### Revelation

## Chapter 18

1Well after all that, I saw another messenger coming down out of the sky. This one was so very powerful that the earth glowed with his glory!  
  
2Then he shouted in a mighty voice, saying:  
  
 ‘She has fallen… the Great Babylon has fallen and she has become a home for demons, a prison for unclean spirits, and a cage for scavenger birds!  
  
 3‘Because, all the nations have fallen [victim] to the wine of the rage of her sexual immorality, all the kings of the earth have had immoral sex with her, and the earth’s businessmen have become rich through the power of her shameless luxury.’  
  
4And at that, I heard another voice coming from the sky that said:  
  
 ‘Come out of her my people!  
  
 ‘Come on out, so you don’t share in her sins and receive part of her plagues!  
  
 5‘For her sins have piled all the way to the heavens, and God has remembered all the unjust things that she has done. 6So, now she must be paid back for all of those [bad] things that she’s done!  
  
 ‘In fact, pay her back with twice as much… Double the payback for the things that she did! If she poured [poison] into a cup, then pour in twice as much for her!  
  
 7‘Also, as she glorified herself and lived in shameless luxury, pay her back that much more in pain and sorrow!  
  
 ‘Because she keeps saying in her heart:  
  
 ‘I’m sitting as a queen. I’m nobody’s widow, and I’ll never have to mourn!’  
  
 8‘So, that’s why her plagues will come upon her in a single day – death, mourning, and famine – and she’ll be consumed by fire, because the Almighty God Jehovah is passing judgment on her!  
  
 9‘Then those kings of the earth who had sex and lived in shameless luxury with her will bawl and beat themselves in grief over her, as they stand and watch the smoke from her fire.  
  
 ‘10However they’ll stand at a distance, because they’ll be afraid of her torture.  
  
 ‘And they’ll say:  
  
 ‘Woe, woe, you great city… O Babylon you mighty city; for your judgment has arrived in a single hour!’  
  
 11‘The earth’s businessmen will also bawl and mourn over her, because there won’t be anyone to buy their complete stock of goods anymore… 12any of the gold and silver, the precious stones and pearls, the fine linen, the purple, the silk, the scarlet, any of the scented wood, or any of the things made of ivory, precious wood, copper, or iron… Or the marble, 13the cinnamon, the Indian spice, the incense, the perfumed oil, the frankincense, the wine, the olive oil, the fine flour and wheat… Or the cattle, sheep, horses, coaches, slaves, or human lives.  
  
 14‘Yes, all the juicy fruit that she so deeply desired has been taken from her, as have all the fatty foods and the bright colors. They’re no longer available to her, and she’ll never have them again.  
  
 15‘Then the men who sold these things and became rich from her will cry and mourn at some distance from her, because they’ll [also] be afraid of her torture.  
  
 16‘They’ll say:  
  
 ‘O woe, woe, you great city that wore all the fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and that was so richly covered in gold, precious stones, and pearls; 17because all of that great wealth has been taken away in a single hour!’  
  
 ‘And this was also true of the ship captains, all those who sail, the sailors, and everyone who makes a living at sea. They too stood some distance away 18and called out as they watched the smoke of her burning, saying:  
  
 ‘What other city was like this great city?’  
  
 19‘Then they threw dust on their heads, bawled, and mourned, shouting:  
  
 ‘O woe, woe, for this great city that made so many shipping companies rich with her wealth, because everything has been taken away from her in a single hour!’  
  
 20‘O heavens, you Holy Ones, and you Apostles and Prophets!  
  
 ‘Rejoice over this, because God’s judgment has brought vengeance upon her for your sakes!’  
  
21Then a mighty messenger picked up a stone that looked like a huge millstone and threw it into the sea, shouting:  
  
 ‘This is how fast that city (the Great Babylon) will be thrown down, and she’ll never be found again!  
  
 22‘Then the sounds of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpet players will no longer be found in her, nor will craftsman of whatsoever craft he be and tradesman be found there anymore and the stone of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee. [spurious words]  
  
 23‘No lamplight will ever shine in her again, and the voices of brides and grooms won’t be heard in her thereafter.  
  
 ‘For although her traveling merchants were once the most important men on the earth, and she misled all the nations with her sorcery... 24the blood of the Prophets, the Holy Ones, and of all those who’ve been slaughtered throughout the whole earth... Have been found within her!’