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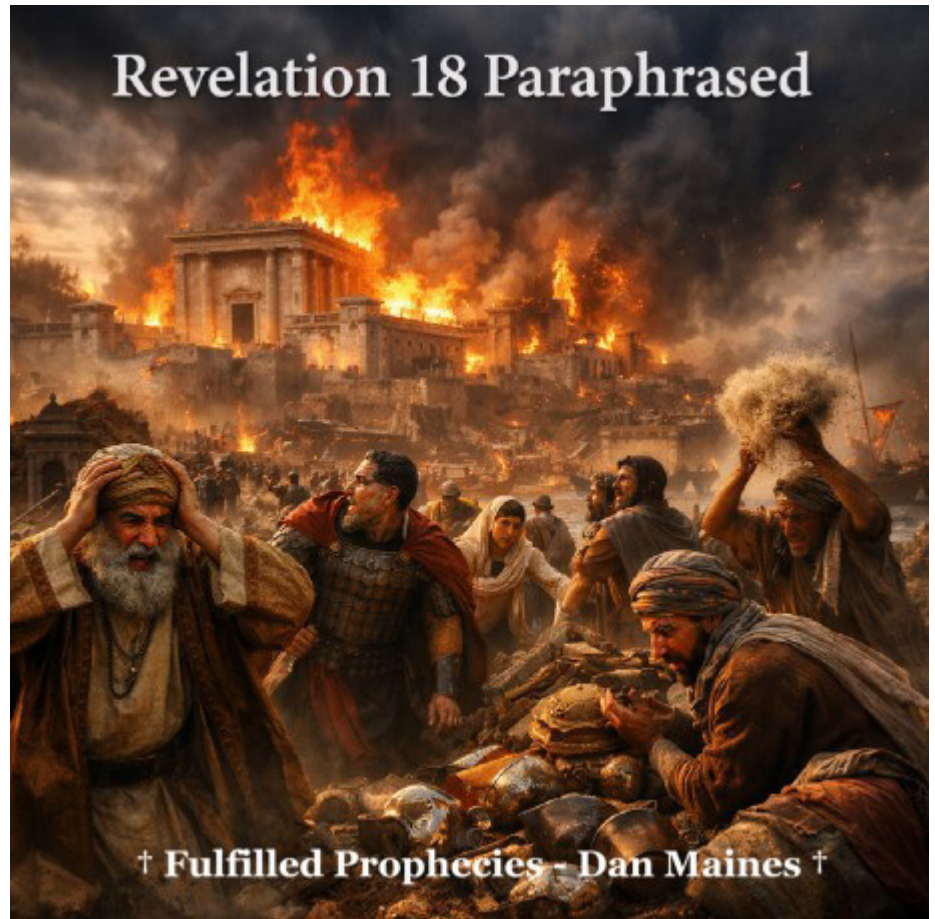
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## Revelation 18 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Revelation 18 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Revelation 18 describes the complete downfall of the great harlot city that persecuted the prophets and the saints. The language is dramatic because it shows covenant judgment falling on the system that rejected Christ. (Matthew 23:35-36)

† Jesus warned that judgment would come upon that generation for killing the prophets and rejecting the Son.

Revelation is showing the final collapse of that corrupt religious system. (Matthew 23:37-38)

† The fall of the harlot city fulfills the warnings given by the prophets about Jerusalem becoming a harlot and facing destruction for her unfaithfulness. (Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 3:6-8)

### **Revelation 18:1**

After these things I saw another messenger coming down from heaven with great authority, and the earth was lit up with his glory.

† This messenger represents a divine proclamation that the judgment of the harlot city is certain and authorized by heaven. (Revelation 14:8)

† The brightness shows the authority and clarity of the message, God is making the fall of the city known to all. (Ezekiel 43:2)

† Heaven is announcing that the judgment long warned by the prophets is now being carried out. (Jeremiah 25:30-31)

### **Revelation 18:2**

He cried out with a powerful voice saying, Fallen, fallen is the great city Babylon. She has become a place for demons, a prison for every unclean spirit, and a cage for every hateful bird.

† The repeated announcement fallen shows the certainty and finality of the judgment. The corrupt city has collapsed under God's justice. (Isaiah 21:9)

† The description of demons and unclean things shows how spiritually corrupt the city had become. (Jeremiah 51:37)

† Jesus described Jerusalem as desolate after rejecting Him, which fits the imagery of abandonment and ruin. (Matthew 23:38)

### **Revelation 18:3**

All the nations drank the wine of her immoral influence, the kings of the earth joined her corruption, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxury.

† The city influenced the nations through its religious authority and alliances. (Revelation 17:2)

† Leaders participated in the corruption because political power was tied to religious control. (John 11:48)

† Wealth and power were used to strengthen the corrupt system that opposed Christ and His followers. (James 5:1-5)

### **Revelation 18:4**

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her my people, so that you don't share in her sins and don't receive her plagues.

† God's people were warned to separate from the corrupt system before judgment fell. (2 Corinthians 6:17)

† Jesus gave similar warnings for believers to flee Jerusalem before its destruction. (Luke 21:20-21)

† Early Christians followed these warnings and escaped before the Roman siege began. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

### **Revelation 18:5**

Her sins have piled up all the way to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

† The imagery shows accumulated guilt reaching the point where judgment becomes unavoidable. (Genesis 18:20)

† The killing of prophets and saints added to the city's record of guilt. (Matthew 23:34-35)

† God does not forget injustice, even when it appears ignored for a time. (Revelation 16:19)

### **Revelation 18:6**

Give back to her as she has given to others, repay her double according to her works, and mix a double portion in the cup she prepared.

† The principle of judgment matching the crime appears throughout scripture. (Jeremiah 50:29)

† The persecuting city receives the same suffering it imposed on others. (Obadiah 1:15)

† God's justice answers the cries of the martyrs who were killed by that system. (Revelation 6:10)

### **Revelation 18:7**

As much as she glorified herself and lived in luxury, give her the same measure of torment and grief. She said in her heart, I sit as a queen, I am not a widow, and I will never see mourning.

† The pride of the city blinded it to the coming judgment. (Isaiah 47:7-8)

† Jerusalem believed her position and temple guaranteed safety. (Jeremiah 7:4)

† That confidence proved false when the Roman armies surrounded the city. (Luke 19:43-44)

### **Revelation 18:8**

For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death, mourning, and famine, and she will be burned with fire, because the Lord God who judges her is strong.

† The destruction came suddenly and completely during the Roman siege. (Luke 21:22)

† Fire is often used in scripture to represent divine judgment against cities that rebel against God. (Jeremiah 17:27)

† Josephus recorded that Jerusalem was burned and destroyed during the war. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4)

### **Revelation 18:9**

The kings of the earth who shared her corruption and luxury will weep and mourn when they see the smoke of her burning.

† Those who benefited from the system mourned its fall because their power and alliances collapsed. (Revelation 17:2)

† The destruction shocked surrounding rulers who had political ties to the city. (Ezekiel 26:16-17)

† The burning city became a sign of the end of that corrupt order. (Revelation 18:18)

### **Revelation 18:10**

They will stand far away because they fear her torment and say, Woe, woe, the great city, the strong city, because your judgment came in a single hour.

† The phrase one hour shows how quickly the city collapsed. (Revelation 17:12)

† Observers feared the same judgment might fall on them. (Jeremiah 49:21)

† The suddenness confirms Jesus' warning that the judgment would come swiftly upon that generation. (Matthew 24:34)

### **Revelation 18:11**

The merchants of the earth will cry and mourn over her because no one buys their cargo anymore.

† The economic systems tied to the city collapsed when the city fell. (Ezekiel 27:36)

† Trade networks connected to the temple economy disappeared overnight. (Matthew 21:12-13)

† Wealth gained through corruption couldn't survive the judgment. (James 5:2)

### **Revelation 18:12**

Cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, every kind of scented wood, every object of ivory, every object made from costly wood, bronze, iron, and marble.

† The list shows the extreme wealth that surrounded the corrupt system. (Ezekiel 27:12-24)

† Luxury and religious power often mixed together in ancient temple systems. (Matthew 23:16-17)

† This wealth couldn't save the city from judgment. (Zephaniah 1:18)

### **Revelation 18:13**

Cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, and even human lives.

† The mention of human lives shows exploitation and oppression within the system. (Ezekiel 22:12)

† The leadership used religion to control and profit from the people. (Matthew 23:4)

† Judgment exposes systems that treat people as commodities. (Habakkuk 2:12)

### **Revelation 18:14**

The fruit you desired has left you, all your luxury and splendor are gone, and they will never be found again.

† Everything the city trusted in vanished with its destruction. (Isaiah 3:16-26)

† Judgment removes the false security created by wealth and power. (Proverbs 11:4)

† The fall of the city marked the end of the old corrupt order. (Hebrews 8:13)

### **Revelation 18:15**

The merchants who became rich from her will stand far away because they fear her torment, crying and mourning.

† Those who benefited from corruption rarely stand close when judgment comes. (Ezekiel 27:31)

† The collapse of the system exposed how temporary their wealth really was. (Ecclesiastes 5:15)

† The mourning is not repentance, it is grief over lost profit. (Revelation 18:19)

### **Revelation 18:16**

They say, Woe, woe, the great city that was dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and decorated with gold, precious stones, and pearls.

† The clothing imagery shows royal and religious authority mixed with wealth. (Revelation 17:4)

† The outward appearance hid deep corruption. (Matthew 23:27)

† Judgment reveals what was hidden behind the display of power. (Luke 12:2)

### **Revelation 18:17**

In a single hour such great wealth has been destroyed. Every ship captain, traveler, sailor, and everyone who worked at sea stood far away.

† Trade networks tied to the city collapsed immediately when the city fell. (Ezekiel 27:29)

† The economic influence of the city spread across the region. (Acts 19:27)

† When the center fell, the entire system collapsed. (Revelation 18:19)

### **Revelation 18:18**

They cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning saying, What city was like the great city?

† The burning city became a visible sign of judgment. (Genesis 19:28)

† The same language is used when powerful cities suddenly fall. (Ezekiel 26:17)

† It showed the complete end of the system that once seemed untouchable. (Jeremiah 51:63-64)

### **Revelation 18:19**

They threw dust on their heads and cried out weeping and mourning saying, Woe, woe, the great city where all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, because in one hour she has been destroyed.

† Throwing dust on the head was a traditional sign of mourning. (Joshua 7:6)

† The destruction ended the prosperity that depended on the city. (Ezekiel 27:30)

† Again the phrase one hour emphasizes the sudden collapse. (Revelation 18:10)

## **Revelation 18:20**

Rejoice over her heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has judged her for what she did to you.

† The destruction answered the cries of those who were persecuted. (Revelation 6:9-11)

† Jesus promised that the blood of the prophets would be avenged in that generation. (Matthew 23:35-36)

† Heaven celebrates the justice of God when oppression ends. (Psalm 58:10)

## **Revelation 18:21**

Then a powerful messenger picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea saying, In the same way the great city Babylon will be thrown down with violence and will never be found again.

† The millstone image represents sudden and irreversible destruction. (Jeremiah 51:63-64)

† The violent fall shows that the corrupt system will never return in its former form. (Matthew 21:44)

† God removes systems that oppose His kingdom. (Daniel 2:35)

## **Revelation 18:22**

The sound of harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again, no craftsman of any trade will be found in you again, and the sound of the mill will never be heard in you again.

† The city loses all signs of normal life. (Jeremiah 25:10)

† The silence shows the total end of the old order. (Isaiah 24:8)

† The system that persecuted believers has completely collapsed. (Revelation 18:23)

### **Revelation 18:23**

The light of a lamp will never shine in you again, the voice of the groom and bride will never be heard in you again, because your merchants were the powerful ones of the earth and your sorcery deceived all the nations.

† The ending of weddings and light represents total devastation. (Jeremiah 7:34)

† The deception of the nations refers to the corrupt influence of the system. (Revelation 17:5)

† Spiritual corruption spreads when religious power becomes political power. (Matthew 24:24)

### **Revelation 18:24**

In her was found the blood of prophets and saints and of all who were killed on the earth.

† Jesus said Jerusalem was responsible for the blood of the prophets. (Matthew 23:37)

† The persecuting system carried the guilt of killing God's messengers. (Luke 11:50-51)

† Revelation confirms that the judgment fell because of that guilt. (Revelation 17:6)

## Historical References

† Josephus described the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 as a catastrophic collapse with fire, famine, and massive death. (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4)

† Eusebius recorded that Christians fled Jerusalem before the war, following the warnings given by Christ. (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5)

† Tacitus wrote about the Roman campaign that destroyed the city and temple during that period. (Tacitus, Histories 5.13)

## How it applies to us today

† God eventually brings justice against systems that persecute truth and righteousness.

† Believers are always called to separate from corrupt systems rather than compromise with them.

† The fall of the harlot city reminds us that earthly power and wealth never last when they stand against God.

## Q & A Appendix

**Q:** Why is the city called Babylon?

**A:** Babylon is symbolic language for a corrupt city that persecutes God's people. The prophets often used Babylon as a symbol for oppressive systems. (Isaiah 13:19; Revelation 17:5)

**Q:** Why are the apostles and prophets told to rejoice?

**A:** Because God finally answered the cries of those who were persecuted and killed. (Revelation 6:10; Matthew 23:35-36)

**Q:** What does coming out of her mean?

**A:** It means separating from the corrupt religious system that opposed Christ and His followers. (2 Corinthians 6:17; Luke 21:20-21)

**Q:** Why does Revelation say the city fell in one hour?

**A:** The phrase one hour emphasizes how suddenly the system collapsed when judgment finally arrived. What looked powerful and permanent was destroyed quickly once God's judgment began. (Revelation 18:10, 17, 19; Luke 21:20-22)

**Q:** Why are merchants and kings mourning instead of repenting?

**A:** Their grief is about losing wealth and influence, not about turning to God. The corrupt system made many people rich, so when it fell they mourned their loss of profit. (Revelation 18:11-15; James 5:1-3)

**Q:** Why does Revelation say the blood of prophets and saints was found in the city?

**A:** Jesus said Jerusalem was responsible for killing the prophets and would be held accountable for their blood. Revelation confirms that the judgment fell because of that long history of persecution. (Matthew 23:34-37; Luke 11:49-51; Revelation 17:6)

**Q:** What does the millstone thrown into the sea represent?

**A:** The millstone represents complete and irreversible destruction. Once it sinks, it cannot be recovered, showing that the corrupt system would never return in its former form. (Revelation 18:21; Jeremiah 51:63-64)

**Q:** Why are heaven, the apostles, and the prophets told to rejoice?

**A:** Because the persecution of God's people had finally been answered. The judgment brought justice for those who had suffered under that corrupt system. (Revelation 18:20;

Revelation 6:9-11; Matthew 23:35-36)

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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### Source Index

† Matthew 23:35-38; Luke 21:20-22; Revelation 17:2, 6;  
Revelation 18:1-24

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.4; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical  
History 3.5; Tacitus, Histories 5.13

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