

Revelation 36

(Symbols, etc. of Revelation 17-18)

18:9...have committed fornication suggests the action of worldly rulers in using the religious force to gain their own ends. Both sides have sacrificed purity in the abuse of the other.

18:10..the merchants of the earth expresses the woe felt by the mercantile leaders who have profited by the trade and support of Babylon (see 14:8 for the concept of Babylon, etc.)

18:12 following...mentions items that reflect the particular commerce matters now bemoaned. These may not be the literal items involved but suggest the character of the things for which loss is felt. You could expand it today and add computers, and communion sets, and a lot of more modern things anticipated in this listing of random stuff.

18:22..following shows the mourning for the fallen city and its produce. The figures indicate the completeness of the fall and the ruin of the city. Once again we could use more modern terms for the total description but these can be understood without further comment.

SOME AVAILABLE LESSONS IN THESE CHAPTERS

1. The evil of compromise in religious/secular systems is very apparent. It cannot be done without yielding the essentially good (better) qualities of each. That the church should seek advancement at the cost of the state is very unacceptable. Vice versa is also true.
2. That the Lord's people should not be party at any time to such compromise is also very apparent. A commitment to truth is more important than any form of temporal gain. Yet our portion is to see that God will act righteously and will determine for Himself when and where to pronounce judgments on those who defy Him..
3. A very practical lesson is that anyone may use you when it is to his or her advantage but that does not mean they value you of the things for which you stand. Be careful about assuming that common cause makes common friends or fellowship.

Looking ahead to chapters 19-20

1. What is involved in the salvation song of 19:1, etc.?
2. How is the actual warfare of chapter 19 conducted?
3. Note the difference in the immediate action regarding the beast, false prophet, and Satan.
4. What is the character of the thousand years of chapter 20?
5. How do you explain the further violence of chapter 20 in the light of the Lord's rule?
6. For whom is the Great White Throne intended?