

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 57

2 **OPENING REMARKS**

- We are continuing with our Bible study in chapter 18 of the Book of Revelation
- This is not a Bible study that you can come into the middle of and gain a full understanding of what's happening
- Daily we are seeing prophecies being fulfilled
- Prophecy is history written by God before it ever happens
- The Word of God has really shown us where it all began, where we are today, and how it will all end
- The Word of God is full of history: history past, history present, and history future

3 **OPENING REMARKS cont.**

- As prophecy becomes fulfilled it builds our faith
- Prophecy teaches us the political empires of the world
- It is amazing how God takes the natural things of the world and He looks down through the corridors of time and He puts them in a Book for us to build our faith that we may see that He knows what He is talking about
- The Bible has had many books written about it, trying to explain it
- God is the all powerful supernatural God that He is
- He always was and always will be

4 **OPENING REMARKS cont.**

- We as humans find it hard to comprehend something that has no beginning but the "without end" concept is much easier to comprehend
- This has much to do with how we relate to time and our own existence being natural and mortal
- It is only with the Holy Ghost that we can comprehend eternity and

that God really is the Alpha and Omega, He has no beginning and no ending

- We are a creation of God's and the earth is merely a speck in our universe
- We find in God's Word that He put in it the political, the natural, the spiritual, human nature; every single verse means something for us to understand

5 **OPENING REMARKS cont.**

- Care and caution should be exercised when using books that explain the Bible
- God's Spirit will open our understanding of the Bible when we ask God for it, when we desire it
- Spiritual things are spiritually discerned and they are foolishness to the natural man (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- God's Word is so simple that any wayfaring man can understand it (Isaiah 35:8, Proverbs 9:4-6)
- We need to have a hunger for more of God and how much we get of God depends on how much we want of God

6 **REVIEW**

- Last week read in the Book of Revelation chapter 18 verses 1-3
- We looked at recent news and events that brought us to the time that Jesus talked about in the Olivet Discourse, which is in Matthew chapters 24 and 25
- These prophetic verses of Scripture were Jesus' answer to the apostles questions of what is going to be the end days, what is going to be at the end of time and what is going to be the signs of His coming back
- These are 3 different questions that will have 3 separate answers:
 1. The end times for the Jews
 2. The end times for the world
 3. Jesus' second coming in the clouds

7 **THE END DAYS**

- These are 3 separate times and He gave them answers to all 3 questions
- His answers were based on signs, prefaced by the term "when you see..." which is for the generation in which these events were to take place
- The news and world events of our day should stir our souls as we live in this "generation" of the end days
- There are no political solutions to the problems and perplexities of the world today
- We are not going to bring change to the world
- Jesus said - I didn't come to bring peace to the world but strife and division (Matthew 10:34)

8 **GOD'S PEACE**

John 14:27

27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- Jesus did not come to bring world peace, that will never come until He rules this world as we are seeing in Revelation
- He did come to give peace to the individual
- His peace is not like the world understands peace which is a time when there are no wars and calm prevails

9 **GOD'S PEACE**

- This peace that God gives us can only come with the infilling of the Holy Ghost along with joy and righteousness
- When we receive this peace from God it is something no one can take away from us
- This peace is not based on what is around and about us and what others do or don't do; it is a peace within that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7)
- Back to Revelation; the apostle John is seeing these things in the

future and we have not entered into this time yet

10 **THE WARNING**

Revelation 18:4-7

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.

7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

11 **THE WARNING cont.**

Revelation 18:8

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

- The time here is after the Rapture of the church, after the 3-1/2 years of tribulation and is a time of God's judgement with no mercy
- We have come to the time of the destruction of Satan's works and his religions
- By this time, those who will, have taken the mark of the beast and Antichrist is ruling the world

12 **OVERVIEW OF REVELATION PROPHECY**

- The next prophecy to be fulfilled is the Rapture: the catching away of those alive who are ready and those overcomers in Jesus who have passed on
- We will see the beginning of Antichrist's rise to power before the Rapture if we know what to look for

- His rise will be in the countries of the Old Roman Empire that border the Mediterranean Sea
- The Roman Empire is the last world empire to have existed
- In prophecy, particularly in Daniel, the Roman Empire has not gone out of existence but rather has been dormant until the rise of Antichrist

13 **OLD ROMAN EMPIRE MAP**

14 **BIBLE LANDS MAP**

15 **REVIEW**

- The problems and perplexities of today are part of what must happen to bring about the rise of Antichrist and the one world religion (for example see Daniel 8:23)
- We need to keep our focus on being ready for the Rapture
- In our study we have progressed past the time of the Rapture, gone through the events from the heaven and earth's point of view that covered the time from the Rapture to the return of Jesus Christ to the earth at the battle of Armageddon
- Now we are in this same parallel time looking at what is happening in Satan's kingdom

16 **REVELATION FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

17 **THE WARNING**

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

- You cannot be a partaker of this world religion or you will receive her plagues and total destruction
- Jeremiah chapter 51 has the same words of warning
- Who is this voice from heaven talking to in the verse of Scripture, who are "my people"?

- The prophet Jeremiah has been given the same prophecy as John in Revelation; the same time period which is the destruction of Babylon the false religion

18 **THE WARNING cont.**

Jeremiah 51:37-41

37 And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and a hissing, without an inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps.

39 In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the Lord.

40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with the goats.

41 How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!

19 **THE WARNING cont.**

Jeremiah 51:42-45

42 The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.

43 Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth any son of man pass thereby.

44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him; yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord.

20 **GOD'S PEOPLE**

- In verse 41 Sheshach is Babylon in Hebrew
- Jeremiah gives us a little more detail of this prophecy
- Remember in Revelation chapter 18 almost every verse has its parallel in the Old Testament due to the unusual number of

references to the Old Testament in this chapter

- Again, who is He speaking to when He says "my people" in Revelation 18:4?
- It is partly the Tribulation saints who have not yet understood what is happening
- It is important to understand who these are as they are God's people and God promises to take care of His people

21 **"SEEK YE FIRST...."**

- God's people are a mixture of all different kinds of people for He is no respecter of persons when it comes to salvation
- There is no reason, other than God, that our lives are blessed like they are
- Jesus told us to seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33)
- We must seek God or more of God daily in our thoughts, our hearts, our prayers; put Him first in our lives (2 Corinthians 10:5, Colossians 3:1-3, etc.)
- "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." – Matthew 24:13

22 **"SEEK YE FIRST...." cont.**

- We will never finish learning and never finish growing in God
- "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7)
- God looks on the inside and knows our sincerity; with Him nothing is hidden
- Sometimes when we look around we don't know whether to laugh or cry because we know what God can do for others and this world
- The heartbreaking realities of the world today do have an answer; it is not for the world or the nations but for the individual
- Every single one of us had to come to God personally

23 **"SEEK YE FIRST...." cont.**

- God had to search our heart; no one else could make that

judgement, just God on the inside

- God says this salvation is for whosoever will, He can bring anyone in (Mark 8:35)
- Most of us were told the good news by someone in our congregation
- Once told, we had to check it out for ourselves
- We know the truth by asking and waiting on God and by looking into God's Word, for agreement and alignment, for ourselves
- The "old" city of Babylon is where false religions began

24 **MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION**

- Ancient Babylon is where Nimrod built the Tower of Babel and it is the mother of false religions that have survived and prospered down through history
- The confusion that started in ancient Babylon is still with us today as Satan has sowed the tares and his counterfeit religion still deceives
- In this message in Revelation 18:4 God is still showing His grace by telling people to "come out" of that world of sin
- God makes a way out the same way as He has always done: by someone telling someone else
- We are all ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18)

25 **MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION cont.**

- Every single one of us that have had that personal experience with God; the power, the infilling of the Holy Ghost as the Spirit gives the utterance, God has made a minister of reconciliation
- We have become debtors to all men
- The reconciliation is to come back to God and out of the world of sin
- God did not give us the Holy Ghost just for ourselves: the power is for us but it also has to overflow to others
- The definition of "my people" in Revelation 18:4 is broad in its content
- Most people in the world today are religious as they believe in God or a god

26 **GOD'S PEOPLE**

- God's people have come from backgrounds of many different religions
- We all have one thing in common: we were all seeking God, who He really is
- Someone searching for God does not show this in outward appearances
- It is a hunger in our souls that God sees that leads us to Him
- It is only what is on the inside that matters; it is what God sees and it is Him who puts a hunger in our hearts
- In these end days God is pulling on more and more heartstrings; this is exactly what He is doing in chapter 18 and verse 4

27 **GOD'S PEOPLE cont.**

- God's gathering of His flock in the end days has been prophesied in Jeremiah, Isaiah and many more Scriptures
- God is talking to us, not just through this Word, but the Word always proves out the Spirit and the Spirit always proves out the Word
- The Spirit that draws us to God can only be found in the Word of God
- What the Word of God is saying the Spirit will bear witness with, it never contradicts itself
- The people in verse 4 are a religious people; they are in the midst of religion
- The Scriptures teach that this false religion is wrong

28 **"MY PEOPLE"**

- God is going to completely destroy this false religion as an organization, as a religion
- It is a false religion that Satan has sowed
- God is saying to the people in this false religion that are His, to come out of it or be destroyed with it
- Here again we see the personal call of God
- The term "my people" covers a multitude of people

- It is very difficult for us to realize the great mercy of God because we don't have that kind of mercy without Him
- Many people in these religions world wide are God's people even though they are in false religions

29 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- God's people will have to come out of that false, counterfeit religion and not be partakers of it
- Salvation is exact and it is the same for everyone
- The Word of God does not change and there is God who does not change (Isaiah 40:8 & Malachi 3:6)
- There are two roads in mankind's life: one is strait and narrow the other is wide and broad (Matthew 7:13-14)
- Who are "my people"? Anyone who is listening to Him, anyone who will hear Him and come out of that world of sin and not be partakers of that sin
- Knowing these things stimulates us to tell others the "good news"

30 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- Our salvation starts with a personal invitation from God but we have to reach for it for ourselves
- We are gathered in accord because all of us here have done that; reach for it for ourselves
- The Bible does not talk about different sects or religions but just people, all through His Word
- God's people are everywhere and He calls them to serve Him as an individual call
- We see here in Revelation 18:4 that these people are seeking God and He is seeking them
- Most of them were probably just like every one of us were; caught up as religious people and knowing any better

31 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- Paul the apostle gives us a great example of this in the Book of Acts 17:22-23 we he says "Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him

declare I unto you."

- These people in Jeremiah and Revelation are in the same situation, not knowing the one true God
- Even though right now many people get caught up in the ceremony and rituals of religions but in the middle of many, many of these religions God has people who are hungry in their soul
- God looks into the inner most parts of us and sees what no one else does
- "The harvest is great but the laborers are few;" (Matthew 9:37)

32 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- The "harvest" Jesus refers to in this Scripture is the end of times that we have studied earlier in our study of Revelation
- The Spirit of God draws people more and more in these end days
- The laborers are few because few there be on the narrow road
- God is merciful but He is also a just God and He tells us in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- This Scripture does not tell us the we have to "just believe"

33 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- The Scriptures also tell us that "...the devils also believe, and tremble" yet they are not saved (James 2:19)
- Believing is the first step and the second step is to start learning the Scriptures and obeying what you learn, every day
- Being a hearer of the Word only, and not a doer of the Word makes a person very foolish (James 1:22-25)

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

34 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- This is a promise from God: if you are really hungry and thirsty for

God's righteousness you will be filled

- This is God's Word and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2, Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 6:18)
- We cannot suppose who wants God and who does not for it is God who looks on the inside and knows the intents of the heart (1Samuel 16:7)
- All the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10)
- The sin of wrong judgement and the sin pride could lead some to assume someone does not want God or what He has for mankind

35 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- We are going to have to open our eyes more and more to the opportunities of salvation being offered to mankind
- God is calling people and will continue to do so until the end of the tribulation period, the first 3-1/2 year period after the Rapture
- God specifically uses the phrase "my people" and we need to dwell on what that actually means
- We still live in the Dispensation of Grace, the time period when God offers salvation for "whosoever will"
- If we live under the grace of God then we also live under the power of God; the same power as demonstrated by the apostles and early church

36 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- God gave them that believe, them that have received the Holy Ghost, and them that have taken up their cross and followed Him all the power like He says in Mark 16:17-18
- God does not give to one and not another for He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35, Romans 2:11)
- God would not give all the fruits and gifts to the early church and tell us we have to be the same without them
- We can know things from God's Word and, as we grow in Him, He will prove these truths to us

- The following in Isaiah is still in the time of the destruction the world religion that has become Babylon again

37 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

Isaiah 48:20-22

20 Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

21 And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

22 There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

Isaiah 49:1

1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

38 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

Isaiah 49:2-5

2 And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

3 and said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

4 Then I said, I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.

5 And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and my God shall be my strength.

39 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

Isaiah 49:2-5

6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to

raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

- Starting from verse 20 Isaiah is prophesying of the complete end, way past our time: the Rapture of the church (the next event in prophecy), the tribulation time, right up until almost the battle of Armageddon
- Then Isaiah reminds us: 1. that salvation is not just for Israel, 2. of the coming of Jesus Christ and when they rejected Him, 3. until the end it is for whosoever will

40 **"MY PEOPLE" cont.**

- This one little verse of Scripture, Revelation 18:4, has a lot of meaning that can be a big faith builder
- This one verse of Scripture in Revelation God ties in with Jeremiah chapter 51, Revelation chapter 4, and Isaiah chapter 48 and 49 as they are all saying the same thing
- Matthew is telling us we are blessed if we are hungry and thirsty for the righteousness that God gives
- We will have to honestly and earnestly seek this righteousness from God who freely gives
- This Scripture in Revelation chapter 3 is our time: the time between the Philadelphia and Laodicean church ages

41 **THE PROMISE**

Revelation 3:20-21

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

- The door that Jesus knocks on is that of our soul and our heart

- God will draw us and make us hungry but He will not open the door, that we must do

42 **THE INVITATION**

Revelation 22:16-17

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

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