

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.

VERSE 3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her

immorality (ὅτι ἐκ τοῦ οἴνου τοῦ θυμοῦ τῆς πορνείας αὐτῆς πέπωκαν πάντα τὰ ἔθνη [*conj hoti for + prep ek from + art.w/noun abl.m.s. oinos wine + art.w/noun gen.m.s thumos "passion"; wrath + art.w/noun gen.f.s. porneia fornication + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + perf.act.ind.3p. pino drink + adj.nom.nt.p. pas all + art.w/noun nom.nt.p. ethnos nation*], **and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her** [καὶ οἱ βασιλεῖς τῆς γῆς μετ' αὐτῆς ἐπόρνευσαν [*conj kai + art.w/noun + art.w/noun nom.m.p. basileus king/ruler + art.w/noun gen.f.s. ge earth + prep meta with + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + aor.act.ind.3p. porneuo fornicate*], **and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality** [καὶ οἱ ἔμποροι τῆς γῆς ἐκ τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ στρήνου αὐτῆς ἐπλούτησαν [*conj kai + art.w/noun nom.m.p. emporos one who travels for trade; merchant; 5x: Matt. 13:45; Rev. 18:3,11,15,23 + art.w/noun gen.f.s. ge earth + prep ek + art.w/noun abl.f.s. dunamis strength; wealth + art.w/noun gen.nt.s. strenos luxury; sensuality; 1x in NT + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + aor.act.ind.3p. pluteo become rich; be rich*]]."

ANALYSIS: VERSE 3

1. The conjunction "for" denotes the reason for the overthrow of economic Babylon: this woman has prostituted herself among the nations affecting adversely both national populations and the earth's rulers.
2. Like the great harlot of chapter 17 this woman has played the harlot and as a result aroused divine wrath.
3. The noun *thumos* translated "passion" in the phrase "the wine of the passion of her immorality" could be translated "wrath."
4. Since this noun signifies a strong emotion it probably is best to leave it "passion" rather than taking it as divine wrath.
5. Wine is used here of that which makes the nations drunk.
6. Basically it is the stimulant that has the nations hooked on American largess (foreign aid and a host of other monetary gimmicks) and all the ills associated with international aid (e.g., the carrot and stick approach).
7. This exact same phrase is used by the angel in Rev. 14:8 announcing the reason for the fall of America.
8. American foreign policy is immoral.

9. It isn't that we engage in commerce with the nations, it is our manipulation of their internal affairs that constitutes immorality.
10. Organizations like the World Bank, the IMF, etc., that is working to weaken national independence and self-sufficiency.
11. American tax dollars are at work undermining national independence.
12. Everywhere one turns there is the American dollar intoxicating the nations.
13. National leaders around the world have willingly fornicated with economic Babylon rather than maintaining their independence.
14. Those who refuse to play the game are targeted for regime change.
15. If a ruler plays along with the US then he and his country receives various financial perks (read "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man).
16. The most brutal regimes have benefited from American largess (Soviet Russia, Communist China, etc., etc.).
17. If American enticements are refused then that nation is a target.
18. The three categories of humanity specified in this verse are nations, kings and merchants.
19. Populations signified by the term "nations" are said to be made drunk "with the wine of the wrath of her immorality."
20. In the previous chapter the RCC makes populations drunk with Catholic dogma (cf. 17:2 "made drunk with the wine of her immorality").
21. She is this self-proclaimed queen who dispenses wine from the cup in her hand representing her evil doctrine (cf. 17:4).
22. The RCC engages in a kind of internationalism being a religious entity.
23. The USA engages in political and economic internationalism seeking to establish a NWO.
24. The second category referenced in this verse is "the kings of the earth" who are supposed to protect their nations against all forms of aggression.
25. Mostly they fail and "commit *acts* of fornication" with the US.
26. In so doing they betray the people they are responsible for.
27. Just like the rulers in chapter 17 there results an illicit relationship.
28. Both women pretend to be virtuous.
29. Both are immoral and both will be judged for their immorality.
30. The third category "merchants" is absent from the previous chapter.
31. Both women are wealthy but the two have achieved their wealth differently.
32. The merchants in this verse refers to foreign merchants rather than American businessmen.
33. These merchants will be especially distraught when America is overthrown (see vv. 11 and 15).
34. The merchants of economic Babylon are mentioned in verse 23 as being "the mighty men of the earth."
35. This great "city" as it is called in this chapter has a counterpart in the ancient kingdom of Tyre.
36. In fact, the Phoenicians of Tyre are renown for their trading prowess and the city-state located on the island of Tyre just off the coast engaged in economic internationalism.
37. Isa. 23 is the prophecy of the demise of this commercial empire and her demise.
38. Her situation parallels that of the US in certain aspects.
39. Many "have become rich through the strength of her luxuriousness."
40. The noun translated "sensuality" appears only here in the NT.
41. The idea is that of self-indulgence with accompanying arrogance.

42. With great wealth often comes impudence and unruliness arising from superabundance.
43. The cognate verb *streniao* occurs 2x at Rev. 18:7 and 9.
44. It means to live in an indulgence fashion with all the corresponding vices.
45. So it is “her sensuality” in the form of super wealth that has made these foreign merchants wealthy and dependant.

Second Pronouncement

(vv. 4-20)

VERSE 4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying (Καὶ ἤκουσα ἄλλην φωνὴν ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ λέγουσαν [*conj kai + aor.act.ind.1s. akouo hear + adj.acc.f.s. allos another + noun acc.f.s. phone voice + prep ek from + art.w/noun abl.m.s. ouranos heaven; see also 10:4; 11:12; 14:2, 13 for “voice from heaven” + pres.act.part.acc.f.s. lego say*], **"Come out of her, my people** [Ἐξέλθατε ὁ λαός μου ἐξ αὐτῆς [*aor.act.imper.2p exerchomai come out + art.w/noun nom.m.s. laos people + pro.gen.m.s. ego “My” + prep ek from + pro.abl.f.s. aute her*], **so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues** [ἵνα μὴ συγκοινωνήσητε ταῖς ἁμαρτίαις αὐτῆς, καὶ ἐκ τῶν πληγῶν αὐτῆς ἵνα μὴ λάβητε [*conj hina so that; to express purpose + neg me + aor.act.subj.2p. sugkoinoneo share together in + art.w/noun loc.f.p. hamartia sin + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + conj kai + prep ek + art.w/noun abl.f.p. plege plague + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + conj hina “lest” w/the negative me + neg me + aor.act.subj. 2p. lambano receive*];

ANALYSIS: VERSE 4

1. The extended proclamation of the fall of America extends through verse 20.
2. It follows the introductory proclamation of an angel who secures the attention of humanity.
3. This heavenly announcement falls into three parts: a call for believers to exit America (vv. 4-8); the lamenting of kings, merchants and all who make their living on the high seas (9-19); and heavenly celebration (v. 20).
4. This voice is the voice of God, hence the words “My people.”
5. In verse 5 God refers to Himself in the 3rd person but this is consistent with the long prophetic explanation that follows.
6. The aorist imperative “come out” is seen in OT prophecies regarding economic Babylon of the last days (cf. Jer. 50:8, 16, 28; 51:6,9,45; Zech 2:7).
7. The Jews were not told nor did they in fact leave ancient Babylon on the eve of her overthrow by the Persians.

8. At the end of the 70 year captivity they were free to leave under the decree of Cyrus the Great.
9. However in the prophecies dealing with Babylon in the citations in point 6 the Jews most definitely are enjoined to exit prophetic Babylon or be caught up in her destruction.
10. Here they are told to exit or be caught up in the judgment decreed upon Babylon with all its horrors.
11. From Jeremiah we learn that others besides the Jews will heed this call to exit America (Jer. 50:16).
12. Gentile Americans who believe in Christ will need to heed this summons as well.
13. What a dramatic turn of events to hear the voice of God from heaven with a message for believers living in the USA!!
14. On other rare occasions God has spoken from heaven to an audience.
15. Examples: at Jesus' baptism God declared the hypostatic union as valid (Matt. 3:17//Mk. 1:11//Lk.3:22) and later at His transfiguration (Matt. 17:5).
16. This is a call to separate geographically from a distinct place.
17. Believers cannot readily separate from the kingdom of the Beast during the time when all are required to be numbered and tracked.
18. Those who refuse are targets of martyrdom
19. This refutes the notion that Babylon is the kingdom of the Beast.
20. Only other example we have of prophetic separation from a locale is the Jews who are to flee to pre-specified places when the Antichrist stands in the Temple of God and declares himself God (Matt. 24:15ff.).
21. For America this means reverse immigration.
22. This Babylon is noted for its mixed or mingled peoples (cf. Jer. 51:44 "...And the nations will no longer stream to him. Even the wall (defensive network) of Babylon has fallen down!").
23. The summons to exit the US comes fairly early on in the Tribulation.
24. Actually there is a pair of reports that precede the nuclear annihilation of the US (cf. Jer. 51:46).
25. Could it be that this series of heavenly pronouncements constitutes one of these reports and the other is the angelic announcement in Rev. 14:8?
26. Attached to the call is the reason why God's people should separated physically from the America.
27. The words "with her sins" are an associative instrumental preceded by the verb "participate in" or literally "fellowship with."
28. The fellowship factor here has to do with suffering the consequences of America's sins.
29. Obviously those who leave the US would have sinned while living in the USA and would have been guilty of the particular sins characteristic of American culture such as monetary greed and arrogance.
30. But here they can side step the wrath divine justice requires by simply leaving the nuclear death zone.
31. Grace provides an escape path for the righteous as it did for Lot.
32. He as a believer sinned big time while he resided in Sodom.
33. For the speaker to place the plagues in the future after having spoken of the "city's" destruction are no problem, because this is an intercalation which ignores the chronological consideration.

34. The plagues that come upon those who refuse to heed the call to separate be they believer or unbeliever are detailed in verse 8.
35. These plagues are the punishment falling on those who happen to be in the US when it is attacked and destroyed “in one hour of one day.”
36. These plagues are all compatible with nuclear radiation and poisoning.
37. An nuclear attack squares with the language that those outside the continental United States will keep their distance out of fear associated with Babylon’s burning (cf. vv.10, 15, 17).

Tower of Babel Allusion (v.5)

VERSE 5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven (ὅτι ἐκολλήθησαν αὐτῆς αἱ ἁμαρτίαι ἄχρι τοῦ οὐρανοῦ [*conj hoti + aor.pass.ind.3p. kollao glue together, join together; “piled up” + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + art.w/noun nom.f.p. hamartia sin + prep achri until, as far as + art.w/noun gen.m.s. ouranos heaven*], **and God has remembered her iniquities** [καὶ ἐμνημόνευσεν ὁ θεὸς τὰ ἀδικήματα αὐτῆς [*conj kai + aor.act.ind.3s. mnemoneuo remember + art.w/noun nom.m.s. theos God + art.w/noun acc.nt.p. adikema crime, injustice; 3x: Acts 18:14; 24:20; Rev.18:5 + pro.gen.f.s. aute her*]]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 5

1. God assigns an additional reason for the overthrow of Babylon (aka USA).
2. The language is an allusion to the Tower of Babel based on the aorist passive indicative verb *kollao* which means “glue together.”
3. The passive form means “cleave to,” “to join one to another in a mass.”
4. The idea is that the sins of America affix themselves one to another until the invisible “structure” reaches heaven.
5. The noun *kola* means “glue.”
6. The allusion is to the tower of Babel where the dark side that took control of America began in the ancient secret societies, which overshadow American culture and foreign policy (Gen. 11:3-4).
7. The phrase “as high as heaven” or “as far as heaven” (cf. Jer. 51:9) pictures a stack of bricks corresponding to sins.
8. Like the aorist “have piled up,” the aorist “has remembered” is also proleptic.
9. God cannot overlook the crimes (*adikema*) of Babylon.
10. This noun “iniquities” refers to STA activity from a legal standpoint (cf. Acts 18:14; 24:20).
11. The massive misdeeds or injustices or crimes of America demand punishment by the Judge who sits in the heavens.
12. When the last sins are added to the imaginary structure God will make the punishment fit the collective criminality.
13. These crimes attach themselves to the memory of God who only forgets where there is repentance (ex. Assyrians under Jonah).

14. Nineveh was about to be punished for her collective sins over a number of generations but she repented and her status in the world continued for another century plus.

Double Discipline (v.6)

VERSE 6 "Pay her back even as she has paid (ἀπόδοτε αὐτῇ ὥς καὶ αὐτὴ ἀπέδωκεν [*aor.act.imper.2p. apodidomi give back; award + pro.dat.f.s. aute her + conj hos as + pro.dat.f.s. aute "she" + aor.act.ind.3s. apodidomi pay back*], **and give back to her double according to her deeds** [καὶ διπλώσατε τὰ διπλᾶ κατὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῆς [*conj kai + aor.act.imper.2p. apodidomi pay back + art.w/adj.acc.nt.p. diplous twofold; double + prep kata according to + art.w/noun acc.nt.p. ergon deed, work*]; **in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her** [ἐν τῷ ποτηρίῳ ᾧ ἐκέρασεν κεράσατε αὐτῇ διπλοῦν [*prep en + art.w/noun loc.nt.s. poterion cup + rel.pro.dat.nt.s. ho which + aor.act.ind.3s. kerannumi mix + aor.act.imper.2p. kerannumi mix + pro.dat.f.s. aute her + adj.acc.nt.s. diplous a double*]).

ANALYSIS: VERSE 6

1. The announcement continues with words directed to the administrators of divine retribution against economic Babylon.
2. There is no way to determine who the destroyers of Babylon are from the information in this chapter.
3. Even assuming that the fire which destroys her and renders her unapproachable is nuclear we are still not certain as to whom it might be even though there is a nation that stands at the top of the world's nuclear powers.
4. From Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51 we can ascertain who the second person plural is in the three aorist imperatives "Repay" (twice) and "mix" found in this verse.
5. God is directing someone to execute His guilty verdict.
6. The imperative *apodidomi* (pay back/give back) echoes Jer. 50:15, 29; 51:24, 56 dealing with this selfsame entity.
7. God speaks to His chosen ones who are to carry out this horrendous attack on the citizens of America.
8. The nation behind this is Russia and her neighbors (cf. Isa. 13:5; Jer. 50:3, 14, 26, 29, 41-42; 51:11, 27 (kingdoms Cyrus went to war against bordering Russia), 56).
9. In Daniel seven it is the Bear who rises up on one side and is admonished by the three ribs to destroy much flesh thus fulfilling the removal of the eagle's wings on the Anglo lion (Dan. 7:4-5).
10. Furthermore Russia is the rider on the red horse which takes peace from the earth under the second seal judgment towards the middle or end of the first half of the tribulation (Rev. 6:3-4).

11. The rider on the white horse (pretended righteousness) is America with its particular brand of conquest (Rev. 6:2).
12. The violence and misery perpetrated upon the inhabitants of the earth due for American foreign policy will be paid back as apart of divine retribution.
13. America is up for double discipline based on what she has dispensed in the cup which she has mixed.
14. This concoction is first and foremost her foreign policy combining economic incentives with military adventurism.
15. The carrot and stick approach is seen in our dealings with the nations.
16. Double discipline is the form of nuclear annihilation and the total ban on human occupation of this continent even on into the millennium.
17. Double discipline is based on the principal “to whom much is given, much is required.”
18. America has abused its freedoms and prosperity.
19. The nation has been hijacked by her “merchants” (cf. v.23).
20. The cup analogy echoes 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.”

Further Instructions to the Destroyers

(v.7)

VERSE 7 "To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously (ὅσα

ἐδόξασεν αὐτήν καὶ ἐστρηνίασεν [*pro.acc.nt.p. hosos as much as (measuring degree) + aor.act.ind.3s. doxazo glorify + pro.acc.f.s. aute herself + conj kai + aor.act.ind.3s. streniao indulge; "lived sensuously"; 2x: Rev. 18:7,9; cp noun strenos "sensuality"; means to live in a self indulgent fashion*], **to the same degree give her torment and mourning** [τοσοῦτον δότε αὐτῇ βασανισμὸν καὶ πένθος [*demonst.pro. acc.m.s. tosoutos so much; to the degree that + aor.act.imper.2p. didomi give + pro.dat.f.s. aute her + noun acc.m.s. basanismos torture ; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning* (ὅτι ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς λέγει ὅτι Κάθημαι βασίλισσα καὶ χήρα οὐκ εἰμί καὶ πένθος οὐ μὴ ἴδω [*conj hoti for + prep en in + art.w/noun loc.f.s. kardia heart + pro.gen.f.s. aute her + pres.act.ind.3s. lego say + conj hoti acting as quotation mark + pres.dep.ind.1s. kathemai sit + noun nom.f.s. basilissa queen + conj kai + adj.nom.f.s. cheros widow + neg. ouk not + pres.act.ind.1s. eimi am + conj kai + noun acc.nt.s. penthos sorrow, mourning + neg ou not + neg me + aor.act.ind.1s. eidon see*)]).'

ANALYSIS: VERSE 7

1. God is the speaker and He continues His directive to Babylon's destroyers.
2. Here God furnishes a reason why Babylon must be destroyed.
3. America has glorified herself and has become wanton.
4. To the degree she has "glorified herself and lived wantonly" so to that degree she is to suffer physical and soulful anguish under the 5th cycle.
5. "Torment" or "torture" is the physical sufferings of post-rapture Americans while "mourning" refers to their mental anguish/torture.
6. All the self-congratulations and excessive living Americans have experienced will find its counterpart in that final day of her history.
7. America's corporate mindset is that of extreme pride and arrogance.
8. At the time of her destruction God reads the corporate soul/heart and it amounts to extreme arrogance as seen in the quotation from Isa. 47:8 "Now, then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one besides me. I will not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children.'"

9. The overthrow of prophetic and economic Babylon (USA) is presented in Isa. 47:1-15 from the vantage point of a debutante/princess who feels secure in her privileged status only to find herself a POW drug off into anonymity.
10. Isa. 47 is not prophetic of the overthrow of ancient Babylon but the language fits other descriptions of political Babylon such as Isa. 13 and Jer. 50 and 51.
11. These chapters (and others) deal with an entity that in no way matches the manner in which Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon exited the historical limelight (see Daniel 6).
12. Yet this economic and political entity during her heyday sits at the apex of the political/economic heap (see Isa. 47:5b "For you will be no more called the queen of kingdoms." And compare Jer. 51:25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys the whole earth," declares the LORD, "and I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and I will make you a burnt out mountain."
13. The scrutinizer of motives has detected a self-centeredness that tantamount to self-deification.
14. Meditations of the heart are open to Him, so He knows that America's soul/heart is one of self-glorification and pride.
15. We as Americans think way to highly of ourselves, and we think that God thinks/judges just like we do.
16. We suffer a messianic complex.
17. Speaking to Babylon's tormentors God instructs them to inflict "torment and mourning" to the degree America the Great has reveled in self-glorification and luxury.
18. Here we see the principal of matching the punishment with the crime.
19. Interestingly the guilt will have taken many decades but the punishment will run its course in a matter of days or weeks, that is, until the last American perishes.
20. The torment and mourning will be experienced only by those who are alive and remain when the nuclear assault emanating from Russia begins.
21. These Americans (minus those who either died or were raptured or who migrate back to their homelands) will suffer temporarily for the sins of their fathers as well as their own sins.
22. Her internal boast is a modification of Isa. 47:8.
23. "I sit as a queen" speaks to America's privileged status.
24. There is nothing wrong with being a queen as long as pride does not rule the soul and self-indulgence and self-absorption is the result.
25. Such overweening presumption draws the wrath of heaven on this queen's head.
26. America's boast of security further demonstrates her disorientation to God and the lessons of history.
27. The words "and am not a widow" refers to that fact that America has remained safe from foreign conquest.
28. She has not experienced the devastation that has regularly come upon other nations.
29. The boast is one of invincibleness.
30. America's military and political planners seek to control everything so as to be safe (weather, space, cyberspace, energy, etc.).
31. So the "widow" part has to do with loss of military protection even as a husband protects a wife.
32. And "will not see sorrow" refers specifically to the sorrow associated with widowhood (military unable to protect the nation) and loss of children (citizens).

33. These two things will come upon America in one hour of one day (Isa. 47:9; Rev. 18:10, 17-19).
34. There is an often unspoken sentiment that this country is secure from external conquest as seen in the emphatic negative of “and will never see mourning.”
35. The type of mourning here envisaged is the mourning associated with loss of nationhood.

Arrogance a Reason for US Destruction (v.8)

VERSE 8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come (διὰ τοῦτο ἐν μιᾷ ἡμέρᾳ

ἔξουσιν αἱ πληγαὶ αὐτῆς [*prep dia for this reason w/pro.acc.nt.s. touto this + prep en in + adj.loc.f.s. mia one + noun loc.f.s. hemera day + fut.act.ind.3p. heko happen; “will come” + art.w/noun nom.f.p. plege plague + pro.gen.f.s. aute her*], **pestilence and mourning and famine** [θάνατος καὶ πένθος καὶ λιμός [*noun nom.m.s. thanatos death; “pestilence” as in deadly disease + conj kai + noun nom.m.s. penthos mourning + conj kai + noun nom.m.s. hunger; “famine”*], **and she will be burned up with fire** [καὶ ἐν πυρὶ κατακαυθήσεται [*conj kai + prep en in; “with” + noun instr.nt.s. pur fire + fut.pass.ind.3s. katakaio burn up*]; **for the Lord God who judges her is strong** [ὅτι ἰσχυρὸς κύριος ὁ θεὸς ὁ κρίνας αὐτήν [*conj hoti for (causal) + adj.nom.m.s. ischuros strong (inherent) + noun nom.m.s. kurios lord + art.w/noun nom.m.s. theos God + art.w/aor.act.part.nom.m.s. krino judge*]].

ANALYSIS: VERSE 8

1. Arrogance is a major contributor to the intensity of Babylon's arrogance.
2. The phrase “in one day” is to be taken literally as in a 24 hour day or a specific date on the calendar like 911.
3. It connects with the phrase “in one hour” as in verses 10, 16, and 19.
4. A sudden overwhelming catastrophe such as an all-out surprise nuclear attack would fulfill this phraseology.
5. The words “For this reason” looks back to the boast quoted from Isa. 47:7-9.
6. The positioning of the words “in one day” emphasizes how quickly American will experience the thing she avoided from her birth.
7. The three interconnected plagues satisfy nuclear exposure as a result of many missiles from the land of the north (cf. Jer. 50:9,14; 51:11).
8. This all will come upon a nation and a people that “dwell by many waters.” (Jer. 51:13).
9. The overthrow is not gradual but swift and decisive.
10. The first plague is literally “death.”
11. Most Americans will die outright because they are concentrated in cities (Jer. 50:32 “The arrogant individual will stumble and fall with no one to raise him up; and I will set fire to his

cities, and it will devour all his environs.”; 51:43 “Her cities have become an object of horror, a parched land and a desert, a lane in which no man lives and through which no son of man passes.”).

12. “Mourning” is the psychological effect upon a dying nation.
13. “Famine” of “hunger” refers to those who linger for some time after the fateful day as food supplies will be scarce and nuclear poisoning will make it impossible to keep food in the stomach.
14. “She will be burned up with fire”
15. “Death” stands over against the arrogant scorn of the prospect of widowhood, “sorrow” is in response to her reveling, and “famine” is in response to her abundance.
16. The causal conjunction “for” or “because” introduces the reason for the total annihilation of the population of America.
17. The adjective “strong” stands at the head of a clause to emphasize what it is that bring this unprecedented destruction to pass.
18. It is the strength of the Lord God who judges her.
19. His power is without challenge and so He is able to bring to pass the destruction of “the strong city” (cf. Rev. 18:10).
20. None compares to Him in power and ability to unleash this devastation and still keep the human race from extinction.
21. The words “who judges her” are a constant reminder that the Lord God is the final arbitrator in the affairs of the international community.
22. These words are an allusion to Jer. 50:34 where the strength of Babylon’s Judge is the subject.