

## The "No-More" City Revelation 18:20-24

It was August 6, 1945 when the first nuclear bomb was used in war. It was exploded 2000 feet over Hiroshima, Japan. At that height it destroyed 2/3 of the city. Three days later, August 9, a second nuclear bomb was exploded over Nagasaki, Japan and destroyed 50% of the town. The total casualties of those two bombs was placed at 200,000 people.

From that day on we have been living in the dread of the possibility of extinction by choice or demonic desire for world domination. With the proliferation of nuclear know-how and the stockpiling of weaponry with multiple-warheads the situation is becoming more and more fragile. It is almost too frightening to think about what would happen by the pushing of a couple of buttons?

Just imagine, population centers, and industrial complexes would be wiped out in a moment. Radio active fallout, it is argued, would prohibit any rehabilitation of the territory for years to come.

In 1962 Sister Yoder and I were walking over the ancient town of Ras Shamra, which is north of Beirut, Lebanon. That town existed in the time of Moses. It was an exciting experience because when the archeologist discovered this site they found clay tablets that had been written before the time of Moses, and in a language that is a sister of the Hebrew language, called the Ugaritic language. Since that discovery men have made a study of Ugaritic.

We toured the Roman towns of Turkey in 1962. Some of them are completely gone. For example, Antioch in Pisidia, one of the places where the Apostle Paul preached his message to the population now lies in total ruins.

Most of these ancient cities that lie in ruins are that way because of war and conquest, and perhaps, divine judgment. The Bible predicts the complete destruction of Babylon by the repetition of "no more."

In Revelation 18:20-24 we read of the final overthrow of Babylon that makes it THE "NO MORE" CITY.

*20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!*

*21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.*

*22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.*

*23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voices of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.*

*24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

By divine revelation we are furnished with INSIGHTS into the final overthrow of Babylon.

The first Insight; The Storm of Vengeance

Notice the prophet was told, “God has avenged you on her.” Vengeance, the vengeance of God was as a storm, gathering in its fury. Finally it struck this city, proud, greedy, sensuous, lifted up, and destroyed it.

That storm of vengeance, however, stimulate joy. The word says, “Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles.” And then to read more carefully, the redeemed, the saints, the apostles and prophets are invited to rejoice as well because the storm of vengeance has struck and the city has been reduced to nothing.

These saints, apostles and prophets may have been the martyrs who had suffered under the sword of the anti-christ. But then an angel symbolizes the storm of vengeance on Babylon. He picks up a great stone, like a great millstone, and throws it into the sea where it disappears from sight. And he says that, this is how Babylon is to be thrown down and shall be found no more at all. This is the “no more” city, subject to the storm of divine vengeance where there will never again be a city.

#### A second Insight; The Shock of Silence

You can imagine from what is portrayed earlier in the chapter that this had been a city of great activity: kings, merchants, shipmasters, merchandise of all kinds, transportation coming and going. All at once, all at once, the shock of silence. This is classified in three different areas.

The area of entertainment. There will be no more harpers, minstrels, flute players, or trumpeters. This is the area of entertainment. Joy, merry-making, all ceases when the “no more” city comes to her end: a strange and eerie silence.

No more enterprises. The technicians of every craft are finished. I have seen them, stonemasons, potters, woodworkers, metal crafters, all of them busy, each one in his own way in some of those cities of the Middle East. But now, the shock of silence puts an end to the craftsmen. There will be no enterprises, no technical enterprises, no practical enterprises because the millstone will be quiet. I have seen those millstones at the ancient city of Capernaum. This has to do with home affairs and food supplies --all stopped. No more grinding at the mill.

No more espousal, no light of the candle, no marriage joys. The voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be quiet. The shock of silence. “No more,” “no more.” All those busy activities will come absolutely to a halt. The silence is an eerie silence.

#### The third Insight; The Show of Evidence

Her trick of deception. Did you notice at the ending of verse 23, the merchants were the great men of the earth? But by her sorceries all nations were deceived. Now I checked on that word sorceries and I find that it is the word from which we get our English word pharmacy, “pharmaka.” She was able to trick these merchants into riches instead of character. And her seduction of all nations was by her magical powers or by her drugs. Deception, the evidence of deception.

And then you note her troop of destruction: prophets and saints and all that were slain: their blood was found in that city. All that were slain. All doubt must now be removed. Her annihilation is absolutely and amply justified by the evidence, by the circumstantial evidence. The trick of her deception and the troop of her destruction.

Babylon will become a “no more” city. The divine revelation of her destruction affords us some valuable insights: the storm of vengeance, the shock of silence and the show of evidence. I believe any thinking person will take warning. I urge you not to trifle with God’s justice. Turn your heart in simple

faith to Him now and confess your need of Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour. He will accept you.

I must appeal to you friend. Make sure now that you have made your peace with God. He has provided for this through His only beloved Son, Jesus Christ, and His death on the cross. It was on the cross where the Lord Jesus shed His blood that you and I might be forgiven, forgiven of our sins and brought into right relationship with God so we can escape the judgment of God so openly described in the text we have just expounded. Let me urge you therefore to come.