

Chapter 18 vs 4 - the heart of these two chapters - *4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

17 and 18 - pretty much happen at the same time - TIVO - Someone posted on youtube what was going on - on earth during the 7 bowl judgements of God on Earth

Tale of two cities - Babylon and Jerusalem -

Jerusalem - 819 times— city of Shalom - presence of God, Glory of God, Love of God - Jesus - presented - crucified - resurrected - ascended - return - known as the place where our salvation was accomplished - rev 21 -new jerusalem = prepared as a bride adorned for her husband - personification - cityfication of the church - body - system - building

Babylon - 286 times - Babel - 2 times - confusion or mixed - known for self-salvation - pride - ascending to heaven through works - also known as a place of idolatry - judgement - exile, and oppression = New Babylon = a great whore, prostitute, harlot - personification - citification of the unbelievers - body - system - building

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Introducing the great harlot: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

So the angel grabs Papa John - supernatural trip to the wilderness (judgement), and is going to show him the judgement of the great harlot - who sits on many waters - means - from vs 15 - are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues - worldwide influence

Kings committed fornication - leaders - people in position of authority - engage in prostitution - idolatry

inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

idolatry = release of restraint - loss of stability - inhibited or total loss of reason

scarlet beast (anti-christ) -full of blasphemies - slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name

The harlot has a false sense of being in control - she sits on the beast — ever been on a horse - they make you feel like you are in control - until they say - game over - I'm taking over!

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

She is rich, powerful, outward beauty she uses the allure of wealth to lead the people astray— that refreshes herself - beverage of choice is abomination (idolatry), filthiness (unclean thought life) , and fornication (sex for hire) - refreshed by self-salvation

abomination = a foul thing, a detestable thing - of idols and things pertaining to idolatry

5 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Worship - is the continuous outpouring of all that I am , all that I do, and all that I can ever become in light of a ***chosen or choosing god - we are unceasing worshippers, we were created worshipping***

Mothers - give birth and nurture - idolatry - "When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an 'idol,' something you are actually worshipping. - Sin is building your life and meaning on anything, even a very good thing, more than on God.

Mystery Babylon the Great - system - body - city - that is the culmination of the masses of fallen sinful people. - anti-church (people) - *Eph 5:32 his is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.*

This primarily has to do with worship - the prostitute of Satan - he has no wife - that requires love - results in political system, power system, economic system, religious system, government system, that is all based on pride, self-salvation, making a name for one-self,

Throughout the Bible, we see a God who is a concerned lover. He's full of anguish and dismay when his covenant people pursue non-gods. In the prophetic book of Hosea, God -- the loving husband -- gets choked up when his wife, Israel, continually cheats on him: "My heart is turned over within Me, all My compassions are kindled" (Hosea 11:8).

When can jealousy be a good thing? In God's case, it's when we're rummaging around in the garbage piles of life and avoiding the ultimate source of satisfaction. It reminds me of a comic strip I once saw of a dog who had been drinking out of a toilet bowl. With water dripping from his snout, Fido looks up to tell us, "It doesn't get any better than this!"

Instead of enjoying fresh spring water, we look for stagnant, crummy-tasting substitutes that inevitably fail us. God laments over Israel: "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jer. 2:13).

"How I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols" (Ezek. 6:9). God endured much defiance, despite his loving concern for his people: "I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts, a people who continually provoke Me to My face" (Isa. 65:2 -- 3).

Ezekiel 16 and 23 - "But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame"; "you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry" (vv. 15, 25).

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

intoxicated with the death of the saints. - culture steeped in being anti-christian

Marveled with great marvel - second look - at her false beauty

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel?"

What are you doing? She's hideous, ugly, destined for destruction - on the wrong team.

*I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, **whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world**, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and **is going to perdition**. (destruction in hell) 12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have **received no kingdom as yet**, but they receive authority for **one hour (temporary)** as kings with the beast. 13 **These are of one mind**, and they will **give their power and authority to the beast**. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful." 15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 **For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose**, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."*

10 horns - people of great authority - give over their authority to the beast - armies? - weapons?

7 Heads - 7 Kings - 7 Mountains - Leaders of Kingdoms - 5 past - 1 current (for John Rome) future - and an 8th which is the anti-christ

False resurrection of the anti-Christ - Satan has nothing original to offer other than distorted twisted truth - counterfeit

For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose,

Kings of One mind - not so much what they are for - unite in what they are against - Jesus and His people - Make war with Jesus and His people - The Bride reveals the Harlot - light & darkness - sovereignty of God - HE IS IN CONTROL

Power of the masses - is always a threat to leaders - beast and the 10 leaders - want to gain full domination over the masses - system can control the leaders, more than the leaders can control the system - full domination by - use their authority to strip her of her beauty and wealth - consume her and

The world is self-destructive - always in conflict war - alliances are only to gain - once the cost outweigh the gains - tossed - prostitute - pay for pleasure, until there is none - kick to the curb.

Who wins - The Lamb does - Jesus Wins - and who wins with Him - you do!

and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

not the ones who were the best Christians - the ones called, chosen, and faithful. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it - abide, abide, abide, grace, grace, grace

The way to live in the world - system that is headed for hell - and to make it off this train - WITH HIM!

The World Mourning the Loss of Babylon the Great - Massive System Failure - Anti-Christ - total dominion

Titanic Illustration - someone sees reality - that we are going down - you believe you will live your life different - you don't believe - keep in living like the tragedy isn't going to happen.

This boat is going down - change how you live - cast down your idols - influence of Babylon in your life -

18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

in the world not of the world - we have to consider where we are being seduced by the spirit of Babylon

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Tower of Babel - was to reach Heaven - she did it with sin, not with bricks.

Isa 52:11

*Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing;
Go out from the midst of her, Be clean,
You who bear the vessels of the LORD.*

Jer 51:6

*Flee from the midst of Babylon, And every one save his life!
Do not be cut off in her iniquity, For this is the time of the LORD's vengeance;
He shall recompense her.*

2Co 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them

And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1Jo 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

What does it look like to be in the world and not of the world - Jesus - loved sinners, prostitutes, and tax collectors, when he engaged in the world He made it clean, it didn't make Him dirty.

We are in the world - from another Kingdom - we live according to a different stream, system, city, body - Bride of Christ - Virgin - not a Harlot.

*6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, **mix double for her.** 7 In the measure that **she glorified herself** and lived **luxuriously**, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, **'I sit as queen, and am no widow (no marriage), and will not see sorrow.'***

*Frozen: It's time to see what I can do
To test the limits and break through
No right, no wrong, no rules for me I'm free!
Let it go, let it go*

Our culture is affected by Babylon - independence, pleasure, wealth, power, popularity,

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

God will use the kings to do his judgement

*9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, **'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'***

11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

Trafficking in Human souls - slavery - human life is considered property again - Hunger Games

*14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, **'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'** Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, **'What is like this great city?'***

*19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, **'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'***

"Life only has meaning/I only have worth if..."

1 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I have power and influence over others." (Power idolatry)

2 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am loved and respected by ____." (Approval idolatry) - you will be constantly overly hurt by criticism and thus always losing friends. You will fear confronting others and therefore will be a useless friend.

3 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life." (Comfort idolatry) = you will find yourself getting addicted to something. You will become chained to the "escape strategies" by which you avoid the hardness of life.

4 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of ____." (Control idolatry)

5 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... people are dependent on me and need me." (Helping idolatry)

6 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... someone is there to protect me and keep me safe." (Dependence idolatry)

7 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone." (Independence idolatry)

8 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am highly productive and getting a lot done." (Work idolatry)

9 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work." (Achievement idolatry) - you will be a driven workaholic and a boring, shallow person. At worst you will lose family and friends and, if your career goes poorly, develop deep depression.

10 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions." (Materialism idolatry) - you'll be eaten up by worry or jealousy about money. You'll be willing to do unethical things to maintain your lifestyle, which will eventually blow up your life.

11 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities." (Religion idolatry) - you will, if you are living up to your moral standards, be proud, self-righteous, and cruel. If you don't live up to your moral standards, your guilt will be utterly devastating.

12 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me." (Individual person idolatry)

13 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality." (Irreligion idolatry)

14 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior." (Racial/cultural idolatry)

15 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in." (Inner ring idolatry)

16 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me." (Family idolatry) - you will try to live your life through your children until they resent you or have no self of their own. At worst, you may abuse them when they displease you.

17 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... Mr. or Ms. "Right" is in love with me." (Relationship Idolatry) - you will be emotionally dependent, jealous, and controlling. The other person's problems will be overwhelming to you.

18 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt." (Suffering idolatry)

19 "Life only has meaning/I only have worth if... my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power." (Ideology idolatry) - you will divide the world into "good" and "bad" and demonize your opponents. Ironically, you will be controlled by your enemies. Without them, you have no purpose.

20 I have a particular kind of look or body image." (Image idolatry)

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 voice 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."

Different Futures

No singing on earth - saints will be jamming on harps singing worthy is the lamb that was slain

Productivity will end - productivity will be beyond imagination

No bread - Marriage supper of the Lamb

Darkness - Light of Christ so bright, no need for the sun

no marriage - greatest marriage of all time - Jesus and the church

Isaiah 66:4, God says, "I called, but no one answered; I spoke, but they did not listen. And they did evil in My sight and chose that in which I did not delight." Again, in Ezekiel 18:23, 31 -- 32, God asks, "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked? . . . Why will you die, ...? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies. . . . Therefore, repent and live."

C. S. Lewis's insightful perspective puts divine jealousy and human idolatry into proper perspective: If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he can-not imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased