

Doomsday for Babylon **Revelation 18:1-8**

The Bible predicts a union of religions beyond the church. The endtime religion will be a union of all religions by the decree of the beast out of the land foretold in Revelation 13. Preparations now are being made for that decree, though not all church people are aware of what is going on.

One solemn truth: we must all face up to the fact of doomsday--the final judgment. The philosophy of many today coincides with those illfated passengers on the ship, the Titanic. They riddled and frittered away the time mistakenly believing that the ship could not sink. As a result, they went to a watery grave in 1912. I say, the philosophy of many today is like that.

The more wicked men become, the more easily they put doomsday far away. But that day is marked on God's calendar. Do not forget it. It is important for us to search out God's word; to learn all we can.

There is a final day of judgment coming for all mankind. DOOMSDAY FOR BABYLON is described in Revelation 18:1-8.

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 saith 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 judgeth her.

In this Scripture text we are permitted to witness the PROCEDURES by which the Almighty will bring Babylon to her doom.

The first Procedure; To Deliver the Announcement

A heavenly angel is sent to proclaim this announcement. He comes with great power and great glory. His great voice booms out across the ether waves announcing the fall of Babylon, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of demons, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." This angelic voice sounds across the world making it clear that Babylon has gone as far as she will ever go. This is DOOMSDAY FOR BABYLON!

Why should there be such a day marked on God's calendar? The reason is clearly given in verse 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 grown rich through the abundance of her delicacies." The central motivation of all nations, kings and merchants was wealth, to get rich, to accumulate, to have more, more.

The first procedure of the Almighty was to deliver the announcement by the angel.

The second Procedure; To Delineate the Judgment

Babylon was seductive in her sins. Her relationship with the kings is called fornication. But there is another word from heaven addressed to those who find themselves in her shadow. The call is, "Come out of her, my people." There is always the danger of the people of God being so tightly woven into the fabric of society that they partake of the sins of the society. The voice from heaven warns them not to partake of her sins lest they also be subject to the plagues that will be poured out upon her.

Note the size of her sins, "For her sins have reached unto heaven." Jeremiah 51:52,53 speaks of ancient Babylon on the river Euphrates, "Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will execute judgment upon her carved images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan. Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the LORD."

End-time Babylon has sins stacked up to heaven. But God remembers her iniquities. Jeremiah 51:54-56 says, "A sound of a cry cometh from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans: Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered: Because the spoiler is come upon her, even upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompence shall surely requite." Yes, God has delineated her judgment.

The third Procedure; To Decree the Punishment

God said her punishment will be double. Give her double according to her works; multiply it, make it more devastating. She has caused all men to drink of the cup of her fornication, give her twice to the full the cup of God's wrath.

As she lived luxuriously, so give her torment and sorrow to balance that. She said, "I am no widow, I have many lovers." Therefore send to her swift execution in one day death, and mourning and famine.

Read the words of another, "The saints are to reign, but while the devil reigns their kingdom is in abeyance. And Babylon talks and congratulates herself with having in reality what they have only in empty promise. While Christ is away the church is in widowhood, her husband is absent. All her hope is in his return. Babylon boasts that she experiences no such privation. She is no widow. Her lovers are plenteous. Her joy is full.

The people of God have perpetual sorrow and trial on earth. Like their LORD, they are poor, despised, and persecuted. Babylon glories in being far above a condition so mean. She is rich; she is mighty; she hath all her necessary goods secure; she is not the one to see mourning. Thus she vaunts, professes, and glorifies herself.

Though the world from the beginning is crowded with monuments of the wrath of heaven upon every spirit, and though through all the long gallery of ages a voice comes echoing down, 'They that walk in pride, God is able to abase,' she heeds not the lesson, and defies all judgment. Hence Jehovah

writes it once more in larger letters, drawn with the black cinders of her eternal desolation, that all the universe may read and tremble.” This decree of the punishment will mean doomsday for Babylon.