

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28



"The Political and Economic Fall of Babylon"

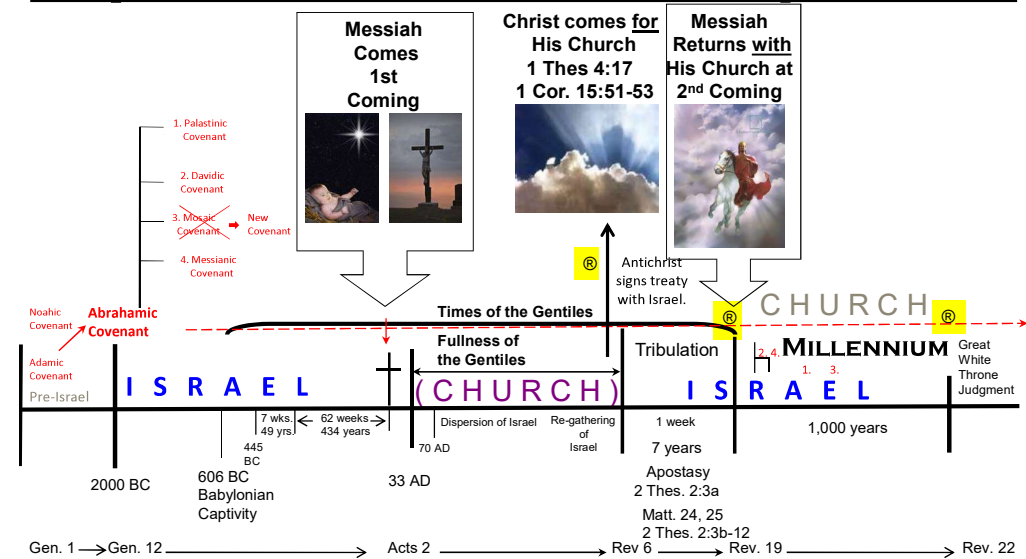
Part 3

Rev. 18:9-18

Jan. 6, 2019

Quiz
Fill in the timeline.

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



Ⓜ = Resurrection

Job 21:30

"For the wicked is reserved for the day of calamity;
They will be led forth at the day of fury.

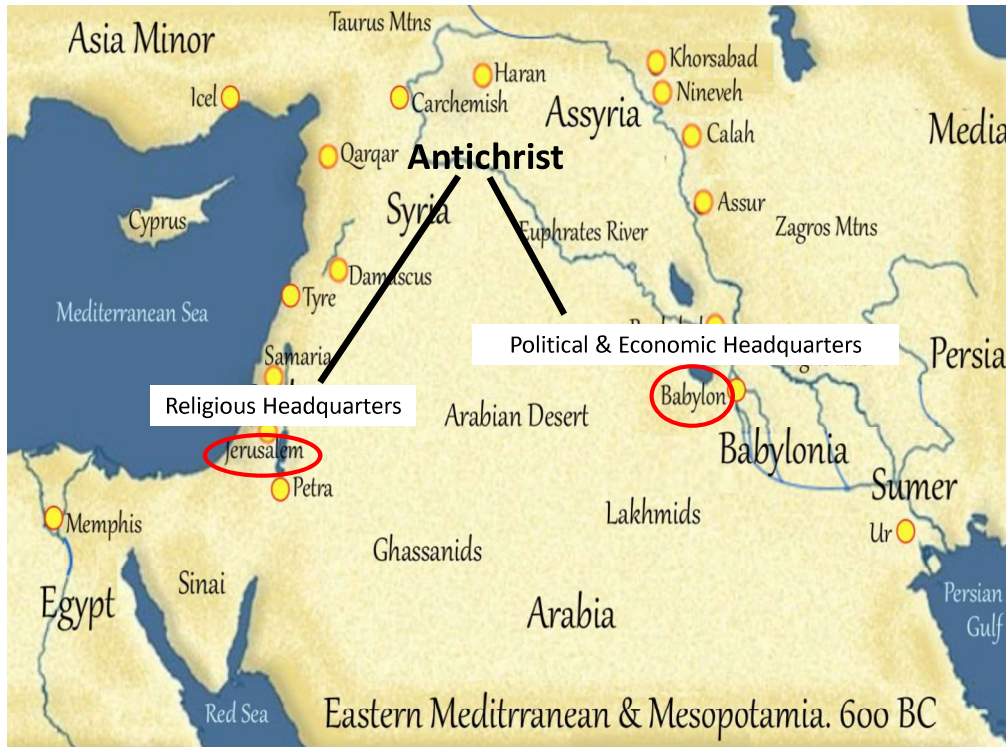
Ps 9:7-8

7 But the Lord abides forever;
He has established His throne for judgment,
8 And He will judge the world in righteousness;

****The world system is being dismantled systematically in the Tribulation.**

Rev 18:1-8

- 1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.
- 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.
- 6 "Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.
- 7 "To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.'
- 8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.



Rev 18:9-18

- 9 "And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,
- 10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'
- 11 "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more —
- 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,
- 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.
- 14 "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

"And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

3 groups of people mourn the destruction of the city of Babylon:

1. Kings.

"kings" – national leaders under the Antichrist.

"acts of immorality and lived sensuously" – is a way of expressing the passion, the emotion, the close intimate relationship they had with Babylon politically and economically. They shared in her power and control over the people which brought them pleasure and luxury.

"weep and lament"

weep - κλαίω – to wail aloud, to sob.

lament – κοπῶ – to mourn, to beat the breast in grief.

"smoke of her burning" – her destruction by fire happened quickly, and now all that is left is the smoke.

- They realize that everything they have is now gone because the capitol city that produced it is gone.
- They have refused to weep over their own sin, but now weep over the destruction of Babylon. Babylon and the profit and pleasure that it brings them, is indeed their god.

Rev 18:9-18

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12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

14 "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

James 4:8-9

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep;

"standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'"

- They stand at a distance lest they feel her torment.

"Woe" - "how horrible it will be"

"great city, Babylon, the strong city" Why is she called this?

1. She is the most powerful city in the world. She rules the world.
2. She has survived. Through the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowl judgements, she is still standing. But now she is gone.

"one hour" – literally a very short period of time.

8 "For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Rev 18:9-18

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14 "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

"because no one buys their cargoes any more"

The marketers can't market, the traders can't trade, the salesmen can't sell, the CEO's have no one to manage. They are not concerned about the people who lost their lives but only their "cargoes". Materialism is a very cold way of life.

All is gone:

- Their financial empires.
- Customers.
- Profits.
- Pleasure.
- Luxury.
- Dreams.
- Financial goals.
- Bank accounts.
- Investments.

They are crushed, devastated, disillusioned, disappointed, depressed, because their headquarters, their command center is gone, totally wiped -out. And, as it were, in a split second. Here one day and gone the next. All taken in an hour.

"And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more —

2. Merchants.

"merchants" - businessmen, world traders, Corp. CEO's, marketers, powerbrokers.

- This is a different system than ch. 17 which was religious Babylon. Here, they are not lamenting the loss of religion but cargoes of luxurious goods.

"weep and mourn over her,"

- Again no mourning over sin.

Why do the merchants weep?

This is why God warns us against materialism and the love of money:

James 5:1-3

1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

2 Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

3 Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire.

Matt 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

People are the same today as they will be then.

2 examples of devastating financial loss
and how people react today.



On October 24, 1929, the United States stock market crashed, now known as Black Thursday. People began panicking over their financial future.

Men jumped out of hotel windows. Clerks in downtown hotels started asking guests whether they wanted a room for sleeping or jumping. Jumping from bridges, dousing oneself in gasoline and lighting, gassing and shooting were all reported.

The wife of a Long Island broker shot herself in the heart; a utilities executive in Rochester, New York, shut himself in his bathroom and opened a wall jet of illuminating gas; a St. Louis broker swallowed poison; a Philadelphia financier shot himself in his athletic club; a divorcee in Allentown, Pennsylvania, closed the doors and windows of her home and turned on a gas oven. In Milwaukee, one gentleman who took his own life left a note that read, 'My body should go to science, my soul to Andrew W. Mellon, and sympathy to my creditors.'

On the night of **April 14, 1912**, just four days after leaving Southampton, England on its maiden voyage to New York, the Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and sank.



Men on board:

1. John Jacob Astor - \$58 billion.
2. Isidor Strauss – co-founder of Macy’s.
3. Benjamin Guggenheim, a mining and smelting magnate.
4. Architects, bankers, investors, stock brokers, CEO’s.

It was reported –

- With the ship going down and water lapping at the door of their rooms, many of these wealthy men were stuffing their pockets with diamonds, gold bars and banknotes, risking the chance that they would find a place on a lifeboat.
- Others were attempting to open safes on the ship, hoping to get out their money, jewelry, and other valuables. They would drown in their attempt.

How tragic when “stuff” becomes more important than saving of your own life.

- Here are listed 28 items that were being marketed.
- Why list these items?
- Because the items listed here are those reserved for the rich and famous, those who live lives of excess and luxury.
- These items are all luxuries, not necessities.
- You can put these items into 7 categories.

Rev 18:9-18

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- 11 "And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more —
- 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,
- 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.
- 14 "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

“gold and silver and precious stones and pearls”

1. Precious metals, gems, jewelry items — precious stones and costly metals.

“fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet”

2. Apparel — fine fabrics used in their clothing composed of linen and silk in luxurious colors of purple and scarlet. (colors and fabrics of the extremely wealthy.)

“citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,”

3. Luxurious furnishings — furniture made of “citron” - a costly and fragrant scented wood comparable to cyprus or cedar and used only in expensive furniture. Other expensive materials were ivory, brass, iron, and marble.

“Cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume and frankincense.”

4. Perfumes and Spices — Only afforded by the ultra-wealthy.

5. Food stuffs — “Wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep.”

6. Transportation items — “horses, chariots.”

“slaves and human lives,”

7. Slaves — σωμα and ψυξοσ - literally “body and souls of men,” an idiom for a person who was owned body and soul.

"Persons are "bought and sold" (and even traded!) by athletic teams; and our great corporations more and more seek to control the lives of their officers and workers. As people become more enslaved to luxury, with more bills to pay, they find themselves unable to break loose from the "system."

- Warren Wiersbe

Prov 3:13-18

13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom

And the man who gains understanding.

14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver

And her gain better than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than jewels;

And nothing you desire compares with her.

16 Long life is in her right hand;

In her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways

And all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her,

And happy are all who hold her fast.

14 "The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them."

"luxurious and splendid" – that which pleases the taste and that which pleases the eye. They taste good. They look good. They make you feel good. Its all about the pleasure of the senses. Nothing else matters.

Verse 14 is a summary. It's all gone. It's over. All Babylon's resources are gone; all of her sources of enjoyment are dried up; And it will never come back.

- Double negative at end of verse –

Rev 18:14 (NKJV)

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 from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!'

And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

"The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,"

- Same reaction as the Kings
 - No concern for their own souls.
 - No concern for those who died in the fall of the city.
 - Only concern for the “stuff” that brought them pleasure. It is all self-interest.

“saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;”

- “Woe” - “how horrible it will be”
- All they can think about is their stuff.

15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

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18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

19 "And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!'

20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

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“STUFF”

“Stuff. We all have it. Men cram it into their wallets and back pockets and dislocate their hips in the process. Women have a bigger place to carry all their stuff: their purses. We carry stuff everywhere that we go. Our cars are filled with stuff, and the trunks of our cars are filled with stuff. For many, the meaning of life is to get more stuff and then find bigger places to put their stuff.

One day you realize you have too much stuff, because you open the door of your closet, and it is full. The drawers are overflowing, too. So you have a garage sale, and you sell off your stuff. This always works, because there is someone out there who wants more stuff. They are driving around looking for stuff to buy, and they come and buy your stuff. So then you get the money from your garage sale from selling your stuff, and what do you do? Well, you go and buy more stuff. And then it begins to pile up again.”

- Greg Laurie

Luke 12:22-24

22 "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on.

23 "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

Here is what Jesus is saying –

1. “Stuff” is merely the details of life.
2. “Don’t sweat the small stuff. Everything is the small stuff.”
3. Real life is found by obeying -

Matt 6:33

33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

4. Heaping up of the details of life comes from the sin nature which seeks its happiness apart from God.
- Remember the old bumper sticker that says, “He who dies with the most toys wins”.
 - That is a lie from the world.
 - The truth is that “He who dies without God loses”.

Prov 23:4

4 Do not weary yourself to gain wealth,
Cease from your consideration of it.

Prov 30:8-9

8 . . . Give me neither poverty nor riches —
Feed me with the food allotted to me;

9 Lest I be full and deny You,
And say, "Who is the Lord?"

Or lest I be poor and steal,

And profane the name of my God.

Matt 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

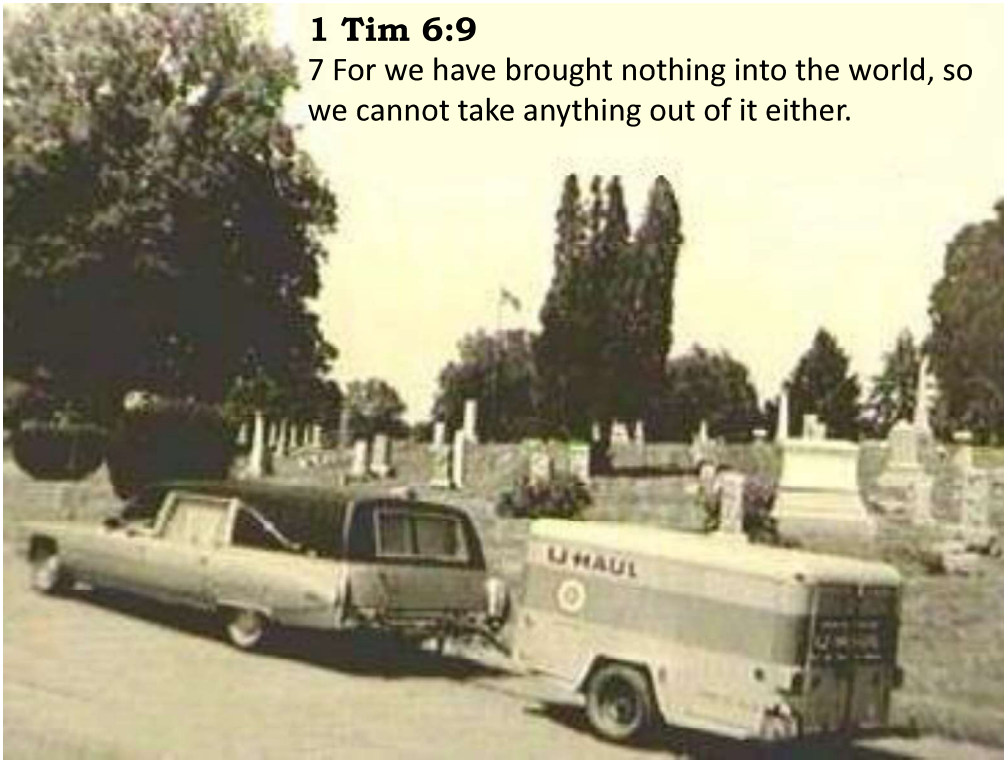
20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

***When John Rockefeller died, someone asked his accountant, “How much did Mr. Rockefeller leave?”
The accountant replied, “He left all of it.”***

1 Tim 6:9

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.



“And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,”

3. Ship captains, passengers, sailors, and those who work at sea.

- This is a disaster for them.
- Shipping, airline, railroad, and trucking industries collapse. They come to a standstill. It’s over.
- They were the leaders in trafficking the luxurious and splendid commodities that the merchants were pushing.
- Babylon was the distribution and transportation center of the world. Now there is nothing more to distribute, nothing more to transport.

15 "The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;

17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!
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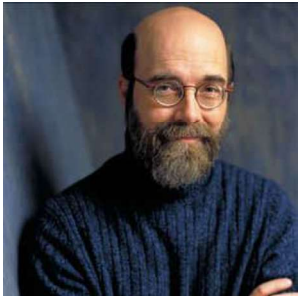
18 and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?'

“and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What city is like the great city?’”

Κραζω –to call aloud, shriek, exclaim, to scream.

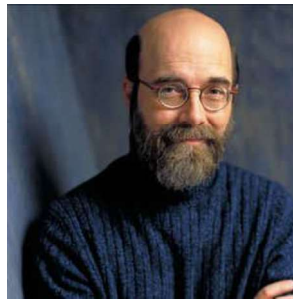
- Can you feel the emotion?
- Can you feel the loss?

Next week we will finish chapter 18 which closes
with God turning out the lights on Babylon.



Michael Card
1957 -

Michael has a unique way of taking themes of Scripture and putting them to music. The song we are looking at tonight is taken from Revelation 17 and 18 and tells of the destruction of Babylon. The name of this song is . . .



Michael Card
1957 -

Michael Card was born in Madison, Tennessee as the son of a doctor and grandson of a Baptist minister. He received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biblical Studies from Western Kentucky University, and was awarded the university's "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 1997. His studies in physics and astronomy allowed him to support himself while a student by working for six years at a planetarium. As of 2005, he is working on a Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Classical Literature.

Michael never intended to be a professional musician. He got his start when his professor and mentor, William L. Lane, asked Card to write some music to accompany weekly sermons at their church. His friend, musician Randy Scruggs, then asked him to record a demo tape so Scruggs could get a job as a producer. The record label agreed to hire Scruggs as long as his first project was to produce an album featuring Card. Since then Card has released nineteen original albums and at least six compilation albums.

Despite his success in music, Card has always maintained that his music career is secondary to his calling as a Bible teacher. He has at times distanced himself from the CCM industry by criticizing the promotion of personalities over musical content and the shifting emphasis away from God in order to sell more albums. Card's most famous song is "El Shaddai", which was recorded by Amy Grant as well as by Card himself. Other popular Card songs include "Immanuel", "Joy in the Journey", and "Heal Our Land". "Heal Our Land" was commissioned as the 1993 National Day of Prayer's theme song.

The City of Doom

Come out of her, my people, and never go back again
For all her vulgar vanities have been heaped up as high
as heaven
The nations drank her maddening wine
Now God remembered all her crimes
She'll be paid back double for all that she has done
Come out of her, my people, and never go back again
For all her vulgar vanities have been heaped up as high
as heaven
The nations drank her maddening wine
Now God remembered all her crimes
She'll be paid back double for all that she has done
Never will the sound of a song be heard in you again
Nor the voice of the bride and the bridegroom
Nor the echo of the workers' din

Your merchants were the world's great men
By consumption's cult, your greed and sin
And you'll become a spectacle
They weep and mourn and cry

Fallen, fallen, fallen is Babylon
Fallen, fallen, fallen is the City of Doom
The queen of every dark desire
Fallen by famine, plague, and fire
Fallen is Babylon
Fallen is the City of Doom

Woe, woe is Babylon
City of great power
Behold your doom, you'll be consumed
In one single hour

Fallen, fallen, fallen, is Babylon
Fallen, fallen you City of Doom
Fallen, fallen, fallen is Babylon
Fallen, fallen, fallen is the City of Doom

The queen of every dark desire

Fallen by famine, plague, and fire
Fallen is Babylon
Fallen is the City of Doom