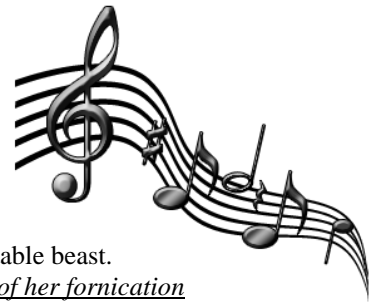


## An Apocalyptic Sing-a-Long

### Revelation 18



<sup>1</sup>After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. <sup>2</sup>And he called out with a mighty voice, "She fell, she fell- Babylon the great lady!"  
She has become a dwelling place for demons,  
a lair for every unclean spirit,  
a lair for every unclean bird,

a lair for every unclean and detestable beast.

<sup>3</sup>For from the wine of the passion of her fornication  
all nations have drunk,

and the kings of the earth fornicated with her,  
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the power of  
her luxurious living."

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- 1 "another angel"- different than the one who showed him the woman in chapter 17  
2 "She fell! She Fell!"- the beginning of this song echoes Rev. 14:8 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> angel's proclamation  
"dwelling place for demons // a lair for every unclean spirit"- she's the abandoned side of town  
"a lair for every unclean bird // a lair for every unclean and detestable beast."- Is 13:19-22  
3 "her fornication"- remember, sexual immorality is a symbol for idolatry and all sin is idolatry  
"merchants...grew rich"- greed falls under this fornication because it is idolatry of money
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<sup>4</sup>And I heard another voice from heaven saying,  
"Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues;  
<sup>5</sup>for her sins have been heaped high as heaven,  
and God has remembered her iniquities.  
<sup>6</sup>Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,  
and repay her double for her deeds;  
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.  
<sup>7</sup>As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,

so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,  
since in her heart she says,  
'I sit as a queen,  
I am no widow,  
and mourning I shall never see.'

<sup>8</sup>For this (reason) her plagues will come in a single day,  
death and mourning and famine,  
and she will be burned up with fire;  
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."

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- 4 "another voice"- the content of the song will identify the speaker  
"Come out of her, my people"- so, who is the speaker?  
+Also, this is a moral-spiritual exhortation, not a geographical one (cf Is 48:20, Jer 51:6)  
"Lest you take part in her sins"- we should understand this in light of 2 Cor 6:14-18  
"Lest you share in her plagues"- once she falls, it's too late to be spared from God's wrath  
5 "sins... high as heaven"- elsewhere in Rev. we are shown that God's patience with sin has a limit  
"God has remembered her iniquities"- contrasts His memory of repentant believers- Ps 25:7, 79:8  
6 Compare verse 6 with the upcoming Gospel lesson: Matthew 5:38-48 and "Love your enemies"  
7 "mourning I shall never see"- secure in self worth is the exact opposite of humble repentance  
8 "for this"- her conceit and lack of repentance brings on the judgment and punishment  
"in a single day"- in other scenes the plagues were drawn out, here they are portrayed as sudden
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<sup>9</sup>And the kings of the earth, who fornicated and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. <sup>10</sup>They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,  
"Woe! Woe! You great city,  
you mighty city, Babylon!  
For in a single hour your judgment has come."

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- 9 The combination of fornication and living in luxury highlights the symbolism of "fornication"  
10 "Woe! Woe!"- the Greek sounds better, Ou-Aye! Ou-Aye!  
"In a single hour... judgment has come"- like v8, this scene of the End Times is more sudden
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<sup>11</sup>And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, <sup>12</sup>cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of

articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, <sup>13</sup>cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and *bodies, even souls of men!*

<sup>14</sup>"The fruit for which your soul longed  
has gone from you,  
and all your delicacies and your splendors  
are lost to you,  
never to be found again!"

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- 11 Why do the merchants weep? Is it out of true repentance or because they are being punished?  
12-13 The Long List- monetary items, produce, and living creatures, see Ezekiel 27 for the OT allusion  
"bodies, even souls of men"- The culmination of the merchandise list is slavery of human beings  
14 "the fruit for which your soul longed"- irony given the previous phrase- "souls of men"  
Delicacies and splendors are lost to you- material goods are temporary false gods (Mt. 6:19-24)
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<sup>15</sup>The merchants of these (*things*), who gained wealth from  
her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and  
mourning aloud,  
<sup>16</sup>"*Woe! Woe!* for the great city  
that was clothed in fine linen,

in purple and scarlet,  
adorned with gold,  
with jewels, and with pearls!  
<sup>17</sup>For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste."

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- 15 "stand far off"- The harlot's lovers distance themselves when she is punished for her evil  
16-17 These verses echo the previous two laments of kings and merchants
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And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all  
whose trade is on the sea, stood far off <sup>18</sup>and cried out as  
they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the  
great city?" <sup>19</sup>And they threw dust on their heads as they  
wept and mourned, crying out,  
"*Woe! Woe!* For the great city  
where all who had ships at sea

grew rich by her wealth!  
For in a single hour she has been laid waste.  
<sup>20</sup>Rejoice over her, O heaven,  
and you saints and apostles and prophets,  
for God has *judged the decree in your favor against her!*"

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- 19-20 The sailors too demonstrate a lack of true repentance. They only mourn the death of their goddess  
Heaven, saints, apostles, & prophets are told to rejoice- prepares the reader for 19:6-9 "The Feast"
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<sup>21</sup>*And* a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone  
and threw it into the sea, saying,  
"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with  
violence,  
and will be found no more;  
<sup>22</sup>and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players  
and trumpeters,  
will be heard in you no more,  
and a craftsman of any craft  
will be found in you no more,

and the sound of the mill  
will be heard in you no more,  
<sup>23</sup>and the light of a lamp  
will shine in you no more,  
and the voice of bridegroom and bride  
will be heard in you no more,  
for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,  
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.  
<sup>24</sup>And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,  
and of all who have been slain on earth."

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- 21 "A mighty angel"- likely to be different than the one in verse 1  
"a stone like a great millstone"- compare with Mark 9:42 (Mt 18:6; Lk 17:2)  
"and will be found no more"- Atlantis? Not quite- it is a description of what heaven will be  
22-23 Music, crafts, and trades will not be found in her after the judgment here revealed. The pleasures  
have ceased for the unrepentant, those who have united themselves to the harlot  
24 the blood of prophets, saints- the martyrs' prayer from 6:9-11 is answered as was also seen in a  
previous scene (16:4-7)  
"and all who have been slain"- not just the innocent blood of saints is avenged, but all innocent  
blood shed through murder.