

# Note

## Revelation – Part 7 of 15

### Summary

The righteous judgement of God will be meted out to all who outright reject repentance and curse God. The final battle against God will be fought at Armageddon and His wrath will destroy Babylon forever. But this time, the Babylon that is defeated is not limited to a corrupt city – but the perverse and corrupt heart of mankind. Beginning with Adam, money, greed, power and fame has long been the ultimate quest of man – he forsakes his first love, God. But God remains faithful to His promise – He will call out His righteous few who have resisted the temptations of this world and remain in His agape love, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.

# Transcript

## Revelation – Part 7 of 15

We come now to Revelation Chapter 15.

### Chapter 15

The previous chapter we saw how the merciful and patient God sends an angel to preach the gospel for the last time, so that the whole world will hear. The angel also warns that the Babylon they worship will fall, and if they have the mark of the beast, they will have eternal problems in judgment. God has done His job finally.

And now, we come to the 7 last judgments called the 7 Bowl judgments. The difference is, before, we see God's hand against people, sometimes against a city, sometimes against a group of people in a particular place, but this time the judgments are universal. Everybody is going to feel it and suffer from it. So God builds up these things. Not so much like these are subsequent events, they are probably the same events, but helping us to digest the horror of all the things that will happen on the earth.

In these last judgements in Revelation Chapter 15, we see 7 angels. John says, I see a sea of glass with fire. Remember, in front of the throne of God, it was mentioned a sea of glass like crystal, speaking of how peaceful everything is before God. A sea is with ripples but a sea of glass is so peaceful. But this time, this sea of glass is mingled with fire, meaning there's going to be judgment; fire always speaks of judgment. Then he sees those who had conquered, (those who had resisted worshipping the beast, and having the mark on their head) standing by the sea, with harps in their hand and they sing the song of Moses.

Remember when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, and after they went across, they sang a song of Moses to thank God for the deliverance from Pharaoh and deliverance from Egypt. This time, these people who escaped the Great Tribulation are going to sing, because they escaped satan's desire to destroy them and they escaped the present evil world. So they sing a song of liberation and the song is basically, "Great and amazing are You, God. Just and true are Your ways."

Then John sees the temple in heaven open and 7 angels came out, clothed in white linen, white robes, almost like the High Priest in the Old Testament. And one of the 4 living creatures gave to each of these 7 angels, a bowl each. The bowl is the last judgment which we will learn about in the next chapter, Revelation (Chapter) 16. And then John sees the whole temple filled with smoke, (Smoke always speaks of God's glory like in the Old Testament, when a pillar of smoke came down, it was the glory of God coming down) and that nobody could enter the temple until the 7 plagues were over.

We come now to Revelation Chapter 16.

It begins by saying that a voice from the temple shouts to the 7 angels to pour out the 7 bowls of God's wrath-last judgment of God's wrath. These are the universal ones and the whole world will feel this.

So the first angel pours out his bowl on the earth, and painful sores came upon all those who have the mark of the beast on their foreheads. So now, it's no more affecting the earth, it is affecting their bodies directly.

Then, the second angel pours out his bowl into the sea, and the sea became like coagulated, semi-clotted blood so that all the creatures in the sea died. If you've seen the blood of a dead man, it is no more flowing blood, is not fresh blood, it's clotting already, like jelly. So the sea becomes red jelly blobs of blood, and no fish can survive.

The third angel pours out his bowl into the rivers and the streams, and they became blood. Do all these sound familiar? These are like the plagues in Egypt. It happened before, on a very local scale, in one nation. This time, it's the entire world. In those days it was a river of Egypt, but now every river and spring in the world. And so people now have nothing to drink. And then it is commented that this is such a just judgment of God. These are the people who shed the blood of God's people. They love to see blood of God's people by their persecutions. Now they are forced to drink blood. So God gives them exactly what they love. They loved blood, so they get blood now.

The Fourth Bowl is poured out on the sun. It intensified the heat of the sun, and it scorched people. This is torment, and you know what they did? Instead of pleading for mercy from God, they cursed God and did not repent.

Then the Fifth Bowl. You see this is already the road of no return. At this point, there's no more return. They hardened their heart so much until it reaches a point, there's no way they can turn back. The Fifth Bowl is poured out on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom becomes dark. So now this guy, who thinks he is going to control the world, can't even see anything. And all of them cursed God and did not repent.

The Sixth Bowl is poured on the River Euphrates. Back again to the place where the world started, the Garden of Eden (where) the River Euphrates was mentioned. The river Euphrates dries up so that the kings of the East and their armies can cross it without any problem. Remember the landmass of Asia? Armies coming from the East-China? Very possible. And then it says, three unclean spirits, looking like frogs come out. One from the mouth of the dragon, one from the mouth of the antichrist, one from the mouth of the false prophet. These three frog-like things come out and these are the spirits that are going to perform miracles that will deceive all the leaders of the world to think that they need to unite and fight against God. So man always wanted to rebel against God, but dare not make it open. We rebel against God by worshipping idols, coming up with the theory of evolution, everything to put God out, but dare not say in His face, "There is no God." But the antichrist blasphemes God and now he uses these three frog-like spirits to convince every leader in the world that they need to fight God, physically fight against God. And so they all gather for the battle of Armageddon. Armageddon actually is in Hebrew "Harmagedon". "Har" means mountain, "magedon" is actually Megiddo; the mountain of Megiddo. Actually next to it, is a huge plain, a perfect plain for battle and many battles in the past have been fought on that plain. So the last battle on earth will be fought on the plain by Megiddo; Harmagedon, mountain of Megiddo but it's a plain next to it.

And then the Seventh Bowl is poured out or thrown into the air. And then a loud voice says, "It is done!" and then there was lightning, thunders and earthquakes. Every time the seventh one, whether it's the Seventh Seal, Seventh Trumpet or Seventh Bowl judgment, the seventh one all end up the same way. That's why we think it is not three sets of 7 events, one after another, but they all, whether it's the 7 Seals judgements, or 7 Trumpets judgements or 7 Bowl judgements, are actually describing the same thing, but focusing on different aspects of it because they all end in the same way with lightning, thunders, and earthquakes.

And this is the greatest earthquake that ever took place on earth. There's a lot of earthquakes forever but this one is so great that Babylon, the great city of Babylon, (later we will decide what this city is) is split into three parts. And then, all the other cities in the world collapse. In other words, this earthquake shakes everything. All the gorgeous buildings, the Tower of the Babel, whether it's the World Trade Centre, or whether it's the Petronas Towers or whether it's Shanghai Tower, all these monuments to human power, come down. Nothing is left. And even the islands and the mountains move, which we saw very early. So this is just describing it in greater intensity, and everything just collapses. And then hailstones, each a massive 100 lbs fall down and smash these people who have boils in their bodies, who have been dehydrated because they've been drinking blood, who have been scotched, sunburnt. "Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake...." (v15) What did it say? Be aware. God comes. If you're awake, He is not a thief, but for those who are asleep, all this is a shock to them.

We read Revelation, so we will be awake. We know these things will certainly take place but what's the story of this whole chapter about? It shows that men have reached the point they cannot repent. Several times, it says, "They cursed God and did not repent of their evil." They know it's God's anger but instead of pleading for mercy from God, they cursed God. They reached a point where they can do nothing else and they did not repent. And so, we see though God is so merciful to send prophets, preachers to preach, to warn for thousands of years, men still insist on ignoring God.

The great gospel is fear God, the one who made the universe. But men don't want even to acknowledge God. Majority of men today will say, "God? There's no such thing as God." And yet they study science and they see

the amazing creation. And they say, "It's by chance." Then you ask them, "Who made the first atom?" Can atoms make themselves? Can atoms reproduce to make more atoms? And yet, they will never acknowledge there is a creator, an amazing creator. So what does God do? Wipe them out. But you know the patience of God - unbelievable!

In Revelation (Chapter) 16, we saw the great judgments, the final bowl judgments, the massive universal judgments that God had poured out on the earth, and in Revelation 16:19, it said, "God remembered Babylon, to pour out His wrath on Babylon."

Now let's look at Chapter 17 which will tell us who this Babylon really is. It's been a mystery. An angel comes to John and said, "Come, let me show you the Great Prostitute." And then John is shown a woman. Who is this prostitute? Later we'll identify this person as Babylon. Babylon is called the Great Prostitute. And if you look at the last line of Revelation Chapter 17, Babylon is identified as a city that controls the world. It's an economically powerful city, as you will see in Revelation (Chapter) 17. It's not a religious city, interestingly enough. This city that is called the Great Prostitute, that seems to control everything in the world is an economic giant. Of course, economy is often gotten by military means. The Western countries made all their money because of their military power. They conquered the colonial countries and took money into their countries. And money controls everything! So we see this great Babylon, contrary to what people think, is really an economic power.

Now in Revelation (Chapter) 17, it says, "Kings committed sexual immorality with her." In fact, all the dwellers of the earth commit sexual immorality with her. What does that mean? It simply means that the god of this world, contrary to what people think, is not the idols of the religions of

the world. No! The god of this world, more and more so, as we come to the last days, is the idol called “money”. The idol of all people, of all lands, is not the mythological gods they have on their altars. The god that people worship is money. “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” People will do anything for money, they would cheat, they will lie, they will go out and entertain with prostitutes, anything for money. So this is Babylon, the economic city that controls the world.

So here we see this female is described in Revelation (Chapter) 17, as sitting on the beast, a scarlet beast. This beast, I believe is the antichrist that was described earlier because it has blasphemous names, and it has 7 heads and 10 horns. So this is the antichrist. So this beast sits on the antichrist, this beast controls the power. You thought the antichrist controls the kings of the world, right? He ruled over a federation of kings because he had been resurrected and also everyone looked up to him, “This is the one. This is the antichrist that will rule us because he's different from us. He stands out from us. So he rules in a federation of kings”, but who rules him? The city that has the money. So this is very bizarre, but if you think of it economically, politically, money controls the kings. And it tells us that this Great Prostitute dresses luxuriously in scarlet, and purple, in gold and jewels and pearls. So this is a rich city. Everybody's all dolled up in the latest branded stuff. And in her hand is a golden cup full of filthiness, abominations, every kind of corruption and sin, whatever it takes to make money—deceit, lies, cheating, sex, drugs, whatever that will make money, is in her hands. And then it says, on her forehead was written, “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and earth's abominations”. Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. People will do anything, sell their mother for money, sell their soul for money, sell their purity and sell their principles for money.

And then it says, this prostitute, this city, is drunk with a blood of martyrs. It is a little bit harder to understand. But Christians are always the exact opposite of this city's principles. The Christian's principle is agape love,



sacrificial giving. The city's principle is the exact opposite-grabbing. The way this city operates is the more I have, the better; the weaker you are, the more I can exploit you. That's how the principles of this world work, economically speaking. The principles of Christianity are exact opposite-the more I have, the more I can give. Who do I give to? The poor and the needy that need it. Exact opposite, and later we will see how this will clash.

John is baffled, “Who is this woman sitting on this beast? What does it mean?” And the angel explains, “The beast controls the kings.” God allows the beast to control the kings. And then the beast and the kings give their allegiance to the city because the city throws money at them. So they give all that power to the city and the city gives them money. But, like all kings, like all political leaders, they are power mad. And this giving of the pre-eminence, the control of the world to the titans of money, is for a while, and afterward, these kings just cannot stand the fact that they don't really have the power. The ones who have the power, are the ones with the money in the city. This city called Babylon.

And so, for a while, they accept that and then God puts it into their minds, it says in Revelation (Chapter) 17, for them to turn against the city and utterly destroy the city. That means this city of Babylon is fallen, they make sure the city cannot rule over them. Money is not power. Might is! We have the armies and we will take back the power that rightly belongs to us. So you always see these two things throughout history – money and power, military might, always coming together. Long ago, in Israel, Nebuchadnezzar, a military might became an economic power, Babylon of those days. The days when this was written, Rome, a military might became the richest city in the world. So there have been many “Babylons”. And finally here, it says in the next chapter we're going to read, “Babylon is fallen”. Finally, God will utterly destroy this world system that where men want to control the world with military might and money. So here, I hope in just (Revelation Chapter) 17, you begin to see the structure of it all. That there is a city that controls the money and it could be Babylon

in time of Nebuchadnezzar, it could be Rome in the time of Caesar, it could be New York City in the time of Trump or whatever. There will always be “Babylons” that control all the money and power is there. And the kings will “kowitz” (bow down) there. But in the last days, there will be one super king, in a sense, the antichrist who will control the other kings. He thinks and he controls the other kings, but actually the city controls him. But it's not going to be for long. One day, God will put it into his mind to see, “You thought you are the powerful guy? No, you're not. You're just a pawn of the city, Babylon.” And then, he and the kings will go against the city, and utterly destroy the city. So that's the lesson of Revelation Chapter 17.

We come to Revelation Chapter 18, which is about the fall of Babylon.

Another angel, a very glorious angel, with a loud voice shouts, “Babylon is fallen!” And then it describes how Babylon is so totally destroyed that it becomes like rubble, nothing left of the city. That's really a type of what happened to the real Babylon, by the great river, in Mesopotamia. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon today is rubble, a haunt of wild beasts. And the Bible says this Babylon that is being described here, in the last days, will be flattened like that. Nobody would live there anymore. It's gone.

And then another voice cries out, “Come out of her, my people. Have nothing to do with her.” Because God is going to utterly destroy this city, have nothing to do with this city. This city that said, “I live in luxury. I am a queen. I will never mourn.” Just like the city of Babylon in those days, just like Rome, all of them felt they were so powerful and so great. And this city again felt that the whole world is in my hands. But then one day, God will make sure, it says, in an hour, it's gone, everything is gone. And then it says, the kings will weep and wail, they can't believe everything that they have built, everything they have seen, comes collapsing down, including their own wealth too. When the economic power collapses, all of their economic dreams collapse too. The merchants wail, the seafarers wail,

because there's no more trading to be done. When the economy collapses, even like today in the pandemic, suddenly you realize, how with one little virus, the whole economy can come to a standstill. Multiply that by 1000 times, and it will probably be the picture when Babylon the Great collapses. The Great Prostitute collapses, and everybody wails because all their dreams have come to an end.

I hope you see here, basically what God is telling us, you and I as Christians, we also are very much sucked into this building something on this earth. It all began in Genesis (Chapter) 11 when Nimrod wanted to build a name for himself. Many of us want to build a name. It can even be in terms of a NGO or even a religious (entity). We like to build a name for ourselves, like Nimrod did. And we want it to be the biggest or tallest in town, the biggest NGO, the biggest mission organization, for our name. It is nothing wrong to build something big for God, but people always want their name there so that their dynasty can go on. Even religious people, it is the same deal. It's the Babylon deal. That's all in our mind, always, to build something, some monument that makes us famous on this earth so your name can continue. Every city competes to build a bigger skyscraper and put a name on that skyscraper. These are all "Babylonish" ideas. So Babel was a Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was a Babylon. Rome, in the time when John wrote Revelation was a Babylon. It's just the mentality, it's just the mind of sinful man to lift himself up to become God-like in his company where everyone looks up to the boss. It happens too in religion, in churches. People want to build their kingdoms but actually there's only one. There's only one kingdom that will last, that's worth being a part of.

So who is this Babylon in the last days? Just as the Antichrist in the last days, I have no idea and no desire to speculate. You can speculate who the Antichrist would be. You may be right, you may be wrong, but I don't care. Because all I need to know is I don't get caught - "Come out of her."

I don't want to be part of building this kind of thing. I want to be part of building God's Kingdom that will last.

People will try to speculate. What is this city? Who is great Babylon? Is it London? Is it New York? Is it Rome? The Protestants would say, it is Rome because it's on seven hills, but is Rome really an economic power today? I don't think so. maybe some kind of power but not the mega power. So this would be some power that will come up. If the Lord comes very, very soon, it could be New York. I mean, (that's where) money concentrates, America can print all the dollars they want. But I don't even want to speculate. Who cares? What's the difference? Whether it's New York, Rome or London? The question is, Are you part of the Babylonian system, where you want to build a name for yourself, to build an empire on earth, where your hope is on earth, selling out all your principles, including your Christian principles, for the mighty dollar that translates to power and fame in this world?

One day all will collapse and who will make it collapse? Interestingly enough, it's not God. God allows the kings of the earth to destroy this power in this city. He will put it into their minds to destroy this city, the one that they worshiped, and built. So I hope this helps us to understand the principle of not being part of this opposite of Christianity, agape love. We build others up. In the process of building others up, God blesses us with true riches. We lay our treasures up in heaven by blessing others, by doing things in the name of God, by doing deeds of agape love. And the greatest is to do all these, that people may know Christ, and experience that agape love, and give out that agape love.

Come out of Babylon, come into the Kingdom of God where there is true peace, true joy, true satisfaction and true riches. I believe this is the message in Revelation, but people lose the big picture and can't see the woods because of the trees, and some only see the leaves. And they forget the main picture of Babylon is not about identifying 666 or the prostitute, or the antichrist. It's to ask yourself - What are you going to do about it? This

is why John wrote this to the Christians in his time - don't envy all these people, don't be tempted to be like these people, all those things will come down. Worship God.