

REVELATION WORD BY WORD 27 (16:17-17:2)
Babylon the Great has Fallen

Introduction: This part of the book is at the end of the Tribulation (describe events in the Tribulation). More bloodshed, more tragedy, etc., than any other time on earth. God is allowing this because He has a purpose behind it. When people will not believe by ordinary means, He is going to allow, even cause catastrophic things to happen, attempting to turn many to Jesus.

The Tribulation will end with the battle of Armageddon. Our last study found the world getting ready for the battle of Armageddon and now Revelation 16:16:

v16 - "Armageddon" - Don't let anybody tell you that this is weird or hard to understand. This is the Word of God. God's Word means just what it says - that's the setting

v17 - "seven vials" - this is the last of the drinking cups of judgment. NOTICE: This is not the last judgment - the GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT is for unbelievers ONLY. No believer will ever be at the judgment. Why? Jesus Christ was judged for believers at the cross. NO Christian will ever be judged. Evaluated, yes, human good taken, human nature taken away, but ONLY the lost will be judged at the Great White Throne judgment. There the lost will be told why they are being sent to the lake of fire. The seventh vial is to be poured upon the earth. "are you able to drink of the cup?" asked Jesus. A figurative language. The disciples said "yes," but could they go to the cross for human sins? Could they, by their deaths, bring salvation to mankind? How foolish they were to think that they could "drink of the same cup of Jesus." Jesus Christ drank judgment from the cup for every man and woman. THIS is the seventh golden judgment cup being poured out on earth - REMEMBER: There are three volitions in the world: the volition of God, He has a will. The will of God is that no person perish and go to hell." A second will: remember when some of the angels' world rebelled against God? Angels have a will, the devil's will is negative - God's will is positive. The third will is that of man - people. Man was created free to choose - God or the devil, positive or negative. Every person who is mentally sane, who can use his/her thinking powers, comes to the age of accountability either goes positive and goes God's way, or he/she goes negative and goes the devil's way. Which side are you on? If (when) anybody goes positive, God sends the Gospel.

A man from Scotland by the name of Patrick was neither catholic or protestant, was taken to Ireland as a slave. Later he was able to return to Scotland and was converted/saved. He then went back to Ireland and was called a Saint because of his being in Ireland when the land went POSITIVE and millions of the Irish were saved because they went Positive and because God had Patrick there to preach the Gospel. That type of thing has happened all over the world. In China in the 6th century, in N. Africa in the 3rd century. Millions will go positive in the world and the Gospel will be sent to them and they will be saved. India (after the Apostilic era).

NOW in the Tribulation, people have gone NEGATIVE and said "no, no, no" and finally God is going to use His last means, last opportunity, His last patience to try to shake the world to believe in Jesus WITHOUT violating their Volition. God never reaches in and shoves your will aside. God uses many means to cause a person to believe. HERE IS EVANGELISM BY CATASTROPHIC MEANS. God is going to the limit for the world, like He did to Saul/Paul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road - remember? Paul was knocked down and blinded and he finally realized what he was doing was against God's will.

- "great voice" - the voice of God

- "it is done" - what does this mean? The seven judgments are completed. Just before Jesus comes back, just before the battle of Armageddon, everything is being prepared today. Watch the news, read the paper, nations are preparing, China is preparing, the Muslim countries are shaking their fists at Jesus and the world. Every nation on earth practically is shaking its fist at God.

JUDGMENT IS COMING.

v18 - "great earthquake" - on the West coast people fear earthquakes. The world has experienced many great earthquakes, but during the Tribulation, the whole earth is going to be shaken. God is hoping to shake the whole world into realizing what it is doing.

v19 - "great city" - Jerusalem

- "cities of the nations fell" - If the USA is still a nation by the, it will see Washington fall. Every great city of the nations will fall. The capitols of all the nations will fall.
- "great Babylon" - technical name for Rome, the headquarters of the dictator. Eccumenical religion headquarters will also be in Rome. If the USA is in prophecy, here is where we will be, in alliance with the Western Empire, the Revived Roman Empire.
- "cup of wine" - the judgment of God. God is now moving in on the nations because they have not believed in Jesus. JUDGMENT IS COMING FOR ALL THE LOST. All these events are pictures of what is coming at the Great White Judgment at the end of time.

v20 - Devastating changes followed. Catastrophic changes in the surface of the earth. Whole cities leveled, cities swallowed by the seas.

v21 - What is the result?

- "weight of a talent" - a talent weighs 120 pounds. Imagine hale that size.
- "men blasphemed God" - notice that they still are on NEGATIVE volition. Even after all the tragedies and catastrophies.

NOTICE: God never does take away a person's volition. He always lets each of us choose. He will NEVER MAKE anybody believe. Most pastors wish there was a button they could push that would get all their Church Members out of bed on Sunday mornings and into Sunday School and Worship. God does not do that. With God, everyone is free to choose. If a person will not willingly surrender to God, then that person will go to eternity lost. DON'T EVER TRY TO SHOVE SOMEBODY INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. That is why every Church has many names on their church rolls that never come to Church. Some of them NEVER changed their minds, they just joined for whatever reason other than becoming sincere, true believers in Jesus Christ. Don't ever try to push somebody into the Kingdom of God.

INTERNATIONALISM is not of God. There never has been just one nation on earth other than Babylon and God changed that. The League of Nations, the great National headquarters, Eccumenicism of the Churches. This is all the nations coming together and saying, "we don't need any help from God, we can organize and carry out all that the world needs." NATIONS are meant to rule the world, NOT just one nation. Has any single nation or organization ever stopped war or fed all the hungry? There are not enough soldiers to bring peace on this earth. There is good will in the world to feed it.

17:1 - "great whore" - International organization of Governments and Religions. The revived Roman Empire will wear a political and religious hat. These two will be joined together. Freedom of mankind is lost. God meant for the government and the Church to be separated.

- "many waters" - refers to all the nations of the earth. How so? Look at v15, it explains the many waters: peoples and multitudes are technical names for RACES, nations, geographical locations, tongues, different languages of the world. God always explains. The nations of the earth will join in the international movement which is directly contrary to God's will. God is therefore going to destroy this international movement or organization.

v2 - "committed fornication" - all the nations will join the league or international organization and become a part

of the revived Roman Empire.

- "drunk with wine" - swayed by the Roman dictator and joined the Empire. For centuries England has done more to preach and spread the Gospel across the world, but today it is different. In the biggest Baptist Church in England on any given Sunday, there won't be enough people in it to fill our little sanctuary. Spurgeon preached to thousands upon thousands, people stood in line in the streets to hear him, but today that Church where he preached is practically empty. What has happened to OUR own Sunday morning attendance? Those Churches of England today are subsidized by the government. The salary of the preachers is partly paid for by the government. The government told the Churches what they could or could not do. Wouldn't it be something for the government to tell us that we don't need this or that - WELL, IT'S COMING - JUST WATCH AND SEE! The government is one day going to dominate the Churches.

THIS PORTION OF THE SCRIPTURES TELL US WHAT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 - How bad will it be?

- "mystery of iniquity" - of lawlessness
- "already at work" - It can be seen today, it is developing already, the world is rushing to calamity.
- "letteth" - actually restrains
- "he be taken" - What is the force that has prevented this from happening already? The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has been a restraining force in the world, holding back the evilness, holding back the judgment of God UNTIL the right number of people turn to God, THEN the believers will be taken and it will start. Remove the Holy Spirit and the world will madly rush on to destruction.

v8 - "wicked one" - the Roman Empire dictator

- "the Lord" - it will be the Lord Jesus who will take care of the Roman dictator.
- "brightness of His coming" - the second coming of Jesus Christ will destroy the Roman dictator and the Jewish dictator. BUT before he is destroyed, notice what kind of person he is:

v9 - "working of Satan" - be like the devil, on an international scale. Imagine the spirit of Satan controlling the world.

- "power, signs, lying wonders" - able to perform miracles, great works which will astound the world.

v10 - "deceivableness of unrighteousness"

- "not the love of the truth" - they don't want or care to know BIBLE DOCTRINE

v11 - "strong delusion" - the whole world will be deluded, believe a lie.

v12 - "believed not the truth" o- did not believe the word of God - Doctrine. WHAT YOU ARE GETTING HERE IS BIBLE DOCTRINE

Is what you are getting in this study of the Revelation so weird or hard to understand? In the last days people will not want to know what God's Word says. How close are we to those days right now?

Stay with us in our study of this wonderful Book of the Revelation of Jesus to John.