

Revelation 17-18

by Leonard Ravenhill

The sermon is about the second coming of Jesus Christ, the marriage of the Lamb, and the destruction of Babylon, highlighting God's triumph over evil and materialism.

Duration: 1:18:23

Scripture: Revelation 17

Topics: "Christian Life", "Judgment", "Sovereignty Of God"

Description

Leonard Ravenhill emphasizes the sovereignty of God amidst the chaos of worldly systems, particularly focusing on the fall of Babylon as depicted in Revelation 17-18. He warns of the impending judgment on false religious systems and materialism, highlighting that true believers should rejoice in God's ultimate victory. Ravenhill calls for a recognition of the signs of the times, urging the church to prepare for the return of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom. He contrasts the lament of the world over its lost riches with the joy of the faithful who await the marriage supper of the Lamb. Ultimately, he stresses the importance of living in accordance with God's truth in a time of widespread deception.

Transcript

I want to share some thoughts with you today, and you'd hardly think, if I gave you a dozen guesses, I don't think you'd guess where they were born. I listened the other night to the chit-chat, and that wasn't much more, of the political contenders, and as they were reciting their nursery rhymes, political nursery rhymes, I thought their philosophy was about as safe as, well, candy floss, and about as permanent as the clouds that go over our heads. And while I was listening, it was just as though a voice behind the chair said this, hallelujah, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

I'm glad he does, because the other word that came to me was regarding the prophet, when he looked at something they were stewing or something, and he said there's death in the pot. And if Mr. Carter doesn't know that, Mr. Ford, I'd like to phone them both this afternoon and tell them there is anyhow, in the political pot there's death. There's no life, there's no hope, there is no way of deliverance.

Hallelujah for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. It's in the 19th chapter of the book of the Revelation. And let me read verses 6 and 7 to you.

I heard as it were, the voice of a great multitude, and as the whole, as the voice of many waters, and as of the voice of mighty thundering, saying hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad

therefore, and rejoice, and give honor to him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. There are four things in that verse, let us be glad and rejoice, number one.

Number two, give honor to him. Number four, the marriage of the Lamb is come. And number three, the marriage of the Lamb is come.

And number four, his wife hath made herself ready. I think in real sequence, this 19th chapter should come immediately after the 16th chapter. But in chapters 17 and 18, we have what is called a parenthesis.

Maybe I can put it this way, it's like going through a forest, with tall trees on the right and the left. And you have a pathway right through the middle. And this is what, at least this is the way I understand this.

The 19th chapter here, is about the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The 20th chapter, be a great day, it's about the binding of Satan. Wouldn't that be great, when he's finally tied up.

Personally I'm hoping to have the job. And if I need help, Herb will help me kick him into hell anyhow. But I'd really like the job, binding Satan in the 19th chapter.

And the other part of the chapter, is that glorious millennial period. You know there are people, and yet there are a dozen interpretations of the scripture, or a thousand and one. But there are those who say that this world will run for six days.

The Jews are already in the sixth day. It's the year 5400 and something in the Jewish calendar. We're almost getting to night time in the sixth millennium.

The seventh millennium will be the rest day. As the seventh day was the rest day for God, the last thousand years will be the millennial reign. Now some people don't believe we're in the, that there will be a millennium.

One smart guy says we're in it now. He must not live in the world I live in anyhow. If he thinks that we're in the millennium now, well heaven help us if anything worse comes.

No, no, no. The 19th chapter again is the coming of Jesus. The 20th chapter, the binding of Satan.

My you won't, you won't see Herb around. He'll be flying around shouting hallelujah, with a million voices. The binding of Satan, and the end of the chapter there.

The glorious millennium, the 21st chapter, the 22nd chapter, a new heaven, a new earth. Huh? Isn't that wonderful? There's going to be a totally new earth. There's going to be a new heaven.

There's going to be a new Jerusalem. You're going to have a new name in your forehead. People say you'll never get me with a name in my forehead.

Well you'll have to go to the other place. Because I'm going to have one in mine anyhow. It says his name shall be written in their forehead.

I don't want 666, but I want his name written on my forehead. That's how he'll identify me. I'll be one of his sheep.

His name shall be written in their forehead. Now the sheep are in many foals. They're all sheep.

These days they're letting goats and skunks in, but I don't. They're all sheep. And the sheep are in many foals today.

Did you know there are some Methodist sheep? You didn't know that you Baptists. Well the Baptists, the Methodists, don't even know there are any Baptist sheep hardly. And if you won't tell anybody, let me whisper this.

There are one or two Pentecostal sheep. And there are some in the Church of England. Today the sheep are in many foals.

One day there'll be one foal, one shepherd, one name in their foreheads, and they'll sing one song. Brother won't that be something? I should think so. I think again, I don't know who stole the manuscript, but I sometimes think that song is one that will be sung in heaven.

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus. I don't care how big the trials are. You know we've got big trials, but you know if you were tying me to a stake, and burning my feet this week, and pulling my fingernails off one at a time.

I guess I think I never had a trial in my life, till I got there. Everything is so relative. But it will be worth it all, when we see Jesus.

Life's trials, we'll all blush, we'll all be embarrassed to death, that we ever got embarrassed about anything. Won't that be something? We'll feel foolish, that we were ever so foolish. We'll feel so weak, that we were ever so weak.

And then the Lord will wrap it all up. Not in tinsel, but in joy, and in praise, and in adoration, and in thanksgiving. All right, you notice what this verse says? In verse 6 it says, I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, the voice of many waters, the voice of mighty thunderings.

Now listen, I've got news in case you didn't get hold of this thing. Are you going to fix this desk up for me before long John? Okay, I'll be cross-eyed if you don't. But notice those voices, and notice what it says will you? A voice of many waters.

Do you remember in the beginning it said his voice was like the sound of many waters. And then it says mighty thunderings. You know this isn't going to be spoken in heaven.

It isn't going to be whispered in heaven. If you could take a thousand Niagara Falls and put them all together. If you could put all the earthquakes the world has ever known together, all their volumes, and all the thunderclaps you've ever heard.

You know they'd sound like a whisper compared to this. God is going to let all eternity, if I can use such a phrase, rip open under the sound of a voice that says hallelujah. Yeah you better rehearse some of you.

You keep sitting next to Betty, you might get her fired off. All right look, that's what it's going to be. You know I jumped out of my chair nearly when I read that.

A voice of mighty thunderings. No it's not going to be whispered, it's not going to be sung. It's a voice like the roaring of the ocean.

Have you ever heard it? Beat against the rocks. Have you ever felt a thunderclap and you've heard, what's that thunder did the earth split into? Well all the thunderings, and all the earthquakes. And if you put the Niagara Falls on top of the Angel Falls, which is about 10 times higher down in South America.

And the great Victoria Falls, away there in the middle of Africa. If you put all those waters together, they'll sound like a whisper, compared to this wonderful triumph song. Oh it's going to be very beautiful.

Will you notice that before I leave in this chapter, I'm going to talk about the marriage. I'm not too sure I'll get to it this afternoon, if I don't, I'll finish it on Tuesday. After these things, verse one says, what things? I'm going back to those in a few minutes.

I heard a great voice, this man's full of voices, have you noticed that? Revelation is all voices, it's all thrones. He talks about thrones more than 40 times. He's always talking about voices, the voice of the Son of God, the voice of angels, the voices of those who fall down.

And if you read the book carefully, and you know what? I think in these awful days, you and I need to live in the book of the Revelation. Let me go back a minute, and remind you about this book. It's the only book in the Bible, that has this prefix to it.

And it says in the first chapter, in verse three, blessed is he, and there are four things here. Revelation chapter one, and verse three, blessed is he that readeth, number one. That hear, number two, the words of this prophecy.

Three, keep the things which are written in this book, for the time is at hand. Now there is not another book in the whole Bible that says, now we're always blessed when we read the Word of God, surely we are. Time again is expressed in different ways.

But it's never specifically written by the man who wrote the chapter, the book. And he says, blessed is he that readeth, and then he heareth, and then he keepeth, the prophecies of this book, for the time is at hand. Now logically, if the time was at hand 2,000 years ago, when the book was written, how near do you think the time is right now? Hmm? I say sometimes, if I could lift up God's clock like that, and say do you know what time it is on God's clock, we'd all be startled.

I'm going to suggest we might even be afraid, with a filial fear. Because love has fear in it. 2,000 years ago, the same thing is said in the epistle to the Hebrews, things which must shortly come to pass.

Hebrews says, God who in sundry times and in divers manner, spake unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days. Man you can't pinpoint it much tighter than that can you? No man knoweth the day, nor the hour. But Jesus didn't say there won't be sight, as a matter of fact he said there would be signs.

Read the 16th chapter of Matthew, in which he upbraves the people and he says, you know when the sky is red in the morning. I used to think my mother invented that. Honest to goodness I didn't, she was always saying it.

I honestly thought for years, that my mother invented that saying. She'd look out the window and say, a red sky at morning, and the sailors take warning, a red sky at night, is a shepherd's delight. But it's there in the 16th chapter of Matthew.

And Jesus says, if you can read the sky, why can't you read the signs of the times? We see the day approaching he says, we don't know the hour, but we know the day. All right in verse 1, after these things, one of chapter 19. After these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven saying, Alleluia, salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord.

Have you ever noticed this, that Alleluia is only mentioned in this one chapter in the Bible? And it's mentioned four times over in the chapter. It is not mentioned in the Old Testament. The nearest in the Old Testament, is in the Psalm that speaks the very same things, about the Lord Jesus in Psalm 72.

He shall have dominion, verse 8 of Psalm 72 says, he shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. Hey that's wonderful. You know I don't mind going, I've got to be away next Sunday, let me tell you that.

I'm sorry but I have to be. I've got to go back to Bethany. I haven't been for 12 years.

They invited me, so I'm going back to, I don't know, heal some breaches or do something. I'm going to say nothing, except preach what God's given me. It's pretty hot.

But I'm going to preach it. But you know when I go away, there are some hymns I don't like them to sing. They sang the other Sunday in a church with a massive organ and a great bunch of, what do you think they sang? Fairest Lord Jesus.

I was choking, I thought that belongs to us. What do they want to sing it for? And I could hardly get through that hymn you know, when they sang Fairest Lord Jesus. Then what would you think they sang at the next place? Am I a soldier of the cross? All I can think about is a certain German, I won't tell you his name.

But anyhow, am I a soldier of the cross, a follower of the Lamb? But you know some of those great hymns, I think Am I a Soldier of the Cross? Wasn't that written by Isaac Watts? He wrote that matchless hymn, incomparable hymn. When I surveyed a wondrous cross, he wrote that other wonderful hymn, Jesus shall reign. Where'er the sun doth its successive journeys run, his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moon shall wax and rain no more.

Man alive, that's wonderful. He's going to reign over every kindred, people, tongue, island and nation. All right, verse 8 of 72, Psalm 72.

He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. Verse 11. All kings shall fall down before him.

Won't that be great? Oh people say there'll be no tears in heaven, the world will be tears of joy. When I see all the kings fall down, I'll laugh my head off. I will sir, when I see Mussolini, and Genghis Khan, and Philip of Macedon, or Napoleon, or the kings of England, or the voluptuous kings of France, or the great kings of the Old Testament, the 31 kings that oppose the children of Israel.

They're all going to fall down before him. You know I have an idea, you and I might fall down after them. Somebody said what we do is the President of the United States walked in this room.

He said well you'd all stand up. What would he do if Jesus came in? We'd all kneel down. I wouldn't kneel before any president, or any king, or anybody else.

But I kneel before Jesus. In fact I might feel too tall, I might have to kneel down. Yeah all the kings shall fall down before him.

All nations shall serve him. For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth, and the poor also. And him that hath no helper.

Verse 17. His name, in this beautiful, his name shall endure forever. Hey look at this dear lady that plays.

Where have you been all these weeks? She's going to tie you down. She, I think she puts a thousand dollars worth of blessing into the meeting. So you keep bringing her John.

But somebody should set this verse to music. His name shall endure forever. Isn't that beautiful? Stinking names of Hitler, and all these others are going to perish.

But his name is going to rule forever. It's going to be remembered forever. His name shall continue, continue as long as the sun.

And men shall call, shall be blessed because of him. And all nations shall call him blessed. Which guarantees the gospel is going to succeed, because every country hasn't known yet.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name forever. And let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and amen. Do you know what that really means? In Hebrew that's the highest thing you can say. Like in our language hallelujah is the highest.

And they say amen, amen, amen, amen. Why? Because one day his dominion is going to stretch to the very ends of the earth. Because one day all kings, all governments, all people are going to bow down before him.

Good heavens the way they talk. You think everybody's going to bow down before the big shots who play tennis or football these days. They're the heroes of the nation.

Or somebody that introduces a different bill in government. They won't even be in the picture. God has reserved all the glory and all the majesty for his son.

All right after these things verse 19 verse 1, chapter 19 verse 1, we're still there. I heard the voice of a great multitude in heaven saying hallelujah. For what? Well for the 18th chapter, in which the material kingdom of Babylon has been destroyed.

For the 17th chapter, which as I told you, a wedge between the 16th and the 19th. The angel who has one of the bowels of the wrath of God says, hey look here I want to show you something. Just before the final, the marriage supper of the Lamb, look what's going to happen.

There's going to be destruction of ecclesiastical Babylon, all the religious systems of the world. God's going to blast them. And right after that the material Babylon of the world, where all the merchants and the others we'll read in a minute.

And so this is hallelujah for the triumph of the Lord Jesus Christ over the destruction of what the Bible calls the great whore. You see the 18th chapter is the great whore. The church is likened to a woman in the

scripture.

A whore is a defiled woman. And the 17th chapter is telling us about all the defilement, all the impurity that has come into what should be the true church. I'll go back to that in a few minutes.

But that's the hallelujah over the, over the throwing over, the overthrow, the destruction of the great whore. Verse 3, they said hallelujah, her smoke rose up forever and ever. What's that for? That's for the destruction of Babylon in its materialistic kingdom.

That which pushed Jesus Christ out. They have no time for him. That's the second hallelujah.

Chapter, verse 4. And the four and twenty elders and four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne saying hallelujah, amen. You see you've got the two words there, amen from the Old Testament and hallelujah from the New Testament. And this is uttered by the exalted, exalted and glorified creatures in heaven.

The four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down. And then you have the hallelujah again in, in verse 6. I heard as it were the voice of the great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a mighty thundering saying hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. That hallelujah, is in answer to the call from the throne of God itself.

You've got to say it. It's a command to say this word of adoration, and of thanksgiving and of praise. All right, go back into the 17th chapter.

In verse 1, there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me saying unto me, come hither I will show thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters. Verse 4, the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, full of the abominations and filthiness of a fornication. And upon her forehead was a name written mystery Babylon, the great mother of harlots and abominations of the whole earth.

Have you ever thought how many times this word Babylon occurs? If you were to read in the, where is it now? Jeremiah, or Jeremiah 50 and 51, those two chapters, no less than 37 times Babylon is mentioned. Do you know Babylon is mentioned more than any other city in the Bible except Jerusalem? Actually it is, it is, it is mentioned 460 times in the scriptures. Think how important that is, 460 times God keeps turning our eyes to Babylon, Babylon, Babylon, Babylon.

Babylon was the chief city of the golden reign of the first ruler of the world, who happened to be Nebuchadnezzar. And he built a fabulous city. Do you remember the other week we talked about or mentioned at least the, what in our school days we were told at least, were the seven wonders of the world.

And do you remember one of them was the hanging gardens of Babylon? Babylon was as flat as this room. The king married a woman that loved the mountains. And so he had millions of tons of dirt.

I don't know how they got it all there. And then they built parishes. They built artificial canals.

Isn't it in Psalm what, 1, 1, 137? Where you see it became a city of captivity for believers. By the rivers of Babylon where we sat down and wept, yea we mourned when we remember Zion. Babylon is the city of

materialism, of godlessness.

It was here that Nimrod, who happened to be the grandson of Ham. You remember where he came from, where his daddy was, you should do. But Nimrod was the grandson of Ham.

And it was Nimrod that built a tower, by which man with his own efforts was going to get out of a dusty dirty world and get to heaven itself. The Tower of Babel. So it has a great position in history.

It has a great position in prophecy. This city is full of all the diabolical works of men, in every sphere that you think of. All right, this verse 5 again, upon my forehead was a name written, Mystery Babylon, the great mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

Now go over to verse 15, and he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. Which really is multitudes and nations. And then nations that are not classified as nations, which really you could call tribes.

Or segments of the earth, where there are groups of people who are very distinct, that they do not have that which constitutes a nation or a kingdom. And therefore the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

Now the difference between the 17th chapter and the 18th is, the 17th is Babylon with all its heresy, false religion, the mother of harlot religions. And will you notice there that men destroy her, not God. In the 18th chapter, what some would call a capitalistic, it's not really capitalistic system, it's a system of greed, it's a system of covetousness, it's a system where everything material is treasured, and the spiritual is despised.

In the 18th chapter, God destroys it. In the 17th chapter, the great whore, she is destroyed by men. I remember once slipping into a meeting in England.

I got there late, I'd been to visit someone, and I remembered there was what is called a second advent meeting. And I went in and a man there by the name of Geoffrey King, there was another king in England, a king on the throne, and another king as a preacher, Guy King. Maybe we sell some of these books, I don't know, he has a good book on prayer.

But Geoffrey King was speaking on the 15th chapter of John. I only remember one thing he said. Very tall, dignified Church of England, well type man anyhow.

And I remember him saying in his lofty tones, remember this dear friends, every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away, and men gather them. Not angels, not demons, not God, men gather them. And you see what happens here is, there's been such false religion.

There's been so much trickery in it. It's been so expensive. And it's been found out to be false.

People are paying for something they didn't get. People were deceived by its teaching. What's going to happen? Well because it's so false and corrupt, the very world itself is going to turn on it.

Will you notice what it says? This is, this is tremendous language. The ten horns which thou sourced, or ten kingdoms if you like, or ten groups of people, which thou sourced upon the beasts, they shall hate the

whore, make her desolate, naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. They're worried of her religious pretenses, her arrogance, she's cheating and she's lying.

And she's being found out. Now will you notice in the 19th chapter, and verse 2 it says, for true and righteous are his judgments. For he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Go back to verse 17 of this, of the 17th chapter. For God put it, hath put in their hearts, that is the hearts of men, to fulfill his will and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. And the woman or the whore which thou sourced, is that great city or Babylon which reigneth over the kings.

So there you have the humiliation of this great false ecclesiastical system. You know sometimes people point the finger and say you're arrogant. Why? Because we quote Acts 4 12, neither is there salvation in any other.

That makes us pretty tight doesn't it? It looks as though we're standing on an island and say the rest of you are all lousy and false. Well it's true anyhow if the Word of God is true. And you see every Mohammedan system, or Roman system, or JW, Jehovah Witness system, a Mormon system, or any other system.

Before too long the pressure is getting so great. Did you notice what they said this week? They may have to revise or do something about the pensions that are being given to the men who fought in the last war or two. Why? Because some of them have such colossal, colossal pensions.

And there are so many of them, and they're increasing, the government can't stand the burden, the financial burden upon the nation. It's not only true in that area, it's true in other areas. Now every one of these systems are going to be brought to judgment.

You know what I wish, I wish as I read this carefully, and I'm not for a minute thinking I've fathomed it all. But it's only the 17th and 18th of Revelation. I kind of wished our children knew it as well as they know who's on the show Saturday morning on the idiot box.

Because you better watch it, those children didn't ask to come into the world, they've come all right, they're here. But you better safeguard them as much as you can. Now if you want something less, you can go to another church.

But I'm going to tell you the truth, and I think that's why you come anyhow. I want God to produce in us a breed of Saints you don't find anywhere else. I want God to produce out of our families, you fathers as the priests in the home.

Families you don't find anywhere else. Men who are gifted with a spirit of wisdom that you don't come up and always start prophesying. But you're wisdom enough to run your own home.

You're wisdom enough to take those children and whisper the secrets of God into their heart. And they rise up and call you blessed one day, like in the psalm that we've read. You see we're heading for the collapse of every human institution.

I don't care whether it's financial, political, scientific, or anything else. And because we wouldn't believe the truth, we're invaded as a nation with liars. There are 2,000 gurus in the nation now from India, one of the dirtiest and most lost nations in the world.

And yet they're here. And they tell me, particularly young Jews, intellectual Jews, are seeking after that. You see there's no offense of Christ in it.

People don't care how much you talk about God. Christ is the offense. He's the rock of offense.

You can talk about God in the United Nations, because the Mohammedan thinks you mean his God. The Jew thinks you mean his God. Somebody else thinks you mean his God.

But you cannot mention by law. It was agreed when they forged that, well what is a forgery really. But they forged the United Nations, Christ must not be mentioned.

He is the rock of offense. You see. And every cheating lying scheme.

Some people say, it doesn't really matter much if you believe. Well let me remind you again friend, there are only two destinies. There are only two roads, the broad and the narrow.

There are only two homes, eternal hell or eternal heaven. There are only two things, truth and lies. Now if we have the truth, then everybody else has a lie, according to the Word of God.

And God is going to bring them all to judgment one day. But before the final judgment, there's going to be an overthrowing. People are doing that already to some degree.

Could you imagine 10 years ago, certainly not 20 or 30, but 40,000 women would march on a church in Italy, was it Rome or I forget where, Venice somewhere. That 40,000 women, Catholic women, will be protesting about birth control. Could you imagine the Roman Church would split, as she split in because of some young intellectuals? Could you imagine 30 years ago? Well let's put it this way, if Wesley came back today, do you think he'd own Methodism? If William Booth came back today, do you think he'd want to be the headman leading the parade of the Salvation Army? If Luther came back, do you think he'd delight in his church? Man we're already corrupted.

And yet God is going to let political systems and other systems come, and crush these things which are so long and cheated. They're going to be exposed. So that is why you get that first, in my mind this hallelujah here.

After these things, in verse 19, I heard a voice of much people in heaven saying hallelujah, salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord our God. All right let's go to chapter 18. After these things, after the burning, after the destruction, after the nakedness.

Hey come on, that's, that's total humiliation isn't it? Would any decent woman like to be stripped of all the clothing and driven through Main Street, where all the people are there start naked. And then they start getting their long fingers and tear the flesh off her body. And while she's still alive, cast her into a fire and burn her.

And yet these religious systems are going to suffer this indignity. They're going to be exposed to what they really are. This is, this is total humiliation.

And God put it in the hearts of men. He says he did that in that last verse. Verse 17 of chapter 17.

God put it into their hearts to fulfill his will. I'll tell you one thing, Brother Herb often reminds me. He says Len you're always saying God keeps the scork out.

I'm glad he does. A few things I've done I wish he'd forget. But, but some are under the blood and then some I've been stupid.

But anyhow, I'll tell you what, he does not miss one drop of blood that falls to the ground. Whether it's on a battlefield, or it's gunned down a back alley. Whether somebody rapes a girl, or rapes a nation.

And God said you minted it out in flesh, you'll get it back in flesh. What a dreadful day of humiliation. Chapter 18 verse 1. After these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power.

Oh look at this, look at this. Second part of this verse, kindles me. And the earth was lightened with his glory.

Wouldn't that be beautiful? An angel comes down and all the earth lights up. A million times more glorious when Jesus was transfigured on the mount of transfiguration. Because nobody saw that in the valley.

But when this angel descends the whole dark sodden rotten earth is going to be illuminated. And you know what it's going to cause? Verse 2, he cried mightily with a strong voice. You notice that none of these angels have laryngitis.

Nobody singing or shouting in Revelation needs cough syrup. Brother they've got voices. This mighty angel cried with a strong voice saying Babylon the greatest fallen is fallen.

And it's become the habitation of devils and the hold of every foul spirit. And a cage of every unclean unhateful dirt. You know what happens you go in a room you don't know there's anything there.

Maybe you went in an old barn once at home huh? You went in some old shed and you took, there's a snake in the corner, there are rats or something. And I remember in Ireland going to a farm one night with the boys. And the farmer said we'd like to see something yes.

And he took us out to a place where he stored his grain. And as soon as we got in he put, he had a big flashlight and he flashed it. And rats ran up the walls there, it was a horrible sight.

And you know this is exactly what's going to happen when the light of God comes down in this glorious angel. There's going to be an exposing of every corrupt system in the world. From the White House to God's house.

To the houses of Parliament, to every business deal that's ever been done. Verse 3 says for all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of a fornication. And the kings of the earth have committed fornication with it.

And the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of their delicacies. Now listen another voice. I heard another voice from heaven saying come out of her ye my people.

Ye that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven and God hath remembered her iniquities. This must be a part of the judgment of the living

nations.

I read the other day the only bank, American bank in Russia is Chase Manhattan which is run by David Rockefeller. I think all Russian business is done through that bank. There's an awful lot going on.

I remember that Kissinger went for a while and spoke with Mao Tse Tung and never told us what happened. I don't know why he should be a secret agent but he is. But you know what God's gonna blow the lid off the whole lot one day.

Whether somebody's secretly designed to liquidate some girl or some man or a whole nation. Blood is precious in the sight of God. You know I used to be so simple I thought people wrote history on paper with ink.

And then I discovered we write history with human blood on skins of human skins for parchment. And every bloody deed and every other deed that has ever been done, God is going to bring to judgment. And his judgment is going to fall not only on ecclesiastical Babylon, all the false systems.

I can't wait till almighty God judges all those popes and priests and other false witches and what have you got. We're gonna live to see the papacy blasted in our day I'll tell you that. She's killed more people than all the wars put together.

She's drunk with the blood of the Saints. The scripture makes that pretty clear. Verse 5 of this 18th chapter.

Her sins have reached unto heaven and God has remembered her, her iniquities. All right let's list them, these sins. What are the sins? Number one, God remembered her iniquities.

Number two, how much she hath glorified herself and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her for she hath said in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow. Hmm? Isn't that arrogance? How much she hath glorified herself. She hasn't glorified God.

This is why eventually everything that hath breath is going to say hallelujah to God. She missed doing it. Today we find more people excited about the World Series and football matches, screaming their heads off.

Do people scream in the sanctuary? You're an idiot if you do. Do they scream in prayer? There are times when I get down I weep. I groan in my spirit, not for the lostness of the world merely, but the blindness of the church.

There are times when I weep because Christ is being cheated. There are times when I weep because I think of the hell that we're heading for in the, in the future days. We learned the other day now, with all the juggling and ping-pong that's going on politically, that Russia actually has been arming, until one of the men inside of Russia said this week, that the country's more diabolical and cruel than ever in the days of any vows of Russia.

Russia is one-armed camp. Well who's she going to fight? Who do you think she's going to fight? Cuba? She's got one chief massive enemy which is this country in which you and I live. And unless there's a delay of mercy, it's not going to take long for that whole rotten thing to blow out.

That you see this world system, it isn't talking merely about America, it's talking about greed. The people whose creed is greed, and whose God is gold, and committess-ness. Just skip over a minute, we're into the 12th verse.

No, no, no, no, no, I'll stay here a minute, let me stay here. How much she has glorified herself, and listen, they live deliciously. And the end of the verse, I sit a queen, and I'm no widow, and so doesn't that sound a little bit of that like the arrogance going round now? What did you say? I sit a queen and I have no sorrow.

Will you understand if I tell you that right now the church is not a queen, she's a widow? In this sense, the world has got its bridegroom, we haven't got our bridegroom. She's satisfied, she's sitting at the banquet. The politicians are writing one thing, you never had it so good.

Why, bless of you, most of us have houses better than the kings in Europe. Queen of England will need long underwear and a coat on soon, in that big rambling old palace called Buckingham Palace, because it's too drafty in winter, it's so cold. It isn't cold in my house, it isn't cold in yours.

We may not need two cars but we have them. They fooled us into deceiving ourselves almost to bankruptcy. But will you notice what he says, I sit a queen.

I'm rich and increased in goods, I need of nothing, I'm a queen. I have no sorrow. Well I want to tell you, I have.

I'd like God to blow the lights out right now. I'd like Jesus to say, listen I've waited 2,000 years and the church hasn't done the job, so get out of it. The way we're going, we'll not do it.

The way the church is today, it won't do it. I don't think I've ever asked you for anything, except prayer. And I trust you'll pray for me next week.

I'll be preaching Friday night in a Presbyterian Church. They have 3,000 members, I'm sure they won't come, maybe 300 will, but I'm going to talk about revival and prayer like I do to you. And then on Sunday at Bethany, I've asked God, if ever I preached in my life, I'll preach next Sunday.

I'll preach, you'll have to come walk home, that won't make any difference. I'm not going to join in the hand-clapping silly stuff that's going on these days, in the name of Christ. It's the most critical hour in human history.

It's the most critical hour in church history. It's the most critical hour in anybody's history. I sit as a queen.

Yeah, she's got it all. Notice the new thing? Sure, the automobile workers have got what they want, so cars will go up four to six hundred dollars. For what? Not because, not because we need it really.

Do you know we'd less divorces and less broken homes, when we had less money than we have now? The autoworkers are going to have a four-day week, it gives them three other days to go ogling on other women, and looking around, and sitting around pools. Do you know they said recently, that in these new beautiful condominiums, where they put indoor bathing pools, so you're not dependent on the weather. That divorce has risen higher in those things, where the women go half naked, and the guys are there to watch them hour after hour, on shifts, there's always somebody there.

They swim in the night, they swim in the day, they swim at two in the afternoon, they swim at three in the morning, and everything's exposed. I sit as a queen, what do I want? Man, what more can we have? We

couldn't really get into the world for everything we want, so you bring the whole world into your room in a TV thing. And you can see nakedness, and depravity, and devilry, and just about every rotten thing you want, is going to get worse, and not better.

And so the system under which we live, in three nations, England, America, Australia, Africa has not had, not even South Africa has had TV. They're gonna, they're gonna get it next year, poor souls. They've kept clear of it all this time.

But the world system says, say, we don't need God, you know. Wasn't it Jack Nicholas, somebody asked him, what do you, do you think about God? He said, no, I don't think I really need him. Why do you need him, when he can hold in one? When he's the king of the tribe.

Man, we push, push God. There's no place for him at the banqueting table, in the world. The only place there's room for him, is the table, where we remember he's coming.

Verse 9, the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and lived deliciously with her. They should bewail her, and lament her, for they shall see her, the smoke of her burning, standing afar off, for the fear of her torment, saying, alas, alas, the great city Babylon, the mighty city, for in one hour is thy judgment come. I want to impress that on you, will you notice where that is? It's in verse 10, for in one hour, one hour is thy judgment come.

Will you notice the end of verse 19? In one hour, she is made desolate. This is the systems of the world now. God has dealt with Ecclesiastical Babylon, with the unclean harlot thing.

You see everything that denies the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, to cleanse us and redeem us, is a harlot in the sight of God. I don't care whether it's in the Church of England, I don't care whether it's in your denomination, or where it is. If it denies the blood, if it denies the virgin birth, if it denies it in God's sight.

Your priest may have a million dollars jewels on his head. He may strangle like the Pope does in his costly garments. And you go into St. Peter's, which is about as far removed as a stable that Jesus was born in, as heaviness from hell.

And the strutting arrogant rich. Do you know what? I think some of the radio boys are going to be caught up in this. Because if you lean on a system, the world has a right to come.

If you've messed up with the world system, you'll get the judgments of the world. And some of those boys who've been bleeding widows in order to buy their aeroplanes and yachts. Brother God's gonna scald them before very long.

Now that's severe but I believe it. The great city of Babylon, the mighty city, for in one hour is their judgment come. Now will you notice this? The merchants.

If you went back a little earlier there, in the third verse it says the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her and the merchants. And in verse 11 again it mentions the merchants. And in verse 11 it says the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her, for no one buyeth and selleth their merchandise anymore.

They're not weeping for their sin. They're not weeping for their rebellion. They're weeping that God has exploded their markets.

They're still full of greed. This is even after God is sending judgment upon them. No no no.

They're not weeping because the world's suffering. They're not weeping because of the pain and the anguish. They're weeping because their warehouses are stocked and nobody will buy or sell.

Let me read the 12th verse to you and into the 13th. Listen. The merchandise of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, fine wood, and all manner of vessels of ivory, vessels of most precious wood, of brass, of iron, of marble, cinnamon, odors, ointments, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, beasts, sheep, horses, chariots.

And you think it stopped there. But do you know what they've actually put here? What God Almighty has put in here, along with all odors, or perfumes, and horses, and merchandise, and silks. Slaves and souls.

Most damnable men out there don't care a hill of beans, whether you're a packet of meat, or a human being. They'll sell you if they want. In my judgment the most diabolical thing done since Jesus was sold, was Ford signing a hundred and ten million people behind the Iron Curtain.

Now he's stumbling and fumbling, and saying he didn't mean this, he didn't mean that. He said anyhow, and if men are free what's the Berlin Wall doing standing? Those men will buy us and sell us, they'll wrap us up like a package. They used to pack people in boats and bring them to this country of slaves.

They say until recently people in Ethiopia were shipped across the Red Sea in those dowels, they had a false bottom, and underneath there were slaves. There are men that will trade in the bodies of beautiful girls. I once heard the Marashal say, she pitied the girl born beautiful, it's an awful disadvantage.

She'd be hunted by men for her flesh, and they'll do all they desire, and leave her like a pair of dirty socks at the side of the road, and she may be ruined for life, and they'll go down a thousand dollars. And I remember talking one day with a soldier who said to me, I want to ask you a question. Does God really know all I've done? I said yes.

Will he hold me accountable? Yes. He says well I want to tell you something, maybe I fathered 35 children. What do I do about it? Well I said all you can do is repent and humble yourself before God.

It never troubled me to do that, it was a way of life. We went down in the village, so and so, so and so, so and so. And you know now at nights I wake up almost hearing screaming children.

Thy brother's blood crieth from the ground. Pay a girl a fee and use her as though she were just some chattel or something. But I find this abominable.

There are 28 things listed if you notice in that thing that I read to, in which men do merchandise. And they don't only buy sense, they buy souls, they sell people. Your soul doesn't mean that much to the government.

Nor does mine. You'll soon find out, I'll soon find out, if we have to take the mark of the beast, we'll soon find out whether we live in the land of the free. We don't now because you can't send children to school you want anyhow.

There are a thousand things you can't do, but we're still in a free country the most, and thank God for it. But how long is it gonna last? The judgment of God, the timetable is not in the hands of the White House, but God's house. Wheat, beasts, almost as though God put in here purposely.

Sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls. Oh my God. If every human voice could be linked up together right now in the concentration camps of Russia and China, it might sound like an earthquake to us.

I was shocked when we were going up country to preach the other week, where we turned the radio knob at seven o'clock, Billy Graham was to be on, and they said we're pre-empting this program to give you a eulogy of Mao Tse-Tung, and Mr. Ford exalted, one of the greatest criminals that ever lived. Nobody knows how many liquidated, the guess is between 30 to 60 million people, but they liquidated. I remember when, I've forgotten his name, the fellow that was the head of World Vision coming to a meeting and saying that when he'd been in Korea and the Communists came to one area, and they lined the Christians up, they'd run to a church and were singing praises, and they dragged a beautiful girl out, her hair like they have it, long hair, they they wrap it up, you know, so beautifully, but this girl was down the back, she could sit on it, and they said look you do one of two things, either say Jesus Christ is Lord, and follow your Christ, or go free as a Communist.

I can't go free. He said they tied her to the back rail on a Jeep, on her back, tied her hair to that, and they dragged her down Main Street, until all her hips were torn, her clothes were torn off, and she was leaving a trail of human blood. She was kind of holding on to her hair, so it wouldn't pull her scalp up, and they threw her right down the street, and they let her children watch.

And when they got to the end, the half dying girl, they said, are you going to repent? No, no, no, she said. I tell you Jesus must have got excited like he did, when he saw little Steven stand up there. I guess Jesus was waving his hand, say sweetheart keep it up, keep it up, keep it up, there's a crown waiting for you, when I get to the other end.

And those diabolical men dragged that girl back the length of the street, until all her hind parts, the flesh was off, and her bones were standing there, and some of the bones were broken, and she was in a state of terrible torture. You see once a man's heart becomes like stone, he's got more feeling for his dog than he has for a human being. There are some people kinder to the dogs, than they are to their relatives.

Once a man's heart becomes the habitation of devilry, then brother give up hope. Isn't it strange with all our genius, we're not putting millions of dollars into discovering how to cure cancer, you have to beg over a radio, but the government legislates how we can find another weapon to destroy people. Isn't it amazing with all our intelligence, all we know is how to liquidate whole cities now.

Well if you'd walk around here 200 years ago, some nasty little Indian might have shot an arrow in your back. We don't do that, we lay on our bellies in the bomber and press one button, and watch that thing go down and liquidate a hundred thousand people, like we did at Hiroshima at 16 minutes to 8 on the 6th of August 1945, and say it's a triumph. And now all we're doing it seems is expanding our knowledge of death, and devilry, and torture, and suffering.

Isn't it amazing how people have said, you know, if I could get back into China, I'd do. Do you know that town of what is it called, Changsheng, that was hit with an earthquake about a month ago, it's estimated it had a million people in it, and the report is it was a hundred percent destroyed. And right after that another city was devastated.

Oh we can't get to them, but I'll tell you what God can get to them. God can pay judgment on them even now, and warn other people of further judgments to come unless there's repentance. The first sin was their

iniquities, the second was she was filled with pride, and she glorified herself.

The third is that she has all this merchandise, and she trades as well in the souls, and chariots, and horses, and slaves, and the souls of men. And verse 14, the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. Do you realize this is the end, this is the finality, finale, you shall find them no more at all.

Leap over the page if your Bible's like mine, to the 21st verse. A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying thus, with violence shall that great city of Babylon be thrown down. Why? Because she'd meted out violence.

She's raped cities, she's raped nations, she's poured out violence, and what you sow you reap. May take a year, may take ten years, may take a hundred years, but God's accounts are never wrong. A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying thus, with violence shall that great city of Babylon be thrown down.

And listen, this is the emphasis, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and pipers, and trumpeters shall be heard no more in thee, no more at all. No craftsman, whatever craft thou be, end of the verse, the sound of the millstone shall be heard no more at all.

And the light of the candle shall shine no more at all. And the end of the verse, the voice of the bridegroom of the bride shall be heard no more at all, for thy merchants were the great men of the earth, for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. Isn't that something? No more at all.

No, no, no, no, this is not the devastation like Hiroshima, which has come up out of the dust and is a city now. This is the end, this is the finale, this is the final curse of God. It's as though you had a table with all your delicate china on, and you say, please, please, that's been in our family 200 years, and this is pure gold, and that's cut with the greatest craftsman that ever cut any beautiful glassware.

You know there's a million dollars, and I go in anger, and I take my arm, and I swing it away like that, and say, perish everything you've got. And God says, all you've been building up as nations over the years, with one big blast, I'm gonna ruin everything. And see if you'll find peace, and joy, and satisfaction in your bank book, or the industry you've built, or your scientific achievement.

And see if you're saying, hallelujah, we were the first to get somebody on the moon. What did they rejoice over now? Go back a minute again to verse 17, or verse 14, where indeed thou shalt find them no more at all. Again the merchants come in, the merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off with fear and torment.

Now will you notice there at the end of verse 15, they're weeping and wailing. Will you notice in the middle of verse 19, they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, and saying, alas, alas, the great city wherein were made rich, all that had ships in the sea, by reason of their costliness, in one hour she is made desolate. That's the third time this is mentioned, in one hour.

God isn't going to destroy little, by little, by little, like a creeping paralysis, in one hour. Which in our language may mean one second, I don't know. In one hour his judgment is going to come.

Notice they cast on their heads dust. Why? Well that's what they used to do in the old days, when they were in a state of humiliation and repentance. There's no, there's no repentance in the stony hearts of

these merchants, and, and these scientists, and these great scholars.

There's no sign, there's nothing there, at all. No repentance. They're weeping and wailing, and casting dust on their heads, because they've lost all their investments, and all their stocks, and all their bonds.

And there's no ships can put out to sea, and there are no ships coming in with costly jewels, and ivory, and merchandise, and gold, and silver. It's all ended, this is God's finale. And they knew it was coming, but they ignored it.

Now notice what it says in verse 20. Rejoice over her, thou heaven and ye holy apostles, and prophets, for God hath avenged you. Doesn't say that at the end of the previous chapter does it, over the ecclesiastical system.

But it says it here, because this is the end of both systems. You see. Now I said the fourth sin there was on a merchandise.

Alright go down to the last verse a minute, of chapter 18. In her was found the blood of the prophets, and the saints, and of all that were, what slain upon the earth. There's gonna be no more hearing the grinding of the millstone.

No more shall that voice of the city be heard, in the city be heard. The millstone shall not be heard. The light of the candle shall not be seen.

The merchants of the earth will not be there to do business. It's all ended. And then there was found in her finally the blood of the prophets, and of the saints, and of all that were in the earth.

Aye, aye, aye. You know it didn't seem much to burn Latimer at the stake, and Master Ridley. Just a couple of silly preachers that said the Bible was the Word of God.

Wasn't it Latimer said to Ridley, he said, cheer up brother everything's gonna work out all right. And they said if you're gonna set fire to me, will you burn this hand first please. This is the hand where I signed my, my recantation.

And I said the Bible wasn't the word. And I, I want to punish myself. And so he put his hand in the flame first.

But it didn't mean much. Didn't mean much when they, they took that little fellow maybe 18 or 19 Stephen. And they, they, they put him to death in the early church.

Man alive. He might have been an Apostle Paul, and an Apostle John, and I don't know what else. All rolled in together.

He had life, and verve, and energy. And they stoned Stephen. And every groan was registered in heaven.

And every sob of his broken heart, and every drop of his precious blood. And all the years that he could have lived for the glory of God. And all the churches he could have established.

And all the people he could have won. God had it all in his mind. And he's gonna send them to a burning hell forever for doing it.

The blood of all the saints. Well that's you if you get martyred. So cheer up.

Don't look so miserable. Maybe you're gonna be martyred. So cheer up and say hallelujah.

Can you say hallelujah Bobby. Say it, don't nod. Can't get it out of her.

All right. Hallelujah. The blood of the prophets, and the saints.

And if you say well I don't think I'm much of a saint. I don't think much of a. Well I'll tell you you're included in the last part. And all in the earth.

All that have any element of spirituality about them. Oh it doesn't mean to chop your head off necessary. You could be crucified without being crucified in that sense.

Herb reminded me the other day. I'd emphasized it. I said to myself often when Jesus said Saul why persecutest thou me.

He could have said Lord I never touched you. Jesus says look if you touch one of my little ones. You see if I tread on your toe.

If I came around there and stomped on you. How do you know? Well because my toe. No no no you didn't know because I stood on your toe.

You knew because this thing said so. If I gave you a drug and stood on your toe you wouldn't move it. If you were mentally disturbed.

A man mentally disturbed will beat his head on the wall. He might cut his fingers. He doesn't know.

You see the first thing that ever happens in your body, happens in your mind. And if you hurt another brother or sister. Before ever you hurt them and make them cry.

You hurt him. You hurt their head before you hurt them. I don't care if you tread on my little toe in his body.

We're not all eyes. Where is the eye? If all were eyes, where were the smelling? If all were smelling, where were the hearing? If all were feet, all were ears, where were the feet? Be very careful. As I said the other day, you may not like everybody in his kingdom, but you better treat them as though you do anyhow.

But all Christians are as nice as, as nice as others you know. But by the same token, they're part of his body. Just two classes of people God has.

Some are very dear, and some are very queer. Mostly very queer. But it doesn't alter the fact, that whether they're very dear or very queer, watch what you're doing.

Because if you gossip about somebody, or slander somebody, or do, before you ever hurt that person, the head, the head, the head, feels it before the rest of the body feels it. What did you sing in that lovely, you let that girl go? John. I left off a word, I left off a word with you.

You should have sat on her hand or something. I wanted her to play a hymn for us. But you notice in that song we sang this afternoon, never a burden that he hath not bear, never a murmur, never a groan.

What was it, a hymn I think Isaac Watts wrote, what does it say? Who every grief hath known, that rings the human breast. You know you never feel a heartache, but what heaven records it before it ever gets through to your mind. People suggest if you really get filled with spirit, you know, it won't make any

difference what people do.

I mean if a steamroller comes over, you get up and walk away. Might feel a bit flat, but you know, I mean it's just like that. It's as easy as that when you're filled with spirit.

Well that's bunkum. It has no scriptural foundation. Paul said what? None of these things move me.

But he never said none of these things hurt me. They'll hurt you, but they don't move you necessarily. If you can't be hurt, you don't need victory.

If the Christian life isn't a battle, how can it be a victory? But isn't it great to know there's an accounting office up there. Did you see where that lady went in the bank, and she asked for, was it a hundred dollars? And the girl said, oh yes, nice to see you this morning. Lovely weather isn't it, for this time of the year.

No thanks, here you are Mrs. Jones, bless you. And she went out, the computer had given her a million. Hope it happens at my bank.

I shan't take it back, because they say computers are never wrong. So I'll say for once. Reminds me of the man who went back, he said, excuse me, but my chain's wrong.

That is, I'm sorry. You counted before you left the county. He said, it's alright, you gave me \$50 too much.

That's the way to catch them out. You know what, God's computers are never wrong. All our values, we get so distorted even as believers, don't we? You know, we think you've got to give somebody a costly gift to impress them.

Well, if somebody gave me a Mercedes, I'd be impressed, I confess. But by the same token, you know, there have been times when I've been on the road, I've walked through England, and I've been so gagging, I didn't have a dime to buy milk or buy a glass of it. And if somebody had given me a glass of water those days, I'd have felt I was the richest man in the world.

And that's what Jesus says, you can give a cup of cold water in his name. You say, I gave a cup of cold water to that man. No, no, you didn't, you gave a cup of cold water to him.

Isn't there a fabled story of, was it some Francis of Assisi who was going down the road, and he met a rugged, ragged man, and looked at him, and didn't like the look of him, he had some leprous marks on his face. Then thought, no, I better stop. And he stopped, and then he talked with the man, and said, well, if you need help here, take this bread out of my satchel, and these raisins, and this little pot of honey, and a few other things.

And the man said, well, you're so kind. Well, yes, yes, my master was kind to me, so I'm kind to you. Anything else? Oh, my feet are very sore.

Oh, I know, stay, stay, there's some water, let me get some water, and wash your feet. And he patched the man up, and bade him goodbye. And old St. Francis went up the hill that was very steep, and he looked round, and there was Jesus standing.

Oh, maybe it's a fable, but it's true. It's true. Only makes you wonder how many times you've passed up a widow who needed something, or some other little saint of God.

You know, some of those Christians will be roaring their head off, oh, idiot, idiot, it's fumble the ball, yeah, they'll be going mad. Of course, they sent the tide into the church, so that healed the pastor's heart. There's somebody sitting in a lousy cell in the Gulag archipelago this afternoon.

Maybe 50 men in it, urine running down here, human excrement over there, who cares, they're hanged. They won't bow to communism, so let them go to hell, and make it hell while they get there. And Jesus was ticking it down all the time, all the time.

Well, I've gone through my introduction. The other part we'll finish Tuesday night. What was he saying? He says hallelujah.

It says rejoice, rejoice. Hey, that, I'm gonna hit that a minute, just a second, if I know what a second is. Excuse me.

In that 19th, no, no, no, the end of the 18th chapter, rejoice over her. Everybody else is weeping, and wailing, and gnashing their teeth, and throwing dust on their heads. That's what it says.

They cast dust on their heads, verse 19, weeping and wailing, alas, alas. The next verse says rejoice, over the same situation. One, two, three, we've lost everything.

And the other says, brother forget it, we're just coming into everything. Our kingdom has disappeared. Ours hasn't come yet.

Does that phrase ever get hold of you? Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. Not when you hit the bottom. Some days when you're in ecstasy, and you say, you know, you know our best days on earth, will only be like our worst days in heaven.

But there are no worse days in heaven anyhow. But I want to tell you, that the highest you feel, when you feel you're going to explode, or get thrilled, or get elevated. You know, now and alive, you'll say when we get there, and you sit at the banqueting table, if you make it, the marriage supper.

And you look at Abraham and Isaac, and you say, hey Isaac, put me on the list. He says, I've nine thousand nine hundred and seventy six million people to see before you. It's all right.

See me five million years from now. I'll just be as young as I am today. Won't be any older.

Won't that be great? Yes, I think. Thank you brother, that's very great. You didn't think a Lutheran could say that, but he did anyhow.

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine. Brother, brother, brother, we've got it all coming. I hath not seen, nor heard, nor entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love him.

But, he's revealed some of it to us. And as rich, and beautiful, and adorable as it is, do you know what? We're still seeing through a glass darkly. That's why it makes you feel you could creep up behind this fellow.

Because he says, I think twice, a door opened in heaven. Man, if I'd have been by him, I'd have pushed him out of the way. At least if I peaked over his shoulder and said, hey let's get a squint of this before.

And so the Lord says, well put it all down in the book. And you know what? If you read it, and believe it, and keep these commandments, we're gonna share in reality what he only saw in vision. What a day.

What a day. It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

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