

Revelation Chapter Eighteen

First Angelic Announcement (vv. 1-3)

VERSE 1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven (Μετὰ

ταῦτα εἶδον ἄλλον ἄγγελον καταβαίνοντα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἔχοντα ἐξουσίαν μεγάλην, καὶ ἡ γῆ ἐφωτίσθη ἐκ τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ [*prep meta “after” + pro.acc.nt.p. touto “these things” + aor.act.ind.1s. eidon “saw” + adj.acc.m.s. allos another (same kind) + noun acc.m.s. angelos angel + pres.act.part.acc.m.s. katabaino come down + prep ek from + art.w/noun abl.m.s. ouranos heaven*], **having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory** [*pres.act.part.acc.m.s. echo have + noun acc.f.s. exousia authority + adj.acc.f.s. megas great + conj kai + art.w/noun nom.f.s. ge earth + aor.pass.ind.3s. photizo illumine + prep ek from “with” + art.w/noun abl.f.s. doxa glory + pro.gen.m.s. autos “his”*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 1

1. John with his angel-guide turns to yet another Babylon and her overthrow.
2. Clearly the evidence in this chapter points to the dominant economic power going into the Tribulation (cf. 9-19).
3. This chapter contains three main divisions: (a) the first angelic announcement of judgment on Babylon (vv. 1-3); (b) a voice from heaven predicting her fall (vv. 4-20); and (c) a second angelic announcement of her judgment (vv. 21-24).
4. An angel different from the “last plague” angel of chapter 17 enters the vision to describe and dramatize the downfall of the great commercial system of the Tribulation.
5. The words “after these things” in this instance indicates that which comes next in the sequence of visions John received.
6. “After these things” introduces in Revelation introduces something new (cf. 14:1,2), and denotes a new set of circumstances.
7. The Babylon of chapter 17 is a religious entity that is dependant upon national rulers (e.g., kings of the earth) for her world-wide evil.
8. The Babylon of this chapter is the primary economic pillar for the kings of the earth due to her unsurpassed economic prowess.
9. The nation that fits that role is the United States of America.
10. While both are designated “Babylon the Great” (17:5; 18:2) each is different and separate.
11. The Roman Catholic Church fits the data in chapter 17, while the USA fits the data here and in various OT chapters such as Jer. 50 and 51.
12. Both entities possess immense wealth.
13. The first system’s wealth is plundered as spoil while the wealth of the system in this chapter is contaminated and rendered unapproachable through fire (nuclear ruination).

14. More on the comparisons and contrasts as we move through the exegesis.
15. When all the scriptural evidence is amassed it will become clear that the Babylon of chapter 18 is a end-time nation with a leader, a racially mixed populace based on unprecedented immigration, a military-industrial complex, a location in the midst of the seas, and material affluency that is the envy of the world, along with other characteristics that point to the USA.
16. Major interaction with the merchants of the earth (e.g. trade; cf. 18:3, 11, 15, 23) and those connected with the sea (v. 17) characterize the Babylon of this chapter but is missing from chapter 17.
17. Chapter 18 attributes the sin of arrogance is missing from the previous chapter (v. 7).
18. The lamentation of specific outsiders, specifically those who traded with Babylon 2, at her fall is expected with a commercial entity (vv. 9-11).
19. The economic prosperity and luxury of this Babylon is indicative of what we see in the US (vv. 11-14, 19).
20. This Babylon is noted for her elite ruling class that consists of “merchants” (v. 23).
21. As will be seen in other scriptures the geographical location of the two Babylons of Revelation is different.
22. The angel who pronounces judgment is apparently different from the one who served as John’s guide in chapter 17.
23. His function is to announce the overthrow of economic Babylon.
24. This new angelic agent resembles those who descend from heaven to carry out specific missions as in 10:1 and 20:1.
25. His resemblance to the angel in 10:1 is especially close.
26. This angel carries the same message as the “second angel” of 14:8.
27. That angel announces the overthrow of “Babylon the great” which is the same Babylon as the one in our chapter (though it could be argued that it is the Babylon of chapter 17.).
28. The angel of Rev. 18:1 is granted “great authority” to match his assignment of announcing the fall of America.
29. This is apropos since the demise of America will be unprecedented among the great empires of human history.
30. What John saw in this instance will be manifest to the entire world at some point in the early part of the first half of the tribulation.
31. He will literally descend “from heaven” and carry out his assignment.
32. He will first gain the undivided attention of the whole world by illuminating the whole earth.
33. At some point early on in the Tribulation during the time of the first seal (rider on the white horse) the earth will be bathed in light and this angel will proceed to make an announcement.
34. Each of the three angelic pronouncements of 14:6-9 are intended to evangelize (gospel 1), announce America’s overthrow, and warn humanity not to take the mark of the beast.
35. Perhaps this announcement will come just before the destruction of America as is the case with the activity of the angel in verse 21.
36. The glory of this angel is such that it will illumine the entire world in preparation for the announcement that follows in verse 2 and 3.
37. The indictment against America is so stupendous demanding a corresponding manifestation of angelic glory, which is derived from the Creator.
38. Night will be turned to day and day will be superseded by the light this angel will emit.

39. This light is like the light that shown from Moses' face after seeing the glory of God.

VERSE 2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon

the great (καὶ ἔκραζεν ἐν ἰσχυρᾷ φωνῇ λέγων, Ἔπεσεν· ἔπεσεν Βαβυλὼν ἡ μεγάλη [*conj kai* + *aor.act.ind.3s. krazo cry out* + *prep en* "with" + *adj.instr.f.s. ischuros strong* + *noun instr.f.s. phone voice* + *pres.act.part.nom.m.s. lego say* + *aor.act.ind.3s. pipto fall* + *aor.act.ind.3s. pipto fall* + *noun nom.f.s. Babulon* + *art.w/adj.nom.f.s. megas great*])!

She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit

(καὶ ἐγένετο κατοικητήριον δαιμονίων καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς πνεύματος ἀκαθάρτου [*conj kai* + *aor.dep.ind.3s. ginomai become* + *noun nom.nt.s. katoiketerion habitat*; 2x Eph.2:22 + *noun gen.nt.p. daimonion demon* + *conj kai* + *noun nom.f.s. phulake prison* + *adj.gen.nt.s. pas every* + *noun gen.nt.s. pneuma spirit* + *adj.gen.nt.s. akathartos unclean*], **and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird** [*καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς ὀρνέου ἀκαθάρτου* [*καὶ φυλακὴ παντὸς θηρίου ἀκαθάρτου*] καὶ μεμισημένου [*conj kai* + *noun nom.f.s. phulake prison* + *adj.gen.nt.s. pas every* + *noun gen.nt.s. orneon bird* + *adj.gen.nt.s. akathartos unclean* + *kai and* + *perf.pass.part.gen.nt.s. miseo hate* "hated" or "hateful"]]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 2

1. The "mighty voice" of this angel recalls the "loud voice" of the angels making the announcements in chapter 14.
2. The whole world will hear this announcement on the eve of the fall of the US.
3. The participle "saying" introduces the substance of the angel's pronouncement.
4. The opening words of the announcement are identical with the announcement of 14:8.
5. Both echo Isa. 21:9 and Jer. 51:8 which deal with the overthrow of economic Babylon, not historical/ancient Babylon.
6. The twofold repetition of the proleptic aorist "fallen" expresses absolute certainty.
7. Again, these words echo the judgment against this end-time entity seen in various OT prophecies such as Isa. 13:19-22; Jer. 50:39; 51:1-58).
8. Ancient Babylon (head #3) fell in 539 BC to the Persians but it was not overthrown in a destructive fashion (cf. Dan. 6).
9. "Babylon" both here and in the previous chapter is in code.
10. This serves to obscure the truth from negative volition, and is appropriate since neither of these two Babylons were known by their historical names until much later than John's day.

11. What follows in opening words of impending doom is the reasons for her annihilation.
12. The “city” is to be destroyed because she “has become” something.
13. Economic Babylon is a place inhabited by demons or unclean spirits.
14. Demons have flocked to American due to a variety of reasons.
15. False religion abounds, the huge presence of Masonic and other type secret societies, then there is the current popularity of magic.
16. Once here the demons stay as indicated by the words “a prison of every unclean spirit.”
17. Talk about diversity notice the attraction of the unclean for this place.
18. These fallen spirits are not here against their will as the use of the term “prison” might suggest.
19. The reference to “birds” is a reference to humans.
20. The twofold description of Americans as “unclean and hated” indicates a persistent spiritual state along with how God regards the lifestyle and habits of the population.
21. Again, “every” denotes diversity of STA evil permeating the culture.
22. We see corruption of all sorts in every walk of life.
23. Again, “prison” does not denote a place people cannot leave, but is culture that is addictive.
24. People in this country are beset by various addictions.
25. American love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil.