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Woe! Woe, O Great City, In One Hour She Has Been Brought to Ruin 18: 9-19

Woe! Woe, O Great City, in one hour she has been brought to ruin DIG: Why do the kings see this destruction from a far off? Where are they? What will Babylon's destruction mean to them? How will the voices from the world greet the fall of Babylon? Why do they mourn?

REFLECT: Would it break your heart if you saw the things of this world go up in smoke? What does this teach you about God? How can we face the world system every day in our lives, yet not be a part of it? Can you serve two masters? Have you tried? What happened? Where is your treasure?

Nothing so clearly reveals the hardness of sinners' hearts as their lack of sorrow over sin. Through the years of devastating judgments, the people of the earth will steadfastly refuse to **weep** or **mourn over** their sin. But they will **weep and mourn over** the ruin of **Babylon**.³⁹⁶

There will be **three groups** mourning on the earth. First, **will be the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury. They will see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her (18:9).** These are the seven **kings** who will reign with the antichrist and submit their authority to him. Whatever power or authority they hold, it will be given to them by the king of **Babylon**. Seeing their authority, wealth and influence evaporate in **one hour, they will weep and mourn over her. They** will be able to see **the smoke of her burning** from a **far off (Genesis 19:28; Isaiah 34:10; Joel 2:30)**, because **they will see** it from the Valley of Jezreel in Isra'el where they are gathered for the first stage of the Campaign of ArmageddoN (see the commentary on **Jeremiah, to see link click [Fd](#) - The Devastation of Babylon According to Divine Purpose of God**).³⁹⁷



As they watch **her** burn, **they** will be **terrified at her torment**. As the crown jewel of the beast's empire, it had survived the overwhelming judgments of the Great Tribulation up to that point. **She** seemed to be invincible. So **her** swift destruction will shock and amaze them. **They will stand far off** and cry out in anguish: **Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come (18:10)!** All their plans will be destroyed **in one hour**. How foolish would we be to spend our whole lifetime based on the world's system and then watch it crumble before our eyes. How foolish that we would waste our lives living for the wrong thing.

The second group of mourners will be **the merchants of the earth** who **will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more**. Babylon will become the economic center of the world, the center of business and world trade, a city characterized by these luxury items: **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; 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 the slave trade of the bodies and souls of men and women (also see Ezekiel 27:12-25)**. But, everything they have lived for will be crushed right before their eyes **(18:11-13)**.

Continuing their lament, **they will say: The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered (18:14)**. **The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will not go near the burned out ruins**. They will **stand far off** in their executive suites halfway around the world watching on television, they will be **terrified at her torment**. Swiftly becoming paupers, **they will weep and mourn** and cry out: **Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin (18:15-17a)!** They had

gained the world, but lost their souls.

Our trust needs to be in **Christ**, not in **great wealth**. **Jesus** says this to us today: **Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be . . . but seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well (Matthew 6:19-34).**

The third and final group will be **the transporters of goods** who had become rich from their association with **Babylon**, just as Phoenicians had done in the ancient world. Now there was no more business. **Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off shore and weep (18:17b).**

The lament over **Babylon** will be similar to the weeping over the fall of the beautiful city of **Tyre**. King Nebuchadnezzar wiped out the original **city** on the mainland, so the Phoenicians rebuilt it on an island just off the coast. They made it their capital and thought it was invincible. But Alexander the Great came along and pushed the ruins of the old city into the sea, making a causeway out to the island. His troops walked out on dry land and destroyed the rebuilt **city**. People will compare the destruction of **Tyre** to the destruction of **Babylon** because the same things were said of both. When **Tyre** was destroyed, people cried out: **Who was ever silenced like Tyre, surrounded by the sea? When your merchandise went out on the seas, you satisfied many nations; with your great wealth and your wares you enriched the kings of the earth (Ezeki'el 27:32b-33)** When they see the **smoke** of her burning, they will cry out from their ships: **Was there ever a city like this great city (18:18)?**

In a typical ancient expression of grief, **they will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning** sob: **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 (18:19).** No longer will **Babylon** control the world politically or economically. Like the Titanic, this seemingly indestructible **city** will go down in flames.

To some degree or another, we are a part of this world system. What we need to find out is how we can be **in the world**, but **not of the world (John 17:11 and 16)**. How can we face the world's system every day of our lives, yet not **love** it. The issue is not **money**; it is **the love of money** that we need to avoid (**Hebrews 13:5**). Not to make **money** my goal or my

priority. How do I live in the midst of all of this? I have needs. But how do I meet my needs and still acknowledge **Christ** as number one in my life? **No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (Matthew 6:24).** How can I face that issue in my life? Which master do I **serve**?

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, **Your love** is worth more than all the money in the world. **Your love** paid for our sins so that we could have your righteousness and there by enter **Your** holy heaven. **He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (Second Corinthians 5:21).** How awesome that when we choose to **love** and follow **You** as our **Lord** and **Savior (Romans 10:9-10)**, **You** give us **Your Holy Spirit** to live in us to guide us. What a great **love** you have for **Your children. (John 1:12; First John 3:1, 3).** It is a joy and delight to realize that **the King of kings** has put **His Ruach** into our lives! We cannot begin to grasp even a tiny bit of how wonderful **Your love** is and how special that **Messiah Himself** lives within those who **love Him. So that Messiah may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to grasp with all the kedoshim what is the width and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Messiah which surpasses knowledge, so you may be filled up with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19).** We praise **You** for **Your love** and we seek to **love You** with all our hearts! In **Your** holy **Son's** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*