

## **GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!**

*REVELATION 18: A Thematic and Historic Approach*

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Chapter 18 in Context: Preview of Chapter and Themes Ahead

Vss. 1-24, Doom Song of Judgment of Rome

Chapter 19: See How the Mighty Have Fallen

Vss. 1-10, Rejoicing at Destruction of Rome

Vss. 11-18, Vision and Mission of Horse and Rider, Faithful and True

Vss. 19-21, Confrontation and Defeat of Those Who Oppose Conquering Christ

Chapter 20: The Thousand-Year Reign of Christ and the Saints

Vss. 1-6, Chaining of Satan and Judgment Privileges of Believers

Vss. 7-15, Final Struggle, Final Judgment of Humanity, Final Destiny of Satan

Chapter 21: New Heaven and New Earth

Vss. 1-8, New Jerusalem, New Fellowship with God

Vss. 9-27, The City of God

Chapter 22: Life

Vss. 1-2, River of life, Tree of Life

Vss. 3-5, Beauty of Holiness

Vss. 6-13, Words of Warning

Vss. 14-17, Great Welcome, Great Truth, Great Invitation

Vss. 18-19, Don't Tamper With This Book

Vss. 20-21, Final Word From Scripture

Chapter 18: Judgment as Prerequisite for New Creation

Genesis 1: 1-3, God's judgment of darkness and chaos

Exodus 20: 1-17, Ten Commandments judge present practices as well as establish order for New Covenant

Revelation 18, Doom Song proclaims judgment of present reality

Scriptural precedent, Isaiah 13: 19-22 (Babylon); Isaiah 34: 11-15 (Edom);

Zephaniah 2: 13-15, (Nineveh)

Correct preaching and teaching must judge before it brings joy; correction comes before creation; condemnation comes before conversion; instruction comes before joy.

Both elements must be present for wholeness

Extent of creation depends upon how much we are willing to be judged, corrected, and instructed

Thus rebirth requires repentance; anointing requires admission

No revival, regeneration, renewal or revival takes place when there is resistance and rebellion

Areas where resistance is most adamant:

Personal pleasure (weights and sins that so easily beset us)

Personal preferences (our ways of comfort, convenience, traditions)

Giving (Money)

What is area that we need most prayer and have greatest trouble in yielding?

The angel with glory of God and the call of separation (vss. 1-4)

God's glory cannot abide in certain contexts:

Divided hearts and warring congregations

Preparation of individual worshippers helps set atmosphere

Meditation before service sets atmosphere

Praise and worship, devotional services help set atmosphere for glory

Order of worship is invitation for manifestation of God's glory

The call for separation is a call for (holiness) distinctiveness

Holiness can mean ostracism, loneliness and persecution because of human insistence, (even among saints) for conformity

Conformity with the world is still major temptation to saints

Warnings from judgment of Babylon (Rome)

Judgment of arrogance and pride of power (vss. 6-8)

Danger to the church and believers

Judgment of decadence of political power that takes itself too seriously (vss. 9-10)

Danger to church and believers

Judgment on decadence of riches (vss. 11-19)

Two edged sword of prosperity gospel

Consumerism: The New Baal (pagan deity)

Judgment of desolation (vss. 20-24)

Forgetting true and living God leads to desolation

Some things materialism cannot give:

With money you can buy **a house**, but not **a home**.

With money you can buy **a clock**, but not **time**.

With money you can buy **a bed**, but not **sleep**.

With money you can buy **a book**, but not **knowledge**.

With money you can buy **a doctor**, but not good **health**.

With money you can buy **a position**, but not **respect**.

With money you can buy **blood**, but not **life**

With money you can buy **sex**, but not **love**

*SAINTS (PULPIT AND PEW) BEWARE!!!*

You may build great cathedrals large or small,

You can build skyscrapers grand and tall,

You may conquer all the failures of the past,

But only what you do for Christ will last.

You may seek earthly power and fame,

The world might be impressed by your great name,

Soon the glories of this life will all be past,

But only what you do for Christ will last.