moving on Israel. Who is it that would attack Babylon at a time like this? There is a group on earth who have not bought into any of what the Beast has been selling. They have been in hiding but they too know where they are on the prophetic clock. With all the troops moving on Israel, this group moves as well.

### Jeremiah 50:1–10

“The LORD spoke concerning Babylon and the land of Babylonia through the prophet Jeremiah. “Announce the news among the nations! Proclaim it! Signal for people to pay attention! Declare the news! Do not hide it! Say: ‘Babylon will be captured. Bel will be put to shame. Marduk will be dismayed. Babylon’s idols will be put to shame. Her disgusting images will be dismayed. For a nation from the north

will attack Babylon. It will lay her land waste. People and animals will flee out of it. No one will inhabit it.' "When that time comes," says the LORD, "the people of Israel and Judah will return to the land together. They will come back with tears of repentance as they seek the LORD their God. They will ask the way to Zion; they will turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the LORD in a lasting covenant that will never be forgotten. "My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have allowed them to go astray. They have wandered around in the mountains. They have roamed from one mountain and hill to another. They have forgotten their resting place. All who encountered them devoured them. Their enemies who did this said, 'We are not liable for punishment! For those people have sinned against the LORD, their true pasture. They have sinned against the LORD in whom their ancestors trusted.' "People of Judah, get out of Babylon quickly! Leave the land of Babylonia! Be the first to depart! Be like the male goats that lead the herd. For I will rouse into action and bring against Babylon a host of mighty nations from the land of the north. They will set up their battle lines against her. They will come from the north and capture her. **Their arrows will be like a skilled soldier who does not return from the battle empty-handed.** Babylonia will be plundered. Those who plunder it will take all they want," says the LORD." (NET)

Zechariah 13:9

"And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" (ESV)

Dr. Chuck Missler, in his notes on Revelation, refers to something very interesting here in Jeremiah 50:9. I have added some additional research to his comments.

"Arrow": קֶשֶׁט khayts literally, shot from engine of war; or shot from a bow by hand; the Hebrew has it as a plural, but in the Greek Septuagint, it is in the singular.

LXX: βολίς (bolis) (noun nominative feminine singular common): βολίς, ἴδος, ἡ (s. βολίζω) missile, arrow, javelin (Arndt, et al. 2000, 180)

A missile; or anything thrown, such as an arrow or javelin; "like an expert warrior."

"As of a Mighty Expert": shakal (1013c); a prim. root; to be bereaved:—abort, been, bereave, bereave them of children, bereave you of your children, bereave you of children, bereave your of children, bereaved, bereaved me of my children, bereaved of my children, bereaved your of children, cast, childless, depopulated, made ... childless, miscarried, miscarrying, slays, unfruitful, unfruitfulness. (Thomas 1998)

Unclarified musical term in Ps.; cultic-song; passage for learning; wisdom-song put to music, 'with insight,' (Holladay and Kohler 2000, 217)

Have Insight; Understand Something; Make Someone Insightful/Make Someone Understand Something; Be Successful; (Koenen 2004, 112)

LXX: σουνετοῦ (sunetwo) - pertaining to being able to understand with discernment, intelligent, sagacious, wise, with good sense. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 970)

"For I will rouse into action and bring against Babylon a host of mighty nations from the land of the north. They will set up their battle lines against her. They will come from the north and capture her. Their arrows will be like a skilled soldier who does not return from the battle empty-handed." (Jeremiah 50:9, NET)

"Indeed, I'm going to stir up and bring against Babylon a great company of nations from the land of the north. They'll deploy for battle against her, and from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like a skilled warrior; they won't miss their targets." (Jeremiah 50:9, ISV)

The intelligence is in the arrow; they can't miss! i.e., "smart weapons": missiles, bombs, etc.

Jeremiah 51:1–4

"Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will stir up the spirit of a destroyer against Babylon, against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai, and I will send to Babylon winnowers, and they shall winnow her, and they shall empty her land, when they come against her from every side on the day of trouble. Let not the archer bend his bow, and let him not stand up in his armor. Spare not her young men; devote to destruction all her army. They shall fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans, and wounded in her streets." (ESV)

Jeremiah 51:5–10

"For Israel and Judah have not been forsaken by their God, the LORD of hosts, but the land of the Chaldeans is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel. "Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the LORD's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her. Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad. Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, **for her judgment has reached up to heaven and has been lifted up even to the skies**. The LORD has brought about our vindication; come, let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God." (ESV)

Jeremiah, who gives us a prophetic view of the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and Persians, also gives us a view that is still in the future. As we have discussed before, when a prophet provides prophecy, many times there is a prophecy that will be fulfilled in near time showing that the prophecy yet pending, will be fulfilled just as literally as the one that is in near time. This is how God has validated His prophets throughout the scriptures.

But who is it that destroys Babylon? The Lord, obviously. Is it one of the Kings, possibly one who has rebelled? Totally possible. Or could the Lord have done something else that would clearly show that this is of the Lord and only He could have done it.

We may have an answer to that question in Isaiah 13.

Isaiah 13:1–5

"This is a message about Babylon that God revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz: On a bare hill raise a signal flag, shout to them, wave your hand, so they might enter the gates of the princes! **I have given orders to my chosen soldiers; I have summoned the warriors through whom I will vent my anger, my boasting, arrogant ones**. There is a loud noise on the mountains— it sounds like a large army! There is great commotion among the kingdoms— nations are being assembled! The LORD who commands armies is mustering forces for battle. They come from a distant land, from the horizon. It is the LORD with his instruments of judgment, coming to destroy the whole earth." (NET)

According to Isaiah 13:3, they will be Gentile believers of the Tribulation. Just prior to this, however, the Jews will be warned to flee out of Babylon. This they will do, and will make their way to Jerusalem to report to the Jews who are there. This sudden destruction of the world political and economic capital will cause great consternation on the earth, but not in Heaven. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 327)

Yes, the Lord could possibly use a rebellion of one of the Kings, and He has done so in the past.

But this is not just any army. It has been called and assembled by God. So these are God's warriors, consecrated to him to carry out his judgments and to exult in his being lifted up (v. 3). While the consecration may refer to certain purification rites carried out by soldiers prior to battle (1 Sam. 21:5, 6), it is more likely that the reference is merely to those who are set apart for God's use, whether they intend so or not (10:6, 7; 45:4–6; Jer. 22:7; Joel 2:2, 11). (Oswalt 1986, 302)

But they come from various places.

The army referred to in these verses is clearly God's because He said He summoned His warriors to carry out His wrath against Babylon; that is, they would do His bidding. This army was a great multitude.... like an amassing of entire nations. Coming for war they would assemble from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens. This is not a specific geographical description as much as a way of saying that his great army would include soldiers from many places. (Martin 1985, 1059)

It looks strongly like God's people; His warriors, have been the ones who carried out the judgement. There are, after all, 144,000 evangelists who have been protected by God through this entire period. Recall the report John gave us in Revelation 14:1 – 5 of the 144,000 with Jesus on Mount Zion.

Why are the rulers staying away? They see “the smoke of her burning.” How could a city as important as Babylon will be destroyed in only a day, or as verse 10 says, one hour? Verse 10 is a technology statement.

They eulogize her with panegyrics of praise, but there is a hopelessness in their anguish. They marvel at the sudden destruction of that which they thought was gilt-edged security. The judgment came in the space of one hour, reminding us of the sudden devastation caused by atomic explosions. This is a frightful picture presented to us, and it is the final conflagration and catastrophic judgment that will bring Christ to the earth to set up His kingdom. (McGee 1997, 1040)

Why everyone will look on from a distance.

The kings stand at a distance, I fully understand why. A hydrogen bomb would do that to you. Literally, it is destroyed in one day. Or more specifically, one hour.

The world leaders have derived their political, military and economic power, their living standards, from this city, it is suddenly gone, and so is their power. “They contemplate the smoke of her burning with horror. They stand afar off in dread of her torment, alarmed and terrified at the consequences of her ruin...They show no penitence, but Alas, alas, - woe, woe-, is the note of outcry from every capital when it is seen and known that Babylon is no more.” (Seiss 1913, 192)

Consider this, those seven world rulers who are aligned with the Beast are all in Israel preparing for the final assault on Jerusalem and then towards the south east to the place the Lord has been protecting the Jews for the past 3 ½ years. In the distance, they see something in the pitch black of the bowl judgement.

Whatever power or authority they held, was held by the grace of Babylon. Seeing their authority waning with Babylon's destruction, they will lament the swiftness of the judgment. They will be able to see the smoke of Babylon afar off, for they will see it from the Valley of Jezreel in Israel. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 325)

Revelation 18:11–14

“And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives. The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.” (NASB95)

The next group to bewail the loss of Babylon are the merchants. They just lost their best customer. Live on the Beast Network, it is visible to all.

The import export business that was centered on Babylon, the source of profit, the economic center of the entire planet, has just been destroyed and with it, the riches of those who had been marketing it.

This brings back to the remembrance of the merchants the market collapse that occurred with the rapture. How the next day, all the markets crashed. The markets have all crashed again and this time, there are no prospects of anything coming back anytime soon. This is total economic devastation.

Where are all the banks centered?  
What do all transactions go through?  
What is now gone?

Their electronic bank balance now reads ZERO. Because it no longer even exists. They too have successfully purchased a one-way ticket to the lake of fire.

Merchants - ἔμποροι (emporoi) – ‘one who boards a ship as passenger’, then, especially one who travels by ship for business reasons, merchant. (Arndt, et al. 2000, 325)

A merchant, trader, one who trades with foreign countries by sea or land on a large scale, a wholesale dealer. (Zodhiates 2000)

The merchants, emperors of the earth, are those who are selling in bulk to Babylon. There are no other customers. The reason, what it was they were selling.

Amid the death, persecution and destruction of the great tribulation – the merchants are enriching themselves by selling luxury goods to Babylon like there was no tomorrow. For them, there really isn't. Again, as with the Kings – no repentance, none. Just a grieving over the loss of customers and wealth.

The one thing they lived for, profit, cash flow and money, is now gone.

The word for “merchants” (Greek emporos) is used only here in Revelation 18 (four times) and refers particularly to wholesalers, those who deal in large quantities of trade items involved especially in international commerce. It is highly appropriate to list these two categories of world leaders (kings and merchants of the earth) in such close juxtaposition. Such international magnates and financiers constitute, more often than not, the power behind the throne. Kings and presidents often attain and keep their authority by sufferance of those who finance their undertakings. In turn, these great men of the earth receive land grants and trade monopolies and tax loopholes and innumerable other favors from those whom they establish in political power, all to enrich themselves still further. (Morris 1983, 362)

Revelation 18:12–13

“cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.” (NASB95)

The Biblical worldview comes to us from 1 Timothy 6.

1 Timothy 6:7–11

“What did we bring into the world? Nothing! What can we take out of the world? Nothing! So then, if we have food and clothes, that should be enough for us. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and are caught in the trap of many foolish and harmful desires, which pull them down to ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil. Some have been so eager to have it that they have wandered away from the faith and have broken their hearts with many sorrows. But you, man of God, avoid all these things. Strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness.” (GNB)

The list of goods being sold are all considered to be luxury items. Normal stuff till we come to the end of verse 13, “and cargoes of horses and chariots and **slaves and human lives.**” Nice cars I understand, but this also lists slaves. Hasn't the world moved beyond that? No, not really. Recall that prior to the fall

of religious Babylon, that elements of Islam had been incorporated into the fabric of the world kingdom. It appears that it had been retained under the rule of the beast.

### Islamic Truth

1. Islam allows Muslims to make slaves out of anyone who is captured during war.
2. Islam allows for the children of slaves to be raised as slaves.
3. Like No. 1, Islam allows for Christians and Jews to be made into slaves if they are captured in war. After Muslim armies attacked and conquered Spain, they took thousands of slaves back to Damascus. The key prize was 1,000 virgins as slaves. They were forced to go all the way back to Damascus.
4. Christians and Jews, who had made a treaty with the ruling Muslims, could be made into slaves if they did not pay the “protection” tax. This paying for “protection” was just like paying a Mafia racketeer! This allowed Muslim rulers to extort money from non-Muslim people. (Silas 2003, 71)

This is not a dead practice but is in operation today.

The advertisement on the Telegram app is as chilling as it is incongruous: A girl for sale is “Virgin. Beautiful. 12 years old.... Her price has reached \$12,500 and she will be sold soon.”

The posting in Arabic appeared on an encrypted conversation along with ads for kittens, weapons and tactical gear. It was shared with the Associated Press by an activist with the minority Yazidi community, whose women and children are being held as sex slaves by the extremists. (Associated Press 2016)

The profits of commercial Babylon have come through cruelly using others. They sold the bodies and souls of men. This idea has many applications, none less so than today’s widespread human trafficking, prostitution, and pornography. (Guzik 2013, Re 18:11-17a)

The merchants’ grief over the fall of Babylon is entirely for their losses. There is no remorse, only sorrow for what has been taken away. (Osborne 2016, 300)

Revelation 18:14

“The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.” (NASB95)

Verse 14 is a look at the future for earth dwellers, those merchants who are standing at a distance mourning the loss of their markets as well as those who were destroyed in the judgement. The luxury, the things they desired and indulged in are now gone from them, gone forever as where they are going, ultimately hell, they will have unfulfilled desire for all eternity. You can’t take it with you, but some try.

All the city’s luxurious possessions have passed away. The words “no longer” translate a double negative in the Greek text, the strongest negative form in the Greek language. It indicates these items will never be found again. (MacArthur 2007, 278)

As earth dwellers, this is all there is. But for those of us who are in Christ.

Romans 8:16–18

“The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, **heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (NASB95)

As we learned from the song of the elders back in chapter 5

#### Revelation 5:9–10

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. **You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.**” (NASB95)

As the church, as believers in Jesus Christ, we have an inheritance that is mind blowing and outdoes anything that the pleasures of Babylon could provide.

#### 1 Corinthians 2:9

...but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” (NASB95)

We will get to this in chapter 21, but a taste of our future in Christ shows us the materials used for paving the streets in the place we will live in, who needs the things of Babylon.

#### Revelation 21:21

“And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl. **And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.**” (NASB95)

#### Revelation 18:15–17

“The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,” (NASB95)

Again, the distance, and I understand why. The merchants do not want anything to do with the judgement that fell on Babylon. The merchants though are not mourning out of any emotional attachment to the city or people of Babylon, they just lost their biggest customer.

#### Mark 8:36

“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” (NASB95)

These people had gained the whole world. They lived as royalty, they had to take the mark to do it, but they money they made. Now it is gone and soon, they will be as well.

In verse 17 we also see the next group to be mourning the destruction of Babylon, “the shipmaster, every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance.”

Again, I understand keeping your distance.

#### Revelation 18:18

“and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, **‘What city is like the great city?’**” (NASB95)

#### Revelation 13:4

“they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, **‘Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?’**” (NASB95)

The comment from those who work the sea, as they view, from a distance, the rising smoke of the destruction of Babylon, is reminiscent of comments of the earth dwellers upon the rise of the beast.

An association of this question with the one asked in 13:4 is also inevitable: “Who is like the beast?” The implied answer to the question here is “no city.” Babylon that represents all that a city can be in the realm of materialism is no more! (Thomas, Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary 1995, 340)

Revelation 18:19

“And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’” (NASB95)

Here is your all-expense paid ticket to the lake of fire by the way. As with the first two groups, in order to do business, you had to pronounce your allegiance to the Beast by worshipping him and taking his mark.

### Perspective

In these verses, the destruction of Babylon will come at the same time that Israel is seeking Jehovah their God and entering into an everlasting covenant with God, the same as the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31–34. The destruction of Babylon is associated with the restoration of Israel in Jeremiah 50:19–20:

“I will restore Israel to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and in Bashan, and his desire shall be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. In those days and in that time, declares the LORD, iniquity shall be sought in Israel, and there shall be none, and sin in Judah, and none shall be found, for I will pardon those whom I leave as a remnant.” (ESV)

Israel is viewed as restored in her land with all her sins forgiven so that no one will even be able to find her sins any more. This restoration is to be a result of the destruction of Babylon and can hardly be true of ancient Babylon. (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 323)

For believers, for those watching the destruction of Babylon from heaven, there is a totally different opinion of the fall.

Revelation 18:20

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.” (NASB95)

It is a time for praise and celebration. The salvation of our Lord is coming onto the earth, He is about to take over. The nation of Israel, as one, is about to ask for their Messiah to come and save them.

On earth with the earth dwellers, mourning and pain, but for the redeemed, celebration. God adds an exclamation mark to this, and we are reminded of something Jesus said.

The subject of the praise here called for seems to look two ways, embracing the judgement just executed, and new glories about to be realized, of which that judgement is the pledge and inauguration. (Seiss 1913, 203)

Mark 9:42

““But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck.” (NLT)

Religious, political and economic Babylon, throughout the ages, has been responsible for leading millions astray. The lure of the things of the world draws many away from Christ. Jesus said it would be better for those who were responsible if they hung a millstone around their necks and were cast into the sea.

Jesus called it in advance.

#### Revelation 18:21–24

Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.” (NASB95)

Jeremiah prophesied the sinking of Babylon, the final destruction. “Jeremiah commanded a scroll-wrapped stone to be thrown into the Euphrates River to symbolize the sinking of the city of Babylon.” (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 327)

#### Jeremiah 51:60–64

“Jeremiah had recorded on a scroll all the terrible disasters that would soon come upon Babylon—all the words written here. He said to Seraiah, “When you get to Babylon, read aloud everything on this scroll. Then say, ‘LORD, you have said that you will destroy Babylon so that neither people nor animals will remain here. She will lie empty and abandoned forever.’ When you have finished reading the scroll, tie it to a stone and throw it into the Euphrates River. Then say, ‘In this same way Babylon and her people will sink, never again to rise, because of the disasters I will bring upon her.’ ” This is the end of Jeremiah’s messages.” (NLT)

The reasons for the destruction of Babylon:

#### Verse 23

1. The great men of the earth dwellers, the merchants, made themselves rich on the misery of others
2. The nations of the world were deceived by the sorcery of Babylon, the pharmakeia of Babylon, the altered state of mind provided by being fully involved in the system.

#### Verse 24

3. Babylon is responsible for the blood of millions of believers and God intends to hold them accountable.

#### Luke 21:24

“and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**” (NASB95)

Those times have arrived.

With the destruction of Babylon, we come to chapter 19 which begins in worship and includes the second coming of Jesus Christ.

We win!

## Works Cited

- Arndt, William, Frederick W. Danker, Walter Bauer, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. 2000. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd Edition. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Associated Press. 2016. "This is the face of the ISIS sex slave market." *New York Post*. July 5. Accessed May 20, 2021. <https://nypost.com/2016/07/05/this-is-the-face-of-the-isis-sex-slave-market/>.
- Bosch, Eric Van Den. 2017. "Human-Machine Decision Making and Trust." In *Closer Than You Think: The Implications of the Third Offset Strategy for the U.S. Army*, edited by Samuel R. White, Jr. U. S. Army War College Press.
- Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. 2003. *The Footsteps of the Messiah: A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*. Revised Edition. Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries.
- Guzik, David. 2013. *Revelation, David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible*. Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik.
- Holladay, William Lee, and Ludwig Kohler. 2000. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Leiden: Brill.
- Koenen, K. 2004. "שָׁבַל." In *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, edited by G. Johannes Botterweck, Helmer Ringgren and Heinz-Josef Fabry, translated by Douglas W. Stott. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
- MacArthur, John. 2007. *Because the Time Is Near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.
- Martin, John A. 1985. *Isaiah*. Vol. 1, in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, edited by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- McGee, J. Vernon. 1997. *Thru the Bible Commentary*. Electronic Edition. Vol. 5. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
- Morris, Henry M. 1983. *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale.
- Mounce, Robert H. 1997. *The Book of Revelation, The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Osborne, Grant R. 2016. *Revelation: Verse by Verse, Osborne New Testament Commentaries*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.
- Oswalt, John N. 1986. *The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1-39, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
- Seiss, Joseph A. 1913. *The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures On The Revelation Of Jesus Christ*. New York, NY: Charles C. Cook.
- Silas. 2003. "Slavery In Islam." *Journal of Biblical Apologetics* 7.
- Thomas, Robert L. 1998. *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*. Update Edition. Anaheim, CA: Foundation Publications, Inc.
- . 1995. *Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.
- Zodhiates, Spiros. 2000. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.