

*"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us . . ."*

John 1:14

*All are welcome at the manger.*

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

**Looking Ahead –**

Dec. 9 – Class

Dec. 16,23,30 – No Class – Christmas break.

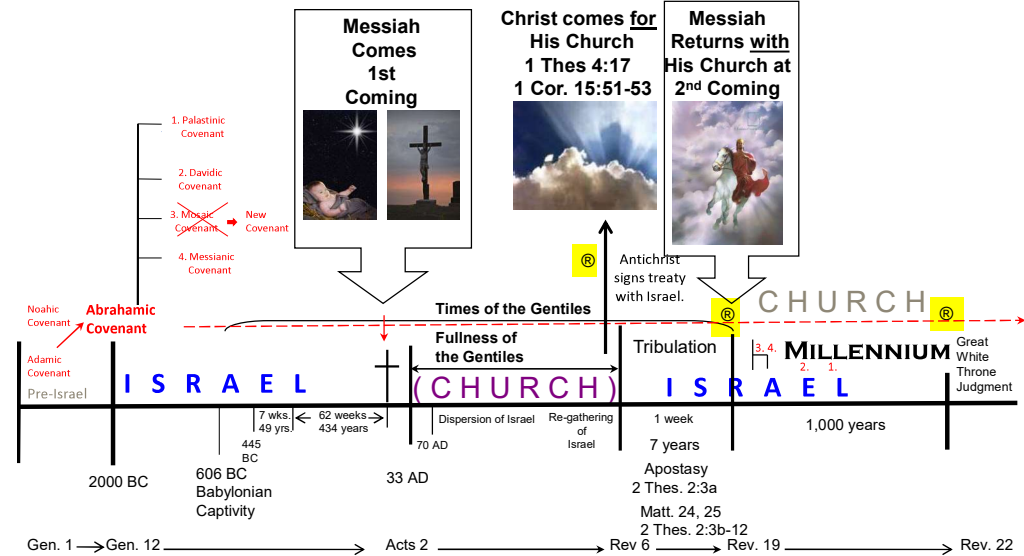
Jan. 6, 2019 – Class resumes.

***"The Political and Economic Fall of Babylon"***

**Rev. 18:1-5**

Dec. 2, 2018

**Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events**



Ⓜ = Resurrection

## Quiz

Fill in the blank.

### Women

1. "Then I looked, and I heard an \_\_\_\_\_ flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

eagle

### Men

2. "The name of the star is called \_\_\_\_\_; and a third of the waters became \_\_\_\_\_, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

Wormwood

## Quiz

Fill in the blank.

### Women

5. "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are \_\_\_\_\_), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan"

rich

### Men

6. "but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets."

mystery

## Quiz

Fill in the blank.

### Women

3. The sky was split apart like a \_\_\_\_\_ when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

scroll

### Men

4. "and one of the elders said to me, "Stop \_\_\_\_\_; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

weeping

## Quiz

Fill in the blank.

### Women

7. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will \_\_\_\_\_ with him, and he with Me."

dine

### Men

8. "And there was war in heaven, \_\_\_\_\_ and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,"

Michael

## Quiz

### Fill in the blank.

#### Women

9. "So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little \_\_\_\_\_. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

book

#### Men

10. "And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses' bridles, for a distance of \_\_\_\_ hundred miles.

two

### Rev 18:1-5

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2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;

5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

- There are two lines that run through Scripture in the conflict between God and Satan.
- Satan is trying to establish his kingdom on earth and God is trying to establish His kingdom on earth.
- During the Tribulation, Satan reaches his peak in an effort to establish His kingdom on earth with Antichrist as his king and Jerusalem as His throne.
- The kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God are on a collision course that will ultimately meet in chapter 19 when the two face off for the finale War of Armageddon.

### Rev 18:1-5

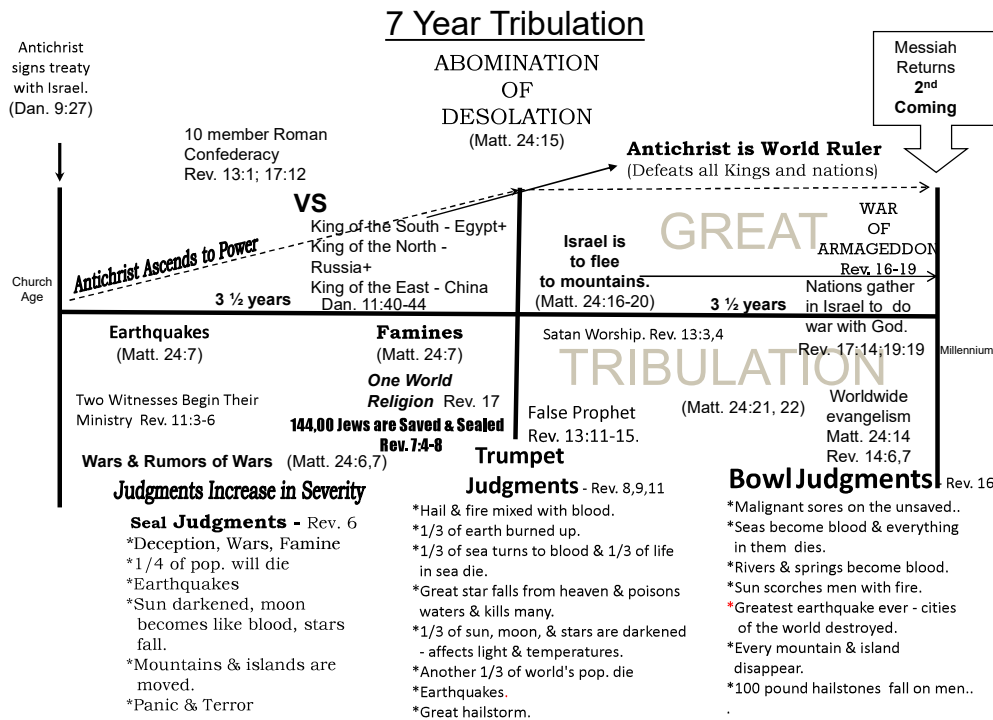
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- "another" – *ἄλλος* - is 'another angel of the same kind'.
- When the Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as an angel He is called 'the angel' of the Lord.

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- This angel coming down from heaven is from God's presence and therefore he glows with the glory of God.

### Ex 34:29-31

29 It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.  
30 So when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

- The earth is dark. Babylon is dark.

### Rev 16:10

10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened;

***"So recently has he come from the Presence (of God) that in passing he flings a broad belt of light across the dark earth."***  
- Henry Swete

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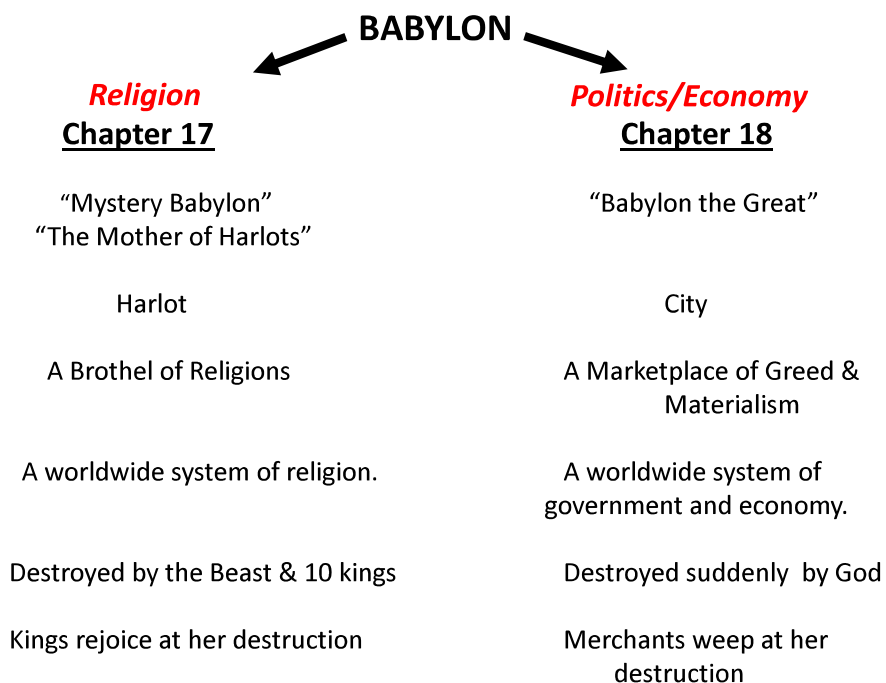
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- Babylon will not only be the religious headquarters of the world system but also the commercial headquarters.
- What will one day be a great religious and commercial center will become a house of demons and a prison house for every unclean spirit and bird and every hated beast. This is a picture of complete desolation.
- This is the judgment of international government, multinational organizations and financial institutions.

***“She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.”***

***“has become”*** is *εγενετο* aorist tense. The angel describes her condition *after* her fall.

***“Dwelling place”*** is *κατοικητηριον* [*katoikētērion*] - a place where residents settle down with the idea of a long stay. This is home for these demons.

***“unclean”*** is *ακαθαρτου* [*akathartou*], meaning filthy.

***“prison”*** is *φυλακη* - A place that is guarded, a prison. The fallen city of Babylon becomes a prison for all kinds of unclean spirits and birds. Birds are often used in Scripture as agents of Satan.

#### **Rev 20:7**

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

#### **Which demons are we talking about?**

1. Chapter 9 – 200,000,000 released out of the abyss along with the 4 that were bound at the Euphrates River.
2. Chapter 12 – All of the demons which had access to heaven, are cast out of heaven down to earth.
3. Chapter 16:13,14 – 3 frog-demons going out to deceive the whole world to draw the nations to Armageddon.

**\*\*All demons have been released. And the headquarters for the whole demon operation is none other than the city of Babylon. This is the reason for the judgment – the city is the most vile, demon filled, demon possessed place on earth. And it is the capitol of the Antichrist.**

#### **Isa 13:19-22**

19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;

Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there,

Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

21 But desert creatures will lie down there,

And their houses will be full of owls;

Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.

22 Hyenas will howl in their fortified towers

And jackals in their luxurious palaces.

Her fateful time also will soon come

And her days will not be prolonged.

#### **Jer 50:39**

39 "Therefore the desert creatures will live there along with the jackals;

The ostriches also will live in it,

And it will never again be inhabited

Or dwelt in from generation to generation.

## **Jer 51:37**

37 "Babylon will become a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals,  
An object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants.

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***"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality,"***

- Note: Same language as ch. 17.
- Instead of drunk on religion, here the nations are drunk on greed, money and materialism.
- They are drunk on the passion for riches and wealth.
- It will be worldwide – all nations will lust for what Babylon is promoting. She will seduce the whole world.
- The source and wealth center of it all will be Babylon.



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- We can understand some of what this is like as we move closer to a one-world global economy. The world is all tied together. No nation's economy exists in isolation. What happens here affects everyone else in the world and what happens in the world affects us here – stock markets, the dollar, the euro, the yen, the pound, the franc, the rand, gold, silver, leadership changes, depressions, collapses, etc.
- If you are driven by wealth and greed you must move to global markets. Your drive for money and materialism will force eventually a one-world global economy which will one day play into the hands of the Antichrist.

***"and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."***

- **"kings"** – political leaders in government, leaders of nations, presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, kings, queens and rulers.
- **"merchants"** – businessmen, power brokers, traders, CEOs, bankers, marketers, financiers, magnates, moguls, etc.
- **Political** leaders use **merchants** who use **religious** leaders who use **political** leaders who use **religious** leaders who use **merchants**. This always has been, always will be until God destroys it all.
- Alliances will be made at every level - between religious leaders and businessmen, political leaders and power brokers, prime ministers and religious leaders. Deals will be cut and there will be tremendous riches to be had. Kings and presidents will get rich. The Harlot will get rich. Merchants will get rich. It will be a frenzy of buying and selling driven by Babylon. Its Christmas commercialism on steroids. Greed and materialism will hit its peak. Selfishness will rule. People will be deceived and taken advantage of in this system of "economic prostitution."
- And in the Tribulation the entire world's economy will be controlled by the Antichrist through his mark "666", which is required to buy and sell anything and everything.

"It has become an axiom that "corporations have no souls," and upon this all great moneyed corporations act, though the men who constitute them will find out a different doctrine when they come to the day of judgment. And when it comes to these great and ever magnifying commercial compacts and interests, there is not a law of God or man which is not compelled to yield if found in the way. . . . If the question were ever pressed in these circles, *What is truth?* it would be hooted and laughed to scorn. The cry would be, "What have we to do with that? Let every one quietly enjoy his own opinions." . . . Church is nothing, State is nothing, creed is nothing, Bible is nothing, Sunday is nothing, religious scruples are nothing, conscience is nothing, everything is practically nothing, except as it can be turned or used to the one great end of accumulation and wealth."



**Ecc1 5:10**

10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income.

**Matt 6:24**

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

**Mark 8:36**

36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

**Luke 12:15**

15 "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

**1 Tim 6:10**

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

**Heb 13:5**

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have;

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- No doubt there will be some "underground" believers in Babylon.
- There will be great temptation to stay in Babylon – money, wealth, luxury, materialism.
- But Babylon is about to be destroyed so the command is issued to "get out."
- We are not talking about evangelism anymore. These hearts are hardened with the mark of the Beast.
- This has always been God's will – Get out before judgment falls.

## Noah & Sons

### **Gen 7:1**

1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

## Lot

### **Gen 19:15**

15 When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "**Up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here**, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city."

## Israel

### **Num 16:26**

26 and he spoke to the congregation, saying, "**Depart now from the tents of these wicked men**, and touch nothing that belongs to them, or you will be swept away in all their sin.

### **Jer 51:6**

6 **Flee** from the midst of Babylon,  
And each of you save his life!

Do not be destroyed in her punishment,  
For this is the Lord's time of vengeance;  
He is going to render recompense to her.

### **Jer 51:9**

9 We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed;  
**Forsake** her and let us each **go** to his own country,  
For her judgment has reached to heaven  
And towers up to the very skies.

### **Jer 51:45**

45 "**Come forth** from her midst, My people,  
And each of you save yourselves  
From the fierce anger of the Lord.

### **Isa 48:17**

17 **Go forth** from Babylon! **Flee** from the Chaldeans!

### **Jer 50:8-9**

8 "**Wander away** from the midst of Babylon

And **go forth** from the land of the Chaldeans;

Be also like male goats at the head of the flock.

9 "For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against  
Babylon

A horde of great nations from the land of the north,

And they will draw up their battle lines against her;

From there she will be taken captive.

### **Jer 51:49-50**

49 Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel,

As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.

50 You who have escaped the sword,

Depart! Do not stay!

## Believers

### **Ps 1:1**

1 How blessed is the man who **does not walk** in the counsel of the wicked,  
**Nor stand** in the path of sinners,  
**Nor sit** in the seat of scoffers!

### **2 Cor 6:17**

7 "Therefore, **COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE**," says the Lord.

"AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;

### **1 Thess 4:16-17**

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air,

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**The voice from heaven gives two reasons believers should separate themselves from the Babylonian system:**

- 1) "so that you will not participate in her sins"
  - 2) "and receive of her plagues."
- The same standard applies to us today. Separate (do not participate) in the things of the world or face the consequences.

## 1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

***"her sins have piled up as high as heaven"***

"piled up" - Καλλω – glued, welded, stuck, or fastened together.

This is an obvious reference to the tower of Babel and a play on the words in Gen. 11:4.

## Gen 11:4

4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower **whose top will reach into heaven,**

Note:

- ***Sins, like bricks, are laid down one after another, and the end result brings the far reaching consequences of judgment.***
- ***They first built a tower to reach heaven and it failed. However a new tower has reached heaven – the tower of sin.***

Next week we will see the judgment that falls on the city of Babylon and the reaction of the political leaders and merchants who were dependent on her for their great power and wealth.



**Charles Wesley  
(1707–1788)**

Many of the carols we sing have a rich theological tradition, and this hymn we are looking at tonight is no exception. It was written by Charles Wesley, who was an English Methodist leader and hymn writer. **Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns, more than any other male writer** (Fanny Crosby wrote 8,000). His hymns include “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing,” “Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today,” and “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.”

His goal in writing hymns was to teach the poor and illiterate sound doctrine. His brother, John Wesley, a famous theologian and founder of Methodism, said that Charles’ hymnal was the best theological book in existence. Some have noted that Methodism was born in song and Charles was the chief songwriter.

Wesley, inspired by the sounds of London church bells while walking to church on Christmas Day, wrote this poem about a year after his conversion to be read on Christmas Day. The poem first appeared in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* in 1739.

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th’angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
2. Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;  
Christ the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th’incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

### **Refrain**

**Refrain**  
*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!*

3. Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die.  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

### **Refrain**



**Charles Wesley  
(1707–1788)**

This hymn was originally sung to the tune of *Amazing Grace*, and later to the tune of *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*. In 1840, famed classical composer Felix Mendelssohn composed a cantata to commemorate the invention of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg. William H. Cummings adapted music from Mendelssohn’s cantata to fit the lyrics to this hymn. George Whitfield (1714-1770), a preacher in the Church of England and later a Methodist minister, gave us the familiar melody sung today.

This is one of the few Christmas hymns written in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries, after the English Puritan’s abolished Christmas Carols for being part of a “worldly festival”.

This carol is sung in the uplifting James Stewart movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”.

The name of this Christmas Carol and hymn is . . .

4. Come, Desire of nations, come,  
Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,  
Bruise in us the serpent's head.  
Now display Thy saving power,  
Ruined nature now restore;  
Now in mystic union join  
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.

***Refrain***

5. Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,  
Stamp Thine image in its place:  
Second Adam from above,  
Reinstate us in Thy love.  
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,  
Thee, the Life, the inner man:  
O, to all Thyself impart,  
Formed in each believing heart.

***Refrain***