

Chapter 18

Is it not amazing how history seems to repeat itself! How, in each millennium, one third of the world's population were evil while the remaining two-thirds were an admixture, ranging from bad to indifferent, to righteous! How, every time the Lord moved to establish his people, Satan was right there with his ministers to deceive them. How, the beast repeatedly ends up with seven heads and ten horns! How, the woman was right there, in each millennium, living deliciously off the lost soul of her admirers! And how, ten kings emerge to fragment and diversify the beast and the woman! 570 AD saw one episode climax! 1830 AD saw another! This chapter evidences the culmination of the third and final episode, and presents a broader image of the woman of [Chapter 17].

[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.

Babylon fallen! She has lost her glory, her power, her prestige, her attractiveness! Judgement is upon her. Instead of being a beautiful city to the wicked, she "is become the habitation of devils, and the prison for every repulsive and profane spirit, and of every impure and malicious bird."

[Verse 2] shows that humans are not the only creatures that can be hateful and malicious.

[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.

As was seen in the previous two chapters, committing fornication is allegorical to committing idolatry with other churches, when used figuratively in the scriptures. So the kings of the earth, those in high places, have committed idolatry with the abominable church, the beautiful city, the whore of all the earth, and were made rich with "her" merchandise.

This is not to say that they were made rich with material wealth, though many certainly did, but they were made wealthy with those instant but delusive delicacies which repress the Spirit and condemn them in eternity; things less tangible, like power, prestige, vainglory, and especially their religion. Perhaps a good way to understand this is to look at it's opposite.

[**Matthew 13:46-47**] The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hid in a field. And when a man has found a treasure which is hid, he secures it, and, straightway, for joy thereof, goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field. [47] And again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant-man, seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

What is the “treasure” found by the first man, and the “pearl of great price” found by the merchant-man? And what did each of these men sell in order to obtain the “treasure” and “pearl?” Remember, these are parables, which in essence are metaphors; the difference being that one pertains mostly to a story, while the other pertains to a word.

Parable: a simple story told to illustrate a moral truth. [Webster]

Metaphor: a word for one idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness between them.

These two men didn’t sell their worldly goods; their farms, their houses, or their belongings in order to buy the treasure or the pearl, for these cannot be bought with money! They sold [got rid of] their sins! They relinquished their love of the riches of the world and embraced far greater riches, the riches of the kingdom of God! They discovered that, “the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” [James 4:4]

[1 Peter 1:18-19] Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; [19] But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

With his own blood, Jesus paid for the sins of those who harken to his voice. Converse to that, the kings and merchants of [Verse 3] were interested in the “delicacies of Babylon.”

[Matthew 6:19-21] Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. [20] But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

[2 Nephi 11:109] The laborer in Zion, (*the kingdom of God*), shall labor for Zion; for if they labor for money, they shall perish. “The kingdom of Zion is the kingdom of God.” [D&C 102:9b]

Those who commit fornication with the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, and with her offsprings, identify with those who worship the beast! *refresh: “beast” when used figuratively in the bible means - **an idol**, and “fornication” means - **to commit idolatry**. The Lord continually admonishes his people not to be deceived “by her loftiness.” [Jacob 3:104-108]

[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.

[5] For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has 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 has filled, fill to her double.

[D&C 108:2b-c, 4b] ... Be clean you that bear the vessels of the Lord. ... [c] *Get out of Babylon; gather yourselves out from among the nations, [4b] . . . , even from Babylon, **from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon.***

The Lord continually warned, and continuously warns his people that if they don't come out "from the midst of wickedness," a.k.a. "spiritual Babylon;" they will also receive of her plagues.

[7] How much she has glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her; for she says in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

[Isaiah 14:12-17] How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how you are cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! [13] For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High. [15] Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. [16] They that see you shall narrowly look upon you, and shall consider you, and shall say, Is this **the man** that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; [17] And made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; and opened not the house of his prisoners? *also [2 Nephi 10:25-39]

Is it any wonder that the impression Lucifer had of himself is so similar to that of his church, his kingdom, his city, his mother of harlots and abominations of the earth? And what about those set at the head of his church, do they feel the same way about themselves? Lets see:

[2 Thessalonians 2:3-4] Let no man deceive you by any means; ...that man of sin *shall* be revealed, the son of perdition; [4] Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

I do make holy and unholy; I do justify the wicked; I do forgive sins; I open and no man shutteth. All the world is my diocese, and I am the ordinary of all men, having the authority of the King of kings upon subjects. I am in all and above all . . . If these things that I do be said to be done not of man, but of God, what do you make me but God? . . . I, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods; whereupon **no marvel if it be in my power** to change times and abrogate laws, **to dispense with all things, even the precepts of Christ.** [Bolton's, The Great Antichrist, p. 48]

And hence it is, that the pope has power both in heaven and earth and hell: in token whereof he wears on his head a triple crown, and thus has written in one of his decrees: if the pope should send many thousands of men into hell, no man may say unto him, What doest thou? Hence he imposes laws on the consciences, makes new articles of faith, canonizes books, saints and images, celebrates jubilees, sends forth innumerable indulgences or pardons for sin, empties purgatory.

[Pareus on the Revelation, p. 171]

Though Pope Innocent III, 1198-1216 was the first to advocate Papal Infallibility, however, it wasn't until 1870 that the Vatican Council voted it so. The decree reads that it was "divinely revealed" to them! And who was the Pope at the time this decree was approved? Pope Pius IX! He skillfully orchestrated this result!

*review the study of [Revelation 13:17]

[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 judges her.

[9] 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,

[10] Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is your judgment come.

Remember what the woman sitting on the beast, in [Chapter 17], was called?

[Revelation 17:5] And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

But now, in [Verse 10], she is referred to as a city; as “that great city Babylon.” However, we cannot picture her as a literal city, for we are still dealing with metaphors. She is “wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon!” This was not a city where one could just get in his chariot, or automobile, and drive there; it was, and is, a fraternity of values which conflict with those of Zion!

[Ephesians 6:12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Principalities: *In this context* - the order of angels next above the powers. [World Book]

This city, not seen with the natural eye, is made up of those who are “impure in heart,” as opposed to those who are pure in heart. And it is important to understand that they very much want to be in heaven - but on their terms! They want to rule there, as was shown in [Isaiah 14:12-14].

The antithesis to this city would be Zion.

[D&C 57:1a-b] calls Zion a city.

[D&C 83:1b] calls Zion the city New Jerusalem.

[D&C 94:5b-c] calls Zion the city of our God; and **THE PURE IN HEART**.

[D&C 102:9b] calls Zion **the kingdom of our God and his Christ**.

So, Zion, the antithesis of Babylon the Great, is to be a city; a kingdom; a people pure in heart.

[11] And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buys their merchandise anymore;

[12] 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 of vessels of ivory, and all manner of vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

[13] And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

[14] And the fruits that your soul lusted after are departed from you, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

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

[16] 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!

[17] For in one hour so great riches is come to naught. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off.

[18] And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

The kings of the earth who had committed fornication and lived deliciously with her will bewail and lament for her when they see the smoke of her burning. The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no man can now buy their merchandise, for all the things that they lusted after, they “shall find them no more.” Their hearts were set upon evanescent, illusive treasures!

Remember, at the end of the first paragraph, at the beginning of this chapter, is stated that the image of the woman depicted in [Chapter 17] would be broadened. Now, notice in [Verse 16] she is called “that great city, ... clothed in purple and scarlet.” Just as those who follow Jesus are “one” in him, [John 17:21] and are Zion; those who follow her are “one” in her, and comprise Babylon.

[19] 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.

[20] Rejoice over her, you heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets; for God has avenged you on her.

[21] And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, (*the bottomless pit*) saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

[22] And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in you; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found anymore in you; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in you;

[23] And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in you; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in you; for your merchants were the great men of the earth; for by your sorceries were all nations deceived.

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

All the things that those who worshiped the beast lived for, “shall be found no more!” While the saints, the “holy” apostles and prophets, those who follow Jesus, are told to Rejoice over her!

Remember in [Chapter 14] what was soon to happen after the angel flew in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to all nations?

[Revelation 14:8-11] And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. [9] And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand, [10] The same shall drink of the wine of the

wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb; [11] And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name.

Lets look at one other characteristic of this whore of all the earth which deceived the nations. Just before she is called “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH,” she is called **MYSTERY**. [Revelation 17:5]

Is it not true that people generally love a good mystery! And the greater the mystery, the greater the love of it! This certainly rings true in matters of religion. Did not Paul say that “the mystery of iniquity is already working, and he it is who now works, and Christ suffers him to work, until the time is fulfilled that he shall be taken out of the way.” [2 Thessalonians 2:7]

[2 Thessalonians 2:9-12] ... Jesus, whose coming is not until after there comes a falling away, by the working of Satan with all power, and signs and lying wonders, [10] And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. [11] And for this cause **God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie**; [12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

** God has sent and shall continue to send strong delusions to those who love not the truth!*

Only the righteous are thankful that the everlasting gospel has been restored to earth, for they are those who hunger for the truth that frees them from opinions, from confusion over the mysteries of the kingdom, and from every wind of doctrine blowing their way. [John 8:32] [Ephesians 4:14]

Lets end this chapter with a couple of promises the Lord made to those begotten through him:

[Isaiah 54:1-17] Sing, O barren, you that did not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you that did not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. [2] Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of your habitations; spare not, lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes; [3] For you shall break forth on the right hand and on the left; and your seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. [4] Fear not; for you shall not be ashamed; neither be confounded; for you shall not be put to shame; for you shall forget the shame of your youth, and shall not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. [5] For your Maker is your husband; The Lord of hosts is his name; and your Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. [6] For the Lord has called you as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when you were refused, saith your God.

[7] For a small moment have I forsaken you; but with great mercies will I gather you. [8] In a little wrath I hid my face from you for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on you, saith the Lord your Redeemer. [9] For this is as the waters of Noah unto me; for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not

be wroth with you, nor rebuke you. [10] For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from you, neither shall the covenant of my people be removed, saith the Lord that has mercy on you. [11] O you afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay your stones with fair colors, and lay your foundations with sapphires. [12] And I will make your windows of agates, and your gates of carbuncles, and all your borders of pleasant stones. [13] And all your children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of your children. [14] In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression; for you shall not fear; and from terror; for it shall not come near you.

[15] Behold, they shall surely gather together against you, but not by me; whosoever shall gather together against you shall fall for your sake. [16] Behold, I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, and that brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. [17] No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

[Ezekiel 43:5-7] So the Spirit took me up, and brought me into the inner court; and, behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house. [6] And I heard him speaking unto me out of the house; and the man stood by me. [7] And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.