

Revelation 18 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at Revelation chapter eighteen, this is part thirty-six or unit thirty-six in our series on the book of Revelation.

Verse one, *'And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.'*

Light is, of course, the first thing God created. It is more than just physical photons floating through the ether to us so that we can see, it also means understanding, it also means order and balance.

So an angel has to come that will reveal the truth to God's people.

'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.'

It isn't that all of Roman Catholicism, all of denominations, are evil, or the people in them, not at all. But there comes a point when the devil does take control and it does become completely evil. It tries to take over the world and everything that is evil then operates through that system. So it's not necessarily here and now, though there are traces, of course, you know as in all things, as in all people, but it is going to come to that point.

Verse three, *'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.'*

As I said before, Rome and the church, world church system, is working not just in the religious section, but it is also working in the political, which is the kings of the earth, and in the business area, or economics. And that's exactly what this is saying.

Verse four, *'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.'*

There is going to come, and in fact there is now, the message 'come out of her now'. This, I believe, is the key call of the message of today. 'Come out of her, my people'. But we don't stop there, of course. We've then got to come into Jesus Christ. But come out of the denominations, come out of the control of the Roman church, or the world council of churches, or any church that is run by man. And that would include such things as the Mormons and the Jehovah Witnesses, and the Seven Day Adventists, all of them, anything that is organised by man.

'For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.'

Verse six, *'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.'*

You know, there are Japanese who bewail the fact that the atomic bomb was rained down on Japan during the Second World War, and they look upon it as a great evil. They were treating people, killing people, murdering people, considering themselves – it was the only way to stop them. And in actual fact, the Japanese nation was preparing for an invasion by the Americans, and everyone, including women and children, was being trained to fight to the death. The atomic bombs and the surrender of Japan saved lives, not just the American side, it saved the Japanese nation too.

The same with Germany. Germany may be aware of the fact that the British and the Americans made a fire storm in places like Dresden and so on, but they bombed the British, they bombed the French, they bombed the Polish, they wiped out Warsaw. The bible tells us, 'sow a wind, you'll reap a whirlwind'. It means what it says.

Verse seven, *'How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.'*

That sounds rather like Vashti in the book of Esther. She wouldn't respond to the king's call. And here we have Jesus Himself trying to call the church back to Himself through the seven church age messengers, and Vashti or the church system is refusing. She says 'no, I'm queen, I can have my own feast. I can do my own thing.' Well, God will choose an Esther.

Verse eight, *'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 judgeth her.'*

'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,'

So Babylon the Great is going to be destroyed by fire.

'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.'

Why are they keeping away? Why aren't they rushing –? Because it's an atomic bomb. An atomic bomb will destroy Rome and all that Rome is involved in.

'And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:'

This merchandise. Now once again you see that the church system is bound up in economics too, because even all the people who make and produce things are upset because the church, the Roman church, is gone. The world system of economics is destroyed.

'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,'

Sounds like it's all rich stuff. But hang on.

'And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil,' hello, we're getting into foodstuffs, *'and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots,'* chariots, of course, motorcars and buses, trucks, all that stuff, *'and slaves, and souls of men.'*

The religious side as well.

'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.'

'The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,'

They're not going to go in there. The whole place, Rome, that part of Italy, all going to be radioactive.

'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!

'For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and 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!

'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.'

Again we're looking at the financial side of things, the traders.

Verse twenty, *'Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.*

'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.'

Now that's interesting because we've just seen the first one destroyed by an atomic bomb. This time it's being overturned and thrown into the sea. What's this? This is Los Angeles. This is the American business side.

'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;

'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.

'And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.'

What on earth is this then? This is Los Angeles, this is the film, TV, music industry, all that have perverted God's people and tried by their sorceries, by presenting TV programs, by presenting films that show life in a rather, shall we say, risqué way, is come to nought. It is destroyed. There will be a massive earthquake that will drop Los Angeles, and probably a good part of the west coast of America, into the sea. According to Bro. Branham, that earthquake will allow the sea to come up to the present Salton Sea.

That is Revelation chapter eighteen.

May God bless you.