

20220410 – BABYLON FALLS AND HEAVEN REJOICES

Sunday AM – Revelation 18:20-24

I. THE CALL TO REJOICE

A. Hallelujahs in Heaven

1. WEBSTER'S 1828 – “Praise ye Jehovah; give praise to God; a word used in songs or praise, or a term of rejoicing in solemn ascriptions of thanksgiving to God. It is used as a noun, or as an exclamation.”
 - a. HEBREW: “Praise ye Jah or Jehovah, to praise, that is, to throw, or raise the voice, to utter a loud sound”
 - b. It is a word of praise that almost erupts – it cannot be held silent
 - c. It is praise that **MUST** be uttered REV. 11:15-16
2. “Rejoice, thou heaven”
 - a. All the angels and heavenly creatures begin to shout praises
 - b. The mightiest are employed in praise day and night REV. 4:8-9
 - c. Praise even comes out of the throne itself REV. 19:5
3. “Ye Holy Apostles”
 - a. A special deputy of some important business (sent one)
 - b. Twelve (and only twelve) were appointed by Christ Himself
 - i. Judas was apostate and his bishoprick taken by Matthias
 - ii. They had qualifications to be in that number
 - iii. ACTS 1:21-22 – “Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (22) Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.”
 - c. These are representative of both the Old and New Testaments
 - i. Twenty-four = One from each Tribe and twelve Apostles
 - ii. Paul was one born out of due time and called an Apostle.
 - iii. But could have had John’s Baptism
 - iv. And **CERTAINLY**, met Jesus on the road to Damascus
4. “Ye Holy Prophets”
 - a. Most killed for speaking the Word of God to the People of God
 - b. Jesus said so – MATT. 23:31 – “Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.”
 - c. Who killed them? Religious people!
 - i. Worshippers of idols inside the house of God
 - ii. Baal worshippers. Molech worshippers.
 - iii. That has never stopped – the **SPIRIT** of Babylon

- iv. 1 THESS. 2:15 – “Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:”

B. Woe upon the Earth

1. All of Heaven knows that God is Holy
2. All of Heaven knows that God’s JUSTICE is vindicated
 - a. It is the EARNED WAGE of their acts of rebellion
 - b. He’s a gracious and MERCIFUL God but He must judge sin
3. ROM. 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

C. God’s Vengeance is Fulfilled

1. This will be an answer to prophecy JER. 51:5-10 & 60-64
2. Bind it on a stone and cast it into the sea – REV. 18:21

II. THE CASTING OF THE MILLSTONE

A. ANOTHER Angel Describes How Babylon will Fall

1. There is a frightening lack of detail in the statement
2. We know that the religious system will fall in Chapter 17
3. We know that the political system will fall in Chapter 18

B. “With Violence”

1. But God only gives us two words to understand the fall of the city
 - a. Recalls to mind the word “suddenly” in the Proverbs
 - b. PROV. 6:15 – “Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.”
2. In other words: No warning, no escape, and no repair.
3. They have sown death and rebellion throughout history
 - a. Starting with Nimrod and the Tower of Babel
 - b. Unto final chapters of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

C. Law of sowing and reaping

1. GAL. 6:7-8 – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (8) 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.”
2. You harvest: What you plant, After you plant, and MORE than you plant
3. The crops have come in!

III. THE CITY DARK AND SILENT

A. No Music of Instrument nor Voice (vs. 22a)

1. No parties or dance bands or carnivals
2. No whistling in the darkness or while you work
3. There will be no work!
4. No sounds of joy or happiness

5. But also, no sounds of mourning or funeral dirges
6. The silence of the grave
- B. No Building nor Manufacturing nor Industry (vs. 22b)
 1. The machinery has stopped and been destroyed
 2. The production lines have halted – all will be desolate
 3. The makers of false gods and idols are stopped
 4. No craftsmen at all
 5. Nothing produced, no sounds of hammers falling
 6. The silence of the grave
- C. No Millstone nor Food Production (vs. 22c)
 1. The millstone has stopped grinding flour for bread
 2. There will be no foodstuffs, no ingredients, no grain
 3. All production will cease, no baking of bread
 4. No dinner bells will sound
 5. The silence of the grave
- D. No Light “No More at All” (vs. 23a)
 1. The candles will all be put out at night – no lights will shine
 2. No electricity, no fires, no joy, no escape from the darkness
 3. The televisions will go dark and silent
 4. FOREVER – the verse says “no more at all in thee”
 5. The darkness of the grave
- E. No Bridegrooms nor Brides (vs. 23b)
 1. The joys of weddings will end in Babylon
 2. What should be the happiest of times will come no more
 3. It is the end of their line, the end of this family of rebellion
 4. No more will the children of Babylon trouble the saint
 5. They will be silent like the grave
- F. No Commerce nor Trade (vs. 23c)
 1. There will be no more shipping for there will be nothing to ship
 2. No more wares to be sold, no more import of gold for idols
 3. No more trade (they thought they controlled trade with the mark)
 4. It’s all empty and lifeless now
 5. Silent like the grave

IV. THE CONVICTION OF THEIR MURDERS

- A. Babylon is a City with Blood on Her Hands (vs. 23-24)
 1. Thy merchants were “great men”
 - a. We see those today – Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft
 - b. All merchants – “money men”
 2. But they deceived the nations
 3. Think about that word: Blinded, made ignorant of truth, fooled
- B. How Did They Deceive the Nations?
 1. By their sorceries!

2. A supernatural power over people, a strange way, a compelling way
 - a. Call it witchcraft, black magic, hypnotism, etc.
 - b. Perhaps brain-washing is an accurate term?
 - c. But they DECEIVED the nations – ALL of them
 3. And what is deception but a LIE!
 - a. Jesus told the Pharisees about the source of all lies
 - b. JOHN 8:44 – “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
 - c. How did Hitler/Stalin/Castro/Mao/Inver Hodja come to power?
- C. Their TRUE PERSONALITIES are revealed – Liars and MURDERERS
1. They had blood on their hands (Read Excerpt Below)
 2. GEN. 9:6 – “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”
 3. They are on the losing side, but YOU don't have to be!

V. THE COMING OF THE KING

- A. Let's peek into the next chapter – REV. 19:1
1. Hallelujah! Glory to God for Salvation!
 2. Glory, Honor, Power – ALL PRAISE!
 3. That's a big contrast to this fallen city.
- B. The City of Babylon will fall as dark and silent as the grave
1. But I know VICTORY of death and the grave
 2. 1 COR. 15:55 – “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”
 3. Not for me are death and the grave
 4. My SAVIOR has given me VICTORY!
 5. 1 COR. 15:56-57 – “The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- C. He is the way, the truth and the LIFE!
1. The only Way, the only Truth, and the ONLY Life
 2. Come to Him for Life, He is the Way of Salvation
 3. Be saved today!

One of the most widely read books of all time is "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." Written in 1788 by Edward Gibbon it sets forth five basic reasons why that great civilization withered and died. These were:

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.
4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within--the decay of individual responsibility.
5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

The oft-heard warning that "history repeats itself" has an ominous meaning in the light of the above. The average of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. These nations progressed through this sequence:

FROM Bondage TO Spiritual Faith ---FROM Spiritual Faith TO Great Courage
FROM Courage TO Liberty--FROM Liberty TO Abundance FROM Abundance
TO Selfishness FROM Selfishness TO Complacency FROM Complacency
TO Apathy FROM Apathy TO Dependence FROM Dependence Back Again to Bondage

Our Beloved United States is now 201 years old. Will it continue?