

THE REVELATION TO JOHN

EXEGESIS VERSES 1 – 2:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:1 Μετὰ ταῦτα εἶδον ἄλλον ἄγγελον καταβαίνοντα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἔχοντα ἐξουσίαν μεγάλην, καὶ ἡ γῆ ἐφωτίσθη ἐκ τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:1 **After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.** *Μετὰ (pa) ταῦτα οὗτος (near dem.pro./an-p; "After these things") εἶδον ὀράω (viaa--1s) ἄλλον ἄλλος (a--am-s; "another" - of the same kind) ἄγγελον ἄγγελος (n-am-s) καταβαίνοντα καταβαίνω (adj.ptc./p/a/am-s; "coming down/descending") ἐκ (pAbl) τοῦ ὁ οὐρανοῦ οὐρανός (d.a. + n-Ablm-s) ἔχοντα ἔχω (adj.ptc./p/a/am-s; "having") μεγάλην, μέγας (a--af-s) ἐξουσίαν ἐξουσία (n-af-s; "authority") καί (ch) ἡ γῆ (d.a. + n-nf-s; "the earth") ἐφωτίσθη φωτίζω (viap--3s; "was illumined/irradiated with light"; used 11x) ἐκ (pAbl) αὐτοῦ. αὐτός (nrgm3s) τῆς ἡ δόξης δόξα (d.a. + n-Ablf-s; "glory/radiance")*

^{GNT} Revelation 18:2 καὶ ἔκραξεν ἐν ἰσχυρᾷ φωνῇ λέγων, Ἔπεσεν ἔπεσεν Βαβυλῶν ἡ μεγάλη, καὶ ἐγένετο κατοικητήριον δαιμονίων καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς πνεύματος ἀκαθάρτου καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς ὀρνέου ἀκαθάρτου ** καὶ μεμισημένου,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:2 **And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! καὶ (cc) ἔκραξεν κράζω (viaa--3s; "he cried out/shouted out") ἐν (pI; "with") ἰσχυρᾷ ἰσχυρός (a--If-s; "strong/mighty/powerful") φωνῇ φωνή (n-If-s) λέγων, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-s) Ἔπεσεν πίπτω (viaa--3s+) ἔπεσεν πίπτω (+viaa--3s; "Fallen, fallen") Βαβυλῶν (n-nf-s) ἡ μεγάλη, μέγας (d.a. + a--nf-s; "the great") And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. καί (cc) ἐγένετο γίνομαι (viad--3s; "she became") κατοικητήριον (n-nn-s; "a dwelling place/abode/habitat"; used 2x; Eph.2:22) δαιμονίων δαιμόνιον (n-gn-p; "of demons") καὶ (cc) φυλακὴ (n-nf-s; "a prison"; same as 2:10) παντὸς πᾶς (a--gn-s; "of every") ἀκαθάρτου ἀκάθαρτος (a--gn-s; "unclean/impure") πνεύματος πνεῦμα (n-gn-s; "spirit") καὶ (cc) φυλακὴ (n-nf-s; "a prison") παντὸς πᾶς (a--gn-s) ἀκαθάρτου ἀκάθαρτος (a--gn-s; "unclean") καὶ (cc) μεμισημένου, μισέω (adj.ptc./PF/p/gn-s; "having been hated/detested") ὀρνέου ὀρνέου**

(*n-gn-s*; "bird"; used 3x, only Rev.18:2;19:17,21) ** There is a textual variance added [*καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς θηρίου ἀκαθάρτου*] – [and a prison for every unclean beast]; this variance is absent from the strongest witnesses of **ℵ**, 2053 and 2080.

ANALYSIS VERSES 1 – 2:

1. As previously noted, certain facts of chapter 18 do not fit the RCC.
2. A cursory reading of chapter 18 reveals that the primary theme of prophetic **Babylon** now takes on a commercial/economic appearance. Rev.18:3, 9-19, 22-23
3. Among the numerous reasons **Babylon** in chapter 18 is not the same as in chapter 17, not least of consideration is the fact that the RCC is not known for its international import export trade. Rev.18:11,22
4. Chapter 18 therefore is designed to address the 2nd arm of the religious-geopolitical Babylonian system focusing in on its civil existence (the city of Babel, Gen.11:4a).
5. The opening phrase of vs.1, “**After these things**/μετά ταῦτα – meta tauta” grammatically propels chapter 18 forward chronologically from chapter 17.
6. The chronological force of this phrase was established at the beginning of Revelation and there is no reason grammatically or contextually to change precedence. Rev.1:19; 4:1 (2x); 7:9; 9:12; 15:5
7. When this phrase is used, it means exactly what it says i.e., “**after** the preceding events”.
8. Following the event of the destruction of religious **Babylon** closing chapter 17, new events are now revealed bringing about the destruction of commercial **Babylon**.
9. While not translated as such in the English translations, much of chapter 18 is recorded in poetic format.
10. This in contrast to the straight narrative of chapter 17.
11. Poetic license begins in vs.2 with the phrase “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great**”.
12. This is a hint to the reader that identifying the **Babylon** now in view will be found in OT references also recorded in poetic format.
13. In fact, while only a couple of OT cross-references are found in chapter 17, chapter 18 has some 40 references to the OT including major prophetic passages concerning **Babylon** such as Isa.13; 21:9; 34; 47; Jer.50; 51, Eze.27, all recorded in poetic form.
14. By looking to the details of the OT prophecies, it makes the identification of this commercial/political **Babylon** possible.
15. A common failure of many interpreters is to ignore the data in these OT prophecies.
16. The chapter is divided into 3 parts, each having its own function:
 - A. The angelic announcement of Babylon’s doom that is recorded as a dirge (Aune calls it a “*prophetic taunt song*”). Rev.18:1-3
 - B. A speech from heaven bracketed by 2 imperatives (vss.4,20) informing the readers as to their responsibilities, those living and in Ph₃. Rev.18:4-20
 - C. The concluding action by a mighty angel summarizing 2 primary reasons for Babylon’s destruction. Rev.18:21-24
12. While many reasons exist for her destruction, the underlying cause paralleling her political/commercial theme consists of political self-interest and materialism. Rev.18:3

13. From John's visionary perspective on earth (Rev.17:3), his gaze turns skyward noting **"I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory"**.
14. That it is **"another angel"** of the same kind (ἄλλον ἄγγελον – allon angelon) harks back to the nearest previous use of this phrase in the series of the 6 angels in Rev.14:6-20.
15. The phrase harks to these angels importance of communicating events held to be crucial in the unraveling of God's judgments during Daniel's 70th week. Cp.Rev.7:2; 8:3; 10:1ff
16. The importance of the message here is further reflected by the added description of this **angel having great authority**.
17. How John knows he has **great authority** is implicit in its appearance as **the earth was illumined with his glory**.
18. This descriptive language in its literal sense in the NT is only used in Revelation and otherwise is reserved to express God's **glory**. Rev.21:23 cp.22:5
19. That the **angel** mirror's God's **glory** personifies his **authority** as that of God's own Sovereign **authority** behind His commission to reveal to planet **earth** the following communiqué.
20. This points to the judgment coming from God; the **angel** is simply relaying the message.
21. The actual irradiation of light upon **the earth** is designed to contrast against the darkness of evil permeating the planet under the influence of **Babylon**.
22. It images God's +R being expressed towards **the earth** with justice.
23. Its literal affect is left to be fully explained by those living during these times.
24. The **angel** shouts out his message with decibels sufficient that the entire world will hear, **"And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!'"**
25. While the adjective "μέγας – megas/great" is used to describe a very loud voice, the adjective "ἰσχυρός – ischuros/mighty" is substituted here to indicate a strong, powerful, robust or resonating **voice**.
26. It is a **voice** designed to "echo" in one's ears leaving none with excuse for failure to hear, while heightening the immediate urgency behind the message.
27. His opening statement immediately recalls the 2nd **angel** in the trio of evangelizing angels in Rev.14:8.
28. The difference here is that this **angel** is designed to declare that the event is now imminent rather than as a source of prophetic warning that served as validation to the truth of the gospel by the 1st **angel** in Rev.14:6-7.
29. While we are not told when this angel's message will commence or the length of time he will proclaim it, we know it to precede the fall of **Babylon** (~3rd year 1st mo.) with sufficient time to allow those residing in **Babylon** to vacate the premises. Rev.18:4
30. That the message is proclaimed **"after these things"** also indicates that the previous fall of religious **Babylon** is keyed into initiating the appearance of our **angel**.
31. The two aorist verbs **"Fallen, fallen"** are prophetic as the actual demise of the entire Babylonian system is still future. Cp.Rev.18:4,8,9,15,21,22,23
32. As with the previous messenger angel's warning, the double verb can be taken both literally and idiomatically.

33. Its literal force indicates a two fold fall now associated with the destruction of commercial **Babylon**.
34. Her demise will complete the destruction of the two-armed Babylonian system as religious **Babylon** has already been destroyed. Rev.17:16-17
35. This emphasizes that God's judgment upon **Babylon** is not complete until both her spiritual idolatry and national economy are destroyed. Isa.21:9
36. It points to the fact that judgment upon nations comes first as a result of spiritual rebellion against God with their physical destruction as the evidence. Psa.2; Deu.28
37. That our angel's four words is an exact quote of Isa.21:9 hermeneutically forms an inseparable link between the two sections.
38. This is of interpretational significance in that it demonstrates that this is not a new development in God's plan but one foretold by Isaiah and grounded in God's eternal decrees.
39. The idiomatic force of the double verb is designed to communicate the certainty of ultimate doom **Babylon** now faces.
40. It communicates the absolute and complete nature of the fall and that irrevocable.
41. As a matter of review, while we are not told here when the fall will occur, Jer.51:46 provides us the earliest boundary of time (*terminus ad quo*).
42. Without proper isagogics applied to vs.46, a summary reading can be misleading.
43. While it seems only two years are in view, tradition records there were actually 3 years of reports received in historical **Babylon** before her fall:
 - A. The first year was a report based on rumor, the force of the clause "*And you be afraid at the report that will be heard in the land—*".
 - B. The second year a true and actual report of Cyrus approaching was received that is the force of the next clause "*For the report will come one year*".
 - C. Cyrus was delayed and there was another following report that his advance was reengaged that then occurs in the third year, the force of the next clause, "*And after that another report in another year*".
 - D. After the 3rd year, Cyrus then arrives.
44. We know therefore that prophetic **Babylon** will not be destroyed until approximately the 3rd year of the trib.
45. With our chronological frame work establishing the importance of the 5 months of the 5th trumpet judgment (Rev.9:5,10) ushering in the mid-point of the trib, we can further narrow down the time of Babylon's destruction as occurring no later than (*terminus ad quem*) the 3rd year 1st month of the trib.
46. As noted, Isa.13; 34; 47; Jer.50; 51 and Eze.27 are all OT passages that deal with a prophetic **Babylon** a.k.a. code Edom, Chaldeans, and Tyre.
47. We know that dual prophecy exists in these passages as language indicates that **Babylon** is totally destroyed, not true for historical **Babylon**. Isa.13:5,9; 34:5,6 cp.vs.2 (trib passage); 47:11; Jer.50:15,32,39; 51:2; Eze.27:27
48. That the prophecies evolve from prophecy concerning historic **Babylon** further indicates that we are dealing with a national entity.
49. While some assume **Babylon** is only a city as the ancient capital was called by that name, Jer.50:12; 51:43 indicates she is called both a city and nation.
50. Again, by way of review, other pertinent characteristics to identify commercial **Babylon** include:

- A. She has a mother nation and exists later in human history. Jer.50:12
 - B. She is made up of peoples from every nation on earth. Jer.51:9,44 *E Pluribus Unum*, “out of many/one”
 - C. She is the dominant economic power going into Daniel’s 70th week. Rev.18
 - D. She is located in the midst of the sea. Jer.51:13
 - E. She has a northern enemy. Jer.50:9, 41
 - F. She is a dominant import export nation. Rev.18; Eze.27:29-34
 - G. She acts as an international police nation. Jer.50:23
 - H. She is home to some of the wealthiest men on earth. Rev.18:23
51. Babylon’s identification must also be understood under the doctrine of the Fig Tree.
52. It is this doctrine that indicates that the last days are to be viewed from the perspective of the generation found at the reemergence of Israel as a nation in 1948. Mat.24:32-34
53. This means that prophetic **Babylon** must be a primary national power player in existence during the late 20th century.
54. Dan.7:2-8 further narrows the candidates down to 5 power players through symbolic designations easily recognizable today:
- A. The lion with eagle wings = Great Britain and the U.S.A. (mother nation with emphasis on our independence and prophetic demise).
 - B. The bear = Russia.
 - C. The leopard and 4 wings of a bird = Oriental Confederation.
 - D. The terrifying beast = the RRE under Antichrist a.k.a. The Western European Union.
55. There is no other candidate that fits the entire bill of prophetic Babylon in the Bible other than our own country.
56. As we will see in chapter 18, our sins are great and our future dismal.
57. Following the protocol of God’s judgment against **Babylon**, it is first based on spiritual realities as she is seen to become something she initially wasn’t.
58. This is the force of vs.2b, “**And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird**”.
59. Vs.2b is a parallel explanation of why **Babylon** falls in Isa.21:9 “*And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground.*”
60. Commercial **Babylon** faces the same spiritual corruption as that of historical **Babylon**.
61. The corruption comes as a result of idol worship now related in its truest sense, demon activity.
62. **Demons** are the power and reality behind the abominations of idolatry. Rev.9:20 cp.1Cor.10:19-20
63. The aorist tense of the verb “**has become**/γίνομαι – ginomai” indicates past action at some time in the history of the U.S. that **she** becomes a haven for demon habitation.
64. **She** becomes a favorite place for fallen angels.
65. The habitation of the U.S. is described three-fold as becoming:
- A. **A dwelling place of demons.**
 - B. An enclosure of **every** type of **unclean spirit**.
 - C. An enclosure of **every** type of **unclean and hated bird**.

66. The first two descriptions characterize **demons** in their fallen state being **unclean** spirits, while the 3rd further symbolizes their activities as dirty and detestable birds.
67. The Greek term “**a dwelling place**/κατοικητήριον – katoiketerion” is used 2x in the NT and indicates a permanent or settled **dwelling place** or habitation. Cp.Eph.2:22
68. **Demons** share Satan’s domain of planet earth under his authority. Mat.12:24 cp. 2Cor.4:3-4
69. The term “**demons**/δαίμόνιον – daimonion” emphasizes the fallen angels’ role as self-proclaim deities or gods. Cp. LXX Psa.96:5 “*For all the gods of the peoples are idols/demons...*”; 106:37 *They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons*”
70. This points to the A/C and Satan’s plan to replace God’s authority in worship with counterfeit gods. Deu.32:17 cp. LXX Baruch 4:7 “*since you had angered your Creator by offering sacrifices to demons, and not to God.*”
71. The preferred m/o (method of operation) for **demons** to exalt themselves in this fashion is through the introduction of false doctrine, called the doctrine of **demons**. 1Tim.4:1
72. That the **demons** regard the U.S. as premium real estate for permanent residence states unequivocally that they have found a favorable reception to their doctrines.
73. They have found a country willing to immerse itself into idolatry.
74. This idolatry therefore will be destroyed. Isa.21:9 cp.Jer.50:2; 51:47,52
75. An idol is not merely a physical icon of a lesser god; it represents anything that comes before one’s worship and service to God. Col.3:5-6
76. Idolatry is any STA driven pursuit that is not effectively overruled through the SAJG and R_B, reprogramming the brain computer with and application of the Divine viewpoint. Col.3:7-10
77. Objects of idolatry are essentially limitless but can consist of the details of life, sports, money, music, television, movies, funsville, professions, education, food, animals, the environment, philosophies, relationships, ritual without reality, traditions of men, ad nauseam.
78. Things that can otherwise be legitimate become our idols when we allow these things to usurp our MPR.
79. As one believer stated, “Since worship demands time, how you spend your time speaks volumes about what you consider to be truly important”.
80. The second descriptive phrase “**unclean spirit**” looks to their nature as immaterial **spirit** beings, spiritually defiled by virtue of their unrighteousness/evil. Cp.Mat.15:17-19
81. The term “**unclean**/ἀκάθαρτος – akathartos” looks to that which ritually defiles in the ceremonial code of the OT and something to be avoided. Lev.5:2; 7:21, et al
82. This phrase for **demons** is used some 23x in the NT and looks to the plethora of evil activity **unclean** spirits engage in:
 - A. Demon possession of unbelievers and animals producing insanity. Mar.5:2-17
 - B. Possession may manifest itself in sickness or disease. Mar.9:20,25
 - C. After leaving a possessed individual, they seek rest but cannot find it and often return to their previous prey. Mat.12:43-45
 - D. Soliciting men to do evil. Joh.13:27

- E. Propagation of false doctrine, often under the *angel of light* approach. 2Cor.11:14-15; 1Tim.4:1-2
- F. Influence or control of world leaders. Rev.16:13-14
83. Rev.16:13 is the only other time in Revelation that **unclean** spirits is used to describe **demons** as they were there symbolized by frogs.
84. This personifies them as slimy or frothy creatures that most people have a natural aversion.
85. Modern evidences of their disgusting types of displays include self-abuse, self-mutilation, degenerate sexual activity and preoccupation with the Gothic lifestyle that is consumed with morbid images of darkness and death.
86. One must also get past the fact that demon-possession or influence is not always characterized as acting crazy or insane.
87. Many of these individuals are in fact overtly very attractive as they promote the designs of Satan.
88. Those that promote the doctrine of **demons** can be very charismatic and intellectually and emotionally stimulating.
89. That the U.S. houses “**every unclean spirit**” is to illustrate that **every** avenue of evil influence that **demons** can produce will find a home; not that all **demons** collectively will be active only in the U.S. Cp.Rev.16-13-14
90. The term translated “**prison**” in the NAS is the Greek noun “φυλακή - phulake” and literally denotes the action of watching or keeping guard and came to mean a place of guarding, hence a **prison**.
91. Some suggest it is synonymous with the term “**dwelling place**” and should be understood as a “*den/lair/haunt*” or “*cage* (in the case of birds)”.
92. The actual force behind this nominative noun is that **Babylon** provides the necessary security that makes her appealing for these **demons** to settle permanently.
93. The term emphasizes the -V that makes up **Babylon** and their complete receptiveness to idolatry.
94. The reality of -V is their unwillingness to resist these devils; otherwise Scripture makes it clear they would flee. Cp.Jam.4:7
95. The final phrase “**every unclean and hateful bird**” is symbolic to further conjure up a disgusting imagery behind demonic activity.
96. As noted, birds are used here symbolically to represent demonic activity as illustrated in the parable of the sower and the soils. Mar.4:3-4 cp.vss.14-15
97. The term “**bird**/ὄρνεον – orneon” is used 3x, all in Revelation, and in its others 2 uses means a scavenger or carrion **bird**. Rev.19:17,21
98. The Greek term is a derivative of the term “ὄρνις – ornis”, used 2x in the NT translated “hen”. Mat.23:37; Luk.13:34
99. As anyone who has raised chickens or other birds knows, they are not partial as to where they leave their droppings and can quickly contaminate any surface area of their habitation.
100. The imagery of demon activity is one of spirits flying around “crapping” indiscriminately upon humanity and constantly feeding off of the spiritually dead.
101. They are **unclean** and completely detestable in the eyes of God.
102. Yet, -V is seen as “bathing” in their filth and offering themselves as living sacrifices.

103. The fact that the new inhabitants of **Babylon** consist of the most degenerate and obnoxious **demons** forms the spiritual basis for the destruction of the nation.
104. What was once a nation governed on Biblical values becomes a nation immersed in idol worship.
105. That Satan and his **demons** are not ejected from the 3rd heaven until the time of Babylon's destruction denotes that our spiritual degeneration is not a forced situation, but one willingly accepted and in full swing at the onset of Daniel's 70th week.
106. Therefore, there should be ample documentation that political/commercial **Babylon** has witnessed a deterioration of its culture prior to the rapture of the Church.
107. The evidence is seen in that satanic doctrines of **demons** have infiltrated almost every major avenue of American life and culture today to include:
 - A. The government via promotion of internationalism such as the CFR, Trilateral Commission, United Nations and the NWO.
 - B. The promotion and tolerance of "alternate lifestyles" where homosexuality and heterosexual freedoms effectively undermine the Divine institutions of RM/RW and family.
 - 1) It has been pointed out that homosexual hairdressers are largely responsible for most of the outlandish and unflattering hairstyles seen today, many of which do not meet the simplicity standard set by Scripture. 1Tim.2:9
 - 2) The designer industries permeated by homosexuals are also said to be largely responsible for causing young women to destroy their health for that certain thin look that has been promoted as the norm and as good.
 - C. Religion: Mother/son cult, Moonies, Jehovah's Witness, Mormons, Christian Science, Televangelism, Kabbalah, Muslim, Scientology, etc.
 - D. The ecumenical practices widespread among denominational churches including otherwise fundamental and evangelical faiths.
 - E. The media that is largely controlled by the Eastern Insider Establishment and feeds the populace a steady diet of misinformation and disinformation.
 - F. The entertainment industry including such anti-God types as Donahue, Oprah, Geraldo, Dr. Phil's, etc., that feed the American people a steady diet of new American idols promoting self.
 - G. The international bankers that promote a welfare state (2The.3:10-12), the Federal Reserve and a socialistic system by which they redistribute the wealth of the American middle class.
 - H. Various types of do-gooders devoted to feeding the world, saving the planet and worshiping the environment.
 - I. Overt forms of demonic spiritism as advocated by the New Age Movement, astrology, reincarnation; the Shirley MacLaine's of the world.
 - J. The educational system infiltrated by revisionist history, evolutionary dogma and the concepts of uniformitarian evolution.
108. Following our destruction, God will leave the nation for physical **unclean** birds as a sign of its complete and utter spiritual bankruptcy. Isa.34:11
109. *Review Doctrine of the Fig Tree.*
110. *Review Doctrine of Demons.*

EXEGESIS VERSE 3:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:3 ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ οἴνου τοῦ θυμοῦ τῆς πορνείας αὐτῆς πέπωκαν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη καὶ οἱ βασιλεῖς τῆς γῆς μετ' αὐτῆς ἐπόρνευσαν καὶ οἱ ἔμποροι τῆς γῆς ἐκ τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ στρήνου αὐτῆς ἐπλούτησαν.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:3 **"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, ὅτι (causal conj.) πάντα πᾶς (a--nn-p) τὰ τό ἔθνη ἔθνος (d.a. + n-nn-p; "the nations") πέπωκαν πίνω (viPFa--3p; "have drunk"; textual variance cp. the verb "to fall/ἔπεσεν"; the more difficult reading is preferred and strongly supported; the Byzantine texts have it as "fallen"; while on the surface problematic due to context of drinking wine, this can be harmonized) ἐκ (pAbl) τοῦ ὁ οἴνου οἶνος (d.a. + n-Ablm-s; "the wine") τοῦ ὁ θυμοῦ θυμός (d.a. + n-gm-s; "of the passion") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s) τῆς ἡ πορνείας πορνεία (d.a. + n-gf-s; "immorality/fornication") and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, καί (cc) οἱ ὁ βασιλεῖς βασιλεύς (d.a. + n-nm-p; "the kings") τῆς ἡ γῆς γῆ (d.a. + n-gf-s) ἐπόρνευσαν πορνείω (viaa--3p; "have fornicated/committed immorality") μετ' μετά (pg) αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s) and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." καί (cc) οἱ ὁ ἔμποροι ἔμπορος (d.a. + n-nm-p; lit. a traveler on a ship engaging in commerce or trade; "merchant/sea going trader"; used 5x, 4x in our chapter; cp. Mat.13:45) τῆς ἡ γῆς γῆ (d.a. + n-gf-s) ἐπλούτησαν. πλουτέω (viaa--3p; "became rich/wealthy"; same as 3:17,18) ἐκ (pAbl) τῆς ἡ δυνάμεως δύναμις (d.a. + n-Ablf-s; "the power/ability/wealth") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s) τοῦ τό στρήνους στρήνος (d.a. + n-gn-s; "luxury/headstrong pride"; hapax)**

ANALYSIS VERSE 3:

1. Vs.3 opens with the conjunction “ὅτι – hoti” giving the cause behind the fall of Babylon and why she has become a haven for demonic habitation.
2. The singular reason is because she has become the principal of cosmic influence infecting the world with satanic doctrine designed to facilitate Antichrist’s agenda of a one world government.
3. It indicts the U.S. of assuming the leadership role in foreign and political affairs heading the international conspiracy of Psa.2:1-3.
4. For this reason, she can expect not only her demise, but logistically she opens the door to become the command center for demonic operations (vs.2).
5. The singular cause is sub-categorized in a three-fold way to explain her international influence:

- A. **For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality.**
 - B. **And the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her.**
 - C. **And the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.**
6. While the commercial arm is now being emphasized, the vision maintains the motif of Babylon as being a prostitute, as with the religious arm in chapter 17.
 7. This is designed to carry on the theme of spiritual infidelity in the eyes of God that is attributed to the entire Babylonian system.
 8. The 1st two reasons of point 5 emphasize the seduction itself and act of **immorality**, while the 3rd looks to the means she uses to allure **her** victims into **her** “bed”.
 9. The imagery of this verse is designed to be quite vivid.
 - A. The **nations and kings** are portrayed as being in a marriage albeit here the union and obligation of fidelity is under the Divine institution of nationalism. Act.17:26
 - B. The **nations** play the role of a wife and the **kings** their husband.
 - C. The prostitute is viewed as a female predator and home-wrecker violating the Divine restraints of this Divine institution for the purpose of having an adulteress affair with the husband.
 - D. The husband is further seen complicit with **her** plans.
 - E. **Her** m/o (method of operation) is to first get the wife blitzed with **wine** making the wife oblivious to **her** real intentions. Vs.3a
 - F. While the wife is in this intoxicated state the whore and husband fornicate. Vs.3b
 - G. The **merchants** are viewed as the whore’s pimp.
 - H. They are viewed as those behind the scene that have set up this illicit affair.
 - I. They represent the driving force and ultimate benefactors financially as a result of the infidelity. Vs.3c
 10. Enter the wife into this scheme.
 11. As noted in the parsing, the 1st clause has a textual variance whether to be read as “**drunk**” or “**fallen**” from **the wine** she offers.
 12. The most difficult reading “**fallen**/πίπτω - pipto” is preferred and here can be harmonized to indicate a drunken **fallen** down state **from the wine** as a result of heavy drinking.
 13. A parallel statement concerning Babylon is Jer.51:7, “*Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the Lord, intoxicating all the earth. The **nations have drunk** of her wine; therefore the nations are going mad*”.
 14. That the **nations** are acting insensibly or insanely further indicates a complete state of intoxication and not just casual imbibing.
 15. As with the imagery of the religious whore (Rev.17:2), the language points to the delusion of false doctrine that **the nations** have embraced as a result of U.S. influence.
 16. That there is a distinction here between **nations** and their **kings**, a distinction should be made as to the indoctrination.
 17. It first points to foreign policy found desirable and palatable throughout societies.
 18. The term “**passion**/θυμός -thumos” can be translated “wrath” and here insinuates political doctrine/ideologies which the U.S. pushes with zealous fervor and does not rule out the use of force.

19. It looks to ideology designed as a ploy amongst societies of peoples designed to disorient them to the reality of God's plan for their existence as independent autonomous **nations**.
20. One doctrine prevalent today that we know the U.S. has pushed into all categories of societies is the principle of world wide democracy as the answer to bringing freedom, equality and peace to all peoples.
21. This is a common denominator that the NWO is built upon.
22. A democratic form of government is that which governs the U.N.
23. Democracy has become a global "buzzword" and the success of this propaganda campaign is evidenced throughout the world.
24. Even in regimes of hardcore communism and dictatorships, the plethora of rebellions, uprisings and demonstrations that have emerged over the recent decades center on freedom and democracy (Tiananmen Square, Russia, Africa and Apartheid, etc.).
25. Parallel doctrines used to promote this propaganda machine include environmental and human rights campaigns, the latter which the U.S. is not absolved from guilt pointing to the hypocrisy of this whore. Rev.18:24
26. While the principle of democracy in and of itself may not be evil, it is the insidious propaganda that all humans have a right to live in a free democratic society, no matter their present form of government that renders it evil.
27. A purely democratic society can easily remove the issues of morality and right and wrong as that which governs the peoples.
28. It in fact institutes laws of the land based on popular belief, special interests and majority concern, right or wrong aside.
29. It is this primary campaign that is designed to break down the walls of nationalism conforming **nations** into a politically like international community.
30. The world in general is accepting and will come to accept the premise of democracy in some form as the be-all governmental system of rule.
31. This is the force of the perfect tense of the verb "**have drunk/fallen**".
32. It is this **wine** of malcontent amongst the **nations** that then sets the stage for governments to align themselves in cooperation with the U.S. in establishing the NWO.
33. This is the force of the 2nd clause of **the kings** fornicating **with her**.
34. Enter the husband.
35. It is the act of a global conspiracy to form a one-world government that is viewed as the ultimate purpose for the why of the indoctrination of democracy. Psa.2:1-3
36. It is the false doctrine of a global government that encapsulates all other false ideologies designed to promote its fulfillment.
37. The clause states an historical fact as attached to the demonic doctrine of the NWO.
38. This is noted by the aorist tense of the verb "**have committed acts of immorality**".
39. Not only has our campaign for freedom and rights for all permeated **nations** to the depth of their societies, but **the kings of the earth** use this impetus as policy to willingly fornicate with the U.S. in support.
40. The clause emphasizes the numerous numbers of political leaders of the **nations** that have jumped on the democracy "bandwagon" in support of the NWO.

41. Essentially the entire western hemisphere, the European theater, Africa and even Russia, has thrown their hats into this propaganda campaign in some support or application.
42. This clause looks to the actual building up of the NWO in history providing more and more pressure upon those reticent to conform.
43. It is the 3rd and final clause that introduces the primary means of leverage the U.S. uses on both accounts concerning **nations and kings**.
44. Enter the pimp.
45. It is through the avenue of our trade, foreign aid and capitalistic policies that provides the ultimate lure to all.
46. Through the immense **wealth** and capitalistic life styles, the U.S. has become the premier “call girl” for **the merchants of the earth to become rich**.
47. Through the observance of the American lifestyle, peoples throughout the world see a perceived result of a democratic capitalistic society.
48. The image portrayed is a governmental system providing maximum opportunity to secure **wealth** further perceived as the basis for maximum freedom.
49. This looks to the deception of the pimp’s plan upon the unsuspecting wife.
50. It is the glamour of money and materialism that appeals to all others less fortunate to enter this whore’s brothel and enjoy her accoutrements of pleasure.
51. With our foreign aid policy and weight of influence of controlling the world fiat monetary banking system, rulers of **nations** are further enticed, if not coerced, into joining into partnership with the whore.
52. This looks to the international complicity of the husband.
53. That foreign policy is our Achilles heel politically is made clear through the use of the term “**merchants**/ἐμπορος – emporos (we get the term “emporium”)” that literally means a sea going traveler engaged in trade or commerce and looks to all the business men throughout the world in which the U.S. solicits for trade and business.
54. The final clause “**the wealth of her sensuality**/τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ στρήνουσ αὐτῆς – tes dunameos tou strenuous autes” literally is translated “**the power of her luxury**”.
55. This looks to the arrogance and pride of which the U.S. wields **her** God given **wealth** to adversely influence **nations** and rulers of the world.
56. While not mentioned in our verse, the reality is that the vast majority of the **merchants** that **become rich** are U.S. businessmen. Rev.18:23c
57. This is in reference to the giant multi-national corporations that span the globe, promoting the benefits of humanism and capitalism to those **nations** that are not as enlightened as we claim to be.
58. These globalist pimps wield immense power and influence over the affairs foreign and domestic as controlled by our government.
59. America has become the leader and promoter of a world controlled by money, technology and corporate politics that are endorsed and promoted by our government and many massive corporations greedy for profit.
60. Their promise to other **nations** is that they can enjoy the American capitalist lifestyle if they will simply cooperate with them and do as our leadership desires.
61. In order to accomplish their nefarious goals (largely hidden from the American public), they ply their marks with the promise of benefiting from American money, goods and technology.

62. Our government has historically engaged in international meddling bringing the promise of democracy and capitalism to backward **nations** ignorant of our altruism as simply a ploy promoting the agenda of world government.
63. Not few people recognize that we are not what we claim to be stating that America has become the bully of the world. Jer.50:23
64. This not just in meddling of foreign policy and mercenary pursuit of international oil interests, but in cultural imperialism and flaunting of **wealth** and power.
65. However, it is remembered that **nations** allow this and willingly embrace our doctrines.
66. In that regard, just as with the whore of chapter 17, **nations and kings** are viewed here as stupid johns plied by the prostitute so she can benefit herself at their expense.
67. Our relationship with other **nations** demonstrate that we are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to advance our own position in the world, no matter the cost.
68. We have a history of broken promises and failed support of our allies to include what has happened in Poland (Eastern European Bloc), Indochina (Ho Chi Minh worked for American intelligence from 1943-1945), Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.
69. Our Israeli policies too are only for our benefit as there truly is not a firm stand for Israel and against Palestinian extremists.
70. This reality may be one of our most damning policies. Gen.12:3 cp.Jer.50:33-34
71. As several interpreters have noticed, our verse is an allusion to Isa.23:17.
72. As with Tyre, the U.S. is condemned as a prostitute for selling herself to all the kingdoms of the world for profit, clearly a commercial metaphor and not religious.
73. Other similarities between Tyre and the U.S. not to be overlooked in Isa.23 and Eze.26-28 include:
 - A. The ancient city was the greatest commercial urban center on the Mediterranean; Tyre's world trade was legendary and it's banking system the monetary hub of the ancient world.
 - B. Like New York City, the city of Tyre was divided between land and sea; one part of Tyre was on an island just offshore, and the other part of the city was on the mainland.
 - C. Like the ancient city of Tyre, the United States has become the commerce center of the known world. Isa.23:3; Eze.27:3
 - D. While ancient Tyre was quite near the actual coast, the borders of the United States literally extend to the center of the sea; our actual borders extend from Florida to Hawaii, from Texas to Alaska. Eze.27:4
 - E. Much like Tyre's ethnically diverse army, the United States literally has a military that is comprised of people of every extraction. Eze.27:10-11
 - F. Ezekiel's description of enormous wealth and trade spoke to a city of finance that was the envy of the entire world, just as we are still the economic envy of most of the world today. Eze.27:12-25
 - G. The extreme arrogance that characterizes both ancient Tyre and the United States is something common to those that attempt to take the prerogatives of God to themselves. Eze.28:2; Isa.47:8 cp.Rev.18:7
 - H. The arrogance of both is contingent to some degree on the extraordinary amounts of wealth that they amass. Eze.28:4-5

74. The impact of corporate **wealth** and the elite **rich** are the driving force behind our foreign indiscretions dispersing the doctrine of internationalism.
66. The world's 200 largest corporations account for 28 percent of global economic activity while employing less than one-quarter of one percent of the global workforce.
67. Established in 1995, the Transatlantic Business Dialogue is undoubtedly the most far-reaching international alliance between corporations and states.
68. Unlike other lobby groups, it acts as a mandate for the U.S. government and the European Commission to work meticulously to identify "barriers to transatlantic trade"--in effect, any regulation or policy proposal that does not fit the corporate agenda on either side of the Atlantic.
69. The average American is not generally aware of how these giant corporations operate, the ability they have to determine political policy, and the excessive profits that they accrue to themselves.
70. The Business Roundtable, with over 200 chief executives of the largest US-based corporations and banks in its ranks, was founded in 1972 with an agenda that has led to corporate involvement and sometimes control over the political establishment. http://www.progressiveliving.org/business_roundtable.htm
71. While the large corporations are supposed to pay 35% of their profits in taxes (the statutory tax rate), a study by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) found that in 1996-1998 only one industry – publishing – actually paid more than 30%.
72. 133 of the 250 corporations studied paid less than half the 35% rate in at least 1 of the 3 years of the study, and many did it more than once.
73. Some, like Edward Herman, an economic and media analyst have recognized the reality of what is happening as he states, "*There is ...a huge tacit conspiracy between the U.S. government, its agencies and its multinational corporations, on the one hand, and local business and military cliques in the Third World, on the other, to assume complete control of these countries and "develop" them on a joint venture basis. The military leaders of the Third World were carefully nurtured by the U.S. security establishment to serve as the "enforcers" of this joint venture partnership, and they have been duly supplied with machine guns and the latest data on methods of interrogation of subversives.*"
74. Jeremy Brecher, an historian and author, has noted that the rush to maximize profits has led to the destruction of the American workforce as he says, "*the recent quantum leap in the ability of transnational corporations to relocate their facilities around the world in effect makes all workers, communities and countries competitors for these corporations' favor. The consequence is a "race to the bottom" in which wages and social conditions tend to fall to the level of the most desperate.*"
75. Corporations such as General Electric, Ford Motor Company, Exxon/Mobil, Chevron/Texaco, Nestle, IBM, Hewlett Packard, and AOL Time Warner were all in the top 40 companies worldwide in terms of financial assets in 2002, giving them tremendous power to promote themselves.
76. Some have recognized that there is a trend for the world's most powerful corporations to be active in shaping public policy in ways that invites a pattern of over-consumption that yields large profits to themselves at the expense of our quality of living.

75. However, one must not blame the giant corporations for the American propensity to pursue the details of life to their own detriment.
76. It is the lust trends of the American public that is the ultimate cause.
77. We as believers attempting to fight the good fight in the midst of all the rampant evil must remember that we can still redeem the time.
78. We do so by maintaining our MPR and keeping before us our doctrinal priorities and not allow these pressures in life to dictate, distract or compromise at any level.
79. That which is promoted by a Madison Avenue form of advertising (brainwashing) that promotes excessive consumption and encourages people to become slaves to the details of life is just another demonic attack in the A/C.
80. Babylon has come to promote the philosophy that happiness, significance, security and fulfillment are attained by the abundance of the things people possess, from travel and luxury, comfort and pleasure, etc.
81. We can learn from Babylon that is condemned as fallen because she has used her God-given **wealth** strictly for her own personal self-interests.
82. The Bible contains special warnings to be heard by believers that are in fact, wealthy. 1Tim.6:17-19
83. Christ demonstrated the reality that there is more to life than money, details and material pursuits. Mat.4:4; Luk.12:15,23
84. Parents should teach their children to learn contentment and not live like the typical Babylonian in their pursuit of happiness. 1Tim.6:6-8; Heb.13:5
85. Let God prosper in time as it directly relates to the prosperity of our soul. 3Joh.2
86. One's measure of spiritual **wealth** is evidenced by the liberality of sacrifice with their material **wealth**. Mar.12:41-44
87. One easy rule of thumb to avoid the trends of our materialistic society, "Do all things in moderation".
88. You cannot serve God and money. Mat.6:24; Luk.16:9-13

EXEGESIS VERSES 4 – 5:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:4 Καὶ ἤκουσα ἄλλην φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ λέγουσαν, Ἐξέλθατε ὁ λαός μου ἐξ αὐτῆς ἵνα μὴ συγκοινωνήσητε ταῖς ἀμαρτίαις αὐτῆς, καὶ ἐκ τῶν πληγῶν αὐτῆς ἵνα μὴ λάβητε,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:4 **And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, My people,** *Καί (cc) ἤκουσα ἀκούω (viaa--1s; "I heard"; John is the subject) ἄλλην ἄλλος (a--af-s; "another" -- of the same kind) φωνὴν φωνή (n-af-s; "voice"; looks back to the authoritative voice of the angel in vss.1-3) ἐκ (pAbl) τοῦ ὁ οὐρανοῦ οὐρανός (d.a. + n-Ablm-s) λέγουσαν, λέγω (adj.ptc./p/a/af-s) Ἐξέλθατε ἐξέρχομαι (vImpaa--2p; "Come out!") ἐξ ἐκ (pAbl) αὐτῆς αὐτός (npAblf3s; ref. Babylon) μου ἐγώ (npg-1s; ref. Christ) ὁ λαός (d.a. + n-nm-s; "People"; case of address) **that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues;** *ἵνα μὴ (cs + neg.; "in order that not/lest") συγκοινωνήσητε συγκοινωνέω (vsaa--2p; "you might share together in/associate with/fellowship/partnership in/participate in"; used 3x; Eph.5:11; Phi.4:14) αὐτῆς, αὐτός (npgf3s) αἰς ἡ ἀμαρτίαις ἀμαρτία (d.a. + n-df-p; "sins") καὶ (cc) ἵνα μὴ (cs + neg; "lest") λάβητε, λαμβάνω (vsaa--2p; "you might receive") ἐκ (pAbl) αὐτῆς αὐτός (npgf3s) τῶν ἡ πληγῶν πληγή (d.a. + n-Ablf-p; "plagues")**

^{GNT} Revelation 18:5 ὅτι ἐκολλήθησαν αὐτῆς αἱ ἀμαρτίαι ἄχρι τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ ἐμνημόνευσεν ὁ θεὸς τὰ ἀδικήματα αὐτῆς.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:5 **for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.** *ὅτι (causal conj.) αὐτῆς αὐτός (npgf3s; ref. Babylon) αἱ ἡ ἀμαρτίαι ἀμαρτία (d.a. + n-nf-p) ἐκολλήθησαν κολλάω (viap--3p; lit. have been glued together/jointed/united/adhered, hence "increased greatly/have piled up high"; used 12x) ἄχρι (pg; "to the extent of") τοῦ ὁ οὐρανοῦ οὐρανός (d.a. + n-gm-s) καὶ (cc) ὁ θεός (d.a. + n-nm-s) ἐμνημόνευσεν μνημονεύω (viaa--3s; "recalled/remembered/focused on") αὐτῆς. αὐτός (npgf3s) τὰ τὸ ἀδικήματα ἀδίκημα (d.a. + n-an-p; "iniquities/acts of deliberate wrongdoing/acts of injustice/crimes of unrighteousness"; used 3x, Act.18:14; 24:20)*

ANALYSIS VERSES 4 – 5:

1. Vss.4-5 constitute the Divine directive for those living in Babylon, while vss.6-8 looks to God's directive as to her judgment.
2. One must understand God's will as to its sovereign, directive, permissive, geographical or overruling nature.
3. In this case we see an accumulation of all aspects of His will expressed or implied:
 - A. His Sovereignty as this is the POG.
 - B. His directive in the imperatives "**Come out**" (vs.4) and "**Pay back**" (vs.6).
 - C. His permissive will is implied in the subjunctive moods of the verbs "**may not participate**" and "**may not receive**".
 - D. His geographical per the force of the clause "**Come out of her, my people**".
 - E. His overruling will as part of His directive for her "**pay back**" (vs.6) and as explicitly noted in vs.8.
4. Following the warning of the looming fall of Babylon by the angel, John now hears **another** speaker, "**And I hear another voice from heaven, saying**".
5. That it is **another voice** of the same kind (ἄλλην φωνήν – allen phonen" indicates this **voice** too is powerful and robust and carries with it the authority of God Himself (cp.vs.2).
6. The interpreter can only deduce that the speaker is Christ based on the references to "**My people**" and "**God**" (vss.5,8). Cp.Joh.10:26-30
7. Christ remains the speaker throughout vss.4-20.
8. Christ is here personally presenting a Bible class as part of His directive will.
9. One can only imagine the sensation John felt hearing the **voice** of His Master in this fashion once again.
10. As to whether Christ will literally re-speak these words during the trib in correlation with the preceding angelic messenger is not stated.
11. The issue is moot as His words are now recorded in the canon of Scripture for eternal posterity.
12. It does point to the gravity of importance in the communication of God's word.
13. Whether believers hear His words via a human or angelic communicator or from Christ Himself, all BD is spoken as being from **God** Himself.
14. Christ's communiqué is most specifically addressed to those living in the U.S. at that time as He begins His directive with the imperatival clause "**Come out of her, My people**".
15. Many interpreters note that this command is in the same vein given in the OT to prophetic Babylon. Jer.50:8; 51:6,45
16. The **people** in view, while obviously inclusive of the Jews (Exo.3:7), contextually is not limited referring to all the **people** of **God** still residing in the U.S. at this point in history. Cp.Jer.50:16; 51:9-10
17. The Jews and others are to take this message seriously and set example for other believers still living in the U.S. with them. Jer.51:9
18. These words are not recorded with regard to the Jews residing in historical Babylon who in fact were told to stay there and serve Nebuchadnezzar. Jer.29:4-10
19. They are only found in passages relating to prophetic Babylon and the impending destruction of it.

20. The test of separating geographically for all believers concerned will not be light as they are commanded to exit the most powerful, affluent and economic power of that day.
21. While God's geographical will may have included living in Babylon to this point, it is now irrevocably changed.
22. The Jews specifically are commanded to lead a modern exodus and return to Israel. Jer.50:4-5
23. The task will be daunting as the tenor of the command suggests urgency and acted upon with all haste.
24. We can surmise that the "last call" centers on the preceding angel's message in vss.1-3.
25. Many interpreters try to spiritualize this command to "**come out**" citing 2Cor.6:17.
26. However, even there the term recognizes a physical application of separation as it is used most of the time in the NT. Luk.13:31; 14:23; Act.7:3; 22:18
27. Others discount such passages as Jer.50,51 and Isa.13 as having far prophetic fulfillment insisting only historical Babylon is in view in spite of Isa.13:11-13 suggesting a worldwide scope.
28. Harmonizing Scripture with historical fact quickly dismisses their ignorance as specious/phony.
 - A. The enemy comes from the far north. Jer.50:3,9; 51:48.
 - B. The enemies of historic Babylon did not come from the far north, or a far horizon; they came from the immediate east and southeast.
 - C. Therefore, when the term **Medes** is used, it cannot be referring to the historic Medes since they would not qualify. Isa.13:17; Jer.51:11
 - D. The prophetic Medes are modern Russia with her satellites used to form the Soviet Union. Jer.51:28
 - E. A complete destruction is decreed for Babylon. Isa.13:5-9; Jer.50:26,32; 51:2,11
 - F. Historic Babylon was not destroyed at all by the Medes and Persians. Dan.5:31-6:3
 - G. The city continued to enjoy prosperity under the Medo-Persians becoming the headquarters for Alexander the Great about 330 BC
 - H. During the subsequent wars among Alexander's generals, Babylon came under the power of Seleucus that prompted by ambition built a capital for himself and founded Seleucia near Babylon about 293 BC.
 - I. This rival city gradually drew off the inhabitants of Babylon, so that Strabo, who died in 25 AD, wrote that Babylon was largely deserted.
 - J. Economic/commercial Babylon is to be destroyed in a sudden fiery judgment like Sodom and Gomorrah. Isa.13:19; Jer.50:40 cp.Rev.18:8
 - K. That never happened to historic Babylon.
 - L. Commercial Babylon will never again be inhabited. Isa.13:20; Jer.50:13,39
 - M. Historic Babylon has been inhabited through the centuries.
 - N. In 917 AD Ibu Handel mentions Babylon as a small village; by 1100 AD it had grown to a town with two mosques.
 - O. In 1898, it had 10,000 inhabitants; today it is the modern town of Hillah, boasting a population of about 85,000.

- P. When economic Babylon is destroyed, no part of it will ever be used to build another city. Jer.51:26
 - Q. Many building materials from the ruins of historic Babylon have been used in many cities such as Seleucia, Ctesiphon, Almaidan, Kufa, Hillah, and Bagdad.
 - R. *The Encyclopedia of Lands and Peoples, Volume 3*, published by Grolier, states of Babylon: “...they found great treasure and the materials of its wonder buildings were used for the construction of Bagdad in 726 AD.”
29. The command to physically separate from Babylon is followed with two negative purpose clauses giving two distinct reasons for the exodus:
 - A. **That you may not participate in her sins.**
 - B. **And that you may not receive of her plagues.**
 30. The subjunctive moods of the two verbs indicate potential illustrating God’s permissive will leaving compliance to His command to individual choice.
 31. The term “**participate**/συγκοινωνέω – sugkoinoneo” carries with it the sense of fellowship or partnership pointing to the purpose for separation. Eph.5:11; Phi.4:14
 32. Separating voids the potential of participation in the **sins** of otherwise associates.
 33. The **sins** characterize economic Babylon that can generally be summed up as a rejection of BD.
 34. Examples of **her sins** include the manifestation of arrogance (Isa.47:7-8; Jer.50:31-32), a false sense of security in oneself (Isa.47:10), embracing of the homosexual menace per references to Sodom and Gomorrah (Isa.13:19; Jer.49:18; 50:40, anti-Semitism (Isa.47:6; Jer.50:33; 51:34-37), materialism and internationalism (Rev.18:3).
 35. History has demonstrated that the U.S. has not only become guilty of rejecting vast portions of BD, but also encouraging and approving those that promote their STA lifestyles.
 36. As Keathley pointed out, “*The sins of her point to particular or specific sins, the sins of commercialism, the things which caused universal covetousness, destruction of the divine institutions, increase in crime, violence and the search for happiness in luxurious living*”.
 37. The second clause makes clear that those who fail to obey Christ’s command are destined to fall under God’s justice and share or have fellowship in **her** discipline.
 38. Some have notice a parallel to Lot in Sodom (Gen.19:15,17) and his negative wife that identified herself with the city of the damned (Gen.19:26).
 39. Principle: Failure to separate from –V places one in the situation to become a sharer in their spiritual crimes, demonstrating the principle of cursing by association.
 40. Obviously, if one is judged as participating in the **sins** of Babylon, one must share in the retribution that **God** levels against those **sins**.
 41. While the term “**plagues**” is not closely defined here, it is mentioned more specifically in vs.8.
 42. As with the use of this term throughout Revelation, it indicates judgment directly from the hand of **God** Himself.
 43. The destruction by fire will be quick, total and unexpected forever altering the course of the global economy and community. Rev.18:8,10,15,19 cp.Isa.13:8
 44. All one has to do to avoid this fiery catastrophe is to apply separation.

45. Vs.5 introduces two distinct reasons for the prophesied destruction, both relating to the unrighteous nature of Babylonian lifestyle:
 - A. **For her sins have piled up as high as heaven.**
 - B. **And God has remembered her iniquities.**
46. The verb “**have piled up**/κολλάω – kollaw” literally means to glue together, joined closely or unite.
47. Here is has the idea of the **sins** of Babylon being put together to make an edifice reaching up to **heaven**.
48. The parallel to the tower of Babel is obvious emphasizing the spiritual corruption inherent in Babylon. Gen.11:4; Jer.51:9
49. Babylon’s **sins** are substantial in number implying a significant amount of time necessary to reach this state.
50. The imagery is two-fold:
 - A. **Her sins** are viewed as an affront and direct attack towards **God**.
 - B. **God** is postured as now facing those **sins** to deal with them on a Personal level.
51. **God** has patiently endured the unrighteous and arrogant attempt by Babylon to exalt itself; however, that time is past and judgment is at hand.
52. What initially began in Genesis, its modern and final form will endure the judgment. Cp.Mat.23:35
53. The final clause of vs.5 employs an anthropathism denoting that **God** is cognizant of each and every aspect of sin and unrighteousness characterizing Babylon.
54. The term “**iniquities**/ἀδικημα – adikema” has an active suffix that looks to the completed acts of deliberate wrong, injustice or crimes against others. Act.18:14; 24:20
55. When **God** considers **her iniquities**, He considers **her** violations of the Laws of Divine Establishment postured to execute His justice of behalf of those she has injured.
56. As we will see, the victims of our monetary, civil and political policies are legion.
57. The U.S. is guilty of advancing the causes of the super-rich and engaged in practices that have harmed many. Jam.5:1-6; Rev.18:23c-24
58. *Review the Doctrine of Separation.*

EXEGESIS VERSES 6 – 7:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:6 ἀπόδοτε αὐτῇ ὡς καὶ αὐτὴ ἀπέδωκεν καὶ διπλώσατε τὰ διπλᾶ κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῆς, ἐν τῷ ποτηρίῳ ᾧ ἐκέρασεν κεράσατε αὐτῇ διπλοῦν,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:6 **"Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; ἀπόδοτε ἀποδίδωμι (vImpaa--2p; "give back in full/return/repay/pay back") αὐτῇ αὐτός (npdf3s; ref. Babylon) ὡς (comp.conj.; "just as/even as") καί (adjunct.; "also/exactly") αὐτὴ αὐτός (npnf3s; emphatic; "she herself") ἀπέδωκεν ἀποδίδωμι (viaa--3s; "has paid/given") καί (cc) διπλώσατε διπλόω (vImpaa--2p; "to bend double of a sword/repay twofold"; hapax +) τὰ τό διπλᾶ διπλοῦς (d.a. + ap-an-p; lit. the double things/twice as much; used 3x; idiomatic "to requite in double measure/pay back double") κατὰ (pa; "according") αὐτῆς, αὐτός (nrgf3s) τὰ τό ἔργα ἔργον (d.a. + n-an-p; "deeds/works") in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. ἐν (pL) τῷ τό ποτηρίῳ ποτήριον (d.a. + n-Ln-s; "the cup") ᾧ ὅς (rel.pro./Ln-s; "which) ἐκέρασεν κεράννυμι (viaa--3s; "she has mixed/mingled"; same as 14:10) κεράσατε κεράννυμι (vImpaa--2p; "mix") διπλοῦν, διπλοῦς (ap-an-s; "twice as much/make it a double") αὐτῇ αὐτός (npdf3s)**

^{GNT} Revelation 18:7 ὅσα ἐδόξασεν αὐτὴν καὶ ἐστρηνίασεν, τοσοῦτον δότε αὐτῇ βασανισμὸν καὶ πένθος. ὅτι ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς λέγει ὅτι Κάθημαι βασίλισσα καὶ χήρα οὐκ εἶμι καὶ πένθος οὐ μὴ ἴδω.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:7 **"To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; ὅσα ὅσος (rel.pro./an-p; "As much as/to the degree that" +) ἐδόξασεν δοξάζω (viaa--3s; "she has glorified/magnified") αὐτὴν αὐτός (nraf3s) καί (cc) ἐστρηνίασεν, στρηνιάω (viaa--3s; "has indulged/lived sensually/luxuriously/wantonly/reveled"; used 2x; Rev.18:9) τοσοῦτον τοσοῦτος (dem.adj./am-s; "in such an amount as/to the same degree") δότε δίδωμι (vImpaa--2p; "give") αὐτῇ αὐτός (npdf3s) βασανισμὸν βασανισμός (n-am-s; "torture/torment"; same as 9:5; 14:11) καί (cc) πένθος. (n-an-s; "mourning/grief/outward lamentation"; used 5x) for she says in her heart, 'I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.' ὅτι (causal conj.) λέγει λέγω (vipa--3s; "she keeps on saying") ἐν (pL) αὐτῆς αὐτός (nrgf3s) τῇ ἢ καρδίᾳ**

καρδία (d.a. + n-Lf-s; "heart") ὅτι (cc; intro. indir.disc.; "that") Κάθημαι (vipd--1s; "I sit") βασίλισσα (n-nf-s; feminine; "queen/female ruler"; used 4x) καί (cc) οὐκ οὐ (neg. +) εἰμί εἰμί (vipa--1s) χήρα χήρος (a--nf-s; "a widow"; metaphorically "stripped of wealth or inhabitants") καί (cc) οὐ (neg. +) μή (neg. +) ἴδω. ὀράω (vsaa--1s; "might not ever potentially see") πένθος (n-an-s; "mourning/grief")

ANALYSIS VERSES 6 – 7:

1. There is a distinct shift of the imperatival subjects of vs.4 compared to vs.6.
2. Whereas the earlier subjects are “my people”, the plural subjects of vs.6 are those commanded to destroy Babylon.
3. While Christ is the ultimate judge commanding the destruction, He utilizes others to execute His plan.
4. While not specifically stated here, the subjects (plural) are identified for us in OT prophecy concerning Babylon.
5. The “whipping post” of God is identified as a confederation of nations from the north, more specifically Russia and allies.
6. The Russian confederation is characterized in the OT as:
 - A. Armies from the far country or farthest horizons. Isa.13:4-5
 - B. Code name Medes. Isa.13:17; Jer.51:28
 - C. Armies of the north. Jer.50:3,9,41; 51:48
 - D. Gog, the land of Magog. (Eze.38:2-3) with allies (vs.5) to include:
 - 1) Persia (Iran).
 - 2) Ethiopia (a.k.a. Cush)
 - 3) Put (Libya)
 - 4) Gomer (?); probably from far northeastern Asia Minor
- D. The sleeping Bear that will arise and devour much meat! Dan.7:5
7. This Northern Confederation will later attack Israel at Armageddon bringing about their own demise. Eze.38-39:24
8. That the Medes are not the literal Medes attacking historical Babylon is seen in the fact that they came from the east and southeast effectively eliminating them from consideration. Cp.Jer.51:28 cf.vs.48
9. The Russian Confederation will effectively fulfill the commands of vs.6 and **“Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds”**.
10. Once again we see the principle of *lex talionis* applied.
11. The verb **“pay back/ἀποδίδωμι – apodidomi”** is used twice in the first clause indicating God’s retribution is based on **her** previous activities. Jer.50:15,29
12. That there is no object for the second use of the verb **“she has paid”** suggests many possible objects looking to a culmination of **her** activities.
13. The sense of this clause is **“Return back to her all that she has dished out”**.
14. Some recognize an undercurrent of implied treachery characteristic of prophetic Babylon. Isa.21:2
15. Treachery is further implied in the second clause, **“and give back to her double according to her deeds”**.

16. The idiomatic force of the literal Greek “**double the double things**” is taken by most in a general sense to render Babylon with a “**double dose**” of judgment.
17. The fullest sense is to “Repay twofold the **double things** commensurate to **her works**” with emphasis on “the **double things**” as the object of why she is to be repaid in like manner and the premise of **her works**.
18. The “**double things**” characterizes the U.S. as a “two-faced” nation giving the appearance of one thing in **her** actions but in reality promoting another.
19. This points to the hypocrisy behind the treachery evidenced by U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
20. An easily documented example is our advocacy for human rights, yet pronounced guilty for our own infractions. Cp.Rev.18:24
21. It is the final clause that then emphasizes the deception of **her** treachery, “**in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her**”.
22. Again, the general sense indicates a **double** rendering of national discipline.
23. Following the **cup** motif of vs.3, that **which she has mixed** looks to the deceptive doctrines such as international democracy and capitalism as **her** ploy upon the nations seeking to conjure up the real goal of a one world government.
24. The command to **mix twice as much for her** indicates that the deception of treachery returned to **her** in judgment will totally blindside any efforts our country would try to otherwise protect itself.
25. The command “to make it a **double**” parallels our idiom “to slip **her** a mickey finn” indicating that the U.S. will be totally deceived and blind to the reality of **her** impending demise.
26. In fact, she will drink and pass out drunk never to awaken. Jer.51:39
27. Together, the hypocrisy and deception the U.S. has engaged in points to all the “**double dealings**” we are responsible for in the international community not least of which amongst our allies and friends.
28. We too will be dealt with in like manner but of such heightened intrigue, we will be totally sandbagged ensuring a complete surprise attack by the Russian Confederation.
29. In light of our hypocritical and deceptive transgressions of internationalism and economic exploitation, **double** judgment and a reckoning are certainly in order.
30. This verse also suggests that if her punishment is **doubled**, then she must have enjoyed **double** blessing before the Lord making **her** all the more culpable.
31. The U.S. has enjoyed the blessing of peace and prosperity over the course of her history and is referred to as “*a golden cup in the hand of the Lord*”. Jer.51:7
32. A cursory study of the manner in which the U.S. has dealt with its allies demonstrates that our government has had a propensity for treacherous double-dealing.
33. History reveals that our government has publicly spoken against Marxism/Communism in the 20th century, but have consistently allowed (if not promoted) communist expansion in all areas of the world.
34. Beyond that, we have been engaged in covert support of regimes in various parts of the world, often arming them with American technology and weaponry.
35. In his book *National Suicide, Military Aid to the Soviet Union*, Antony Sutton documents that the transfer of American money and technology follows a path that eventually leads to Soviet weapons being used against us and our allies.

36. He asserts that there are four logical steps in trade between the U.S. and the Soviet Union that eventually leads to Soviet global expansion.
 - A. Trade between the U.S. and the USSR, with an emphasis on technology.
 - B. The consequent buildup of the Soviet military-industrial complex.
 - C. Use of the U.S.-subsidized Soviet military-industrial complex to provide inputs for the Soviet armaments production.
 - D. Use of these armaments against the U.S. and its allies.
37. In 1955, the staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary performed a study of nearly a thousand treaties and agreements that the Soviets have entered into with the U.S. and other countries all over the world.
38. In conclusion, they stated that, “...in the 38 short years since the Soviet Union came into existence, its government had broken its word to virtually every country to which it ever gave a signed promise. It signed treaties of nonaggression with neighboring states and then absorbed those states.”
39. Although the government of the U.S. recognizes that the Soviets will not keep their word in any foreign agreement and that their intent is aggressive, with world conquest as the ultimate goal, we have continued to infuse this monster with money and technology.
40. Most analysts recognize that the continuing crisis in the Middle East has been directly dependent upon the supply of Soviet arms to militant Arab countries and guerillas.
41. The American casualty toll in the Korean Conflict (it was not a war) amounted to some 35,000 killed by an army that was heavily subsidized by the Soviet Union.
42. Between 1961 and 1964 American casualties in Vietnam amounted to less than 300 killed and less than 1000 wounded; however, in 1965 the Soviets stepped up the flow of supplies to North Vietnam and President Johnson stepped up the flow of technology to the Soviets.
43. In the four years that followed, the America toll mounted quite rapidly, with over 30,000 killed and nearly 100,000 wounded.
44. Apart from exporting American technology to a nation that has demonstrated that it is morally and spiritually bankrupt, our leaders have betrayed those that they claimed to support including, Nationalist China (Formosa), Iran, Turkey, Philippines, Cuba, Central and South American countries.
45. Our leadership has had a history of encouraging others to trust us then will betray them when the partnership is deemed not to be in the best national or corporate interests.
46. On the domestic front, the U.S. Department of State has acknowledged that our government’s inability and unwillingness to abide by its treaty obligations with Indian tribes has resulted in most Indian treaties being broken.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/dwe/16338.htm>
47. The sad reality is that our nation has manifested what Wall calls a “*functional atheism*” in the realm of issues of national sovereignty as well as in the realm of economics, opting for a course of godless pragmatism/practicality.
48. America has become the leader and promoter of a world controlled by money, technology and corporate politics that are endorsed and promoted by our government and massive corporations greedy for profit.

49. Our government has historically engaged in international meddling bringing the promise of democracy and capitalism to the table and all the while only promoting the agenda of world government headed by the elite globalists.
50. Through our foreign monetary and political manipulation we have become a nation of selfish ambition only out to gain advantage.
51. We have a known history of “feeding our enemies” for purpose of control and manipulation in international affairs.
52. Vs.7 continues the principle of *lex talionis* centralizing the personal sins of the corporate nation as the measuring tool for **her double** discipline.
53. The national discipline is defined beginning vs.7 and more fully articulated in vs.8.
54. Apart from governmental influence of foreign and domestic policy, vs.7 indicts the nation corporately in complicity with **her** federal policies.
55. It points to the fact that what is said of a nation is true of the populace in general and the things reflected here are true of the bulk of her citizens.
56. Literally, vs.7a declares that to the extent of **her** sins she will receive equal retribution, “**To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning**”.
57. The comparative of sin to discipline is found in the correlative pronoun “ὅσος – hosos/as much as” and adjective “ὡσούτως – tosoutos/in such an amount as”, translated “**to the degree that**” and “**to the same degree**” in order.
58. The corporate sins are summarized two-fold:
 - A. **She glorified herself.**
 - B. **And lived sensuously.**
59. The parallel discipline is further summarized two-fold as:
 - A. **Torment.**
 - B. **And mourning.**
60. It is safe to surmise that the direct tie to the sins is as a direct result of the economic affluence chapter 18 so characterizes political Babylon.
61. The U.S. has become a nation that has taken the prosperity blessing by God afforded **her** and in turn rejects God to idolize the money.
62. The Bible clearly teaches that money is a root for all sorts of evil. 1Tim.6:10
63. You cannot serve both money and God. Mat.6:24
64. The Bible clearly recognizes that God provides good things for His children and there is no shame in enjoying what God has provided through His grace. 1Tim.4:4; 6:17
65. What is decried in our verse is the unbridled pursuit of the details of life that consumes people producing a repugnant mental attitude (M/A) and life style before God.
66. With money comes freedom that opens the doors for all kinds of STA distractions and temptations at the expense of God’s plan.
67. Not the least of the prosperity test is the self-sufficiency one may be inclined to embrace in contrast to continued dependency upon God for all things.
68. This in turn produces M/A arrogance or pride.
69. Knowing that, it is no wonder that the sin of self-glorification is first introduced that succinctly summarizes the arrogance and pride she promotes.
70. Such arrogance is frequently derided by the Bible. 2Sam.22:28; Job 40:11-12; Pro.11:2; 16:18; Isa.2:11; 5:15; Mat.23:12; Jam.4:6

71. Those that seek their own glory will not only end up losing that glory in time, but will eventually face the judgment of God for the unseen pride that motivated them. Luk.14:8-11
72. Christ taught that self-exaltation is nothing. Joh.8:54
73. He further taught that seeking approbation of men blinds one to the truth. Joh.5:44
74. **The degree** our nation has exalted itself against the God of heaven is numerous and apparent to the spiritually astute.
75. The arrogance factor has manifested itself in espousing and promoting the liberal agenda that involves rejection of God's norms and standards.
76. Our leadership has allowed the elimination of as many references to God as they possibly can, while embracing human viewpoint, doctrines of demons, alternative lifestyles, militant feminism, etc.
77. The rampant idea today is that in the name of tolerance and political correctness, we must be willing to accept anything and everything as normal.
78. Society overall and government in general forbid however if we make the Word of God an issue in national life.
79. One commentator noted that one can study almost any biblical position and find that in the U.S. many reject BD and have substituted an alternate view.
 - A. The institution of volition is under attack by our government that believes they know better than the individual how life is to be lived.
 - B. Divine Institution #2, the family, envisions a man and woman (not queers or lesbians) in a monogamous, lifetime relationship. Mat.19:4-6
 - C. However, groups such as GLAAD and other activists attack the institution, seeking to enforce their deviant doctrines as truth.
 - D. Beyond that, the trend over the last several decades is for people to live together out of wedlock; those that do marry suffer a divorce rate approaching 50%.
 - E. The Bible indicates that the husband is the head (authority) over the wife, while modern dogma insists that we are all equal and authority is a very bad concept. Eph.5:22-24
 - F. Clearly, the biblical model is for children to be subject to their parents; however, our society encourages rebellion and government interference in the family via agencies such as the Department of Children and Families. Eph.6:1
 - G. Financially, we are told to live within our means, work for our own support, and pay our bills on time as a witness to the cosmos. 1The.4:11; 2The.3:6ff
 - H. The reality is that America has practically become a welfare state, supporting those that refuse to work.
 - I. Our government has set an excellent example in the amassing of debt, with the current figure being over 7 trillion dollars, which amounts to over \$25,000 for every American.
80. All of these examples and more that could be cited stem from an arrogant attitude of society that does not need God, since they have wealth.
81. The second sin, "**lived sensuously**/στρηνιάω – streniao" has the force of something excessive or over-strength.
82. Its cognate noun "στρηνός – strenos/*sensuality*" is used in 18:3 tying in the concept of *wealth* with the sin in view.

83. Accompanying the arrogant attitude based on wealth, the idea of wanton exercise of strength or the luxurious lifestyle afforded would be a good understanding.
84. The focus is the idea of satiety or over-indulgence, super-abundance, the state of having too much.
85. The sin is the STA pursuit of an opulent luxurious lifestyle that flows from a self-centered greed focusing on the material nature and how to satisfy it.
86. The concept is the idea of “keeping up with the Jones’s”, “shop till you drop”, “party hearty”, “he who gets the most toys wins”, etc.
87. The fact is that the freedoms the amassing of the details of life provides are the very idols that turn this nation away from God and MPR.
88. The discipline is then stipulated in the command to return **torment and mourning to her to the degree** she has indulged in this arrogant wanton pursuit of pleasure.
89. That the U.S. receives **double** discipline (vs.6), yet **her** discipline is now presented as exactly equal to **her** sins (vs.7) is a logical recognition of **her double** blessing.
90. **Torment** is the overt act of inflicting pain upon someone while **mourning** looks to the outward expression of inner grief or sorrow one experiences from suffering or loss.
91. **Torment** is the overt suffering God brings upon our society and **mourning** is our reaction due to loss.
92. In contrast to many of the fundy circles as well as ICE camps, chapter 18 makes it clear that our nation spiritually enters a self-destruct mode, unrecoverable.
93. Many teach and proclaim that we not only need a great spiritual revival, but will experience it and will make recovery from any previous or current reversionism.
94. The fact simply is there will be no great spiritual revival for this country and in fact those of this ideological ilk fit right into the attitude of the nation that now follows.
95. The epitome of our nation’s arrogance is then encapsulated in vs.7b, “**for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.’**”
96. The present tense of “**she says**/λέγω – lego” indicates continual action; Babylon constantly or regularly says this **in her heart**.
97. The phrase “**in her heart**” indicates that this is a fundamental perception of **herself** expressing the current attitude.
98. The first of the three-fold proclamation is that she sits **as a queen** alluding to Isa.47:7.
99. This is the promotion and idea that nothing can upset this mighty system.
100. The M/A is that she answers to no one, including God.
101. She views **herself** as being completely sovereign and powerful manifesting an in your face sort of superiority.
102. This arrogance has come to characterize both the leadership and citizenry of the U.S. as evident in our foreign policy.
103. The second assertion is from Isa.47:8 and must be understood in terms of how the ancient world viewed widows.
104. This was a fate that was feared by women since in the pagan world, she was not supposed to remarry and would often have to stay with her husband’s family.
105. In the Jewish world, she would inherit property only if she had no sons and would have no one to protect her making her especially vulnerable to legal exploitation. Luk.18:3ff

106. America's boast is that she has not and will **not** be reduced from her current position, assuming that the kings of the earth will continue to be her allies and supporters. Rev.18:3
107. Restated, she places her faith in men rather than God.
108. While the U.S. may arrogantly assume that our historical allies will continue to support us, the reality is that many of them have already come to view us in a very unfavorable light.
109. The final assertion "**will never see mourning**" goes straight into the face of what God has just declared for **her**.
110. This too is an extension of Isa.47:8 concerning the loss of her children.
111. The double negative in the Greek is a boast that she will absolutely not experience the grief that is associated with such loss.
112. However, OT and NT prophecy begs otherwise. Isa.47:9; Jer.50:35-37; Rev.18:8,10

EXEGESIS VERSE 8:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:8 διὰ τοῦτο ἐν μιᾷ ἡμέρᾳ ἕξουσιν αἱ πληγαὶ αὐτῆς, θάνατος καὶ πένθος καὶ λιμός, καὶ ἐν πυρὶ κατακαυθήσεται, ὅτι ἰσχυρὸς κύριος ὁ θεὸς ὁ κρίνας αὐτήν.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:8 **"For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, διὰ (pa +) τοῦτο οὗτος (near dem.pro./an-s; "because of this/for this reason") ἐν (pL) μιᾷ εἰς (card.adj./Lf-s; "one") ἡμέρα (n-Lf-s) αὐτῆς, αὐτός (npgf3s) αἱ ἢ πληγαὶ πληγή (d.a. + n-nf-p; "plagues") ἕξουσιν ἤκω (vifa--3p; "will come/arrive") θάνατος (n-nm-s; "death/deadly disease/pestilence") καὶ (cc) πένθος (n-nn-s; "mourning") καί (cc) λιμός, (n-nf-s/n-nm-s; "famine/deprivation of food"; same as 6:8) and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. καί (cc) κατακαυθήσεται, κατακαίω (vifp--3s; "she will be burned up/consumed") ἐν (pI; "by/with") πυρὶ πῦρ (n-In-s; "fire") ὅτι (causal conj.) κύριος (n-nm-s) ὁ θεός (d.a. + n-nm-s) ὁ κρίνας κρίνω (d.a. + adj.ptc./a/a/nm-s; "judging/executing justice/condemning") αὐτήν. αὐτός (nraf3s) ἰσχυρὸς ἰσχυρός (a--nm-s; "mighty/strong/powerful")**

ANALYSIS VERSE 8:

1. The double discipline generalized in vs.7 is now made more specific in vs.8.
2. Aside from internationalism and economic exploitation and abuse, the overriding factor for **her** destruction centers on arrogance or pride as noted in **her** statement closing vs.7.
3. This is the force of the opening phrase, **"For this reason"** (singular).
4. The arrogance is manifested as a nation three-fold (vs.7b):
 - A. She is a nation usurping the authority of God by playing god over the world (*I sit as a queen*).
 - B. She is exempt from ever losing that authority (*I am not a widow*).
 - C. She believes she is above any retribution by any external source (*will never see mourning*).
5. **Her** arrogance combined looks to a nation that looks only to herself as the means for government of God's creation.
6. OT prophecies deal with the fundamental issue of her pride. Isa.13:11; Jer.50:29, 31-32.
7. Arrogance is deadly for the nation just as it is for the individual. 1Sam.2:2-3; Psa.101:5; Pro.8:12-14; 14:16
8. Rejection of BD is ultimate arrogance and brings rebuke from God. Psa.119:21
9. Christ then reveals the short amount of time God takes to judge the U.S. in the phrase **"in one day"**.

10. The matter of the fact is that the judgment literally occurs in **one** hour of that **day**. Rev.18:10,17,19
11. The judgment is then further described on two levels defined by two future verbs:
 - A. **Her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine.**
 - B. **And she will be burned up with fire.**
12. As noted in the earlier uses of the term “**plagues**”, this emphasizes a direct blow of judgment in general from God.
13. The predicate nominative nouns that follow the noun “**plagues**” further define the **plagues** as **pestilence, mourning and famine**.
14. The term “**pestilence**/θάνατος – thanatos” is literally “death” in the Greek.
15. Its emphasis here is an abnormal or severe form of death that can be caused by disease (LXX Exo.9:3; Deu.28:21-22) or civil actions (Act.22:4; 23:29, etc.)
16. That the death of our verse is directly associated with **mourning** (outward grieving) and **famine** (food deprivation) strongly suggests a situation resulting from the destruction of natural resources.
17. It has the nuance of some sort of pandemic or contagious and infectious epidemic that is virulent and devastating as a result.
18. That all of the “**plagues**” come as a result of mass destruction is further implied by the fact that the U.S. is **burned up with fire**.
19. For all intents and purposes, we can surmise that this level of **her** judgment is the catalyst for the rampant disease and grief and **famine** inherent in the **plagues**.
20. God’s judgment for political Babylon is further prophesied in the OT as being by **fire**. Jer.50:32b; 51:30
21. She will go down in a fiery cataclysm like Sodom and Gomorrah leaving the land in desolation. Isa.13:19; Jer.50:40
22. Historic Babylon was not destroyed by **fire**, neither was she destroyed in **one** hour of **one day** and certainly was not destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah.
23. While **fire** will be the destructive force, the OT tells us that the weapons of choice are arrows. Isa.13:18; Jer.50:14; 51:11
24. Obviously conventional arrows could not destroy an entire nation in **one day**, let alone in **one** hour, demanding that our Babylon in view is an end times nation.
25. The prophetic imagery of these fiery arrows is readily recognized today in modern warfare technology as missiles with nuclear capabilities.
26. As recent news has made clear, Russia now has nuclear missile capabilities transcending any modern like technologies in the known world.
27. The SS-27 or Topol-M, is an intercontinental-range, ground based, solid propellant ballistic missile,
28. It has launch capabilities from both missile silos and Transporter-Erector-Launcher (TEL) vehicles.
29. This deployment strategy makes it nearly impossible to successfully prevent launch and current anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense technology is insufficient to prevent its successful impact.
30. Its capabilities to avoid ABM defenses stems from evasive maneuverability’s (able to change direction) inclusive of countermeasures and decoys to decrease chances of successful targeting.

31. Further it is shielded against radiation, electromagnetic interference and physical disturbance and able to survive a strike from any laser technology available.
32. Our defense orbital interceptors are designed to disable an incoming missile by detonating within a 10 kilometer range, yet the Topol-M is designed to withstand a blast within 500 meters.
33. Each missile is confirmed sufficient to carry a 550 kT nuclear warhead that can wipe out any major city.
34. It has been developed as a first strike weapon, though guaranteeing a successful retaliatory response.
35. Its accuracy is exceptional (equivalent to Global Position Satellite) and with the placement of Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs) can destroy entire missile groups.
36. Their range (6,524 mles) makes the entirety of the U.S. susceptible to attack.
37. By 2003, Russian had in full operation 4 silo-based missile regiments.
38. At present some 50 missiles with multi-warhead capabilities are known operational, though an exact number is unknown (estimating adding 5-6 per year since 1997).
39. This year in 2006, a mobile Topol-M ICBM and sea-based Bulava (SS-NX-30) SLBM have been tested and pick up speed so fast upon launch reaching hypersonic speeds that early warning devices do not have time to take appropriate countermeasures.
40. The bottom line is that our country today is defenseless while Russia is protected by a functional defense system.
41. Russia has gained advantage militarily that she obviously will retain or again regain until God's perfect timing for execution to judge the U.S. arrives.
42. The Bear Federation will unload with their first attack capabilities in a total surprise attack against the U.S and fulfill the command "to eat much meat".
43. The amount of nuclear blasts will be sufficient to essentially incinerate the known habitat of the continental U.S.
44. Within minutes of bombardment and detonation, fires will be everywhere, burning materials setting more fires coalescing into a mass **fire**.
45. Nuclear scientists today recognize that **fire** is more devastating than the blast itself in a nuclear explosion.
46. Within an hour, the smoke of devastation will be of such magnitude it will be visible for miles beyond our shores. Rev.18:9-10, 18-19
47. For those that experience this holocaust, the 3 blows of judgment they can expect to **come in one day** are:
 - A. Death: Total loss of population. Isa.13:9,19,20; 47:3; Jer.50:3,21,40; 51:43
 - B. Grief. Isa.13:6-8; 47:7-9; Jer.51:52
 - C. Starvation. Jer.50:26,27; 51:23
48. Further, all **her** idols will be destroyed. Jer.50:2; 51:17-18,47,52
49. The final clause, "**for the Lord God who judges her is strong**" alludes once again to OT prophecy concerning Babylon. Jer.50:34
50. The phrase "**The Lord God**" is an "in your face" retort to Babylon's claim as a "Queen".
51. It is designed to be viewed in contrast to the arrogance of the U.S. as being the most powerful authority upon this planet.

52. The clause is a declaration of God's omnipotence that is behind the action of executing judgment upon the U.S.
53. At the epitome of **her** arrogance, **God** will flex His omnipotence in control of history in retribution to prove to all mankind that our **Lord** is the true Sovereign of the universe.

EXEGESIS VERSES 9 – 10:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:9 Καὶ κλαύσουσιν καὶ κόψονται ἐπ' αὐτήν οἱ βασιλεῖς τῆς γῆς οἱ μετ' αὐτῆς πορνεύσαντες καὶ στρηνιάσαντες, ὅταν βλέπωσιν τὸν καπνὸν τῆς πυρώσεως αὐτῆς,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:9 **"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality (corrected) with her and lived sensuously,** *Καί (ch) οἱ ὁ βασιλεῖς βασιλεύς (d.a. + n-nm-p; "the kings") τῆς ἡ γῆς γῆ (d.a. + n-gf-s) οἱ ὁ (d.a./nmp; governs both ptc's +) πορνεύσαντες πορνεύω (adj. ptc./a/a/nm-p; "committing immorality/fornicating") μετ' μετά (pg; "with") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s; ref. Babylon) καί (cc) στρηνιάσαντες, στρηνιάω (adj.ptc./a/a/nm-p; "living sensuously/luxuriously"; same as 18:7) **will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,** *κλαύσουσιν κλαίω (vifa--3p; "will weep/wail/lament") καί (cc) κόψονται κόπτω (vifm--3p; lit. to beat one's breast in emotional anguish/grief; "will intensely grieve"; both verbs forward in the Grk for emphasis) ἐπ' ἐπί (pa; "over"; on her account) αὐτήν αὐτός (nraf3s) ὅταν (temp conj.; "whenever") βλέπωσιν βλέπω (vspra--3p) τὸν ὁ καπνὸν καπνός (n-am-s; "the smoke/smoldering") αὐτῆς, αὐτός (nprgf3s) τῆς ἡ πυρώσεως πύρωσις (d.a. + n-gf-s; "fiery ordeal/burning"; emphasizes calamity/painful suffering; used 3x; 1Pet.4:12; Rev.18:18)**

^{GNT} Revelation 18:10 ἀπὸ μακρόθεν ἑστηκότες διὰ τὸν φόβον τοῦ βασανισμοῦ αὐτῆς λέγοντες, Οὐαὶ οὐαὶ, ἡ πόλις ἡ μεγάλη, Βαβυλῶν ἡ πόλις ἡ ἰσχυρά, ὅτι μιᾶ ὥρᾳ ἦλθεν ἡ κρίσις σου.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:10 **standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying,** *ἑστηκότες ἕστημι (circ.ptc./PF/a/nm-p; "standing") ἀπό (pg; "away from") μακρόθεν (adv.; "at a distance/from afar") διὰ (pa; "because of/on account of") τὸν ὁ φόβον φόβος (d.a. + n-am-s; "the fear/terror") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s; ref. Babylon) τοῦ ὁ βασανισμοῦ βασανισμός (d.a. + n-gm-s; "torment/severe torture; same as 9:5; 14:11; 18:7) λέγοντες, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p) 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'* *Οὐαὶ, οὐαὶ (part. + part. "Woe, woe/Unbelievably Horrible") ἡ μεγάλη, μέγας (d.a. + a--vf-s; "the great") ἡ πόλις (d.a. + n-vf-s; "city") Βαβυλῶν (n-vf-s) ἡ ἰσχυρά, ἰσχυρός (d.a. + a--vf-s; "the*

strong/mighty/powerful") ἡ πόλις (d.a. + n-vf-s) ὅτι (explan.conj.; explains the double woes) μιᾷ εἷς (card.adj./Lf-s; "in one") ὥρα ὥρα (n-df-s; "hour") σου. σύ (npg-2s; ref. Babylon) ἡ κρίσις (d.a. + n-nf-s; "judgment/legal punishment/condemnation") ἦλθεν ἔρχομαι (viaa--3s)

ANALYSIS VERSES 9 – 10:

1. Vss.9-19 is after the fact of vs.8 contemplating the world reaction to the destruction of the U.S.
2. There are 3 primary subjects presented for consideration as to the impact our demise has globally:
 - A. **The kings of the earth.** Vs.9
 - B. *The merchants of the earth that became rich from the U.S.* Vss.11,15
 - C. The international shipping industry and pleasure seekers described as *every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor.* Vs.17
3. The common denominators underwriting all 3 subjects include:
 - A. All experience intense emotional reactions. Vss.9,11,15;19
 - B. All 3 are viewed as “**standing at a distance**”. Vss.10,15,17
 - C. All 3 are economically dependent upon the U.S. capitalistic system of success for business and lifestyle. Vss.9,17a,19b
4. The first group “**And the kings of the earth**” are further restricted to those “**who committed acts of immorality with her and lived sensuously**”.
5. This indicates that not all rulers of nations will be upset about the destruction of the U.S.
6. It highlights the allies of the U.S. that have profited greatly from our foreign policies, foreign aid, low-interest loans, international business policies, etc.
7. These political rulers are viewed as fornicating with the U.S. embracing her international ideology that in turn has produced their own luxurious lifestyle of living.
8. This verse indicts our international allies politically for jumping on the NWO bandwagon of democracy and capitalism.
9. They are lumped together with a guilty verdict of sponsoring their own political systems driven by greed, money and power.
10. They are viewed as “leeching Johns” willing to prostitute themselves and those they govern in order to share in the immense wealth and power found in a U.S. partnership.
11. One of the great sources for stimulating national leaders in this regards is U.S. foreign aid policies.
12. It is readily acknowledged that the U.S. is the wealthiest, strongest and most influential nation in the modern world with our actions or inaction directly affecting other nations.
13. Since our nation is a major part of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and even helped to formulate the U.N. over 50 years ago, our manipulation of other nations takes a leadership role.
14. It is no secret that when the U.S. has provided aid, it has been tied to its own foreign policy objectives.

15. Benjamin F. Nelson of the General Accounting Office noted in 1997, *“Aid appears to have established as a priority the importance of influencing domestic policy in the recipient countries.”*
16. There is no shortness of documentation that one of the root causes of poverty in developing nations lays in the powerful nations that have formulated most of the trade and aid policies today.
17. The policies have much to do with maintaining dependency on industrialized nations, providing sources of cheap labor, providing cheaper goods, increasing personal wealth and maintaining power over others.
18. In the 2000 report looking back at the previous year, the Reality of Aid 2000 (Earthscan Publications, 2000, p.81), reported in their U.S. section that *“71.6% of its bilateral aid commitments were tied to the purchase of goods and services from the U.S.”*
19. This shows that where U.S. did give aid, it was most often tied to foreign policy objectives benefiting the U.S.
20. Through the policies of Washington, the status quo in world relations is maintained having a financial lever to dictate what good governance means, while prying open markets of developing countries for multinational corporations.
21. While we may do the “seducing”, our verse makes it very clear that these nations are willingly in bed with us.
22. What our verse says implicitly, if not explicit, is that it is the national leaders that are the first round benefactors of our monetary influx.
23. This is seen in that these rulers are living their lives **sensuously** indicating a level of wealth commensurate with the rich and famous.
24. There are literally hundreds of articles exposing the plurality of corrupt governments that we have supported engaging in lavish and excessive lifestyles often while abusing their own people.
25. To name a few includes Asia, Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iraq (under Saddam Hussein), Central and South America.
26. Further, it is no secret that food assistance under U.S. foreign aid has routinely failed to benefit the foreign poor we claim to be helping.
27. Foreign aid has become the opiate of the 3rd World, encouraging these governments to rely on handouts instead of on themselves for development.
28. Subsidizing political irresponsibility and pernicious policies, foreign aid has led to gross corruption of political systems around the world.
29. While life for these may be good for the time, it comes to an end as vs.9b -10a makes clear that they **“will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment”**.
30. The circumstantial participle **“standing”** modifies the main verbs **“weep and lament”** and is parallel to the temporal clause **“when they see the smoke of her burning”**.
31. The rulers will cry aloud and mourn over the destruction of Babylon, but will obviously keep their **distance** in order to avoid danger to themselves.
32. Through the use of modern satellite technology, the nuclear destruction of our continent will be visible to the world, though a literal visual of the smoky plume is not out of the question based on the massive nuclear holocaust that will occur.

33. The term “**burning**/πύρωσις – purosiss” is intensive and indicates the type of heat necessary for smelting or refining metals and is so used in the LXX. Pro.27:21 “*furnace*”
34. As we noted in vs.8, the fire is so great and massive, no one will dare to approach Babylon from that time forward.
35. It will become a nuclear desert and never again inhabited by man. Isa.13:20; 14:22-23; Jer.50:3,39,40; 51:26,37,43
36. While **fear** of nuclear radiation is obvious, there is more to their **fear** than appears on the surface, as seen in what the rulers are found **saying**, “**Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come**”.
37. The double “**woe**” is intensive and indicates the horrific horror these rulers feel when they realize what has just happened in history.
38. This indicates another level of **fear** for their sovereignty, political security and lifestyle.
39. If such catastrophe can happen to the “Queen” of nations, what security is there for her “subjects”?
40. This will further open doors for Antichrist in advancing his goal of world power as he offers protection from the 10 horns and absorbing American allies, such as Israel, under his control and influence.
41. The WEU will become the dominant force allowing Antichrist and the False Prophet to implement their economic policies forcing those left into taking the mark. Rev.13:16-17
42. While these kings’ assessment perceives something horrible, it is nothing but human viewpoint as will be contrasted with God’s reaction and command to adjusted believers to “*Rejoice over her*”. Rev.18:20
43. Further we note that while this may be the reaction of these select rulers and other economic elites, it is not the consensus of the bulk of international citizenry. Jer.50:13; 51:48
44. One does not have to watch much world news or travel abroad far to see the face of anti-American sentiment spreading across the globe infecting even our allied nations.
45. The mourning of **Babylon** becomes very centralized as a shift from **her** national identification is narrowed down to **her** prized **city** also called **Babylon**. Cp.Jer.50:12; 51:31
46. Just as a kingdom might name a major **city** after their kingdom (**Babylon**, Rome, Luxemburg) to highlight the hub of their notoriety, power and prestige as a kingdom, so prophetic **Babylon** has such a representative.
47. This figure of speech could be classified as either a metonymy (the name of one thing used in place of another that is associated with it or suggested by it) or a synecdoche (the part is used for the whole).
48. In the context of a **city**-state empire, the name of the **city** is used both in place of the name of the kingdom (B_P) and represents the kingdom by name as a whole.
49. That America’s prized **city** is called both a “**great**/μέγας – megas” and “**strong/powerful/mighty**/ίσχυρός – ischuros” **city** looks both to the affluence and influence the **city** represents of the nation as a whole.

50. That it is the economical resources of the U.S. that is the emphasis of chapter 18, there is little doubt that it is New York **City** that is central in the thinking of this woeful dirge.
51. There is no other U.S. **city** more readily recognized in the international community as highlighting our country, identifying with it and representing what we are in terms of wealth and power.
52. The financial district of NYC is located in an area at the southern tip of Manhattan that includes such important financial institutions as Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange and the New York Federal Reserve Bank containing billions of dollars worth of gold.
53. Further, NYC is home to the United Nations building and as of recent history, the World Trade Center to be rebuilt with a new complex of buildings highlighting the new 1,776 foot tall Freedom Tower.
54. If irony exists, its found in the new bold statement of “Freedom Tower” highlighting our international trade policies and unabashedly proclaiming our false doctrine of global democracy and capitalism.
55. Those that manipulate and control our monetary system are the silent powers behind our politicians dictating domestic and international policy.
56. That money is the driving force, it is of no surprise that these generally have more interest in their positions than what is morally and ethically right and best for our nation.
57. That the U.S. remains **great** and **strong** up to it’s demise is not to go unnoticed.
58. The final statement as to the rapidity of U.S. destruction would further heighten the **fear** factor of our allies.
59. In a literal **hour** of **one** day (cp.vs.8), the U.S. for all intents and purposes is blown off the map of existence.
60. In this minute span of history, a cataclysmic act of **judgment** by God will instill global **fear** among all **her** fornicating lovers.
61. As noted, the U.S. will be left desolate and without further human habitation or visitation in memoriam of **her** evil.

EXEGESIS VERSES 11 – 13:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:11 Καὶ οἱ ἔμποροι τῆς γῆς κλαίουσιν καὶ πενθοῦσιν ἐπ' αὐτήν, ὅτι τὸν γόμον αὐτῶν οὐδεὶς ἀγοράζει οὐκέτι

^{NAS} Revelation 18:11 **"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her,** *Καί (cc) οἱ ὁ ἔμποροι ἔμπορος (d.a. + n-nm-p; lit. a passenger by sea, hence one that travels about for trading "merchant/wholesaler"; used 5x; Mat.13:45; Rev.18:3,11,15,23; used 12 of 19x in the LXX in Eze.27 of Tyre's destruction) τῆς ἢ γῆς γῆ (d.a. + n-gf-s) κλαίουσιν κλαίω (vipa--3p; "weep/cry out loud") καί (cc) πενθοῦσιν πενθέω (vipa--3p; "mourn/grieve") ἐπ' ἐπί (pa) αὐτήν, αὐτός (nraf3s; ref. Babylon) **because no one buys their cargoes any more;** ὅτι (causal conj.) οὐδεὶς (neg.+card.adj./nm-s; "no one") ἀγοράζει ἀγοράζω (vipa--3s; "continuously buys/purchases") αὐτῶν αὐτός (nprgm3p; ref. merchants) τὸν ὁ γόμον γόμος (d.a. + n-am-s; "load/freight/cargo"; collective singular) οὐκέτι (adv.; "any more/no longer")*

^{GNT} Revelation 18:12 γόμον χρυσοῦ καὶ ἀργύρου καὶ λίθου τιμίου καὶ μαργαριτῶν καὶ βυσσίνου καὶ πορφύρας καὶ σιρικοῦ καὶ κοκκίνου, καὶ πᾶν ξύλον θύϊνον καὶ πᾶν σκεῦος ἐλεφάντινον καὶ πᾶν σκεῦος ἐκ ξύλου τιμιωτάτου καὶ χαλκοῦ καὶ σιδήρου καὶ μαρμάρου,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:12 **cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet,** *γόμον γόμος (n-am-s; "cargoes"; collective sing.; all following genitives are descriptive defining the content of cargo) χρυσοῦ χρυσός (n-gm-s; "gold") καί (cc) ἀργύρου ἄργυρος (n-gm-s; "silver") καί (cc) τιμίου τίμιος (a--gm-s; "valuable/precious") λίθου λίθος (n-gm-s; "stone") καί (cc) μαργαριτῶν μαργαρίτης (n-gm-p; "pearls") καί (cc) βυσσίνου βύσσινος (ap-gn-s; "fine linen/cloth for common garments") καί (cc) πορφύρας πορφύρα (n-gf-s; "dyed purple cloth") καί (cc) σιρικοῦ σιρικός (ap-gn-s; lit. of Seres, the Orient; "silken cloth") καί (cc) κοκκίνου, κόκκινος (ap-gn-s; "scarlet/crimson cloth") **and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,** *καί (cc) πᾶν πᾶς (a--an-s; "every") θύϊνον θύϊνος (a--an-s; "citron/thyine"; a very valuable and hard wood native to Morocco; a conifer tree) ξύλον (n-an-s; "cut wood/tree") καί (cc) πᾶν πᾶς (a--an-s; "every") σκεῦος (n-an-s;**

"object/thing/article/utensil") *ἐλεφάντινον ἐλεφάντινος* (a--an-s; "of ivory") *καί* (cc) *πᾶν πᾶς* (a--an-s) *σκεῦος* (n-an-s; "article") *ἐκ* (pAbl) *τιμιωτάτου τίμιος* (superlative adj.Abln-s; "from the most valuable/expensive) *ξύλου ξύλον* (n-Abln-s; "cut wood") *καί* (cc) *χαλκοῦ χαλκός* (n-gm-s; "copper/bronze/brass") *καί* (cc) *σιδήρου σίδηρος* (n-gm-s; "iron") *καί*(cc) *μαρμάρου, μάρμαρος* (n-gm-s; lit. any stone or rock with crystals or that glistens; "marble/granite")

^{GNT} Revelation 18:13 *καὶ κιννάμωμον καὶ ἄμωμον καὶ θυμιάματα καὶ μύρον καὶ λίβανον καὶ οἶνον καὶ ἔλαιον καὶ σεμίδαλιν καὶ σίτον καὶ κτήνη καὶ πρόβατα, καὶ ἵππων καὶ ῥεδῶν καὶ σωμάτων, καὶ ψυχὰς ἀνθρώπων.*

^{NAS} Revelation 18:13 **and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.** *καί* (cc) *κιννάμωμον* (n-an-s; "cinnamon"; note the change to the accusative case; emphasizes the specific content rather than general description) *καί* (cc) *ἄμωμον* (n-an-s; lit. amomum native to India; "fragrant spice") *καί* (cc) *θυμιάματα θυμιάμα* (n-an-p; "incenses") *καί* (cc) *μύρον* (n-an-s; "ointment/perfume/balms") *καί* (cc) *λίβανον λίβανος* (n-am-s; "frankincense") *καί* (cc) *οἶνον οἶνος* (n-am-s; "wine") *καί* (cc) *ἔλαιον* (n-an-s; "olive oil") *καί* (cc) *σεμίδαλιν σεμίδαλις* (n-af-s; "fine wheat flour") *καί* (cc) *σίτον σίτος* (n-am-s; "grain/corn/wheat") *καί* (cc) *κτήνη κτήνος* (n-an-p; lit. property possession used of "cattle/beasts of burden") *καί* (cc) *πρόβατα, πρόβατον* (n-an-p; "sheep") *καί* (cc) *ἵππων ἵππος* (n-gm-p; "of horses") *καί* (cc) *ῥεδῶν ῥέδη* (n-gf-p; "chariots/carriages/four-wheeled wagons") *καί* (cc) *σωμάτων, σώμα* (n-gn-p; lit. "living bodies") *καί* (cc or ascensive "and/even") *ἀνθρώπων. ἄνθρωπος*(n-gm-p; "men's") *ψυχὰς ψυχή* (n-af-p; "souls"; "the emphasis is on "slave labor")

ANALYSIS VERSES 11 – 13:

1. Vss.11-17a addresses the 2nd primary subjects that feel a direct impact from U.S. demise, “**And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her**”.
2. The term “**merchants/ἐμπορος – emporos**” harks back to vs.3 highlighting the elite international businessmen that “*have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality*”.
3. The term emphasizes the mariner trade and looks to shipping as the predominate method of trade, though the **merchants** are not limited to ship owners.
4. Shipping remains the dominate transport for import export trade in the U.S.

5. The Greek term is used 19x in the LXX, 12x concerning the destruction of Tyre in Eze.27 and 1x in Isa.23:8.
6. Tyre was an ancient city-state and Mediterranean Sea port of Phoenicia, what is now southern Lebanon at the site now occupied by the fishing village Sur, about 45 miles south of Beirut..
7. It was founded as a colony of Sidon in the 14th century BC and renowned for its wealth and talents of its people and overall commercial industry.
8. Under King Hiram, Tyre was an ally to Israel (1Kgs.5:1) and was instrumental in helping to build David's palace (2Sam.5:11) and assisting Solomon in building the temple (1Kgs.9:11).
9. Tyre repelled several major assaults, including a 13 year siege by Nebuchadnezzar.
10. It is referred to in Jos.19:29 as the "strong" or "fortified" city.
11. It finally fell in ruins with all armed men killed and remaining survivors sold into slavery by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, never to recover.
12. It is recognized by a plethora of Biblical scholars that much of the imagery of Rev.18 comes from passages in Eze.27,28.
13. Further, many understand a parallel in the destruction of Babylon and ancient Tyre.
14. The similarities between the U.S. and Tyre are noteworthy in Isa.23 and Eze.27-28:
 - A. The ancient city was the greatest commercial urban center on the Mediterranean with its world trade legendary and it's banking system the monetary hub of the ancient world.
 - B. Both have a history as allies of Israel.
 - C. Like New York City, the city of Tyre was divided between land and sea; one part of Tyre was on an island just offshore and the other part on the mainland.
 - D. Both are called a strong city. Jos.19:29; Rev.18:10
 - E. Like ancient Tyre, the U.S. has become the commerce center of the known world. Isa.23:3c; Eze.27:3b
 - F. Like Tyre, U.S. borders are in the heart of the seas (Florida to Hawaii; Texas to Alaska). Eze.27:4a
 - G. Both have an ethnically diverse army. Eze.27:10-11
 - H. Both have enormous wealth and trade, the envy of the entire world. Eze.27:12-25
 - I. Extreme arrogance characterizes both that attempt to assume the prerogatives of God for themselves. Eze.28:2 cp.Isa.47:8; Rev.18:7
 - J. Both are likened to harlots. Isa.23:15-18; Rev.18:3
 - K. The arrogance of both is contingent upon the extraordinary amounts of wealth they amass. Eze.28:4-5
 - L. The emphasis on Tyre's global association with other **merchants** (Eze.27:12-25) parallels our passage in Rev.18.
 - M. The emphasis on Tyre's **merchants** as elite and famous in the world (Isa.23:8) dovetails Rev.18:23c.
15. As there are no clear far prophetic fulfillments in the Isaiah and Ezekiel passages, Tyre would otherwise be considered a type of latter day Babylon.
16. Just as the arrogance of wealth ultimately spells doom for ancient Tyre, so it is with commercial Babylon.
17. The present tenses of the verbs "**weep and mourn**" indicates an ongoing lament the international **merchants** fall into upon recognition of U.S. demise.

18. Again, this is human viewpoint expressed as a result of STA motivation.
Cp.Rev.18:20
19. The cause of this emotional depression is specified for us in vs.11b, “**because no one buys their cargoes any more**”.
20. The present tense of the verb “**buys**” parallels their weeping and mourning indicating that the true source of their misery is monetarily driven.
21. It is not with true compassion as to concern of others that these now lament, but selfishly centered as to the impact their own businesses will now feel.
22. Their grief is destined to exist beyond the present circumstances into their future as the fact is that the demand for their goods has now become extinct.
23. Their economic future has just experienced a total crash and these face the reality of their businesses going under.
24. This is made certain as literally **no one buys their cargoes any more**.
25. That **no one** is available to purchase their goods indicates that these **merchants** are those international businessmen that have made their living off of their trade with the U.S.
26. This category of subjects would extend beyond our allies inclusive of all nations in which international business has been contracted with the U.S.
27. These corporations that have aligned themselves with the powerfully elite rich of the U.S. (vs.23) now find themselves in a position of bankruptcy.
28. That the emphasis is on buying **their cargoes** looks to the U.S. as the leading importer of foreign goods.
29. The trade deficit of our country continues to mount (estimated 2006 to top 950 billion and over 1 trillion 2007).
30. It is estimated that the U.S. imports at any given time between 20 and 75% of our consumer and producer goods.
31. Simultaneously, leading industrial and 3rd World exporting economies export between 20 and 90% of their annual physical goods to the U.S.
32. Through the influence of corporate business and corrupt politics, our country has become dependent upon foreign imports.
33. The example is seen in the oil industry where as in 1970 we produced 69% of the petroleum we consumed, the production dropped to 30% by 2002.
34. Vss.12-13 comprise a detailed list of the types of goods the U.S. is known for importing.
35. What is not to go unnoticed is that the list presents items considered to be expensive and only easily bought by the wealthy.
36. This implicitly points to the fact that the importing of goods to our nation is designed to cater to the rich and economically powerful that in essence control the world market.
37. The first 4 items emphasizes the jewelry industry defined as “**cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls**”.
38. This represents the ostentatious lifestyle of the rich and famous.
39. American’s love for “bling-bling” is prevalent and obvious.
40. The next 4 items looks to the textile and apparel industry defined as “**and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet**”.

41. This emphasizes the “Hollywood” mentality of preoccupation of how American’s use their money to dress themselves up simply to impress others around them.
42. Emphasis on the “best dressed” of society is a constant competition among Americans.
43. The next 6 items looks to the furniture, decorating, homebuilding and building goods industry, “**and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble**”.
44. “**Citron wood**” is literally a thuyine (θύϊνος – thuinis) tree native to Morocco and is the type of wood often used to make dining tables.
45. “**Ivory**” emphasizes the intricate and expensive inlays that often go into wood working products.
46. “**Very costly wood**” looks to other imported hardwoods such as mahogany, teak, rosewoods, European walnuts, ash, East Indian laurel, olive and ebony.
47. The superlative adjective “**very costly**” emphasize these woods being the most valuable and prized in the entire world.
48. The final 3 items of this list, “**bronze and iron and marble**” looks to the extraneous details one would find in an expensive home or building to include vessels and utensils designed as center pieces of building or furniture.
49. All of these items are the kind of items that one would expect to find in the multimillion dollar homes of the rich and famous.
50. This looks to the “American dream” our country so personifies and the mentality of “keeping up with the Joneses”.
51. The genitives of all of these preceding nouns is designed to note that these are general descriptions and to be viewed in an exhaustive nature.
52. Anything expensive made with these items that one would place great monetary value on would be the object at hand.
53. There is a change to the accusative case in the objects of vs.13 with the 1st 5 items listed as “**and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense**”.
54. The accusative indicates this list is not exhaustive and is definitive as to their particular roles.
55. It emphasizes those things deemed as a necessity to minimally enjoy the American lifestyle.
56. While **incense, perfume and frankincense** looks to the cosmetic industry, **cinnamon and spice** would include the pharmaceutical industry and culinary fields.
57. “**Cinnamon**” was known in the ancient world as beneficial for perfumes, **incense**, medicine and flavorings, just as spices were.
58. Again, all of these items would generally be considered expensive and a luxury.
59. The next list of 6 items looks to the agricultural and ranching markets commensurately, “**and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep**”.
60. Again, the agricultural items are considered luxury items, expensive and contrasted to the food of the common man. Cp.Rev.6:6
61. The “**cattle and sheep**” looks to that considered the best and most expensive cuts of meat available for consumption.

62. These items emphasizes the corporate takeover of our agriculture and meat markets forcing the small farmers and ranchers out of business looking to foreign soil for the best and most nutritious of these items.
63. While the U.S. is the largest producer of beef in the world, in 2001 we imported almost as much beef as we exported.
64. The next two items “**of horses and chariots**” looks to the automotive and transport industries.
65. The “**chariots/ρέδη – hrede**” are not the military **chariots** (ἄρμα – harma; cp.Rev.9:9) and refer to carriages or four-wheeled wagons.
66. Again we switch back to the genitive case and the horse and chariot are analogous to all kinds of transportation found in the last days including cars, trucks, boats, planes, motorcycles, etc.
67. The final items “**and slaves and human lives**” are considered by interpreters as a single category and would literally be translated “**and humans, even the souls of men**”.
68. That **human** life is placed at the end of this list is quite telling as it indicates value place upon the purchase of other **human lives**.
69. We might find this kind of ironic since we are known as the “land of the free”.
70. While our government appears to take a strong stand on human rights, it is largely nothing more than smoke and mirrors. Cp.Rev.18:24
71. Every time our government and corporate powers to be make a deal with predator nations like Russia, China and others, we condemn vast segments of humanity to suffer under those corrupt regimes.
72. The constant brokering and outsourcing to foreign countries places many in socialistic types of governments of laboring for minimal wages to include those that would otherwise be violating our own child labor laws.
73. Diamond mines in Africa, textile mills in China, corporate farming in Mexico, South America, etc., all have examples of using cheap peasant labor to do the back breaking and sometime dangerous work that would otherwise pay great wages in our own country.
74. Many of these countries sell our corporations their “**slave-labor**” just so the rich can get richer and make the almighty buck.
75. In so doing, we rob our own citizens of gainful employment, teach our children that hard work is passé, and develop a society that becomes more and more dependent upon big government and corporations.
76. Our pursuit of wealth and the frantic search for happiness cost many others around the world their own choice of lives as governments round them up to assist in their fornications with us.
77. While there is nothing sinful in possessing these items in and of themselves, Christ teaches the correct balance as to their pursuit. Mat.6:19-21, 24:31
78. America promotes the propaganda that to obtain these is the fulfillment of a happy life.
79. The propaganda is just that and all of the commercialism designed to stimulate the STA in this regards is only a ploy to further line the pockets of **merchants**.
80. It is the wealthy elite and powerful that is the impetus behind the spiritual deterioration of the U.S. and many other foreign entities.

EXEGESIS VERSE 14:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:14 καὶ ἡ ὀπώρα σου τῆς ἐπιθυμίας τῆς ψυχῆς ἀπῆλθεν ἀπὸ σοῦ, καὶ πάντα τὰ λιπαρὰ καὶ τὰ λαμπρὰ ἀπώλετο ἀπὸ σοῦ καὶ οὐκέτι οὐ μὴ αὐτὰ εὐρήσουσιν.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:14 "**And the fruit you long for has gone from you,** καί (cc) ἡ ὀπώρα (d.a. + n-nf-s; lit. the season of ripening fruit beginning with the rising star Sirius in July and of Arcturus thru part of Sept. That which we call the "dog days season"; "fruit/ripened fruit"; hapax; used 3x in LXX translated "summer fruit", Jer.40:10,12; 48:32) σου σύ (npg-2s; ref. Babylon) τῆς ἡ ἐπιθυμίας ἐπιθυμία (d.a. + n-gf-s; "the desire/yearning/longing for/lust"; used 38x +) τῆς ἡ ψυχῆς ψυχὴ (d.a. + n-gf-s; "of soul") ἀπῆλθεν ἀπέρχομαι (viaa--3s; "has departed/gone away from") ἀπό (pAbl) σοῦ, σύ (npAbl-2s) **and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.** καί (cc) πάντα πᾶς (a--nn-p; "all things") τὰ τό λιπαρὰ λιπαρός (d.a. + ap-nn-p; lit. fat or oily, hence; "luxurious/costly/opulent; hapax) καί (cc) τὰ τό λαμπρὰ λαμπρός (d.a. + ap-nn-p; "bright/shining/splendid/lavish") ἀπώλετο ἀπόλλυμι (viam--3s; "have themselves perished/passed away/ceased to exist") ἀπὸ ἀπό (pAbl) σοῦ σύ (npAbl-2s) καί (cc) "men" supplied οὐκέτι (adv.; "no longer") οὐ μὴ (neg. + neg. +) αὐτὰ αὐτός (npan3p; emphatic; "they themselves"; ref. citizens of Babylon) εὐρήσουσιν. εὐρίσκω (vifa--3p; "will absolutely not find them")

ANALYSIS VERSE 14:

1. Christ's narrative resuming after the words of the kings of vs.10 continues through vs.15.
2. In lieu of the residue of judgment the merchants' experience, the focus now returns to judgment upon Babylon.
3. The insertion of this verse seems contextually out of place interrupting the flow of lamenting by the merchants begun in vs.11 and re-addressed in vs.15.
4. That it is now Christ speaking and not another is seen in the force of judgment proclaimed against Babylon.
5. The judgment is 3-fold:
 - A. **And the fruit you long for has gone from you.**
 - B. **And all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you.**
 - C. **And men will no longer find them.**
6. Some interpreters point out that Christ's statement has the flavor of being very terse and emphatic having a sledge hammer effect and could be rendered:
 - A. Your **fruit**, the lust of your soul – GONE!

B. All things luxurious and splendid – DESTROYED!

C. They will no longer be found – FOREVER!

7. The placement of vs.14 is designed to grab one's attention to further contrast God's plan to the "Queen", specifically in her claims of not being susceptible to experiencing loss in vs.7, *"..I am not a widow.."*
8. It highlights her wealth as being the ultimate authority over her life as a nation, playing out her final role in history as commercial Babylon.
9. Where as her claim as a queen highlighted her arrogance of playing god contrasted to the *Lord God*, vs.14 highlights the authority of her idolatry in materialism and wealth in Satan's world in contrast to God as the ultimate provider.
10. It depicts the destruction of her spiritual authority of life rendering her as a widow contradicting her previous claim.
11. The term **"fruit/ὄπωρα – opora"** is a hapax and is further translated for us in its use in the LXX as "summer **fruit**". Jer.40:10,12; 48:32
12. It literally looks to the late summer season from July into September in which the most ripened **fruit** is found in harvest.
13. It correlates with the rising star Sirius and Arcturus and is known as the "dog days of summer".
14. Here is it symbolic for the "harvest" of an affluent society.
15. The content of the collective singular **"fruit"** harks back to the comprised commodities listed in vss.12-13.
16. As noted, these commodities represent the extravagance or "best things" found in a rich and affluent society.
17. The phrase **"you long for"** is *"σου τῆς ἐπιθυμίας τῆς ψυχῆς –sou tes epithumias tes psueches"* in the Greek literally translated "of your lust of soul".
18. Though the phrase could be understood in a non-sinful sense "the desire of heart", that judgment is in view it points to the MA sin of lust. Cp.1Joh.2:16
19. Only an omniscient Christ would have the right to read and judge the MA of Babylon.
20. This phrase indicts the U.S. in the pursuit of wealth as STA driven.
21. That it stems from the "soul" looks to their –V that caters to the STA.
22. The final phrase of the 1st clause **"has gone from you"** looks at the fact that all of the material things the U.S. has deemed so important will ultimately be stripped from her possession.
23. God in judgment upon the U.S. will separate her from all of the idols she has so zealously pursued. Cp.Rev.18:2; Isa.21:8; Jer.50:2
24. By application, this points to the fact that all who will stand in judgment before God will be void of any material accoutrements found in this world and all that will be left for evaluation is found in the soul.
25. That pursuit of the details of life is indeed highlighted is made specific in the following phrase **"and all things that were luxurious and splendid"**.
26. **"All things"** umbrellas every detail of life that one might pursue considered to bring one happiness or contentment.
27. This specifically characterizes the U.S. as materialistic oriented prevalent from the great to the small.

28. The pronominal adjectives “**luxurious**/λιπαρός – liparos” and “**splendid**/λαμπρός – lampros” have the connotations of an easy life and that which is bright or sparkling commensurately.
29. Together, these terms categorize these details as that which is excessive and opulent designed to catch one’s eyes in attention stimulating the desires of others to also possess these **things**.
30. This underlines the approbation trend found behind materialism.
31. The frantic search for happiness via the pursuit of money and details of life is simply an extension of STA lust and approbation to be noticed by others.
32. In turn, it promotes other STA tendencies such as jealousy, envy and further lust.
33. The typical thinking in America is the more, the better and the better to show off.
34. The Scripture clearly teaches against materialism and the spin off STA attitudes. Jam.4:1-3
35. Material **things** are temporal and transient destined for ultimate destruction. 1Joh.2:15-17 cp.2Pet.3:10-11
36. The verb “**have passed away**/ἀπόλλυμι – apollumi” has the force of “ceased to exist/destroyed” pointing to this very principle.
37. The fact that the U.S. has elevated materialism as their god has destined her for this particular judgment of annihilation of all her idols.
38. Restated, in such judgment, she will become spiritually “widowed”.
39. Many Americans have completely capitulated to the frantic search for happiness believing that money and the details it can buy will satisfy the soul. Cp.Mat.6:19-20
40. The average Babylonian has devoted himself to the pursuit of the details of life foolishly believing that the acquisition of things will ultimately provide happiness.
41. All that the average American has spent his life accumulating will be reduced to a pile of radioactive junk in the matter of less than a day. Jam.5:1-6
42. The final clause of vs.14 employs the strongest form of the negative in the Greek, utilizing the double negative “οὐ μή - ou me” with the negative adverb “**no longer**/οὐκέτι – ouketi”.
43. Combined with the future verb “**will find**” the force is that “absolutely forever” the pursuits of the citizens of Babylon are gone and destroyed.
44. “**No longer**” will all the gods of Babylon be found to stimulate and entice the STA on this soil.
45. This reality begs to question, “What will the Babylonian have left to lean on now?”

EXEGESIS VERSES 15 – 17A

^{GNT} Revelation 18:15 οἱ ἔμποροι τούτων οἱ πλουτήσαντες ἀπ' αὐτῆς ἀπὸ μακρόθεν στήσονται διὰ τὸν φόβον τοῦ βασιανισμοῦ αὐτῆς κλαίοντες καὶ πειθοῦντες

^{NAS} Revelation 18:15 **"The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,**
οἱ ὁ ἔμποροι ἔμπορος (d.a. + n-nm-p; "the merchants") τούτων οὗτος (near dem.pro./gn-p; "of these things"; ref. compiled listing of vss.12-13 categorized as luxurious and splendid vs.14) οἱ ὁ πλουτήσαντες πλουτέω (d.a. + adj.ptc./a/a/nm-p; "who became rich") ἀπ' ἀπό (pAbl; "from/alongside") αὐτῆς αὐτός (npAblf3s; ref. Babylon) στήσονται ἴστημι (vifm--3p; "will stand") ἀπό (pAbl) μακρόθεν (adv.; "afar/at a distance"; same construction vs.10) διὰ (pa; "because") τὸν ὁ φόβον φόβος (d.a. + n-am-s; "the fear") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nrgf3s) τοῦ ὁ βασιανισμοῦ βασιανισμός (n-gm-s; "torment/torture") κλαίοντες κλαίω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "weeping/shedding tears") καί (cc) πειθοῦντες πειθέω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "mourning/grieving")

^{GNT} Revelation 18:16 λέγοντες, Οὐαὶ οὐαὶ, ἡ πόλις ἡ μεγάλη, ἡ περιβεβλημένη βύσσινον καὶ πορφυροῦν καὶ κόκκινον καὶ κεχρυσωμένη [ἐν] χρυσίῳ καὶ λίθῳ τιμίῳ καὶ μαργαρίτῃ,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:16 **saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;**
λέγοντες, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p) Οὐαὶ οὐαὶ, (part. + part. of interjection; "How Horrible") ἡ μεγάλη, μέγας (d.a. + a--vf-s; "the great") ἡ πόλις (d.a. + n-vf-s; "city") ἡ περιβεβλημένη περιβάλλω (d.a. governs both ptc. + adj.ptc./PF/m/vf2s; "she who clothed herself") βύσσινον βύσσινος (ap-an-s; "with fine linen garment") καί (cc) πορφυροῦν πορφυροῦς (ap-an-s; "purple") καί (cc) κόκκινον κόκκινος (ap-an-s; "scarlet") καί (cc) κεχρυσωμένη χρυσόω (adj.ptc./PF/p/vf2s; "having been adorned/gilded/overlaid") ἐν (pI) χρυσίῳ χρυσίον (n-Im-s; "gold") καί (cc) τιμίῳ τιμίος (a--Im-s; "precious/valuable") λίθῳ λίθος (n-Im-s; "stone") καί (cc) μαργαρίτῃ μαργαρίτης (n-Im-s; "pearl")

GNT Revelation 18:17a ὅτι μιᾷ ὥρᾳ ἡρημώθη ὁ τοσοῦτος πλοῦτος.

NAS Revelation 18:17a **for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!** ὅτι (causal conj.; explains the woes) μιᾷ εἴς (card.adj./df-s; "one") ὥρᾳ ὥρᾳ (n-df-s; "hour") ὁ τοσοῦτος (d.a. + a-dnm-s; "such a great amount") πλοῦτος. (n-nm-s; "wealth/riches") ἡρημώθη ἐρημόω (viap--3s; "has been made desolate/devastated/laid waste"; same as 17:16)

ANALYSIS VERSES 15 – 17A:

1. Christ now returns to addressing the international businessmen of vs.11.
2. As with their political counterparts of vss.9-10, a snapshot is provided displaying their cautious demeanor and emotional disposition of reaction to the destruction of the U.S.
3. Whereas vs.11 portrayed an overview of the ultimate financial devastation these face, vs.15 looks to their immediate reactions, **“The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning”**.
4. The phrase **“these things”** looks to all of the import items these businesses have supplied the U.S. over time.
5. That these **became rich from her** categorizes these **merchants** as the financial tycoons of the international economic community.
6. It further implies the immense financial prosperity the U.S. possesses to **her** very demise.
7. As with all 3 categories of subjects addressed in this passage, these too will keep their **distance because of the fear of her torment**.
8. Vs.8 described **her torment** as a fiery destruction with accompanying plagues.
9. As we know, this is the result of a nuclear incineration and its residue fallout.
10. The U.S. becomes a nuclear desert and will not be approached or inhabited by anyone from that time forward. Isa.13:20; 14:22-23; Jer.50:3,39,40; 51:26,37,43
11. That which instills their **fear** is obviously the potential of radioactive contamination that would be assured if they got to close.
12. The participles **“weeping and mourning”** that parallels their remaining aloof geographically, is the initial emotional reaction upon seeing **her torment**.
13. They recognize that due to the nature of Babylon’s destruction, there is absolutely no recourse to alleviate or recuperate the economic loss they now face.
14. Vss.16-17a provides us the words of their lamenting **“saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’”**
15. As with the kings of vs.9, the double **“woe”** has the connotation of how unbelievably horrible the whole event is perceived by the **merchants**.
16. Again, this is human viewpoint stemming from the fact that these are –V having pursued a relationship with the U.S. based on STA monetary and power grids. Cp.Rev.18:20

17. That she is only referred to as “**the great city**” by the **merchants** (cp’d. to both *great and strong* by the kings vs.9) focuses strictly on the U.S. as the financial hub of the international economy.
18. While NYC represents the financial center of our universe, it is clear that the whole nation is destroyed.
19. Their reminiscing of **her** appearance has a two-fold emphasis of both physical and spiritual realities; what the **merchants** perceive and how the U.S. perceives itself.
20. The perfect middle participle of “having **clothed** herself” emphasizes the absolute monetarily driven nature of the U.S.
21. The list of articles that accompanies her appearance obviously looks to the opulent wealth she possesses.
22. The “**fine linen**” looks to the best of garment used to dress oneself (cp.vs.12).
23. The colors “**purple and scarlet**”, as with the woman of chapter 17:4, is analogous to colors worn by royalty.
24. This characterizes the U.S. as presenting herself to the world as the wealthy elite of the world paralleling that of kings and queens.
25. And so are we perceived by the industrial world that makes their living from us.
26. This again fits the “Queen” motif earlier ascribed to Babylon in 18:7.
27. The perfect passive participle “having been **adorned**” looks to the influence of outside agents (the exporters) upon the U.S. in establishing this wealthy appearance.
28. The term “**adorned**/χρυσόω - chrusoo” literally means to guild, overlay or make with **precious** metals and gems.
29. It is the same process by which much of the furniture was made for the Tabernacle. LXX - Exo.25:10-11; 26:32,37, etc.
30. It highlights that which is made to represent the worship of God.
31. That the U.S. has been gilded **with gold and precious stones and pearls** is analogous to her having been made into an idol by the **merchants**.
32. The irony here can’t be missed: the import items from the **merchants** are the gods of the U.S., while the U.S. with its wealth becomes a god to the **merchants**.
33. The final clause of their lament then explains specifically that the double woes are strictly based on economics and that **such great wealth has been** made desolate.
34. This in contrast to the kings that look to our demise as a judgment or condemnation. Vs.10
35. This is the second of 3x that we are told that the U.S. will be destroyed in a literal **one hour** of a day. Rev.18:10,17,19 cf. 18:8

EXEGESIS VERSES 17B – 19:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:17b Καὶ πᾶς κυβερνήτης καὶ πᾶς ὁ ἐπὶ τόπον πλέων καὶ ναῦται καὶ ὅσοι τὴν θάλασσαν ἐργάζονται, ἀπὸ μακρόθεν ἕστησαν

^{NAS} Revelation 18:17b **And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,** *Καί (cc) πᾶς (a--nm-s; "every") κυβερνήτης (n-nm-s; "helmsman/pilot/captain/shipmaster"; used 2x, Act.27:11 cp. use to "owner of the ship" ναύκληρος - naukleros" translated "captain" in NAS; translated pilots in LXX, Eze.17:8,27,28) καί (cc) πᾶς (a--nm-s) ἐπί (pa; "upon/on" +) τόπον τόπος (n-am-s; "a place"; contextually the port of embarkment) ὁ πλέων πλέω (d.a. + subs.ptc./p/a/nm-s; "the one sailing"; hence "passenger/seafarer/voyager") καί (cc) ναῦται ναύτης (n-nm-p; "sailor/seaman/worker on a ship"; used 3x, Act.27:27,30) καί (cc) ὅσοι ὅσος (correlative pro./nm-p; "as many as") ἐργάζονται, ἐργάζομαι (vipd--3p; "keep on working") τὴν ἢ θάλασσαν θάλασσα (d.a. + n-af-s; "the sea"; hence, make a living by the sea) ἕστησαν ἵστημι (viaa--3p; "stood") ἀπὸ (pAbl) μακρόθεν (adv. "afar/distance")*

^{GNT} Revelation 18:18 καὶ ἔκραζον βλέποντες τὸν καπνὸν τῆς πυρώσεως αὐτῆς λέγοντες, Τίς ὁμοία τῇ πόλει τῇ μεγάλῃ;

^{NAS} Revelation 18:18 **and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'** *καί (cc) ἔκραζον κράζω (viIPFa--3p; "they were crying out loudly") βλέποντες βλέπω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "as they saw/after seeing") τὸν ὁ καπνὸν καπνός (d.a. + n-am-s; "the smoke") αὐτῆς αὐτός (nprgf3s; ref. Babylon) τῆς ἢ πυρώσεως πύρωσις (d.a. + n-gf-s; "burning"; same as 18:9) λέγοντες, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p) Τίς (interr. pro./nf-s; "What?") ὁμοία ὁμοιος (a--nf-s; "is like/similar to") τῇ ἢ μεγάλῃ; μέγας (d.a. + a--df-s; "the great") τῇ ἢ πόλει πόλις (d.a. + n-df-s; "city")*

^{GNT} Revelation 18:19 καὶ ἔβαλον χοῦν ἐπὶ τὰς κεφαλὰς αὐτῶν καὶ ἔκραζον κλαίοντες καὶ πενθοῦντες λέγοντες, Οὐαὶ οὐαὶ, ἢ πόλις ἢ μεγάλη, ἐν ἣ ἐπλούτησαν πάντες οἱ ἔχοντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐν τῇ θαλάσῃ ἐκ τῆς τιμιότητος αὐτῆς, ὅτι μιᾷ ὥρᾳ ἠρημώθη.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:19 "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, *καί (cc) ἔβαλον βάλλω (viaa--3p; "they cast/threw") χοῦν χοῦς (n-am-s; "dust/soil/loose dirt"; used 2x; Mar.6:11) ἐπί (pa; "upon/over") αὐτῶν αὐτός (nrgm3p) τὰς ἢ κεφαλάς κεφαλή (d.a. + n-af-p; "heads") καί (cc) ἔκραζον κράζω (viIPFa--3p; "were crying out") κλαίοντες κλαίω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "weeping/crying") καί (cc) πενθοῦντες πενθέω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "mourning/grieving") λέγοντες, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-p) 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!' Οὐαί (part. interj. +) οὐαί, (part. interj.) ἡ μεγάλη, μέγας (d.a. + a--vf-s; "the great") ἡ πόλις (d.a. + n-vf-s; "city") ἐν (pL) ἧ ὅς (rel.pro./Lf-s; "which") πάντες πᾶς (a--nm-p) οἱ ὁ ἔχοντες ἔχω (d.a. + subs.ptc./p/a/nm-p; "the one's having"; this looks to ship owners) τὰ τό πλοῖα πλοῖον (d.a. + n-an-p; "boats/ships") ἐν (pL) τῇ ἡ θαλάσση θάλασσα (d.a. + n-Lf-s; "the sea") ἐπλούτησαν πλουτέω (viaa--3p; "became rich") ἐκ (pAbl) αὐτῆς, αὐτός (nrgf3s) τῆς ἢ τιμιότητος τιμιότης (d.a. + n-Ablf-s; "wealth/abundant goods/that which is valuable"; hapax) ὅτι (causal conj.; explains the double woes) μιᾶ εἰς (card. adj./df-s) ὥρα ὥρα (n-df-s; "hour") ἠρημώθη. ἐρημώω (viap--3s; "she has been laid waste/made a wasteland/destroyed")*

ANALYSIS VERSES 17B – 19:

1. Vs.17b now introduces us to the final category of foreign peoples bemoaning the destruction of the U.S., “**and every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea**”.
2. This is the most extensive list in the 3 categories of lameners and pinpoints the maritime trade as the catalyst for their existence.
3. While the text limits us in this respect, it must be remembered that boat travel in the ancient world was essentially the most advanced, fastest and preferred method of travel for long distance.
4. John is limited to expressing travel to that which he was familiar.
5. The maritime trade is used here to highlight the international travel and associations of foreign others with the U.S.
6. Therefore, in modern times we would not exclude the airline industry as applicable to this whole scenario.
7. The list is comprised of four distinct groups:
 - A. The **shipmaster** that commands or pilots the ship.
 - B. The **passenger**.
 - C. The **sailor**.
 - D. **And** those that **make their living by the sea**.

8. In summary, the culmination of the list would include the international travel, shipping and maritime industries.
9. The term “**shipmaster**/κυβερνήτης – kubernetes” is to be differentiated from the ship owner (cp.Act.27:11 ναύκληρος – naukleros/shipowner/*captain* cp. to “*pilot*” [our word]).
10. This looks to the professionals, usually very well paid, licensed and trained to commandeer the vehicle and navigate accordingly.
11. Today it would be inclusive of ship commanders, airline pilots and co-pilots and other navigation type officers directly responsible for a safe departure and arrival of an overseas travel vessel.
12. The phrase “**every passenger**” is literally “each upon a place the one sailing” and defines those found at a “port of call” for the purpose of traveling.
13. This highlights the tourism industry, as well as jetsetters and foreign business dignitaries that make the U.S. a habitual place of destination.
14. The U.S. is unsurpassed as a prime location of destination for foreign nationals both for recreation and business purposes.
15. The U.S. Office of Travel and Tourism Industries reported 9 million international visitors in the first quarter alone of this year 2006 and some 49.4 million in 2005.
16. The 3rd term “**sailor**” then highlights those generally associated and directly affiliated with the onboard operation of the vessel used.
17. It would include deckhands, stewards, engineers, electricians, machinists and other mechanics, cooks, etc.
18. The final category “**as many as make their living by the sea**” is even more general and would encompass all other employees whose job is associated with the travel industry at further levels.
19. This would include those that work at seaports, airports, agents, hotels, motels, etc., as well as literal fishermen that capitalize in importing to the U.S.
20. The common denominator behind all categories is a direct affiliation with the U.S. as an economic means for employment and or recreational and other business purposes.
21. This particular group is set apart from the previous merchants in that they corporately represent the one single industry that reflects the state of global economy.
22. In the world of economics, passenger and freight travel is a measuring indicator as to global economic activity. Ref. the International Air Transport Association (IATA)
23. What is made clear in our verse is that it is the U.S. and its economic state that directly affects the global economy.
24. As with the political leaders (kings) and merchants, these too “**stood at a distance**” in order to avoid radioactive contamination.
25. And too, they will observe the mushroom clouds affect in lament “**and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’**”
26. Their question is rhetorical expecting a negative answer.
27. Their reference to “**the great city**” again looks to the economic affluence as characterized by NYC.
28. Not only is NYC considered the financial hub of the U.S. but as the “Big Apple” it represents the entertainment market of our country.

29. Where else and in what nation can one find an equal for opportunity in providing a luxurious and opulent lifestyle on a global basis, is the force behind their question.
30. In vs.19, we see an extension of their grief expressed symbolically, “**And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning**”.
31. In the OT, the activity of throwing **dust on** one’s head was designed to demonstrate extreme grief and/or suffering. Jos.7:6; Job 2:12
32. The question that is begged here is why these relate a suffering even beyond that attributed to the kings and merchants.
33. The answer is seen in the characterization of this particular list and inferred in their words of lament as they are **saying, “Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!”**
34. Again, the double **woe** looks to the horrific calamity they perceive the U.S. has experienced.
35. And again, the reference to “**the great city**” looks to the affluent power behind the U.S.
36. It is the prepositional phrase “**in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth**” that directs us to the reason of why these are seen grieving to such extent.
37. Their lament is now directed to the owners of the **ships** of whom those in this list are employed and/or associated.
38. The phrase, “**became rich by her wealth**” categorizes the ship-owners with the wealthy elite merchants previously categorized. Cp.Rev.18:3,11,15
39. The extent of these in their grief is found in the domino affect that the destruction of the U.S. has on global industry.
40. While the merchants bemoan their future fate, they at the present are still “**rich**”.
41. As for the professionals, employees and others that depend upon them for their livelihood, their prospect is bleaker.
42. For these, many, if not most, will now face potential unemployment and beyond any personal savings, may find themselves as destitute.
43. This final group serves to represent all lay-workers that have become dependent upon the U.S. sponsored international corporations for their employment and livelihood.
44. And it will be the travel or maritime industry that will be hardest hit in this field.
45. For the third and final time, these decry the fact that it is in **one** literal **hour** of **one** day that this catastrophe comes to fruition.
46. The kings, merchants and maritime/travel interests are all suddenly sent into shock indicating that this event was completely unexpected.
47. This would not be the case if a third of the marine interests had been destroyed previous to the destruction of the U.S. Rev.8:9
48. This points to the fact that the U.S. is the catalyst for the first 4 trumpet judgments.
49. The global impact that will be felt from the destruction of the U.S. is unequalled in history.
50. Our nation will stand as a memorial to the spiritual desert the world has become as she becomes a literal desert, depopulated and ultimately the home of the most mournful of creatures. Isa.13:22; Jer.50:39; 51:37

EXEGESIS VERSE 20:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:20 Εὐφραίνου ἐπ' αὐτῇ, οὐρανὲ καὶ οἱ ἅγιοι καὶ οἱ ἀπόστολοι καὶ οἱ προφήται, ὅτι ἔκρινεν ὁ θεὸς τὸ κρίμα ὑμῶν ἐξ αὐτῆς.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:20 **"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets,** *Εὐφραίνου εὐφραίνω (vImprrp--2s; "Rejoice/make merry/celebrate/party"; same as 11:10; 12:12) ἐπ' ἐπί (pL) αὐτῇ, αὐτός (npLf3s; ref. Babylon) οὐρανὲ οὐρανός (n-vm-s; "O heaven") καί (cc) οἱ ὁ ἅγιοι ἅγιος (d.a. + ap-v or nm-p; "O saints") καί (cc) οἱ ὁ ἀπόστολοι ἀπόστολος (d.a. + n-v or nm-p; "apostles") καί (cc) οἱ ὁ προφήται, προφήτης (d.a. + n-v or nm-p; "prophets") **because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."** *ὅτι (causal conj.) ὁ θεός (d.a. + n-nm-s) ἔκρινεν κρίνω (viaa--3s; lit. divide out or separate; "judged/critiqued/determined/decided" in a legal sense) τὸ κρίμα (d.a. + n-an-s; "the judgment/verdict"; lit. "has judged the judgment") ὑμῶν σύ (npl-2p; "for you") ἐξ ἐκ (pAbl; "against"; has the sense of "extracted from") αὐτῆς. αὐτός (npgf3s; the entire clause has the force of God avenging the aforementioned believers extracting that vengeance from Babylon)**

ANALYSIS VERSE 20:

1. Many interpreters now recognize that vs.20 seems to contain an “abrupt interjection” highlighted in the opening imperatival clause, “**Rejoice over her**”.
2. Others further suggest that the verse seems out of place in a context focusing on the effects of the destruction of Babylon on her followers.
3. Most recognize that the purpose of the verse is to produce a stunning effect by introducing the contrasting Divine viewpoint in the face of the human viewpoint responses to the fall of Babylon.
4. As we have noted, this is actually the 3rd time that a contrast has been inserted with the first two contrasting the claims of Babylon:
 - A. Her claim as a Queen contrasted to the Lord God as the true Sovereign (vss.7,8).
 - B. Her claim of never experiencing loss (vs.7) to Christ claim of her losing everything, gone, destroyed, forever (vs.14).
5. The command to **Rejoice** now takes on a two-fold emphasis of contrast:
 - A. It completes the contrast to the Queen’s claim of never seeing mourning (vs.7).
 - B. It is contrasted to the mourning of her followers (vs.9,11,15,19).
6. The contrast overall is designed to hammer home a very important spiritual principle i.e., what constitutes true joy.
7. Our verse is first contrasted to Babylon’s claims and then the reality of her **judgment**.
8. As vs.8 made clear, the inhabitants of Babylon will experience their own mourning upon her demise and cataclysmic **judgment**.

9. Yet she implies that her existence and life in general is one of happiness and joy denying that mourning will ever exist (vs.7).
10. Vs.20 is therefore designed to contrast Babylon's perception of happiness to the true happiness as sponsored by God.
11. In contrast to the human viewpoint reasoning of Babylon that wealth and the pursuit of the details of life is the source of joy, it is exposed as temporal and that which will ultimately bring about her **judgment**
12. This in contrast to true joy that comes from God in one's alignment to the POG and its ultimate vindication.
13. That the temporal and transient nature of Babylon's joy has been made explicit is seen in the mourning of her followers upon the destruction of her wealth.
14. They prove that there is no true happiness in this ideology as they decry their fate based strictly on the financial impact and pursuit of pleasure they will suffer in loss.
15. And again they are contrasted to the Divine viewpoint that supersedes the physical of life bringing about true joy and happiness through the fulfillment of God's plan.
16. The verb "**rejoice**/εὐφραίνω – euphraino" is the same verb used in the worlds reaction to the death of the two witnesses (Rev.11:10) and in command to the inhabitants in **heaven** upon the expulsion of Satan permanently from **heaven** (Rev.12:12).
17. It has the nuance to celebrate or have a party expressing one's emotions of happiness outwardly and ecstatically.
18. As with the event of Rev.12:12, the command indicates a decisive blow to Satan's world and implicitly supports our model of the fall of Satan occurring commensurate with the fall of Babylon.
19. That the celebration is commanded to be "**over her**" looks to the fall of Babylon as the catalyst for stimulating one's joy.
20. As one commentary notes, there are echoes of the OT demand for jubilation at God's eschatological acts of **judgment**. Deu.32:43; Isa.44:23; 49:13; Psa.96:11-13
21. As is noted in the contrast of this verse, the emotional responses of those that are +V compared to those –V can be polar opposites.
22. The reality is that one's world view dramatically shapes how one feels in terms of what happens.
23. There are only two dominant worldviews to embrace; the humanistic worldview or the Bible doctrine/Divine view.
24. The 1st does not accept the concept of the A/C, and talk of Satan, demons and spiritual warfare as to the effect of the world is considered spurious or nonsense at worse.
25. The Divine viewpoint is based on the reality of the A/C with the revelation of the Scripture asserting that two invisible spiritual kingdoms exist and are continually at war and odds with one another. Eph.5:12
26. Further, the Bible makes clear that those operating under human viewpoint are already deceived with hearts and minds blinded by the invisible enemy they disregard or do not believe exists. 2Cor.4:3-4; Act.26:18
27. Given these realities, we can understand the emotional responses of the –V and hostile to the truth being in complete antithesis to +V seekers understanding and orienting to BD.

28. We are next introduced to the subjects commanded to celebrate opening with the vocative case of address “**O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets**”.
29. The recipients of address are to be viewed from the chronological perspective of Babylon’s demise during Daniel’s 70th week.
30. The first noun “**heaven**” without the definite article contextually refers to the 3rd **heaven** pointing to that aspect of the kingdom of God in which the remaining particular subjects are then residing.
31. Without the definite article, this vocative best functions in general apposition to the 3 following articular nouns that should be parsed in the nominative case as **saints, apostles and prophets**. *A.T. Robertson, A Grammar of the Greek New Testament, pgs. 461,464,786*
32. In other words, the noun **heaven** serves as an epithet (descriptive word) highlighting the domain of the following subjects and could be translated “**you heavenly saints and apostles and prophets**”. *Like someone might address us corporately first as a church and then the individual members of it.*
33. The 3 subjects are designed to corporately identify all believers that have died and residing in **heaven** most specifically believers in the Age of Israel and Church Age.
 - A. The term **saints** is inclusive of all lay-believers living during these times.
 - B. The term **apostles** looks to the 12 that represent the primary communicators establishing the C/A.
 - C. The term **prophets** contextually then best fits those primary communicators in the Age of Israel responsible for articulating the POG including those that may have already died in Daniel’s 70th week.
34. That these believers are commanded to celebrate emphasizes their persons historically as the primary recipients of all of the evil and persecution that the Babylonian system has dishied out.
35. With the destruction of religious Babylon preceding and now the destruction of political Babylon, both arms of the Babylonian system has now been destroyed.
36. The Babylonian system both politically and religiously first re-emerges after operation Tower of Babel as a notable world power beginning with:
 - A. Egypt (the prophet Moses and the Exodus).
 - B. Through the time of Rome (the 12 **apostles** and the Church).
 - C. And is finished in its latter day form of Roman Catholicism and the U.S.
37. It has been this Satanic system of a one-world religious/political system that has been the primary reason for a world-wide persecution of believers in these two dispensations of history.
38. With the destruction of commercial Babylon, it is now time for all believers that had endured life under this world regime to throw a party on behalf of **God** for their ultimate vindication.
39. This is the force of the final causal clause behind the celebration, “**because God has pronounced judgment for you against her**”.
40. The phrase “**pronounced judgment**” is literally “judged the **judgment**” indicating **God** historically has now determined to sentence Babylon for **her** evil.
41. The final phrase “**against her**” has the nuance of the **judgment extracted from her** via **her** destruction.

42. That it is on behalf of these believers, the entire phrase is understood that “**God** judged **her for her** condemnation of **you**”.
43. In this regard, **God** has vindicated His people by demonstrating that they were in the right and the verdict passed by the negative world against them was wrong.
44. For those **saints** who remain alive post-Babylon destroyed, their celebration will wait until the return of Christ, the destruction of Antichrist and the false prophet and will be part of an earthly scenario.
45. The rejoicing is based upon the fact of God’s fulfillment of plan in this regard and diminishes any suggestion that the rejoicing is glee and happiness over the death and destruction of others.
46. Vs.20 brackets the end of Christ speaking and the second section of chapter 18 beginning vs.4 with the first command to vacate Babylon.

EXEGESIS VERSES 21 – 23A:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:21 Καὶ ἦρεν εἷς ἄγγελος ἰσχυρὸς λίθον ὡς μύλινον μέγαν καὶ ἔβαλεν εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν λέγων, Οὕτως ὀρμήματι βληθήσεται Βαβυλῶν ἡ μεγάλη πόλις καὶ οὐ μὴ εὑρεθῆ ἔτι.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:21 **And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,** *Καί (cc) εἷς (card. adj./nm-s; here used as an indefinite article rather than numeral; "a") ἰσχυρὸς (a--nm-s; "strong/mighty/powerful") ἄγγελος (n-nm-s) ἦρεν ἀΐρω (viaa--3s; "lifted up/raised up/picked up/took up") λίθον λίθος (n-am-s; "a stone") ὡς (compara. conj. ; "like/as it were") μέγαν μέγας (a--am-s) μύλινον μύλιος (ap-am-s; late adjective; hapax; "made of millstone"; derivative of μύλος - mulos cp. Mat.18:6; not μυλικός - mulikos, belonging to a mill cp. Luk.17:2; not a small millstone, but a large one necessary for a donkey to move it) καί (cc) ἔβαλεν βάλλω (viaa--3sl; "threw it/cast") εἰς (pa) τὴν ἢ θάλασσαν θάλασσα (d.a. + n-af-s; "the sea") λέγων, λέγω (circ.ptc./p/a/nm-s) **"Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.** Οὕτως (adv.; "thus/in this way") Βαβυλῶν (n-nf-s) ἡ μεγάλη μέγας (d.a. + a--nf-s; "the great") πόλις (n-nf-s; "city") βληθήσεται βάλλω (vifp-3s; "will be cast/thrown down") ὀρμήματι ὄρμημα (n-In-s; instrumental of manner; "with a rush/violent impulse"; hapax) καί (ch) οὐ μὴ (neg. + neg. +) εὑρεθῆ εὑρίσκω (vsap--3s; "might not be found") ἔτι. (adv.; "longer/yet/again")*

^{GNT} Revelation 18:22 καὶ φωνὴ κιθαρῳδῶν καὶ μουσικῶν καὶ αὐλητῶν καὶ σαλπιστῶν οὐ μὴ ἀκουσθῆ ἐν σοὶ ἔτι, καὶ πᾶς τεχνίτης πάσης τέχνης οὐ μὴ εὑρεθῆ ἐν σοὶ ἔτι, καὶ φωνὴ μύλου οὐ μὴ ἀκουσθῆ ἐν σοὶ ἔτι,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:22 **"And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer;** *καί (cc) φωνή (n-nf-s; "the sound") κιθαρῳδῶν κιθαρῳδός (n-gm-p; "harpist/lyre player/stringed instrument player"; same as 14:2) καί (cc) μουσικῶν μουσικός (ap-gm-p; "musicians/one skilled in music"; hapax) καί (cc) αὐλητῶν αὐλητής (n-gm-p; "flute-players"; 2x, Mat.9:23) καί (cc) σαλπιστῶν σαλπιστής (n-gm-p; "trumpeters"; hapax) οὐ μὴ (neg. + neg. +) ἀκουσθῆ ἀκούω (vsap--3s; "might not be heard") ἐν (pL) σοὶ σύ (npL-2s; ref. Babylon) ἔτι, (adv.; "any longer") **and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any***

longer; *καί (cc) πᾶς (a--nm-s; "each") τεχνίτης (n-nm-s; "craftsman/ artisan/architect or designer") πάσης πᾶς (a--gf -s; "of every") τέχνης τέχνη (n-gf-s; "craft/trade/skill") οὐ μή (neg. + neg. +) εὑρεθῆ εὑρίσκω (vsap--3s; "might not be found") ἐν (pL) σοὶ σύ(npL-2s; ref. Babylon) ἔτι, (adv.; "any longer") **and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;** *καί (cc) φωνή φωνή (n-nf-s) μύλου μύλος (n-gm-s; "of a mill/industry") οὐ μή (neg. + neg. +) ἀκουσθῆ ἀκούω (vsap--3s;l "might not be heard") ἐν (pL) σοὶ σύ (npd-2s) ἔτι, (adv.; "any longer")**

^{GNT} Revelation 18:23a καὶ φῶς λύχνου οὐ μὴ φάνη ἐν σοὶ ἔτι, καὶ φωνὴ νυμφίου καὶ νύμφης οὐ μὴ ἀκουσθῆ ἐν σοὶ ἔτι.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:23a **and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer;** *καί (cc) φῶς (n-nn-s; "light") λύχνου λύχνος (n-gm-s; "of a lamp") οὐ μὴ (neg. + neg. +) φάνη φαίνω (vsaa--3s; "might not shine/give light") ἐν (pL) σοὶ σύ (npL-2s; ref. Babylon) ἔτι, (adv.; "any longer") **and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer;** *καί (cc) φωνή (n-nf-s) νυμφίου νυμφίος (n-gm-s; "of a bridegroom") καὶ (cc) νύμφης νύμφη (n-gf-s; "bride") οὐ μὴ (neg. + neg. +) ἀκουσθῆ ἀκούω (vsap--3s; "might not be heard") ἐν (pL) σοὶ σύ (npL-2s) ἔτι. (adv.; "any longer")**

ANALYSIS VERSES 21 – 23A:

1. Vss.21-24 concludes the narrative concerning the destruction of Babylon.
2. There is a definite change of speaker and these verses constitute a 3rd distinct section of narrative in chapter 18.
3. The placement of the event described in our verses falls back chronologically before Babylon's destruction as seen in the future tense of the verb "**will be thrown down**" describing the destruction of Babylon in vs.21b.
4. It appears that this event occurs sometime after or commensurate with the 1st angelic messenger proclaiming the fall of Babylon introduced in vss.1-3.
5. As with the 1st **angel**, the event will occur literally and is further designed as a warning to the inhabitants of Babylon of her impending judgment.
6. The actions of the **angel** now in view are designed to be symbolic, while his message interprets its meaning.
7. As we will see, his actions symbolize the sudden nature of Babylon's disappearance in history with a violent end and the fact that her fall is permanent, never to rise again.

8. That our **angel** is differentiated from the one of vss.1-3 is seen in his attribute of extreme power, “**And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea**”.
9. This is the 3rd time in Revelation we have been introduced to an **angel** of such strength (Rev.5:2; 10:1) and like the others his identity is omitted.
10. He uses an object lesson to illustrate the nature of Babylon’s destruction by literally lifting up a boulder type rock **like a great millstone** and with force casts or “spikes” **it into the sea**.
11. The definite article with the noun **sea** indicates a specific sea in view.
12. Further, it implicitly recognizes that the body of water is within range to throw this object down into the water in a violent fashion.
13. That which characterizes the object is described by that made of a **great millstone**/μύλινος –mulinos”.
14. This old adjective is a derivative of μύλος – mulos indicating heavy and large cut stones used in a mill designed to grind grains, etc., into meal or flour.
15. Some were of such size and weight it required a beast of burden to move the upper (runner) **millstone** by turning the grind.
16. Others were small enough to be human powered as recognized in the LXX. Exo.11:5; Num.11:8; Judg.9:53; etc.
17. Even the small ones were of such weight they could easily drown someone bound to the **stone**. Mat.18:6 cp.Luk.17:2 (both mulos and mulikos – μυλικός [hand-mill] are used.
18. The actual **stone** the **angel** picks up is described by the use of simile to a **great millstone** as seen in the comparative conjunction “**like**”.
19. The adjective **great** renders this **millstone** as very heavy and large in size.
20. The **stone** is not actually a **millstone** but obviously has the same characteristics of a man-made implement of rock, very heavy and designed to execute another purpose for which it was made.
21. After the **angel** throws this object **into the sea**, he immediately begins to interpret the symbolism of the object and his actions **saying, “Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence”**.
22. That the **angel** just doesn’t toss or lob the object into the ocean is made clear as his actions illustrate a throwing that is downward **with violence**; a throw that slams the object into the water.
23. The future passive indicative of the verb “**be thrown down**/βάλλω – ballo” indicates with certainty, an outside agent will take **down Babylon** in destruction.
24. Some suggest that the message precedes the angel’s actions here, but the aorist tense of the previous use of “ballo” indicates the action occurred in its entirety first, and then the message.
25. The **stone** obviously represents **Babylon**, but it is the following phrase “**the great city**” that gives us a clue as to identifying the object in view.
26. As we have noted, **the great city** is none other than NYC representing the U.S. by metonymy or synecdoche in the form of a city/state.
27. That **Babylon** as a nation is again directly associated with **the great city** in context indicates that the object in view has a direct association with NYC as well as easily recognized in association with our nation.

28. The most viable candidate that would serve as our object is none other than the Statue of Liberty.
29. This colossus was given to the U.S. by the French in 1886 as a memorial to the U.S. as representation of “Liberty Enlightening the World” (its official name).
30. The French sculptor, Bartholdi, patterned the statue after the Roman goddess Libertas.
31. Her crown and diadems do well to characterize the U.S. in her claims of being a “Queen”. Rev.18:6
32. It is located on Liberty Island/Ellis Island in the New York harbor bay of the Atlantic Ocean making this body of water easily accessible for the **angel** in slamming it down right where she sits.
33. While the statue is made of copper, it is its pedestal or base that is obviously in view likened to **a great millstone**.
34. The building of its pedestal was completely funded by the U.S. and serves the purpose of providing anchorage and foundation for the statue.
35. While the statue is some 151 ft. tall, the pedestal itself is 89 ft. high and together with the foundation extends to ~141 ft.
36. The foundation alone required 24,000 tons of concrete and sits in Fort Wood in the center of its 11-pointed-starshaped walls which are circular in form.
37. This would satisfy the **millstone** appearance.



38. Other symbolic meanings attached to the statue include:
 - A. The statue is a symbol of immigrant dreams that will cease with the command to vacate. Jer.50:8,16,28; 51:6,9,44
 - B. The crown has 7 spikes and 25 windows. The spikes represent the 7 major seas and seven major continents. Rev.18:3
 - C. The windows represent the total number seas and continents in the world. Rev.18:11,17
 - D. The spikes also represent heaven's rays shining over the world; the torch represents lighting the way to freedom. Isa.13:19a; Jer.51:7
 - E. In her left hand she holds a tablet dated July, 4, 1776, commemorating the day the Declaration of Independence was signed.
 - F. Her robe is the representation of law and order. Isa.47:6,10
 - G. Her broken shackles show the breaking away from tyranny with her upraised foot leading the way to freedom. Jer.50:23-24; 51:25
39. As can be seen, the statue emulates our nation's goal of spreading world wide democracy in the name of freedom.
40. Interpreters further see an allusion here to the similar, but not identical, prophetic teaching in Jer.51:63-64.
41. The permanency of Babylon's fall is then iterated in the final clause of vs.21, "**and will not be found any longer**".
42. This clause is the beginning of a series of six clauses that state emphatically the finality of Babylon's existence.
43. Each clause in turn employs 6x the double negative "ού μή - ou me" followed with the adverb "ετι - eti" having the force of absolutely "**no longer/never again**".
44. Our first clause is designed to illustrate the complete demise of the infrastructure or foundation of **Babylon** as its disappearance is immediately associated with "**the great city/NYC**".
45. This would highlight the financial, military and political structure of our nation.
46. It has been suggested that since **the great city** is highlighted in connection with this first negative clause that implicitly it indicates that NYC/Manhattan Island will be obliterated into oblivion and literally disappear under the water.
47. As we know, at least the remainder of the mainland will survive as a continent as wild animals and beasts will occupy its environs. Jer.50:39
48. The remaining 5 clauses of verses 22 – 23a then deal with absolute destruction of the very fabrics that make up a society.
49. These clauses are designed to illustrate the absolute depopulation of American citizens and commerce via its destruction.
50. The genitive descriptive nouns used to define these segments of society are not exclusive and are designed to describe in the broadest way the subjects or objects in view.
51. Further, the subjunctive moods of the verbs, "**found, heard, and shine**" used throughout these clause indicates that there is absolutely **no** "potential" of these things ever reemerging on this continent.
52. The second clause "**And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer**" points to the music industry.
53. It is widely recognized that music is an important force in all world cultures.

54. It plays a major role in cultural ceremonies, communicates the beauty, traditions, ideals and issues of a culture and is a forming part of the fabric of society itself.
55. Our group of sounds that will never again be heard is inclusive of strings, brass, woodwinds, singers, etc.
56. While music is here emphasized, it implicitly recognizes other aspects that make up the entertainment of society such as movies, plays, the arts, dance, sports, etc.
57. That music is listed first in describing the society of **Babylon** is very apropos as the U.S. has long been recognized as the music and entertainment capital of the world.
58. The 3rd grouping points to the entrepreneurship of our nation “**and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer**”.
59. The **craftsman** is any skilled workman, artisan, architect, etc.
60. This points to our country as the home of capitalism in which it is known as providing opportunity for all to be successful in whatever field they choose to pursue.
61. We are the land of opportunity and our advances in technology, medicine, modern inventions, etc., are evidence of the mass of potential profiteers that exist in our land.
62. The backbone of our capitalistic society **will** be completely decimated.
63. The 4th group is a logical conclusion to the preceding, “**and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer**”.
64. With the destruction of our backbone for commerce, all industry will shut down becoming “ghost towns” of existence.
65. This would include even small business or any other place of productive employment.
66. While the term “**mill**/μύλος – mulos” indicates the production of food in John’s day, it would include any type of manufacturing or production that we might understand in modern times.
67. The 5th object centers on the modern concept of electricity, “**and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer**”.
68. The emphasis here are those things used to physically illuminate in the place of natural **light**.
69. There is no place on our continent that is not within the reach of electrical power providing **light** for its inhabitants.
70. That artificial **light** is used primarily at night further highlights the nightlife and constant activity found in our country 24 hours a day, whether business, entertainment, etc.
71. The indication is that all of America’s power resources will further be decimated in the nuclear holocaust.
72. There is probably no stronger metaphor for the concepts of joy and happiness than found in the final clause “**and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer**”.
73. No more will one hear the sounds of a bridal shower, a bachelor party, the actual ceremony and reception and wedding feast that follows.
74. This indicates the total destruction of any family life that might bring a glimpse of happiness and normality to men.
75. Again, all these categories are gone permanently and will cease to exist; national life as we know it is completely extinguished, never to be revived.

EXEGESIS VERSES 23B – 24:

^{GNT} Revelation 18:23b ὅτι οἱ ἔμποροὶ σου ἦσαν οἱ μεγιστᾶνες τῆς γῆς, ὅτι ἐν τῇ φαρμακείᾳ σου ἐπλανήθησαν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη,

^{NAS} Revelation 18:23b **for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.** ὅτι (*causal conj.*) σου σύ (*npg-2s*) οἱ ὁ ἔμποροὶ ἔμπορος (*d.a. + n-nm-p*; "merchants") ἦσαν εἰμί (*viIPFa--3p*) οἱ ὁ μεγιστᾶνες μεγιστάν (*d.a. + n-nm-p*; "the great men/very important people"; same as 6:15) τῆς ἡ γῆς, γῆ (*d.a. + n-gf-s*) ὅτι (*causal conj.*) πάντα πᾶς (*a--nn-p*) τὰ τό ἔθνη, ἔθνος (*d.a. + n-nn-p*; "the nations") ἐπλανήθησαν πλανάω (*viap--3p*; "had been deceived/mislead") ἐν (*pI*; "by") σου σύ (*npg-2s*) τῇ ἡ φαρμακείᾳ φαρμακεία (*d.a. + n-df-s*; *lit. the use of drugs of any kind; denotes cultic practices; "sorcery/magic"*)

^{GNT} Revelation 18:24 καὶ ἐν αὐτῇ αἷμα προφητῶν καὶ ἁγίων εὐρέθη καὶ πάντων τῶν ἐσφαγμένων ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

^{NAS} Revelation 18:24 **"And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."** καί (*cc*) ἐν (*pL*) αὐτῇ αὐτός (*npLf3s*; *ref. Babylon*) εὐρέθη εὐρίσκω (*viap--3s*; "had been found") αἷμα (*n-nn-s*; "blood"; here, figurative for murder) προφητῶν προφήτης (*n-gm-p*; "prophets") καί (*cc*) ἁγίων ἅγιος (*ap-gm-p*; "saints") καί (*cc*) πάντων πᾶς (*a--gm-p*) τῶν ὁ ἐσφαγμένων σφάζω (*adj.ptc./PF/p/gm-p*; "who have been slain/put to death violently") ἐπὶ (*pg*) τῆς ἡ γῆς, γῆ (*d.a. + n-gf-s*)

ANALYSIS VERSES 23B – 24:

1. The concluding remarks of the speaking angel are now delivered using the past tense in the verbs “were”, “were deceived”, “was found” and the participle “who have been slain”.
2. Vs.23b presents two primary overt causes for the destruction of Babylon as seen in the two uses of ὅτι – hoti.
3. Vs.24 flows from the causes with a general statement of guilt.
4. The sense of vs.23b has the idea of the court reading the verdict of guilt for the condemned’s crimes of commission as the sentence is carried out.
5. Vs.24 is then read as a form of epithet for the condemned summarizing the full gravity of guilt for her crimes.
6. The crimes center on her economic tyranny and political/economic **sorcery** resulting in the most grievous of sins, blood-guiltiness.

7. The first condemnation, “**for your merchants were the great men of the earth**” indicts Babylon as the kingpin or ringleader behind an attempt to control the world.
8. The term “**great men**/μεγιστάν – megistan” is used 3x in the NT and looks to those individuals apart from political and military leaders that wield great power and influence over government. Mar.6:21 (*lords*) cp.Rev.6:15
9. In almost every era of history, the most powerful people of the greatest empires have been those in charge of the political order such as kings, princes, queens, presidents, dictators, pharaohs, military commanders, etc.
10. What is unique to B_p is that the most notable and powerful people behind her sins are not the politicians or military cadre, but the **merchants** or very wealthy businessmen.
11. This realization for our country is not anything new, but was recognized early in the 20th century.
12. Mar.26, 1922, John F. Hylan, Mayor of NYC, said in a speech: *The real menace of our republic is the invisible government which, like a giant octopus, sprawls its slimy length over our city, state, and nation. At the head is a small group of banking houses generally referred to as ‘international bankers’. This little coterie of powerful bankers virtually run our government for their own selfish ends.*”
13. President Franklin Roosevelt wrote in a letter in Nov., 1933: “*The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the large centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson...*”
14. Edith Kermit Roosevelt, granddaughter to Theodore Roosevelt, described this powerful set of businessmen and bankers as follows: *The word ‘Establishment’ is a general term for the powerful elite in international finance, business, the professions, and the government, largely from the northeast, who wield most of the power regardless of who is in the White House.*”
15. Those in America that are aware of such realities have generally understood that the Establishment (Insiders) is associated with big business and with the wealthy, old-line families.
16. As the rich exercised the new power of industrial capitalism in the 1870s and 1880s, they created many institutions and social structures to protect their wealth and promote their exclusive status.
17. The staying power of great industrial fortunes has been formidable when they've been invested in such places as the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation.
18. These organizations are devoted to exploring and recommending new directions in public policy, while generally supporting the agenda of the corporate world in business and political matters.
19. Corporate money and power are now such that of the world's 100 largest economies, 51 are now corporations while only 49 are nations.
20. Of those corporations, 19 find their original homes within the U.S.
21. It is a fact that when the Rand or Brookings Foundations consider wealth (and the power it brings), they omit the super rich, the less than 1 percent of the population that own the lion's share of the nation's wealth.
22. The U.S. Census Bureau in Washington D.C. has for years omitted recording anyone's income exceeding \$300,000, which limit was recently increased to \$1M.

23. This has led to a very real situation in which the super rich, the global elite are actually invisible, having been computerized out of the picture. <http://www.commondreams.org/views02/1227-06.htm>
24. Families such as Ford, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Mellon, Kellogg, Lilly, Duke, DuPont and others sit atop untold sums of tax-exempt wealth, and have found certain means by which they could control U.S. and world politics to their advantage.
25. Related to the big foundations are the policy groups such as the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) that publishes the journal Foreign Affairs and selects promising politicians and academics to rub shoulders with America's corporate and investment leaders.
26. One half of the group's members come from the NYC area where they represent the economic powerhouses of finance and industry, seeking to keep the worldwide capitalist system running smoothly around the globe.
27. Its counterparts in influencing domestic economic policy that are also dominated by the very biggest corporations, are the Business Council and the Council for Economic Development.
28. It is through these organizations, among others, that the elite rich of the last days operate a shadow government within the confines of our visible government.
29. While we will not go into detail here, there are a number of books, articles, and websites that expose the nature of this insidious evil that will ultimately lead to the destruction of our nation.
30. There can be little doubt that the **great men/merchants** of our nation have infiltrated the political arena through their covert activities.
31. Further, there can be no doubt that such actions have promoted an agenda of global government—with the elite rich controlling money, power, and resources by eliminating national identities and boundaries.
32. Through this composite economic/political agenda, the corporate politicians have largely had their way with the **nations** that they seek to bring under their power and authority.
33. It is clear from this second indictment of Babylon that our nation has largely succeeded in this agenda “**because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery**”.
34. As Keathley has noted, *“These men are looked up to, worshipped, honored, adored, and presented to everyone as the ultimate. They have power in society; they control the destinies of men, and live in the super luxury which everyone is supposed to want...”*
35. People have come under the delusion that wealth and luxury are what everyone needs; these things are the primary means to having and enjoying happiness.
36. However, as everyone should recognize, when people set their priorities on these things they can and do begin to compromise principles or character, righteousness, and integrity.
37. The term “**sorcery/φαρμακεία – pharmakeia**” is part of the family of words we have seen used earlier in this book to refer to the activities of the negative. Rev.9:21
38. The family of words first meant a drug or medicine, whether beneficial or poisonous, and referred to drugs that were used externally and internally.
39. In a bad sense, it looks to the use of drugs for the purpose of cultic or demonic activities. LXX Exo.7:22; 8:7 (secret arts)

40. The drug used here is the money and wealth these men wield in international influence.
41. It is further implied that these men are heavily involved in cultic activity or at the least under demon influence.
42. The elite wealthy have impact in **all the nations** of the world sucking them into their web of financial shenanigans to one degree or another.
43. This in turn establishes international and national policies controlled by a system of greed and power at all costs.
44. And it is this U.S. policy of international influence that then governs the final epithet of condemnation in vs.24, “**And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth**”.
45. There is a shift of the 2nd person used in the commission of crimes in vs.23b to now the 3rd person to illustrate a more passive role she takes in the execution of this final sin.
46. The language of our verse is not stating that Babylon is directly guilty of murdering those in view. Cp.Rev.17:6
47. Rather, it looks to our foreign policy of internationalism and the NWO as the impetus behind this crime.
48. Even though we are not held accountable for holding the “smoking gun” used in this genocide, we are the accomplice for aiding or abetting the actual murderers.
49. Our sin here could be viewed as a sin of omission; failure to stop the genocide.
50. Through our interference in sovereign **nations** and controlling the world money market, we have established disharmony and conflict on a global basis.
51. The subjects listed here are **prophets and saints** indicating the righteous and further **all who have been slain on the earth** to include unbelievers.
52. Osborne calls John’s grammar here a “deliberate hyperbole” to make it sound as if commercial Babylon has been responsible for the deaths of every human being killed in the history of man.
53. While that is not possible, the fact is that it is the international policy headed by the U.S. that will take our world into the history of Daniel’s 70th week. Psa.2:1-3
54. From that point forward, the U.S. is viewed as the driving force behind the activities of governments and condemned along with them for their inhumane atrocities.
55. All the while the wealthy elite put on a humanitarian face to deceive the masses, they in reality are creating a global situation that reaching its maturation point will be the indirect cause for the death of both the righteous and unrighteous.
56. Once the U.S. is taken out of the picture, the Antichrist will pick up her reigns and cause. Rev.13:7,16
57. That this saturation point revolves around Daniel’s 70th week is seen in the use of the terms **prophets and saints** that highlights those living in the Age of Israel.
58. All that are sacrificed to the big money machine are laid at her doorstep in memoriam as a measure of her guilt when she is destroyed.
59. These facts account for this unprecedented judgment by God upon our nation.
60. And this co-joining the fact that this nation enjoyed maximum blessing under God and then rejected its heritage in favor of the global corporate political agenda. Jer.51:7
61. *Review the Doctrine of the U.S. in Prophecy.*