

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Chapters 18-19

Keys To Chapter Eighteen:

1. Chapter eighteen details symbolically the fall of Babylon the Great—Rome.
2. Her immorality had affected the earth, and she would be judged (vv. 2-3).
3. Christians are urged to come out of her, a call to remain pure in the midst of temptations—not unlike today (v. 4; cf. II Cor. 6:14-18).
4. Rome's evil deeds and pride were to find her out as her punishment would directly relate to her sins (vv. 5-8; cf. Gal. 6:7; Matt. 23:32-36).
5. The merchants of the earth, all those who prospered materially from Rome's wealth and might, they would weep and mourn over the fall of the great empire (vv. 9-19).
6. In our day, as in the days of the Roman Empire, sadly—it is the economy....
7. However, for God's people, there was rejoicing at Rome's fall—God had been chosen over Mammon by the faithful (v. 20; Matt. 6:24).
8. The fall of Rome would be certain and complete (vv. 21-23).
9. She deceived the nations and killed prophets and saints, and so her fate was sealed (vv. 23-24).

Keys To Chapter Nineteen:

1. Chapter nineteen contains a fourfold "Hallelujah" to celebrate the victory of God's people over the enemy—yet another example of this oft repeated theme from the message of the Little Book (vv. 1, 3, 4, 6).
2. The Harlot was judged and the blood of the martyrs was avenged (v. 2; cf. 6:9-11; 19:11-20:6).
3. The victory of the Christ paved the way for His great Marriage Supper of the Lamb where the church would be joined to her Betrothed (vv. 7-9; cf. II Cor. 11:2; Matt. 22:2; 25:10; Lk. 12:36; Jn. 3:29; Eph. 5:23, 32).
4. Jesus Himself is pictured as the One Who fights for His bride, the church (vv. 11-16).
5. It had been asked regarding the beast, "who is able to wage war against him?" (13:4)—now we know!
6. There would be another feast in stark contrast to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the bodies of the enemy would provide a feast for the birds (vv. 17-18).
7. The great host who opposed the church would gather for battle against Jesus, their defeat was certain (vv. 19-21; cf. 16:17-21).
8. Those who were not conquered by God's judgment were vanquished by the word of the Lord (v. 21).