

Revelation 18:1-24 (NIV)

¹ After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

² With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

³ For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

⁵ for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

⁶ Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

⁷ Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.'

⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

⁹ "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.

¹⁰ Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!'

¹¹ "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more--

¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;

¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

¹⁴ "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.'

¹⁵ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn

¹⁶ and cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

¹⁷ In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!' "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

¹⁸ When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

¹⁹ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.'"

²¹ Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.

²² The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

²³ The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

²⁴ In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

REVELATION 18

3-24-24

In Ch. 17, we see the one world false religion which has promoted the one world gov't led by the Antichrist—now, the Antichrist is done with “her” and turns the kings of the world against her, strips her of her wealth, authority, power so that he alone will be worshipped.

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Another angel---great authority—must have come from God's throne as he illuminated the earth w/his splendor!

Message? Babylon the Great is fallen!

Babylon a “haunt” for evil spirits and a “haunt” for every unclean/detestable bird.

Haunt = prison! Everything about Babylon imprisons everyone/everything that it touches.

The nations/kings/merchants – **what is pictured** here is a large prosperous city, the center of political and economic life. With the love of money...came all sorts of greed and sinful practices. Some have erred from the faith. **ERRED = SEDUCED AWAY FROM**

⁴ Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

A voice from heaven says come out of her so you won't share in her sins...then her plagues.

Paul told the Corinthians...**2 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NIV)** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ **What** harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ **What** agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷ **Therefore** come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

Without separation, you'll eventually be drawn into their sin and away from God—becoming an object of His judgment.

⁵ **for her** sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Sins of those in the Babylonian system, which are many, “are piled up to heaven,” and God remembers them!

⁶ **Give back** to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. ⁷ Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

God orders that partakers of this Babylonian system will be paid back double for what they've done.

Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit that was on Elijah.

Here, sinners will be rewarded with a double portion of torture & grief as the glory & luxury she gave herself.

V7—Christians should use wealth to meet the needs of a desperate world, not for self-glorifying and indulgence.

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV) He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.

1 John 3:16-18 “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **If anyone** has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:17 [KJV] “But whosoever has this world's good, and sees his brother have need, and shuts up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwells the love of God in him?”

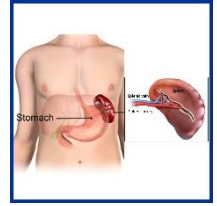
Bowels of compassion – Gk word splanchnon A strengthened form of our word spleen.

Your spleen is often on the "front lines" of your body; It acts as a filter for your blood. It recognizes and removes old, malformed, or damaged red blood cells. **When blood** flows into your spleen, your spleen performs "quality control" as your red blood cells pass through a maze of narrow passages. Healthy blood cells simply pass through the spleen and continue to circulate throughout your bloodstream. Blood cells that can't pass the test will be broken down in your spleen large white blood cells that specialize in destroying these unhealthy red blood cells. Your spleen saves any useful components from the old cells, such as iron. It stores iron and eventually returns the iron to your bone marrow, where hemoglobin is made. **Hemoglobin** is an important protein in your blood that

transports oxygen from your lungs to all the parts of your body that need it. Your spleen also plays an important part in your immune system, which helps your body fight infection.

Finally, another useful purpose of your spleen is storing blood. The blood vessels in human spleens are able to get wider or narrower, depending on your body's needs. **When vessels** are expanded, your spleen can actually hold up to a cup of reserve blood. If for any reason you need some extra blood – for example, if trauma causes you to lose blood – your spleen can respond by releasing that reserve blood back into your system.

<https://www.kaizenhospital.com/spleen-diseases/>



So...if your spleen is “shut up,” there is no filter for old/malformed/damaged red blood cells (junk gets through), the good parts, such as iron does not get to your bone marrow (strengthen your bones), and you could lack oxygen in parts of your body. Also, your immune system is weakened, and extra blood which you might need at some time is unable to be stored. The physical benefit of the spleen, parallels the spiritual benefit as we open up our “bowels of compassion” to those in need!

^{7b} **In her heart** she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' **She thinks** she sits on top of the world and has it made. God's judgment awaits her.

⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

⁹ **"When the** kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰ **Terrified at** her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!" Notice how when judgment comes to one, the others “stand far off,” terrified at her doom!

¹¹ **"The merchants** of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more--
¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ **cargoes** of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

They mourn because no one buys their cargoes anymore! Like Covid, what happens when gov't no long subsidizes?

¹⁴ **"They** will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' ¹⁵ **The merchants** who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn ¹⁶ and cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷ **In one hour** such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. **In one hour such great wealth is brought to ruin!**

Matthew 6:19-24 (NLT2) “Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ **Store your** treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ²² **"Your** eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light.

²³ **But** when your eye is bad, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is! ²⁴ **"No one** can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Jesus said the Pharisees had a problem because their spiritual eyes were diseased (v.22). With their eyes they were coveting money and wealth. Thus, they were in spiritual darkness. **They were** slaves to the master of greed, and

their desire for money was so great they were failing in their service to their true Master, God. **Money is the** translation of the Aramaic word for "wealth or property," *mamōna* ("mammon," kjv).

Giving and generosity is the way to combat the spirit of greed.

18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' **19** They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin! **20** Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.'"

Those who used wealth to bless others...were generous...not captured by greed will be vindicated.

It's time to be caught doing the Master's work.



21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, <https://hudsonvalleygeologist.blogspot.com/2014/12/how-much-does-millstone-weigh.html>

A millstone was a large solid stone made of a buhr stone, sandstone or granite. With it one stone upon another would grind out wheat or other grains. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica: "Grain is

poured through a hole in the center of the rotating millstone, flowing into shallow grooves, called channels, which radiate from the center of the stationary millstone. The channels lead the grain onto the flat grinding section, called the land, and to the edge, where it emerges as flour."

<https://www.bobsredmill.com/blog/healthy-living/what-is-it-wednesday-stone-milling/>



A geologist found an old millstone laying on the ground not far from a college where he teaches. Researching it, he says a millstone 53" in diameter, 8" thick, with a 13" square hole would be 1500 pounds!

Jesus says anyone who offends (skandalon) baits/entraps another believer and causes them to take on your offense, thereby damage their faith... you'd be better if a millstone were tied around your neck and you were drowned in the depths of the sea! SEVERE CONSEQUENCES FOR THIS SIN!

The mighty angel also "...said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. **22** The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. **23** The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. **24** In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

UTTER DEVASTATION WILL COME UPON BABYLON AS GOD'S MERCY ON THE REBELLION KINGS, MERCHANTS, PEOPLE, IS OVER.

JUDGMENT HAS COME—FULL FORCE FROM GOD. THERE WILL NEVER BE THAT CITY AGAIN. Picture the might and strength of the angel...

- the thrust and velocity of his throw.
- the violent impact of the boulder as it hits the water.
- the violent and immediate disappearance of the boulder.
- the violent waves that begin to rush out from the boulder in every direction.

The violence of the whole scene is clearly pictured. (The catastrophe pictured is similar to that which would happen in an atomic explosion.

NOR ANY MUSIC AGAIN, NOR ANY WORKMEN OF TRADES OPERATING AGAIN, NOR FOOD PRODUCTION AGAIN, NOR PEOPLE MARRYING AGAIN. LIFE WILL STOP...this will make Covid times look like great times!