

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 29 (18:1-24) Downfall of Religious Internationalism

**Introduction:** This study is about JUDGMENT. A review: John is almost 100 years old, was the great leader in Jerusalem but had moved to Ephesus, the center of Christianity at that time. The Roman government was trying to remove Christianity so believers were popping up every where. John had been exiled on the small island of Patmos and on this island with no one else around, Jesus came to John. John had been "out of fellowship" but got back into fellowship with the Lord. Jesus preached this sermon (Revelation) to John and outlined to John all that was to take place from then to the end of time concerning the human race. There was going to be a time when the Church would be active (now) and then the Church would be removed. God knows what the Church is supposed to do and when that last person has been saved, He will remove the Church. For seven years every Christian during the Church age will be with God, in new bodies, getting ready to come back with Jesus when He does. Meanwhile the Tribulation will continue on earth. **THE WORLD WILL NOT GET BETTER** for Communism and Socialism will never accept the Lord Jesus, therefore there will never be peace on this earth. No single country/power will ever rule this world. **THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE** as the world government tries to establish itself. **REVIEW THE EVENTS OF THE TRIBULATION BRIEFLY:**

Chapter 18 is the story of how God is going to judge Religious internationalism. Christianity is NOT a religion!

v1 - "another angel" - number seven of the drinking cup angels.

- "lightened" - Turn back to chapter 16:17 - read "it is done," "it is finished." WHAT is done? Human history, judgment is here. Light comes on the whole world like turning a dimmer switch.

v2 - "Babylon" - doesn't exist today, only sand, snakes and spiders. Not a place so why Babylon? Remember that is where international religion began with everybody building a tower to the heavens to escape any more floods and there was one race, one power, one language, etc. God destroyed the tower of Babel. God NEVER meant for the world to be ruled by ONE power. God wants nations, a balance of power. God tore down the first United Nation building.

In our time there will be an international religion based in Rome.

- "devils" - demons - a description of international religion. This world will never do away with all the things that plague it. ONLY when Jesus Christ returns will this world ever see peace.

v3 - "drunk" - all nations at that time will vie with each other to see who will be a partner with the Roman Empire.

- "fornication" - all nations have joined with Rome. The kind of godless government the Communist and Socialist have to day is the same kind of government in the Tribulation.

- "waxed rich" - the whole economic system of the world encircles the Roman Empire, of one doesn't bow down to the dictator, one can't buy or sell.

- "delicacies" - luxuries.

v4 - "come out" - don't be a part of this kind, get away

- "receive not" - not to yield to the godless way of living. Don't you know that those under Communism are just about to burst for Jesus to come back? **WORLD WIDE SLAVERY** will be the thing in these last seven years.

v5 - Here is our attitude toward godless government

v6 - The Principle of Judgment

- "reward" - going to get back what she gave. Everyone is afraid of this power - she will be afraid.

- "fill to her double" - double punishment. WHY? Jesus is going to judge the religious ecumenical movement then at the throne of God it will be judged again.

v7 - "I sit a queen" - what the ecumenical religion says - prideful

- "widow" - not worry - plenty of friends, etc.

- "pride" - lust, arrogance, a small picture of the Communist world today, but God will humble them.

v8 - Notice the suddenness

- "one day" - Tribulation period

vv9, 10 - Political and religious systems divided

vv11, 12 - World economy breaks down

- "merchants weep" - can't pay anymore

- "thyine wood" - found in only one place 1- AFRICA - will be a part of the fall.

v13 - Economic system will break down

vv14, 15 - stocks and bonds will be useless

vv16, 17 - transportation will collapse

v18 - commerce in John's day was by ship - its quite a bit different today.

v19 - "one hour" - Tribulation. What does God say about this? What are Christians going to do about this? We will be with God and ready to come back with Jesus. What is to be our attitude as we wait and watch?

v20 - "rejoice" - not over deaths, but that godlessness has been put down.

- "God" - the living God

- "avenged" - God will end it all

v21 - "stone" - the way judgment will come

- "sea" - technical word for nations. Waters and seas mean nations.

- "babylon" - ecumenical, religion

v22 - Note the musical world

- "craftsmen"

- "millstone" - manufacturing will end

v23 - entertainment will end

- "light of candle" - technical name for entertainment

- "bridegroom" - social customs ended.

We should rejoice, not in all the deaths, etc, but because God is going to change all the ungodliness.

v24 - Prophets, martyrs.

A most frightening chapter of destruction, however the next chapter starts the study of THE KING IS COMING. God hasn't lost control and Jesus will come back and put His foot on the earth and on Satan's head, then will come peace and tranquility. Truly then a little child can pet the spitting Cobra.