

The Anti-Christ and the Worldwide Economic Collapse Revelation 18:1-24

INTRO: The greatest worldwide economic crash of all time is coming. It has not hit yet. There have been several economic downturns and crashes. On September 24, 1869, Black Friday, the great American financial panic occurred because of the manipulation of the securities market by Fisk and Gould. It was October 24, 1929, Black Thursday, when the Great Depression began with the crash of the stock market. One week before the crash, Yale professor Irving Fisher said: "Stock prices have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau." He was wrong! In the financial world Monday, October 19, 1987, is known as Black Monday. On this day, stock markets around the world crashed beginning in Hong Kong. Just one month ago, October 29, 2008, CNNMoney.com says: "Stocks skidded Monday, with the Dow slumping 778 points, in the biggest single day point loss ever. . . The days loss knocked approximately \$1.2 trillion in market value, the first post-\$1 trillion day ever."

The greatest financial crash will come under the reign of the anti-Christ. This will be the crash from which there will be no return. All the world wide wealth will be worthless, and stock markets will close forever.

The crash of Revelation eighteen will come suddenly and will be final (Vss 8, 10, 17, 19). God Himself will bring about the destruction of Commercial Babylon (vs 5).

- I. Vss 1-3, THE FALL OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON ANNOUNCED
 - A. Vs 1, "After these things" points us back to chapter 17 and the fall of the ecumenical religious system, religious Babylon.
 1. John says "I saw." This speaks of a panoramic view of the end time.
 2. The angel in this verse announces the destruction of commercial Babylon and the anti-God system of anti-Christ.
 - a. Revelation 16:10 tells us that the earth, at this time, is in darkness. This angel illuminates the earth.
 - b. The power of the angel comes from God.
 - B. Vs 2, All will see and hear this angel. None will be able to ignore him.
 1. What is predicted in Rev 14:8 is now reality for now both religious and commercial Babylon.
 - a. "Is fallen, is fallen" is in the aorist tense meaning that in a point in time when the commercial system is at its

has rewarded God's people.

1. "Reward" is "to give back that which is due," or "to pay a debt."
 2. The normal law of retribution "an eye for an eye" is here doubled.
 - a. There will be not mercy for Babylon's filthiness.
 - b. Fill her cup of wrath twice and make her drink it.
- B. Vs 7, Self-glorification is what she was given to.
1. "Lived deliciously" means that she lived as she liked with no regard for morals or respect of life.
 2. "Am no widow"—she has plenty of boyfriends, kings of the earth.
 3. "Shall see no sorrows"— she thinks that she is above God.
- C. Vs 8, She thinks she is something, but she is no match for God. The Lord God of heaven will suddenly destroy commercial Babylon.
1. Her judgment is described as "death and mourning, and famine."
 2. Destruction will be swift and complete. "They that sow the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

IV. VSS 9-10, THE LAMENTATION OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

- A. Vs 9, All the stock markets will collapse. Every nation will go broke.
1. The city of Babylon and its burning is symbolic of the fall of all political and economic might.
 2. The kings of the earth will weep and beat their breasts. In ancient Rome, there was on Caesar and a number of kings over the provinces. There will be one anti-Christ and others will be his puppets.
- B. Vs 10, They stand afar off fearing that what happened to the city will happen to them.
1. "Alas, alas," mournful in sound and meaning (Jm 5:1-2).
 2. Their cry is as the hopeless despair of one who has lost a loved one without faith.

V. VSS 11-19, THE LAMENTATION OF THE MERCHANTS OF EARTH

- A. Vs 11, The merchants weep because their business is gone. There is no profit.
- B. Vss 12–13, These verses list twenty-eight articles of merchandise

that lose their value.

1. Vs 12, Lists:
 - a. Gold, silver, precious stones, pearls– for the investment portfolios.
 - b. Fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet– for fashionable dress.
 - c. Thyine wood, vessels of ivory, vessels of precious wood, brass, iron, marble– for high class furniture.
 2. Vs 13, Lists:
 - a. Cinnamon, odours, ointments, frankincense– for sensuousness.
 - b. Wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, beasts, sheep, horses– for the satisfying of the flesh.
 - c. Chariots– for the getaway.
 - d. Slaves– for labor to increase wealth.
 - e. Souls of men– for lust, prostitution.
 3. All is lost, the treasures of sin are gone. Children of God “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.....” (Mt 6:19-21).
- C. Vs 14, The things that people think are so important will be gone along with bare necessities. This will drive the lust hounds of earth crazy.
- D. Vss 15-16, The commercial world will fall apart. Complete market failure will happen.
- E. Vss 17-19, All the container ships, merchants of the sea and sea commerce is affected.

VI. VS 20, WHEN BABYLON FALLS HEAVEN REJOICES

- A. The people of Rev 19:1 are called upon to rejoice over Babylon’s fall.
- B. “Hath avenged”–God brings on Babylon the righteous recompense for the slaughter of the saints.

VII. VSS 21-24, BABYLON IS UTTERLY DESTROYED

- A. Vs 21, Christ, the Rock of Ages, will destroy the kingdoms of this world. Babylon will never rise again. This is why I believe that this is Babylon on the Euphrates restored. Ancient Babylon has been destroyed and has risen. The Babylon of Revelation 18 will be destroyed never to rise again.
- B. Vs 22, The entertainment industry will be gone.
 1. Craftsmen will be out of work.

2. This wicked world is judged.
- C. Vs 23, There will be on energy crisis. Lights will be put out.
 1. Marriages will not be performed in the end.
 2. There will be no thought of fun or romance.
- D. Vs 24, the systems that were responsible for the martyrdom of millions will be destroyed. Religious Babylon (chp 17) and commercial Babylon (chp 18) will be destroyed.

CONCLUSION: With the destruction of the world's religious and economic systems the way is paved for the second coming of Christ and the establishment of the millennial kingdom.

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Nov 23, 2008