

Revelation_18

1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. 2] And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying: Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. 4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. 5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. 6] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. 7] How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she says in her heart: I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. 8] Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judges her. 9] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying: Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come. 11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buys their merchandise any more: 12] The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13] And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of

men. 14] And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 15] The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16] and saying: Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17] For in one hour so great riches is come to naught. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18] and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying: What city is like unto this great city! 19] And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying: Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness!; for in one hour is she made desolate. 20] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. 21] And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying: Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. 22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; 23] And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. 24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

1] After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. This heavenly messenger coming in the glory and power of the Almighty spreads the Light over the earth. Let us read a passage from Isaiah 8: 18 – 9: 7. 18] Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and

for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwells in mount Zion. 19] And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead? 20] To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. 21] And they shall pass through it, *badly distressed* and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward. 22] And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness. 9: 1] Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2] The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the light shined. 3] Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. 4] For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. 5] For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. 6] For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. 7] Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. In Matthew, from 3: 16 to 4: 17 is another passage which refers to Isaiah and applies it to our Savior's testimony. After His glorious baptism [3: 16-17] and His victorious example in testing [4: 1-10], the angels ministering to Him [4: 11], our blessed Lord dwelled in the borders of Zebulon and Nephthalim, to fulfill the old

prophecy of Isaiah [Matthew 4: 12-14]. In the verse 17 it is the time our Lord Jesus began to preach, and to say: Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Without the genuine faith in the Almighty God, our Creator, the earth is in tick darkness. Our Lord's gospel spreads His light of truth dispelling the darkness of sin and ignorance, revealing the only real Savior and His marvelous salvation.

2-3] The strong messenger cried mightily with a great voice, saying: Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird; for all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. In the verse 2 is the proclamation of just judgment and in the verse 3 are the clear indications preceding; and demanding our God's final judgment. Our Lord is revealing to us the signs of His judgment in the sins of the world. He guides us to keep us from the deception of the devil and pollution of the world. Babylon is fallen before her complete destruction. Sinful – Christ-less – existence is a proof of her fallen state. We are instructed in the 1 John 4: 1-3: ...believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye God's Spirit: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. We test the spirits by our reliance on the Gospel - when we live in its light. Babylon is fallen since her conception. Sin is a fallen condition, position and direction. Fallen means dead – dead in trespasses [Ephesians 2: 1]. Our Lord Jesus says in John 9: 39: For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. In John 12: 31-32 we read: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up

from the earth, will draw all men unto me. We must be in prayers to our Father continually for our discernment, opinions, intentions and decisions: that we always harmonize with our Lord's Spirit and Word; **so** our Master is above all worldliness in our heart and life; **thus** we are lifted by Him above condemnation of sin and death; **into** new life in His grace; **that way we are united to Him – free in Him.** When we are in Christ, when His Spirit rules in our heart and mind, we have cast out the prince of the world; we have judged and condemned the evil one with all his evil deeds; we are given ability to see through his disguise and behind his mask and we have power to resist the beast in our daily walk even if we are led through persecution and martyrdom. This strong heavenly messenger represents the message of the Everlasting Gospel of salvation in the Son of God. It was testified by our Lord Jesus Christ in Genesis 3:15: I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Victory of our Redeemer was foretold so long ago. In Galatians 3: 8: The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, saying: In thee shall all nations be blessed. Our Savior is one for all saved [Matthew 23: 35]. Christ's Spirit preached through all faithful prophets foretelling the victory of the suffering Redeemer and the defeat of raging Enemy. Babylon is fallen; it is the habitation of devils. Our God's people are only pilgrims and passengers through this world. Our Homeland is with our Father and Savior. Babylon, the fallen, is a prison of wicked spirits. The liberty, to which Satan attracts man, is a snare no man knows how to escape from. In vain they boast to us: we were once with them there. Our King, our Lord, is our victory, our liberty, and our everlasting triumph. The nations are intoxicated with corruption and envy. The kings of the earth are in fornication. Our King of kings is holy and pure and His people He delivered from sin-bondage and separated for godly service to our blessed Lord. He has revealed to us that their wealth is only poverty.

4] John hears another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. Abel, the martyr, testified, Enoch, the seventh man prophesied, the Law demanded and the holy prophets preached **separation** of righteousness from wickedness; the Gospel books and epistles continued. The book of Revelation is finalizing this call. This call comes to us from Heaven – from the dwelling place of our King and of all His faithful and victorious - with Him in glory. We listen to this call because we know that we are in the flesh and blood which we know is not supporting our fidelity to our Lord and cannot give new life [Mathew 16: 17 and John 1: 13]. Flesh and blood cannot support our Lord's call [Galatians 1: 16]. We are admonished in Hebrews 12: 1-2: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. Let us be watchful as we are commanded in this Revelation - first two chapters.

5] Babylon's sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. In Isaiah 14: 12-15 we see the fall of self-exaltation. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt **my** throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. Another rage of godlessness reaching up to, and indeed against, Heaven, is revealed to us in the 2nd Thessalonians 2: 3-4. ...that man of sin, the son of perdition, [will] be revealed; who opposes, and exalts himself above, all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. But he is just a sinner.

When the “big I” pride invades the mind and heart of a sin-slave, if the circumstances appear right for his ambition, he will do all in his power to imitate the beast with seven heads and ten horns as much as he can: unimaginable oppression and cruelty is manifested; clearly indicating the dragon’s spirit rage that motivates, inspires and empowers his victims. Our God never forgets iniquity; He condemns and judges every sin and transgression. All these manners of the dragon are revealed to us in the first part of this chapter 18 that we believe in our Almighty God; that we know and see our Enemy is defeated and Babylon, the great, is fallen and altogether not great at all. She is a dead heap of dust and ashes. Our Adversary, arch-foe, and the master deceiver lusts to confuse our mind; that we accept false belief of tolerating some “minor sins” and compromise our Lord’s teaching. Let us consider, understand and obey our God’s Word. How many and how great sins our ancestors committed in Genesis 3, and what are the consequences of their trespass? Let us carefully study Ephesians 4:25-32, Colossians 3: 5-11, and the Revelation 21: 27: there shall in no wise enter into *the New Jerusalem* anything that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Sincere godliness is growing in faith and knowledge of our God’s Son, our only Master. Growing in understanding, trusting and heartily obeying our Lord’s Word are indications of our record in the book of life. Our God never forgets any sin cherished; yet His promise to remember no more the sins repented of was announced in more places and confirmed in Hebrews 8. 1-2] We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

11-12] They all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Our Father’s promises are true and wonderful; His

grace in Christ is all sufficient; all that wealth is for His obedient children; but negligent and rebellious – unregenerate men are condemned.

6-7] Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she has filled fill to her double. How much she has glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she says in her heart: I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. We must reward Babylon. How does Babylon reward us and for what? Our Lord told us in Matthew 28:19-20: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. What has been Babylon's reward to the Gospel messengers? One of many answers is in Amos 2: 12. Ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying: Prophecy not. In the Book of Jeremiah we see so much of persecution, torture and murderous attempts. The Acts of the Apostles and recent history tell us: Babylon hates God. Present laws and developments in many countries evidence Babylon's ability to change her mask and her inability of changing her nature. Her dragon, beast and kings like a pendulum swing from persecutions to enticements or hang in an attitude of ignoring our testimonies thus manifesting ears deaf to the Truth and eyes blind for the Light of salvation. Just the presence of our Lord Jesus is unbearable to the dragon as we see in Mark 5: 1-8: They came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. As our Lord came out of the ship, there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains. He had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. He was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones; always, night and day. When **he saw Jesus afar off**, he ran and worshipped him, crying with a loud voice,

the man said: What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God, the Highest? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. For Jesus said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. As long as any of our Lord's genuine disciples live His Gospel and walk in the light of our Father's Word, the evil spirits are tormented, the dragon is often furious, and Babylon reacts with all of her power and all her devices **against salvation**. The more we ignore her enticements, the more we offend her vanity with our modesty, the more we separate from the world and unite with our Lord, the more our Enemy is tormented seeing that her lies are defeated by the Gospel Truth. This is our vengeance. That is our judgment proclaimed over Babylon and the dragon. This is our way of following Jesus. In my very limited experience the torment of Babylon was clearly evident. First 29 years of my life I lived in a country ruled by dictatorship. Of the total population [about 20 millions], only one to three witnesses annually were found to confront the governing authorities with Christian convictions strong enough to boldly face long years of imprisonment. Among so many complacent nominal believers and unbelieving citizens these Christians were a tiny minority of one per six millions, but the government and their laws considered us a very grave danger to their godless regime. This is a pale reminder of the king Nebuchadnezzar's rage in Daniel 3. The king ordered seven times more heat, just to his sevenfold defeat. Babylon boasts of being the queen, and no widow, and that she shall see no sorrow. This boastful attitude is just one more sign of her fallen state and, uncompromising judgment of God. Let us remember the messenger in the Revelation 3:15-17: I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know not that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked... The addressee of this message is named "the angel of the church". We are in need of prayers to our Father to keep us from the boastful Babylon-ism and to deliver us from lukewarm state.

8] Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judges her. There is some similarity in the words of 1st Thessalonians 5: 2-3: *[You]* yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. We are instructed in the Word to be watchful and the same warning is repeated to the churches in the chapter 3. Prayerful watching is life of spiritual man. We need our Lord's guidance and protection to keep us from trusting worldly wisdom. Our Lord told us in Luke 12: 35-37: Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he comes and knocks, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord shall find watching when he comes... Carnal man trusts in the worldly riches; calamities are surprising to him. Babylon is not foreseeing her fall because she is fallen in her very being. For many decades our father Noah was building the big ark – ship. For the faithless and godless Babylon the flood was an unexpected judgment. Sodom and Gomorra did not expect their destruction; it came at once. Some **“great world powers”** - empires and kingdoms – faced their sudden calamity, others watched with their own eyes but were totally unable to stop their deterioration because the time of their fall was appointed by our Almighty God. In the first part of this verse [8] is the list of four plagues foretold against Babylon; death is the first listed. Babylon is dead in her trespasses and death of the dead in this verse appears to indicate death of the body – physical death. From this point to the end of the verse 22 the material, economic, and social values are listed – as Babylon's wealth.

9-10] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off for the fear of her torment,

saying: Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come. These earthly kings are corrupted. They have no hope of life everlasting. They know not the beauty of our King's holiness. They know nothing of true delight in fidelity, loyalty, true love and adoration. They lived deliciously as pigs devour their despicable spoiled food. Because fornication leaves its victims with emptiness in heart, Satan filled them with his lie: next time you'll be happy... Many cities, kingdoms and empires under the Babylon 'umbrella' experienced the horror of their destruction in the past. The final judgment is the most terrifying and none of them can escape. The only possible escape is proclaimed still today in the Gospel. That Gospel is ignored or perverted, or persecuted by these kings; they won't believe it until it's too late. They fornicate with Babylon, they corrupt and exploit the masses, but now they stand afar off for fear of her torment... They needed Babylon only to take advantage of her, but now they make no effort to try to save her. All the values and relationships in and with Babylon are false and perverted. They say that Babylon's **judgment** suddenly came upon her. They knew, or at least perceived, that Babylon, and all they in fornication with her, deserve our God's just judgment. Our loving Master and King gave us His Word revealing the smoke of Babylon's destruction **before it came upon us**; that we would heed His call, seek and find His deliverance and receive His grace unto salvation. We trust in Him to keep us safe. Woe to all who despise and reject our God's grace. They cannot escape the awful consequences of Babylon's wickedness. Blessed are all who recognize, seek and embrace the grace of our creator offered in Christ to the fallen humanity.

11-13] The merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buys their merchandise any more: the items of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, and fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, all manner vessels of ivory, all manner vessels of most precious wood, of brass, iron, and marble, and cinnamon, odors, ointments, frankincense, and wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, and beasts, sheep, and horses, and

chariots, slaves, and souls of men. How obvious is the difference between the true, lasting value of our Savior's Gospel and the corruptible values of living in sin and darkness. When there is no market – no demands – for their merchandise, all of their wealth is dead capital. The everlasting Gospel is our salvation regardless how many, few, or none, will believe and obey our Lord and Savior. This long list of merchandise surely has a purpose and meaning within this book's message and teaching frame. One segment of humanity, the rulers, their life before Babylon's destruction and the reaction to the destruction of their great mother-harlot is evident in the verses 9 and 10. In these three verses [11-13] we see another human group: merchants.

My perception is that these two groups are overlapping one another: some kings are in commerce; some merchants rule. Kings have their dynasty and trusted rulers, officers and governors serving under the royal authority. There are also local magistrates, public order security and law enforcement officers. Kings have huge armies and weaponry. The merchants have their workers, servants and slaves. They have their supervisors and regional managers; it's a world of commerce where many of individual or group ambitions depend on one another or clash with one another; they depend on Babylon for profit, security and pleasure. They are entangled in the harlot's madness of corruption & wrath. This world is under uncompromising judgment of our God's justice. They are idol worshippers. For the masses they exploit, none of them cares in any way other than to keep them under the yoke of the kings and merchants and in their shackles of idolatry, sinful profit, and enforced regime; and lusts. With their entire falsehood they combine false religion. In many Bible books we can read of the distrust, treachery, corruption and wickedness of the godless and idolatrous rulers. In the 1st chapter of the 2nd Book of Kings we see the king's lack of care for the life of his soldiers. After the death of the 1st fifty, he sent the 2nd fifty. After the 2nd fifty perished, he still sent the third fifty. In Daniel's book a king is alike. In the chapter 3: 22 is this record: because

the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We don't see any evidence of the king's regret and apology. Since he treats his loyal soldiers with fatal negligence, what is his cruelty for a disloyal one? An answer to this question is in the 2nd Kings 25: 6-7: They took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him. They slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon. All kings are responsible for their cruelty. The fourteen items listed in the verse 12 seem to pertain to the wealthy, luxurious manner of living. The people soaked in luxury are more likely to suffer more in the loss of it. I think the prevailing significance is in the symbolic number 14 or number 7 twice indicating complete destruction and total loss for merchants, kings and the Great Babylon – all together. In the # 13 is also a list of fourteen items that point more toward luxurious and very corrupt night life of the rulers and wealthy aristocrats mixing feasts, entertainment, fornication, false religion and flagrant idolatry. The two last items are slaves and human souls. The ruling class has no decency and the slaves are oppressed; deprived of all human dignity. The dragon used his devices like cruelty and brutality to keep wealthy and privileged from awareness of their soul needs, that they would never seek and find salvation in Christ. The same dark forces oppress the deprived so cruelly to keep them under the yoke of slavery; social, or spiritual, or both. Our God often allowed awful calamities upon cruel regimes. The final judgment will be the most horrifying. Yet out of the awful mire of human depravity our Lord delivered souls that called upon His Name; but all sinners rejecting His mercy and grace in Christ our Savior, wealthy or poor, rulers or slaves, healthy or sick, young or in deep age, all are subject to the just judgment of our God. Salvation is only in Christ.

14-17] The fruits that thy soul lusted after, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at

all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying: Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, decked with gold, precious stones, and pearls!; in one hour so great riches is come to naught. Verse 14 is addressed directly to Babylon of all centuries. This voice sounds loud to the entire humanity, but especially to all the wealthy and ruling men; yet only the people that have their true wealth in Christ are hearing these facts; the rest are made deaf by reveling in sin and darkness. Let us continue in prayers that our Lord give us ears to hear His voice. The merchants stand afar. They are not true friends of Babylon. They weep over their lost market. Babylon and her merchants know nothing about true love and lasting values. The true wealth is reserved for, and given, to the children of Light, although many are oppressed and poor in Babylon's evaluation. The richest sinner is poorer than a saved beggar. Great worldly wealth comes to naught in one hour! Our precious Fellowship in our Lord's Spirit remains with us through our entire journey; in joy and sadness. The moment we hear 'the final call' our souls are found with the blessed host of the redeemed glorifying our Creator and Savior rejoicing in His salvation, His victory, and His eternal glory and Majesty.

17-19] Every shipmaster, all the company in ships, sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying: What city is like unto this great city! They cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying: Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all *men* that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! In one hour she is made desolate. This is the third group of Babylon-mourners in this chapter. In this book with many symbols, the third group marks full list of Babylon's sustainers. The other two segments could hardly prosper without this third group – the traffickers. All three segments have so much in common. They weep over Babylon's destruction without any love and affection for her. They mind only their own loss of

filthy lucre and evil lusts. How much their greed and selfish lusts of Babylon's mentality ruled their mind and heart is now manifested in their despair: they cast dust upon their heads, they scream and weep in agony of the realization: the great Babylon is not eternal city as they wanted to believe; she is the city of everlasting destruction; her founder is the dragon, the destroyer. In its spiritual meaning these sailors remind us of some shallow and false believers that boast of never accepting any leadership position in Babylon. They also keep themselves from openly making gain and merchandising on Babylon's market, but with their inconsistent values and carelessness in Gospel applications, they promote dragon's prosperity. In the book of the prophet Ezekiel, the 1st two chapters, our God gave Ezekiel a revelation. The six following chapters tell us of Babylon-ism in Israel, the religious but unfaithful people. In the chapter 10 is the revelation of our Lord's glory and Majesty to Ezekiel and to all the godly people of all generations. In the darkest hours God's glory is brightly manifested. Israel's unfaithfulness in the prophecy of Ezekiel is a stark reminder to us today: to beware of all forms and levels of idolatry [1st John's 5: 21]. Ezekiel's 11 – 24 say so much of our God's promise to judge stubborn rebellion and to have mercy to the penitent sinners among the children of Israel then; and among the nominal and genuine believers today. Chapter 25 tells about our Lord's judgment against deep darkness: the nations once exposed to the faith in the true God, the same nations that have chosen their own way – rebellion. Chapter 27 gives an illustration of an ancient form of the dragon's beast. Chapters 29 – 32 show us the Babylon in old Egypt ruled by Pharaohs. Ezekiel prepares us for this book. In the lamentation over Babylon's destruction these bereaved idolaters we hear the phrase: **In one hour**, that reminds us of the dragon's short time in the chapter 12: 12. The spirit of deception gives them expectation of Babylon's long duration. To them our Lord's judgment comes as a thief in the night [1st Thessalonians 5: 2]. We wait for our Master...

20-21] Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying: Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. Seeing such calamity, what could be our motive to rejoice? We were the citizens of that Babylon. Only our Creator and Savior's amazing grace rescued us from the pangs of the dragon. Only the offering of the Lamb of God redeemed us and transformed us from the oppressive sinners to the persecuted followers of Christ Jesus, the only Savior. On our own we could only and forever remain under just judgment. Remember the encouragement in our Savior's teaching: Leap for joy...! [Luke 6: 20-49] We are told to rejoice when it is just unlikely we would or could. Remember the Revelation 5:5-6: One of the elders said unto me: Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the book, and to lose the seven seals thereof. I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes; which are the seven Spirits of God; sent forth into all the earth. When Babylon is still raging in her abominations and blood-thirsty persecution of us, the redeemed, we can rejoice in Christ. Remember Daniel 3:20-26: Nebuchadnezzar the king commanded the mightiest men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound and cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace in their coats, hosen, hats, and their other garments. Because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste. He spoke, and said unto his counselors: Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king: True, O king. He said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they

have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. He came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and said: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of God, the Highest, come forth, and come hither. Through the flames of raging persecution our brother Stephen sees the everlasting flames of our God's just judgment and prays to our Father: Lord, lay not this sin to their charge, in the book of the Acts 7:60. Our Master's Spirit reveals to this brother and to us all that these murderers are only the victims of the real instigator and perpetrator - the dragon. Although we shed tears over the people's everlasting loss – at times, we should rejoice for the overthrow of a system that only multiplies sin and justifies our Creator's awful judgment more and more; as long as our God's patience and goodness is calling them to repent. Yes, we do rejoice for every penitent sinner receiving our Savior's grace to get saved. Yes, we rejoice with endless gratitude to our Father for His Lamb's ransom and for His just judgment of the Adversary, the devil. Let us continue in prayers for our Lord's mercy and grace that saves the lost, heals the sick, comforts the sad, strengthens the weak and raises the dead. He gives us power to rejoice in the Spirit of our God's Son, the only Savior.

21] A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying: Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. Read the prophecy of Jeremiah in the chapter 51 and mark the closing verses: 63 & 64: When thou hast made an end of reading this book, thou shalt bind a stone to it. Cast it into the midst of Euphrates and say: Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her... The suffering prophet's words were not heeded by the rebels; but in his words have been the truth and the power of the same Spirit – the Spirit of the Almighty Creator and the just judge. He confirmed it in this revelation to us also. Our Lord Jesus used somewhat similar illustration to keep us from foolishness of negligence, and, disrespect of His redeemed souls in Mark 9:42: Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a

millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. We ought to consider all **His** souls very precious. In Mark 8:36-37 our Savior tells us: What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? To redeem our souls from hell, our Redeemer offered nothing less but the life of Him-self – the Creator of **all** of us. Our God's Word will never fail to save obedient and to condemn rebellion. Once again we are given an insight into our God's justice and mercy to receive understanding and power; to reject evil and to follow our Lord's guidance through every situation. Our Master is with us in joy or sadness, in suffering or ease. Our Lord's faithful witnesses have been preserved and sustained by Him; it is His Father's will to give us His Kingdom.

22-23] Harpers, musicians, pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee. No craftsman, of whatsoever craft shall be found any more in thee. A millstone sound shall be heard no more at all in thee. The light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee. The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee. Thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. Now, let us consider this passage in the Revelation 5: 8-14: When the Lamb had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before Him, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. They sang a new song: You are worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and have made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand; numberless... They are saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing. Every creature which is in heaven, earth, under the earth, and in the sea - the

entire creation - I hear saying: Blessing, honor, glory, and power, be unto him upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. The four beasts said: Amen. The elders fell down and worshipped him that lives forever and ever. Our music is focused on Christ. Now listen to the music in Babylon that is only for a short time - in Daniel 3:14-15: The king said unto them: Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not you serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now, if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, you fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Let us remember and hold firmly our answer to the dragon and his beasts in Daniel 3: 17-18: Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, o king. But if not, be it known unto you, o king: we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image you have set up. Idolater is self-centered. All the gifts, blessings, privileges and opportunities our Lord has freely given to men, sinners perverted, misused and corrupted to worship idols and multiply sins they lust after. In spite of persecution and the affliction of exposure to their filth, our God's heavenly minded children blend their music of gratitude and adoration with the heavenly praise to God. Earthly tumult will be silenced soon – to be heard no more - forever. All the redeemed, united with the heavenly hosts, will excel their adoration forever and ever in their everlasting gratitude. Our Creator has gifted men with ability to learn many skills and crafts that are designed to bless our life with joy and praise of gratitude for our loving Lord's blessings. Misguided by the devil's deception, sinners believe that our Creator's blessings are their personal, family or national superiority; their private ability. They feel no gratitude, nor any indebtedness to our blessed Lord. The Truth is that from Him and in Him we receive and properly, fully enjoy all gifts of His amazing grace.

Sins lead to self-worship and idolatry. Thinking, that they can enjoy all blessings even more if they just deny all the facts of our Creator's might, grace and just judgments, that thinking, is a satanic mirage to the minds under Satan's spell of lies. Godless plans and efforts must end in total disappointment eventually; some very soon; but all are failures in the very core of their character. All godly labor is blessed by our Lord's presence and constant comfort and help; even while we face obstacles, and Satan's opposition. We have the blessed expectation the apostle Paul told us of - in the 2nd Timothy 4:8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. May our Lord's love be our 1st love permanently; that our prayers be always filled with gratitude to adore Him in the Spirit of His only-begotten Son; so our enemy is defeated and our **Savior's victory is ours**.

23] In Exodus 11: 5, labor with a millstone is the lowest; in Deuteronomy the stone is a life basic need. In Job 41: 26 millstone is hard and durable. All men in rebellion – from the ruler to the slave – labor in vain. All efforts in Christ's Spirit are abundantly rewording -presently and eternally. In sin, the meanest life or, living in wealth and fame, is bitter now, and ends in hell forever. The poorest beggar in Christ is richer than any earthly king; and, the wealthy disciples eagerly wait for our King's appearance. Reveling in sin and groping in darkness is contrary to the ancient revelations of our God's Word and order. All of our God's faithful children keep His Word and rejoice adoring Him at this time and, in eternal glory. Carnal men labor hard to impose new rigid laws, but nothing secures them in eternity and, their short time in this world often brings them agony. The light of a candle is used throughout the scriptures of all times. The physical purpose, form and function of a candle fill a wide spectrum; and so is the symbolism of it. In the first chapter of this book we read about seven candlesticks, but no explanation or brief definition of a candle – itself. Let us consider some verses to accumulate more understanding.

[**Job 29: 3**] His candle shines upon my head, and by his light I walk through darkness; [I paraphrased this one.] [**Psalm 18: 28**] Thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness. [**Proverbs 24: 20**] There shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out. [Sin is darkness.] [**Jeremiah 25: 1-11** (selected verses)] [This is] The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah; that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; which Jeremiah the prophet spoke unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened. The LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because *they* have not heard my words..., I will take from them **the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. This whole land shall be desolation, and astonishment;** and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. [**Luke 11: 33-36**] No man, when he hath lighted a candle, *places* it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. **The light of the body is the eye:** therefore when your eye is single, your whole body also is full of light; but when your eye is **evil**, your body also is full of **darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in you be not darkness.** If your whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle does give you light. [**John 3: 16-19**] God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world;

but that the world through him might be saved. He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the condemnation, that **light is come into the world**, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Every one that works evil hates the light; neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

The whole Bible is our God's Word; but when our blessed Lord Jesus speaks, the entire Word beams in His few words. Through the testimony of the Gospel the Light is offered to Babylon. Babylon rejected the Light; the messengers of Light are persecuted and martyred. Now the great harlot is left in her own darkness; tick darkness. She is ready and appointed to see the lightnings and hear the thunders of her sin-consequences: our God's righteous judgment – her eternal doom. In the world of sin and darkness gentiles and nominal believers have candles of their empty forms and traditions. Their candles cannot produce clear and bright Light of the pure Gospel. These candles spread only a smoke screen to hide the Truth and choke their soul's need for our Savior and salvation in Him. Genuine Gospel proclamation is the true Candle. Remember the Philippians 2: 15-16: ... you be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye **shine as lights in the world**; holding forth the **word of life**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ... Genuine Gospel living day by day - is a candlestick. The **power of Light is from Christ** alone. [Revelation 1: 13] When the last Christian martyr has been offered and the last voice of the Truth is silenced, Babylon can rejoice in her ignorance; but she only prepared herself for our God's just judgment [Revelation 11: 3-13]. Our Lord Jesus reveals in Luke 17: 26, 27 & 30, that marriage excitement is practiced till the last day; but sinful lusts replace union. Instead of lifetime commitment to a godly marriage, sinners rejoice in foolish illusions before, and comfort themselves in divorce, fornication and adulteries afterward. True testimony of purity, virginity and

godly marriage point to the perfect union: our redeemed souls with our Heavenly Bridegroom [Revelation 21 & 22]. This is the Gospel candle & candlestick. The Gospel holiness is neglected among the nominal religions opening their minds for the carnality and worldly rejection of godliness. The voice of the Bridegroom and of the Bride is not heard in Babylon at all... Soon the thunder of the just judgment will rant her sky and the lightnings of her condemnation will rip the canopy of her sinful illusion and pretence. Behold the present time and the future of the candle that is never extinguished by the blows of Babylon's wickedness; in the 2nd Peter's 1: 19: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. The joy in Christ excels forever. Yes, the true candle shines brighter and brighter forever because it is from Christ, for Christ and in Christ. His candle is rejected by the dragon, beast and Babylon. Their 'greatness' and 'glory' is in sinful merchandising and sorceries to deceive whomever they can and to remain in their own self-deception; as in the days of Noah [Luke 17: 26] - so today. In His loving care, our Lord tells us in Luke 12: 34-38: Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he comes and knocks, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he comes shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. If he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. The servants He blesses are truly blessed. As we read in the Philippians 3:20-21: Let our *citizenship be* in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Our **Redeemer** and **King** of kings is **our Treasure**.

24] And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. Consider Isaiah 26: 21: Behold, the LORD comes out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. In Matthew 23: 35-36 our Lord Jesus speaks to evil religion... Upon you comes all the righteous blood, shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you: All these things shall come upon this generation. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied: Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds... The evildoers committed godlessness, and ungodly sinners have spoken against God their hard speeches [Jude 1:14-15]. The prophet Enoch was only the 7th man counting from Adam. Enoch was not a Jew; not even a Hebrew. His prophecy is addressed to the wickedness of the entire humanity. Our Lord Jesus in Mathew 23: 35-36 sorted out all wickedness as the character of the same people throughout human generations: only two nations existed on this earth: lost and saved. Since Adam's fall there have been only two groups of men: one obedient - the other rebellious. Since the first offerings, one accepted and the other rejected, there have been two kinds of worshippers: one is seeking our Lord's pleasure, and the other, continue in stubborn rebellion. Since our father Noah two kinds of laborers lived; only one walked with God. Since our father Abraham two kinds of humanity have been recorded; only one was obedient and looking forward to the day of Christ. The other kind continued in faithlessness and will have to face our Savior and Lord as their righteous judge. The entire humanity is divided: one part is in Christ, the only Savior and Lord; the other part is in stubborn disobedience. Once again the Revelation illuminates our understanding of our God's entire Word given to us in Christ, our God's Son. Every one among saved in our Savior receives the abundance of His saving and sustaining grace: Christ's entire ransom. This same Revelation

reveals the dark side – the humanity that rejected our God’s grace: everyone is guilty for all others. In this last verse of this chapter [24] the prophets proclaimed the Everlasting Gospel and Babylon shed their blood. The saints lived the Everlasting Gospel; and Babylon shed their blood. Who else can there be in the world of Babylon, the mother of all harlots, drunk with the blood of martyrs, the world of the dragon and his beasts: their own slaves are next. Yes, our Lord God has not always prevented the wickedness from punishing wickedness and being punished by yet more wickedness and to all wickedness applies the same final righteous and perfectly just judgment as our Lord confronted the hypocrites in John 8:7: he said unto them: He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. Only the Son of our God is free from stains of sin. Only our God’s own Lamb is worthy and able to ransom all penitent sinners. **That Son of man**, our perfect example of unity with the Heavenly Father, is the righteous and the just Judge. Within the limits of our understanding we cannot grasp the holiness of the Holy One, nor our sinfulness without Christ. The path of sinner is the way of rebellion. Cain is a typical example of satanic spell over his victims. In Genesis 4: 16, Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the **land of Nod**, on the east of Eden. That is the land of aimless wondering to selfish self-pity and from despair to fury. Cain’s 5th descendant, [19] Lamech, took unto him two wives... 23] He said unto his wives: Hear my voice! You, wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding; and a young man to my hurt. 24] If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold. In Luke 8: 27-37 we see an advanced degradation of soul in the devil’s shackles - suffering the evil master’s tyrannical rage. In James 2: 8-12 we have a glimpse of our God’s holiness: If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convicted of the law as transgressors. For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. **Christ never sins**. Only in our

Redeemer is our salvation. No power of demons can pluck us out of our Saviors care. All His faithful are safe.