

## Revelation Chapter 18

**Revelation 18:1** (Constantinople 1904), **After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminate by reason of his glory.** 2 And he cried with a strong voice, saying, “It is fallen, it is fallen, Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons and a garrison of every unclean spirit and a keeper of every unclean bird which hath been hated. 3 For out of the wine of the anger of her fornication have all the nations drunk, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich by the power of her wantonness.

4 And I heard another voice out of heaven saying, “Come out of her, My people, in order that ye might not be partakers in her sins and that ye might not receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins were joined fast together even to heaven, and God remembered her wrongdoings. 6 Render to her as also she rendered, and repay her twofold according to her works, in the cup which she gave to drink, give to her to drink double. 7 As much as she glorified herself and waxed wanton, so much torture and mourning give to her; for in her heart she saith that ‘I take my seat and sit a queen, and am not a widow and in no wise shall see mourning’ 8 On this account in one day shall come her plagues, death and mourning and famine; and with fire shall she be burned; for strong is the Lord God, the One having judged her. 9 And the kings of the earth, those having committed fornication and having waxed wanton with her, shall weep for her and shall beat their breasts for her, whenever they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing from afar on account of fear of her torture, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the city the great Babylon, the city, the strong one! For in one hour is come thy judgment. 11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn for her, because no one buyeth their cargo anymore: 12 Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearl, and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, all the thyine wood and every vessel of most precious wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13, and cinnamon and amomum [an Indian spice] and incense, and perfumed ointment and frankincense, and wine and oil, and fine flour and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14 And the fruit of the desire of thy soul is a thing lost from thee, and all the fat things and the bright things went away from thee, and in no wise shall thou find them anymore. 15 The merchants of these things, those having become rich from her, shall stand from afar on account of the fear of her torture, weeping and mourning, 16 saying, ‘Woe, woe, the city, the great one, the one having been clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls!

17 For in one hour so great wealth was made desolate.’ And every pilot, and all who sail to any place, and sailors, and as many as are working a trade in the sea, stood from afar; 18 and were crying, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like the city, the great one?’ 19 And they cast dust on their heads and were crying, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the city, the great one, in which all those having ships in the sea became rich by reason of her costliness! For in one hour was she made desolate.’ 20 Be rejoicing over her, O heaven, and ye the saints and the apostles and the prophets, for God judged your judgment on her.

21 And a strong angel took up a stone as a great millstone and cast it into the sea saying, “Thus, with a sudden rush, Babylon, the great city, shall be thrown down, and in no wise shall be found any longer. 22 And the sound of harpists and musicians and flutists and trumpeters in no wise shall be heard in thee any longer; and every artificer of every art in no wise shall be found in thee any longer; 23 and a light of a lamp in no wise shall shine in thee any longer; and the

## Revelation Chapter 18

*voice of a bridegroom and a bride in no wise shall be heard in thee any longer. For your merchants were the grandes of the earth, for in thy drugs, potions and spells all the nations were led astray. 24. And in her was found the blood of the prophets and saints and all those having been slain on the earth.*



## Revelation Chapter 18

***Revelation 18:1 (Constantinople 1904), After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumine by reason of his glory.***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: This passage reveals the brilliance and brightness of the holy powers that greatly surpasses the light of the stars and the heavenly bodies.

***Revelation 18:2 And he cried with a strong voice, saying, "It is fallen, it is fallen, Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons and a garrison of every unclean spirit and a keeper of every unclean bird which hath been hated.***

Averky: About the Chaldean capital of Babylon, captured by Cyrus and the Persians, something similar was foretold by Isaiah, that by reason of its utter desolation, it would be filled with wild beasts and unclean spirits.

*[Isaiah 13:19-22; 21:9, 19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20 It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. 21 But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there; and satyrs shall dance there. 22 And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant places: and her time is near to come; and her days shall not be prolonged ... 21:9 And behold, here cometh a chariot of men with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.]*

Archimandrite Athanasios: Now we have a change of scenery: a new angel appears with great authority. We are to assume that he was assigned to oversee the destruction of Babylon/Rome since he preannounces *Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great*.

It must be noted that during the time of the holy Evangelist's vision, Rome was at the zenith of her power and glory as an empire. Under normal circumstances it would be very difficult for one to even imagine the fall of such a great empire. The Roman occupation lasted many centuries ... During the zenith of her power and glory, an angel of God comes to announce the fall of Rome with the words; *fallen, fallen is Babylon the great*. This expression is a prophetic aorist, even though the grammar is in the present tense, shows that there is no doubt whatsoever that the Roman Empire will fall, *Fallen, fallen*; in other words is a sure thing, even though the actual fall took place many centuries later ...

This fall refers to historical Rome, but it also includes and expands to the empire of the Antichrist which will also crumble, fall, and be utterly destroyed. The double *fallen* not only prepares the reader, something commonly used in Hebraic philology, but it points out that God's judgment in history is progressive. Besides, a fall is never sudden but progressive. Although the old Babylon fell in one night, her fall was inevitable due to the widespread corruption that was specified and preannounced by the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah long before her fall. The same

## Revelation Chapter 18

thing happened in the Greek Empire of Alexander the Great, the Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire. Corruption is the common denominator that preannounces the fall of every empire ...

***Revelation 18:3 For out of the wine of the anger of her fornication have all the nations drunk, and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth became rich by the power of her wantonness [σπρήγους].***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: And how did the present Babylon cause the nations to drink the wine of its fornication? By becoming in every way their leader in every transgression and by sending gifts to obedient cities making their rulers enemies of truth and righteousness.

Archimandrite Athanasios: The obvious criteria that specify the fall of old nations such as Babylon and Rome are atheism and immorality. The loss of the meaning of ethics caused by the abundance of luxury is the criteria of decadence, when the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of the luxury of Babylon the Great Harlot. The words abundant-luxury is used to translate the word σπρήγους, a very rare and difficult word in New Testament Greek. This word most accurately expresses the state of today's humanity. It refers to the luxurious arrogant lifestyle, the abundance of material goods, and the wasting of God's resources.

The second meaning to the word σπρήγους refers to drunkenness from sexual immorality, lust of the flesh, hedonism, and a burning desire to gratify the lower instincts of the flesh. Saint Paul uses the same word when he writes to the Corinthians about the young widows who need to remarry because when they fall captive to the lower instincts, it is better for them to marry than to be alone and be unable to control themselves, letting sinful desires take over.

Matters however, become very complicated when the focus of commerce shifts from service and reasonable profit to insatiable greed. Some of today's international merchants no longer market produce of the earth but are determined to sacrifice everything sacred and holy, including human health at the altar of the goddess greed. [We can think of today's big pharmaceutical conglomerates, weapons traffickers, drug traffickers, human traffickers, sex traffickers, amongst many others, including the greater than 200 new billionaires who have enriched themselves as the result of the selective rearrangement of producers, suppliers, and financiers of the Covid "pandemic" coordinated by the self-proclaimed global elite.]

***Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice out of heaven saying, "Come out of her, My people, in order that ye might not be partakers in her sins and that ye might not receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins were joined fast together even to heaven, and God remembered her wrongdoings.***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: What once was said to Lot, *flee, save your life* (Gen. 19:17) was spoken in Isaiah [to the Israelites in Jerusalem, *Depart from her, go out thence, do not touch an unclean thing* (Isaiah 52:11), *[go ye out of the midst of her, be ye clean, that bear the vessels of*

## Revelation Chapter 18

*the Lord. 12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you and the God of Israel will be your reward.]*

Archimandrite Athanasios: With this second angelic voice, the people of God who reside in this, and every sinful city, are instructed to depart so they will not participate in her sins and her just punishments. [Consider the example of Lot and his family in Sodom.]

**2 Corinthians 6:15-16.** *For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?*

*Epistle to Diogenetus (c. AD 150-225):* **The Distinctiveness of Christians**<sup>1</sup>

5:1 For Christians are not distinguished from the rest of humanity by country, language, or custom. 2 For nowhere do they live in cities of their own, nor do they speak some unusual dialect, nor do they practice an eccentric way of life. 3. This teaching of theirs has not been discovered by the thought and reflection of ingenious people, nor do they promote any human doctrine, as some do. 4 But while they live in both Greek and barbarian cities, as each one's lot was cast, and follow the local customs in dress and food and other aspects of life, at the same time they demonstrate the remarkable and admittedly unusual character of their own citizenship. 5 They live in their own countries but only as nonresidents; they participate in everything as citizens, and endure everything as foreigners. Every foreign country is their fatherland, and every fatherland is foreign. 6 They marry like everyone else, and have children, but they do not expose their offspring. 7 They share their food but not their wives. 8 They are in the flesh, but do not live according to the flesh. 9 They live on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. 10 They obey the established laws; indeed in their private lives they transcend the laws. 11 They love everyone, and by everyone they are persecuted. 12 They are unknown, yet they are condemned; they are put to death, yet they are brought to life. 13 They are poor, yet they make many rich; they are in need of everything, yet they abound in everything. 14 They are dishonored, yet they are glorified in their dishonor; they are slandered, yet they are vindicated. 15 They are cursed, yet they bless; they are insulted, yet they offer respect. 16 When they do good, they are punished as evildoers; when they are punished, they rejoice as though brought to life. 17 By the Jews they are assaulted as foreigners, and by the Greeks they are persecuted, yet those who hate them are unable to give a reason for their hostility.

6.1 In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world.

Archimandrite Athanasios: Saints Andrew and Arethas of Caesarea summarize all of the above by stating that the world of Babylon that needs to be avoided by the Christians is the whole corrupt world, the world of sin that has nothing in common with the Kingdom of God. Secularized Christianity and secularized churches are members of the Babylonian world since they live a lukewarm form of Christianity. A secularized church, as we have repeatedly stated, is useless to Christ and as such it is not saved nor can it save its members.

---

1. Michael W. Holmes translator and editor, "Epistle to Diogenetus," in **The Apostolic Fathers, Greek Texts and English Translations, 3rd edition**, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, pp. 701-3.



## Revelation Chapter 18

***Revelation 18:6 Render to her as also she rendered, and repay her twofold according to her works, in the cup which she gave to drink, give to her to drink double.***

Ecumenius: *For her sins are heaped high as heaven*, it says. This is as though he had said, “And they polluted the air all around with their sins.” And so it say, although God is in every way longsuffering, He has now arisen to give to the city its due. Therefore, it says, *repay her double for her sins*. It is true that through wise Moses god has commanded us, *You will not take vengeance twice at the same time* (Nah. 1:9). How, therefore, does God repay double? The word *double* does not mean twofold or twice. Rather, since God is a lover of humankind and good and punishes to a much lesser degree than is deserved, He deems that He has given back double, and indeed not only double but even sevenfold, whenever He gives back only a part. And knowing this, the prophet said, *Repay to your neighbors sevenfold into their bosom the reproach with which they have reproached you, O Lord* (Ps. 78:12). In this petition for the punishment of their enemies according to their deserts, they implore God to give back sevenfold.

St. Andrew of Caesarea: He speaks of the cup as double, either because sinners and transgressors are punished both here and in the age to come, or because both soul and body are punished for their common deeds or because of the depth of divine benevolence that is reckoned as double that is lacking of pure justice on the account of sin, and punishment is often endured in the conscience.

Archimandrite Athanasios: *Render to her as also she rendered, and repay her twofold according to her works, in the cup which she gave to drink, give to her to drink double (Revelation 18:6)*. Who is this mysterious voice addressing? The people of God who are instructed to leave the city and be saved? Of course not! Christians do not take revenge. Christians are saddened, weep and mourn for the plight of their neighbors and rejoice when they see one of the fallen citizens repent and come to his senses. This is what it means to be a Christian. So it is not possible for the people of God to take revenge and pay double to the center of corruption, Babylon the Great. The voice is directed to the enemies of the city, who are chosen as organs of punishment, and to carry out the divine judgment. This have been repeated many times throughout history.

***Revelation 18:7 As much as she glorified herself and waxed wanton, so much torture and mourning give to her; for in her heart she saith that ‘I take my seat and sit a queen, and am not a widow and in no wise shall see mourning’***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: If there is no fear of God in them, it is the habit of those in prosperity to say, *I shall never be moved* (Ps 29:6). This is what the city has spoken to herself.

***Revelation 18:8 On this account in one day shall come her plagues, death and mourning and famine; and with fire shall she be burned; for strong is the Lord God, the One having judged her.***

## Revelation Chapter 18

St. Andrew of Caesarea: By a single day he means either the suddenness and shortness of the time in which mourning will come to her either from the sword or from famine, and she will be wasted from pestilence and will be consumed by fire. . Or it refers to the course of the day itself in which the city will experience these things that are prophesied. For after the enemies gain control of the city, only one day will suffice to bring every evil and every form of death on those who have been defeated. For God is strong both to save those who please him and to punish those who are unrepentant sinners.

***Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, those having committed fornication and having waxed wanton with her, shall weep for her and shall beat their breasts for her, whenever they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing from afar on account of fear of her torture, saying, 'Woe, woe, the city the great Babylon, the city, the strong one! For in one hour is come thy judgment.***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: We think that in this passage the *kings* refer to the rulers, as the psalmist said concerning Jerusalem, *Behold, her kings have assembled* (Ps. 47:5). It says that those who committed fornication in her against the divine commandment will weep, since they see or hear of her burning and desolation, and they are thoroughly terrified at the sudden change that had taken place in such a short time.

***Revelation 18:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn for her, because no one buyeth their cargo anymore: 12 Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearl, and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, all the thyine wood and every vessel of most precious wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13, and cinnamon and amomum [an Indian spice] and incense, and perfumed ointment and frankincense, and wine and oil, and fine flour and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14 And the fruit of the desire of thy soul is a thing lost from thee, and all the fat things and the bright things went away from thee, and in no wise shall thou find them anymore.***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: The buying and the consumption of those who are being corrupted by power and indulgence is extraordinary ... We should consider which city is in the habit of purchasing such items and what people so desire the possession of such excess for the purpose of dissolute indulgence ... You will never again traffic in human lives, it says, or enslave the free. Nor will you enjoy your former wealth and magnificence.

Archimandrite Athanasios: Another commodity of the Babylonian marketplace is human souls. The Evangelist clearly says *bodies and souls of men*. Can one's soul become a marketable commodity? This seems very strange at first but I believe that it is here where the profits skyrocket. The pornography industry is at its zenith today ... The souls of men became so corrupt and empty after so-called "sexual revolution" that they are now seeking more satisfaction in every sort of perversion. The merchants of the earth, who benefit greatly from such addictions, have now created appropriate laws to turn the nations into a likeness of Sodom

## Revelation Chapter 18

and Gomorrah, totally indifferent to the loss of the priceless human soul. Saint Paul writes about those who scandalize the human soul for which Christ died. These merchants don't simply scandalize a soul or two, but entire nations by pushing them into Hades and hell for their profit ...

I am not referring to the slavery of ancient times where people were bought and sold like cattle. Supposedly that type of slavery was outlawed several centuries ago, at least superficially. Yet the crime of human trafficking is thriving today worldwide.

Returning to the list of the commodities listed by the Evangelist we see the bodies of men is included. Is the body of a man an object of merchandise to be bought and sold on the market? [Consider the black market harvesting of human organs from among the healthy followers of falun gong or from other political prisoners in China for transplant to the unhealthy wealthy around the world.]

***Revelation 18:15 The merchants of these things, those having become rich from her, shall stand from afar on account of the fear of her torture, weeping and mourning, 16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the city, the great one, the one having been clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great wealth was made desolate.' And every pilot, and all who sail to any place, and sailors, and as many as are working a trade in the sea, stood from afar;***

Averky: Here attention is turned to the sufferings of this Babylon, the weeping over it indicating the great misfortune and frightful destiny, which will punish the city, once they boast of royal favor.

Archimandrite Athanasios: It is obvious, although I will remind you so it will never escape our attention or our memory, that Babylon/Rome is no longer the historical Rome. It is symbolic of a most powerful center that influences the world. This center (or centers) saturates the world with its corruption and decadence. What I would like to point out here is that this is a specific center or perhaps centers, and is a specific geographical location. This is why the destruction will be localized as well. Furthermore, those who mourn are not in these areas ...

If you are sorrowful because your sins offended God, it is the beginning of salvation and something you will never regret. If you are sorrowful in the worldly sense, because you lost your money or because the bid city of corruption that afforded you your enjoyment and fornication is now destroyed, then the sorrow has the working of death in it. The kings of the earth who are watching the torment of Babylon *stand afar off* (18:10). They are very afraid, thinking that they could be next.

***Revelation 18:18 and were crying, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like the city, the great one?' 19 And they cast dust on their heads and were crying, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the city, the great one, in which all those having ships in the sea became rich by reason of her costliness! For in one hour was she made desolate.'***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: But it is necessary to add that the merchants of this universal Babylon, that is, Confusion, will suffer the same thing at the conclusion of the visible world and



## Revelation Chapter 18

will sob inconsolably, since they are unwillingly deprived of the pleasures of this life and are reproached by their conscience because of their deeds.

*Revelation 18:20 Be rejoicing over her, O heaven, and ye the saints and the apostles and the prophets, for God judged your judgment on her.*



St. Andrew of Caesarea: They rejoice for the coming of these chastisements, not because they rejoice in hardships but because they ardently desire a cessation to sin. And perhaps those who have been slave to sin might obtain a milder punishment in the age to come because they were torment to some extent here.

## Revelation Chapter 18

***Revelation 18:21 And a strong angel took up a stone as a great millstone and cast it into the sea saying, "Thus, with a sudden rush, Babylon, the great city, shall be thrown down, and in no wise shall be found any longer. 22 And the sound of harpists and musicians and flutists and trumpeters in no wise shall be heard in thee any longer; and every artificer of every art in no wise shall be found in thee any longer; 23 and a light of a lamp in no wise shall shine in thee any longer; and the voice of a bridegroom and a bride in no wise shall be heard in thee any longer. For your merchants were the grandees of the earth, for in thy drugs, potions and spells all the nations were led astray. 24. And in her was found the blood of the prophets and saints and all those having been slain on the earth.***

St. Andrew of Caesarea: Just as a millstone sinks with force into the sea, so also the destruction of this Babylon will be sudden, so that afterward no trace of it will be found ... And he gives the reason for this. Babylon deceived all nations with its sorcery and was the recipient of the blood of the prophets and other saints.

Thus, we see the Great Babylon, Satan's capital, is the exact opposite of the New Jerusalem of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ. For in Satan's capital *was found the blood of the prophets and saints and all those having been slain on the earth, i.e., the Martyrs, Satan's enemies.*

Note: The Sunday of All Saints originally began as a commemoration of all the Martyrs. Later were added all the ranks of Saints who "*bore witness*" (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek), the confessors of Christ tortured in many ways, but not leading to death -- His sons! In the Apostolos reading for the Sunday of All Saints, St. Paul recounted the achievements of the Saints and set them forth as shining examples for us, that we might turn away from earthly "treasures" and from the fleshly sins that Satan's materialistic and depraved city and harlot, Babylon, continually lures us with. Our Lord Jesus Christ exhorts us in *Rev. 18:4b "Come out of her, My people, in order that ye might not be partakers in her sins and that ye might not receive of her plagues.* Christ exhorts us to turn from that self-centered passion-filled death and emulate the martyrs' patience and courage in their struggles for Godly virtue.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Our Holy and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the Saints,  
O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.