

An economic catastrophe is coming that will make the Great Depression of 1929 look like a game for kids. And the Bible talks about it. We don't know how far away we are from it, but we do know that it will happen.

Now, let's look here in Revelation chapter eighteen that talks about it.

***"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"***

What in the world is Babylon? In Revelation chapter 17, Babylon is the Bible's covert manner and descriptive word for the godless age's value system and the dominion of the anti-Christ. This place is named Babylon. The name "Babylon" comes from the fact that its ideas, ideologies, and systems all come from the

book of Genesis. A guy named Nimrod erected the Tower of Babal. It was the first time people tried to be humanistic by building a kingdom for themselves to be free from God. The tower of Babal was where God judged that man was at the center and the edge of everything that happened there.

Nimrod was the name of the leader of the old city-state. His name means "Rebel." In the book of Genesis, he is named a powerful one three times. Nimrod was a pattern, a prophecy, and a symbol of the coming anti-Christ who will rule over the last Babylon. The tower of Babal was the start of Babylon. The book of Revelation's chapter eighteen will end it. Chapter eighteen is where we'll see the demise of Babylon.

Is Babylon that is talked about here a real city from a long time ago? Or is this Babylon just a symbol for a system? Is it a city, a system, or both? And if it is a city, will they build Babylon again on the banks of the Euphrates?

Some hold that view, while others are convinced otherwise. Indeed, present-day Iraq is the site of ancient Babylon, located along the Euphrates River. In nineteen seventy-one, the Iraqis launched a program aimed at reconstructing ancient Babylon. They stated that the reconstruction would adhere to the

specifications they had uncovered, believing that Babylon was originally constructed under Nebuchadnezzar, complete with its famed hanging gardens and other features. At that time, they considered the possibility of erecting a tower in the city to symbolize the true Tower of Babel. Following Saddam's death, there appears to be a deceleration in progress; however, I am confident that they will persist in their efforts to rebuild, as prophesied in the Bible.

As global events unfold, it seems that ancient Babylon's resurgence is not only possible but imminent. Iraq's ongoing construction of a massive port infrastructure of the Al-Faw Port may be one of the clearest signs of this prophetic fulfillment.

Once the Al-Faw Port is completed, the port will provide Iraq with a strategic advantage in global shipping, offering an alternative route to the Suez Canal. The planned trade corridor, dubbed the "Dry Canal," will connect Iraq to Turkey, significantly reducing shipping times and costs. This infrastructure shift could drastically reshape global trade routes, especially as geopolitical tensions disrupt traditional channels like the Suez Canal.

Iraq's ambitious \$17 billion development plan includes the creation of vast new shipping terminals, industrial facilities and a

transformative railway system. These projects aim to position Iraq at the heart of the world's logistics, placing it not just as a regional player, but as a global power broker.

The rebuilding of Babylon is not just about economics and trade; it is intrinsically tied to what the Bible predicts will happen in the last days. While the future may appear uncertain or even catastrophic to many, the Bible offers unwavering hope. In the end, despite the rise of evil, God wins.

So, it is not unthinkable that ancient Babylon may be reconstructed. Some others say yes, but they also claim that Babylon might be used as a symbol for Rome, which will be the center of the anti-Christ kingdom. And that may be too.

You could be thinking, "Well, Reverend Martineau, you should know. You wrote a book about how to understand Revelation." There are some things that no one knows, not even me. And you don't know, and I don't know everything there is to know about prophecy. All of these prophecies will ultimately come true, and we'll comprehend them when they do. And the Bible makes it clear that some prophecies should not be opened until the end of time. But there is one thing I am sure of: That Babylon symbolizes a horrible evil system. It is the other half of

the holy city, the new Jerusalem. It stands for the evil and wickedness of the anti-Christ and all he stands for. So, in Revelation chapter seventeen, is the end of religious Babylon. Now, in chapter eighteen, we're going to see the end of commercial Babylon. We're going to watch this system fall apart.

Now, notice God speaks of the system as a city. And first, I want you to notice the depravity of that city. And this is found in the first eight verses.

***"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."***

***And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her***

***iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore, her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her."***

First, notice how sinful she is, how godless she is. In verse two, we learn that this system is full of people who worship demons. The Babylonian system is a system of satanism and anti-Christ. It is a system of magic. This is a system of witchcraft. This is a system based on astrology. And I think the Bible says that demons will have more power on this earth than they ever have before in the end days.

During the great tribulation, horrible, dirty demon spirits will take over the world, especially the kingdom of Babylon, which is the dominion of the anti-Christ. People will believe in the occult, astrology, and demon worship, and they will follow these things. And this will be the reason why. That at this point they will have

realized that science has failed and that it can't bring about a perfect world. They will then turn to mysticism once more.

Do you know what? I've been amazed by two things. First, I'm shocked that people won't believe the gospel. But I'm even more shocked by what people will believe when they don't believe the Bible. So, the city of Babylon has become a demonic stronghold. And a pit for every evil spirit and a cage for every dirty and ugly bird. I think God is saying that Babylon is for the birds.

All right now, I want you to notice not only the godlessness of her sin, but I want you to notice the grossness of her sin, verses three and four.

***"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."***

Pay attention to how God talks about her dirtiness. God talks about immorality here, and the Bible uses the word

fornication in two ways. First, it means the real, bodily sin of being sexually immoral. Second, it means being unfaithful and spiritually immoral, wanting other gods and whoring after them. I want you to pay attention to the last portion of verse three. It talks about how many luxuries she has. And I want you to see one of her treats. Please turn to verse 23 of this same chapter. Pay attention to what he says regarding the judgment that will fall on Babylon.

***“The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.”***

Now, that word sorcery comes from the Greek word "*pharmakeia*". And it literally means an enchanter with drugs. I believe that the anti-Christ is going to legalize drugs. We already see that marijuana is being freely sold on the world markets. I believe that cocaine and heroin and all these drugs will be there. And it is because of this marriage of the drug culture, equated here or described here by the word "*pharmakeia*", the word we

get pharmacy from, or "druggist" from.

I'm not saying that druggists are sorcerers. I want you to understand that before we go on. I thank God for pharmacists. But this speaks of the illicit use of drugs, the ability to enchant men's minds by drugs. Incidentally, David Wilkerson said, who worked in Hell's kitchen there in New York City and other places and is perhaps the foremost authority in America in two areas, Satanism and Drug Culture said this: "I have yet to see a person who was into Satan worship who did not first of all open his mind to mystical experiences through the use of drugs." "I have yet to see a person," he says, "who was into Satan worship, who did not first of all, open his mind to mystical experiences through the use of drugs."

And so, we see in verse two the **godliness of her sin**. WE see in verses three and four the **grossness of her sin**. In verses five and six we see the **greatness of her sin**. The Bible goes on to say,

***For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her***

***works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.***

In other words, she has filled the cup of sin to the top. Her sins have piled up to the heavens. This is how bad her sin is. I think the apostle John is playing with words here. In Genesis chapter eleven, they exclaimed, "Let us build a tower whose top may reach unto heaven." "It is her sins that have reached heaven," says the apostle John. Oh, how vast her sin is, how great her sin is. God is telling that there will come a day, and it may not be too far off, when God can't stand sin anymore.

You see, God lets sin grow. For instance, God didn't kill the Amorites until he proclaimed, "The sin of the Amorites is full." The Amorites' sin is full. In other words, it had fully blossomed. During Noah's lifetime, God patiently waited as the ark was being prepared. God realized that the thoughts of men's minds were always bad, and God was sorry that he made man. God had reached his limit, and even his patience was gone. So, God wiped out the people in Noah's day.

At times, it looks like God doesn't perceive sin. But I want to tell you that the sword of vengeance will not sleep. God declares that her punishment will be twice as bad as her sin since it is so

enormous. She is going to have a lot of problems. That's what he says in verse six. Look at it. "Give her what she gave you and give her twice as much trouble as she did. "Fill her cup twice as full."

She will face twice as much difficulty. But I want you to notice not only the godliness of her sin, I want you to notice not only the grossness of her sin, I want you to notice not only the greatness of her sin, but I want you to notice the **gleefulness of her sin**. Look in verse seven.

***In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'***

Isn't that an interesting word: "She lived luxuriously." "in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'" The Anti-Christ will live high and handsome. If you're not careful, you can envy anti-Christ's reign. God cautions his saints: come out of her, my people, in the affliction. Don't consume. She will

be joyful, tasty, luxurious, and seemingly fabulously happy. The adversary is crafty, and God forbids envying the anti-Christ dominion. Foolish men envy fools. As the anti-Christ and his kingdom are high on drugs and satisfied, he says "let the good times roll". It will temporarily be the devil's anthem. Her sinful joy.

But I want you to see the **guiltiness of her sin**. Look, if you will, in verse eight as we continue to read.

***“Therefore, her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”***

It will happen quickly—the failure, the fall, the death, the judgment—in one day, in an hour, to be exact. You think that the crash of 1929, that "black day" on Wall Street, happened quickly? Just think about how unprepared the world's traders and wheeler-dealers will be when the kingdom of anti-Christ is judged in these last days. Babylon is going to die, and God's wrath will no longer be held back.

And so, we have looked for a few moments at the depravity of the city. Now, I want you to notice not only the depravity of the

city, but I want you to notice the disappointment concerning the city. When Babylon meets its demise, there will undoubtedly be those who will shed tears and lament. There are, without a doubt, three distinct groups of individuals who will be utterly devastated when the inevitable collapse occurs. These groups can be easily recognized, as the words "alas, alas" resonate deeply with their plight. To begin with, the rulers, the kings, take a moment to look at verses nine and ten.

***"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'"***

The kings will cry, that much is certain. They have placed all their trust in the anti-Christ and have surrendered their allegiance. All their faith in one guy has been dashed. After much deliberation, the World Bank, the Trilateral Commission, the European Economic Federation, the Middle Eastern nations, and the Opec Nations will have reached a consensus: we have a sustainable economic structure. Plus, everyone will be happy

and prosperous. Their army and resources are powerless to halt what is unfolding, so all they can do is sit back and watch. The wealth of the world will tend to concentrate in a few hands.

There will finally be a centralization of the riches, and it will all be in one pot with one king and one system. You won't be able to buy or sell unless you have a mark on your right hand or forehead. And they'll finally declare, "Utopia! An economic system that gives everyone what they need and takes what they can afford. Oh, how we're going to live strong and beautiful."

There will be the disappointment of monarchs and then there will be the disappointment of merchants. Look if you will in verses 11-16.

***“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 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. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!'***

There it is, right there. These things that mankind have dreamed about and plotted for, and according to this scripture, sold their souls for, will all turn to rust, dust, mold, and decay. The people who sold these things, which made her rich, will stand far away because they are afraid of her punishment. They will cry and wail and say, "Alas, alas, that great city that was dressed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and decorated with gold, precious stones, and pearls!" For in one hour, so vast wealth has come to nothing.

Oh, yeah, the kings and queens were disappointed, and so were the merchants. The big companies, the big monopolies, and the big wheeler-dealers all sit behind their mahogany desks with their computers and phones. They say, "Now we have it

made," but God says it will be wiped out. And it's going down in one hour.

Not only is there the disappointment of the monarchs, and the disappointment of the merchants, but there is the disappointment of the mariners. Look if you will please in verses 17-19.

***For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travelled by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' 'They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, and here's our word again, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour, she is made desolate.'***

And the sailors were very sad. People who work for transportation companies, sail ships, fly planes, fill planes, trade and go will all be sitting on their hands, with nothing to do. The teamsters union, the other unions, and all the mariners and longshoremen will just sit there and cry. They have chosen that the goods of this world, or materialism, are the most essential

things, and they are going up in smoke, ladies and gentlemen.

Now we have noticed the depravity of the city. We have noticed the disappointment over the city. Let's notice the destruction of the city, beginning in verse twenty.

***“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!” Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were notice the past tense, the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”***

I want you to observe how violent this judgment will be in these verses that deal with it. It's like throwing a millstone into

the ocean. I want you to see not just how violent it is, but also how big it is. I want you to see a lot of "no mores" in these verses. For instance, there won't be any additional music in verse twenty-two. I think the devil will have a lot of fun with both drugs and music. And here they are going to be rocking out. They're going to be high, living on drugs, and living a life of luxury, with God saying no more music.

In verse twenty-two, God states, no more music, no more factories, no more contracts, no more bartering, no more punching the clock, no more getting paid, and no more building these magnificent utopias that mankind think is so necessary on this globe.

But not just no more music and no more making things, there will be no more marriage. Here, he talks about how light from the marriage lamp shines through the windows of our homes and how the bride will never be heard again. For your merchants were the most powerful people on Earth. He says that all the happiness, joy, and hopes that people have ever had are going to be crushed. God says, "No more of these things." They are coming down no more.

And we've come to the end of this chapter. I want to read

verse twenty-four.

***" And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."***

These people didn't want to go along with the anti-Christ's plan, and it cost them their lives. These are scary days that are coming to the world. The whole economy is going to fall apart in one day. It's going to happen. And before I end with my message, I want to ask you a question. Are you ready for it? How much money do you have? Do you want to find out how wealthy you are? You can figure out how rich you are by adding up everything you own that money can't purchase and that death or calamity can't take away. Count it all up. And I think it's time for you to start saving the real stuff because, friends, I want to tell you that everything else is going down.

It's going. And if you are putting all your labor in this world, you remind me of a man painting the deck of a sinking ship. The bible says in First John chapter two, verse seventeen,

***And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.***

Don't you feel that the end is near in your heart? What did you think when we bombed Iran? What did you think? I thought that this would be the incident that really starts the end. People often say that the Middle East is a powder keg.

We say that simply a spark can set it off once we utilize that figure of speech. That wasn't a spark, ladies and gentlemen; it was a Molotov cocktail tossed into the Middle East. I think the time is ripe for the Russian invasion that Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 talk about. That scenario will get worse, and before we know what has happened, I'm not calling this a prediction; I'm simply saying that there is a very good chance that those chapters will come true within a year or even a few months. I don't know, but I'm telling you this: it's all falling down.

I can't help but wonder about how similar this is to America today. Could we be like Babylon? Do you see how our country is like Babylon? America is ready for judgment. How many babies can we murder or how many laws can we establish that declare evil is good and good is evil before God's judgment comes down on us like a hammer?

You say to Greg, "I don't like the way you talk." Do you know

why? You're married to all of this. You are married to all of this. You just sit there and say, "Oh no, it's gone." Abraham longed for a city with strong foundations that God built and made. What kind of wealth do you possess? Count everything you have that money can't buy and that death and calamity can't take away. If you haven't laid up your wealth in heaven where the moth and rust can't corrupt, you'll be in this crowd saying, "Oh no, it's gone," and "IT IS GOING!"

Let's bow in prayer.