

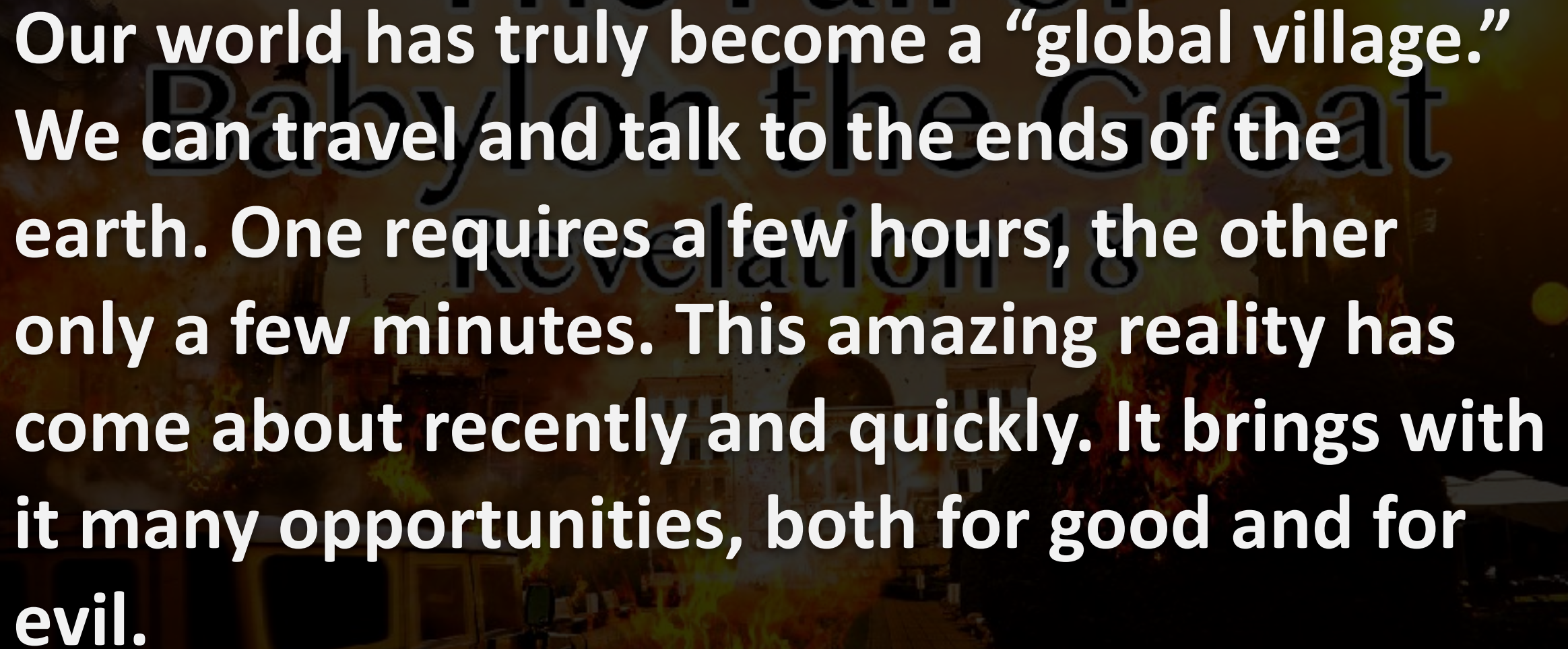


The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18



The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

INTRODUCTION



Our world has truly become a “global village.” We can travel and talk to the ends of the earth. One requires a few hours, the other only a few minutes. This amazing reality has come about recently and quickly. It brings with it many opportunities, both for good and for evil.

George Will, “Now, Weapons of Mass Disruption,” (Newsweek, Oct. 29, 2001), 76, writes, “Consider cyberterrorism, assaults that can be undertaken from anywhere on the planet against anything dependent on or directed by flows of information. Call this soft terrorism. Although it can put lives in jeopardy, it can do its silent, stealthy work without tearing flesh or pulverizing structures.”

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

It can be a weapon of mass disruption rather than mass destruction. Today's networked world of complexity and interconnectedness has vast new vulnerabilities with a radius larger than that of any imaginable bomb blast.

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

Terrorists using computers might be able to disrupt information and communications systems and, by doing so, attack banking and financial systems, energy (electricity, oil, gas) and the systems for the physical distribution of America's economic output.

The Fall of

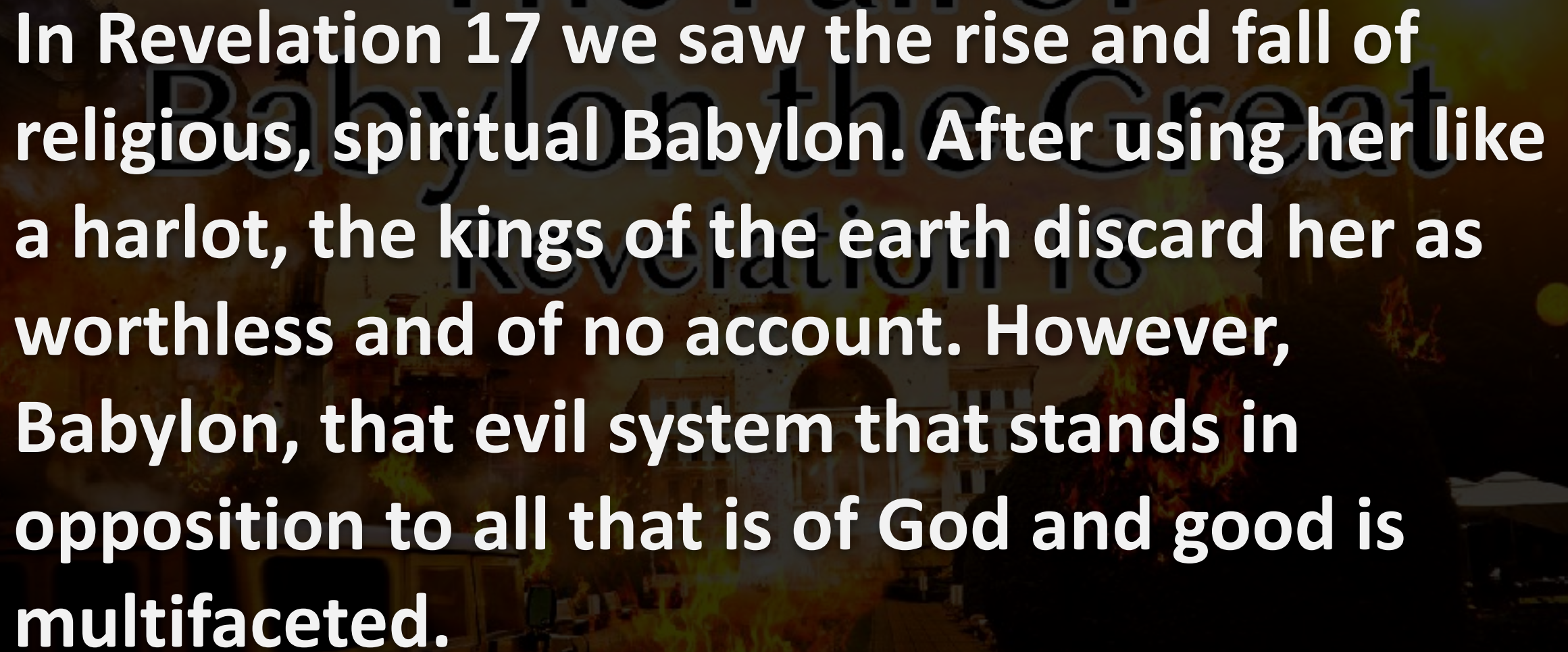
George Will rightly notes the terrorist possibilities that seem to multiply almost daily around the world. It has become frightful what man can do to man, and yet, all of this pales in comparison to what God can do, what God will do before Jesus comes again.

Babylon the Great Revelation 18

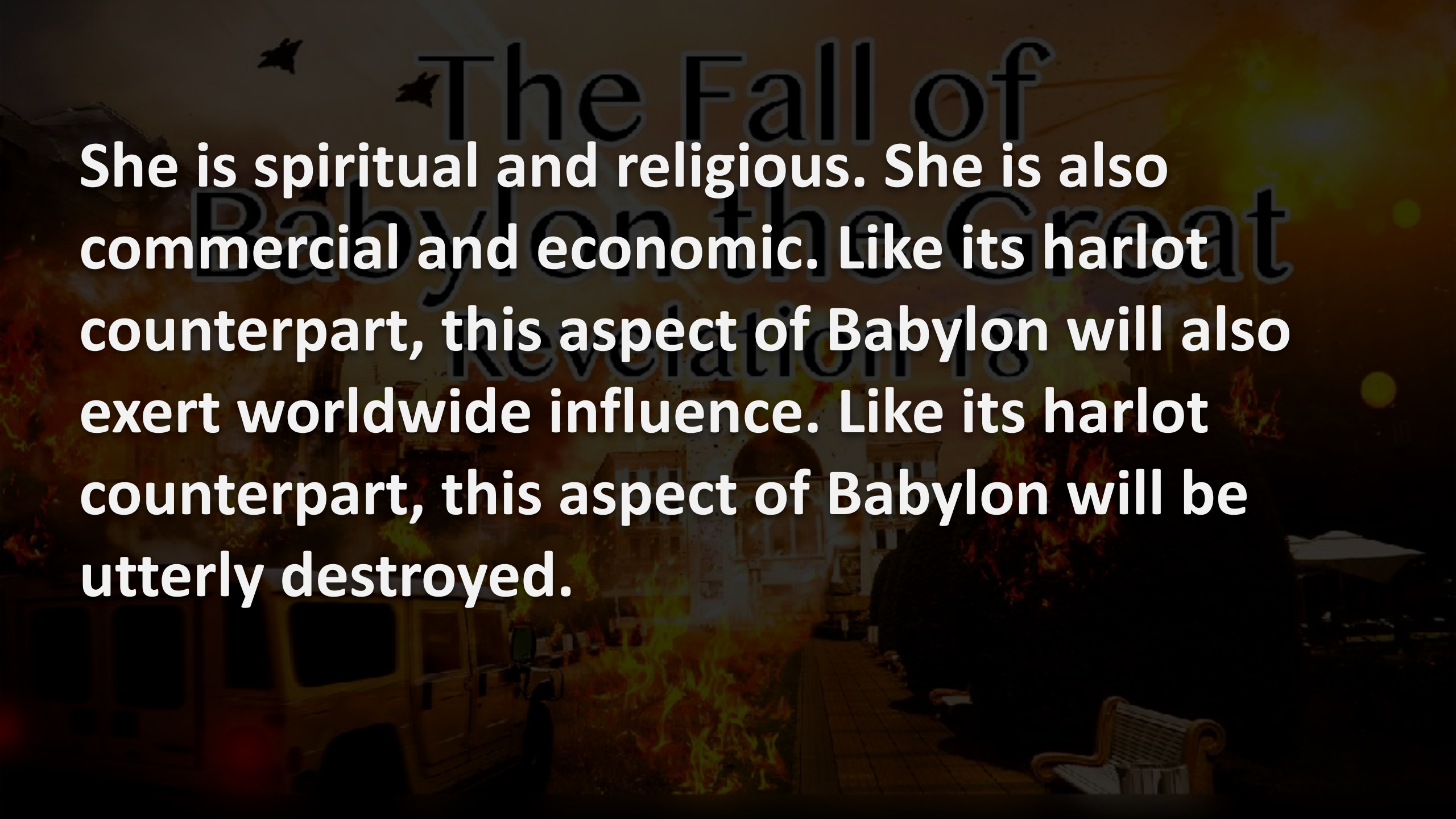
The background image depicts a city street at night, completely consumed by intense orange and yellow flames. In the foreground on the left, a white van is partially visible. In the middle ground on the right, a large, dark bush is also engulfed in fire. The sky is dark with some faint light streaks, and a bright yellow sun or moon is visible on the right side. The overall scene is one of total destruction and fire.

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

CONTEXT



In Revelation 17 we saw the rise and fall of religious, spiritual Babylon. After using her like a harlot, the kings of the earth discard her as worthless and of no account. However, Babylon, that evil system that stands in opposition to all that is of God and good is multifaceted.



She is spiritual and religious. She is also commercial and economic. Like its harlot counterpart, this aspect of Babylon will also exert worldwide influence. Like its harlot counterpart, this aspect of Babylon will be utterly destroyed.

This chapter is a requiem, a funeral dirge, a song of lamentation and sorrow over the demise and destruction of Babylon. What is Babylon? 1) A symbol for Antichrist's whole godless system 2) Rome 3) Jerusalem 4) Rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates River

I tentatively hold to #1, though #4 cannot be easily dismissed.

The background image depicts a city street at night, completely consumed by fire. In the foreground on the left, a white van is partially visible. A large, dark bush on the right side of the street is also engulfed in flames. The sky is dark, with a bright, glowing orb (the moon or sun) on the right and several bright streaks of light falling from above. The overall scene is one of total destruction and chaos.

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

TEXT

Revelation 18:1–2 (CSB) After this I saw another angel with great authority coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. He called out in a mighty voice: It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen! She has become a home for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, and a haunt for every unclean and despicable beast.

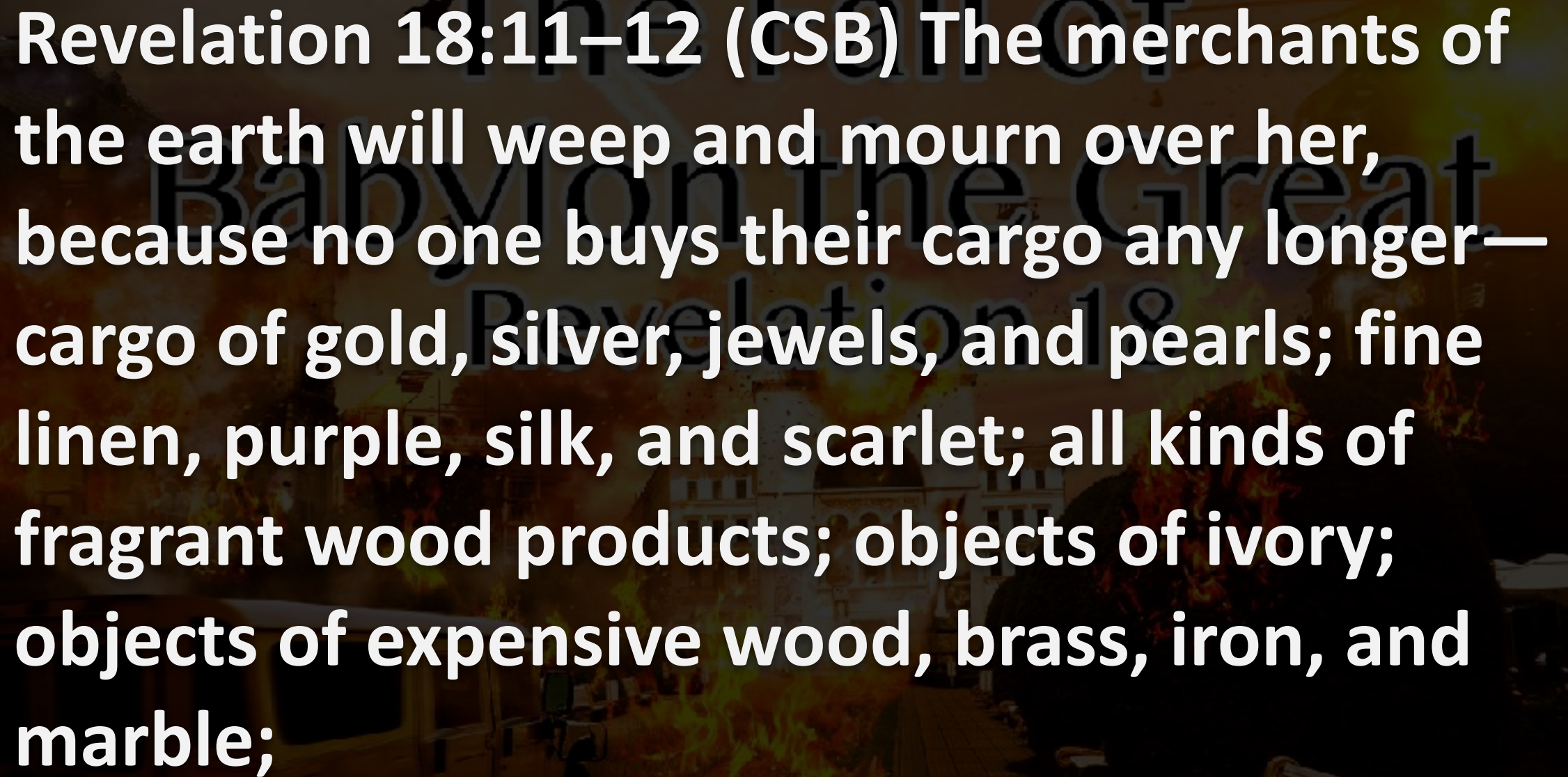
Revelation 18:3–4 (CSB) For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess. Then I heard another voice from heaven: Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins or receive any of her plagues.

The Fall of

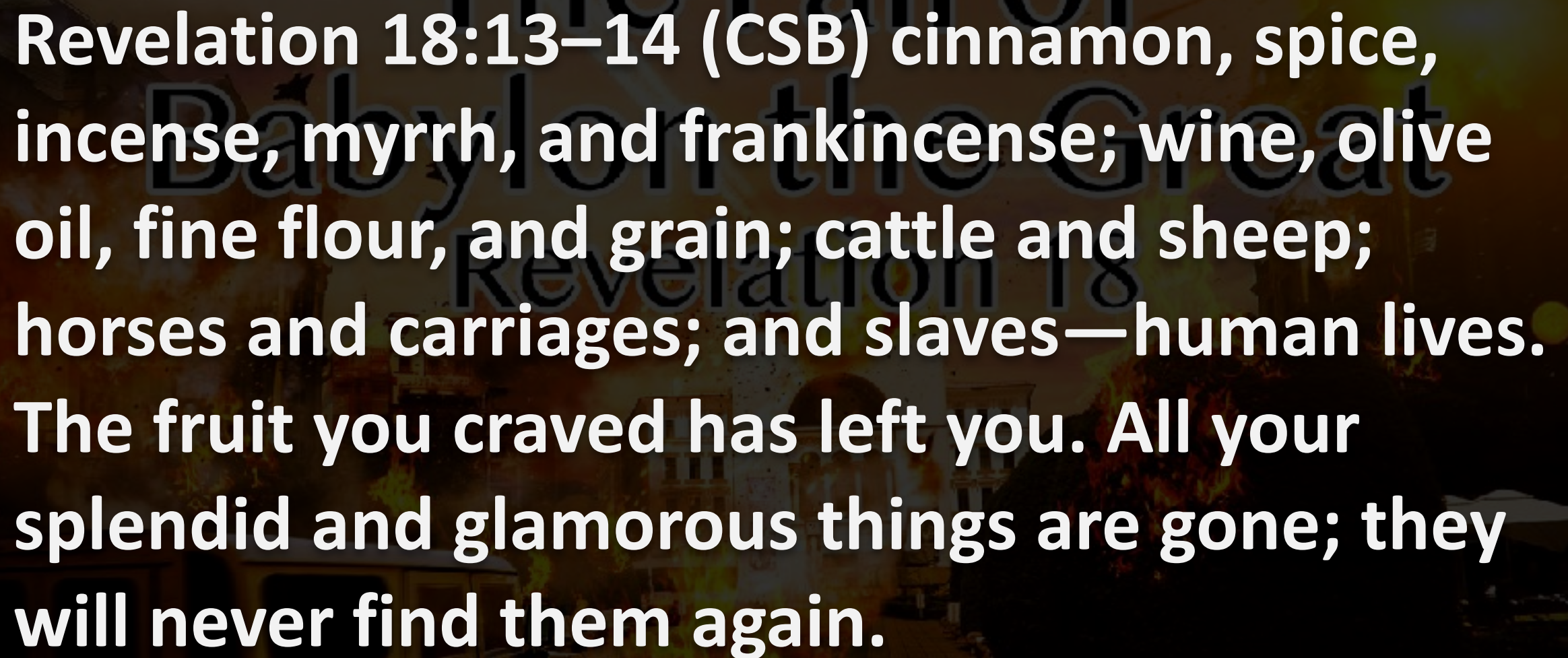
Revelation 18:5–6 (CSB) For her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. Pay her back the way she also paid, and double it according to her works. In the cup in which she mixed, mix a double portion for her.

Revelation 18:7–8 (CSB) As much as she glorified herself and indulged her sensual and excessive ways, give her that much torment and grief. For she says in her heart, “I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never see grief.” For this reason her plagues will come in just one day— death and grief and famine. She will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

Revelation 18:9–10 (CSB) The kings of the earth who have committed sexual immorality and shared her sensual and excessive ways will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke from her burning. They will stand far off in fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come.



Revelation 18:11–12 (CSB) The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any longer—cargo of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of fragrant wood products; objects of ivory; objects of expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble;



Revelation 18:13–14 (CSB) cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, olive oil, fine flour, and grain; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and slaves—human lives. The fruit you craved has left you. All your splendid and glamorous things are gone; they will never find them again.

The Fall of

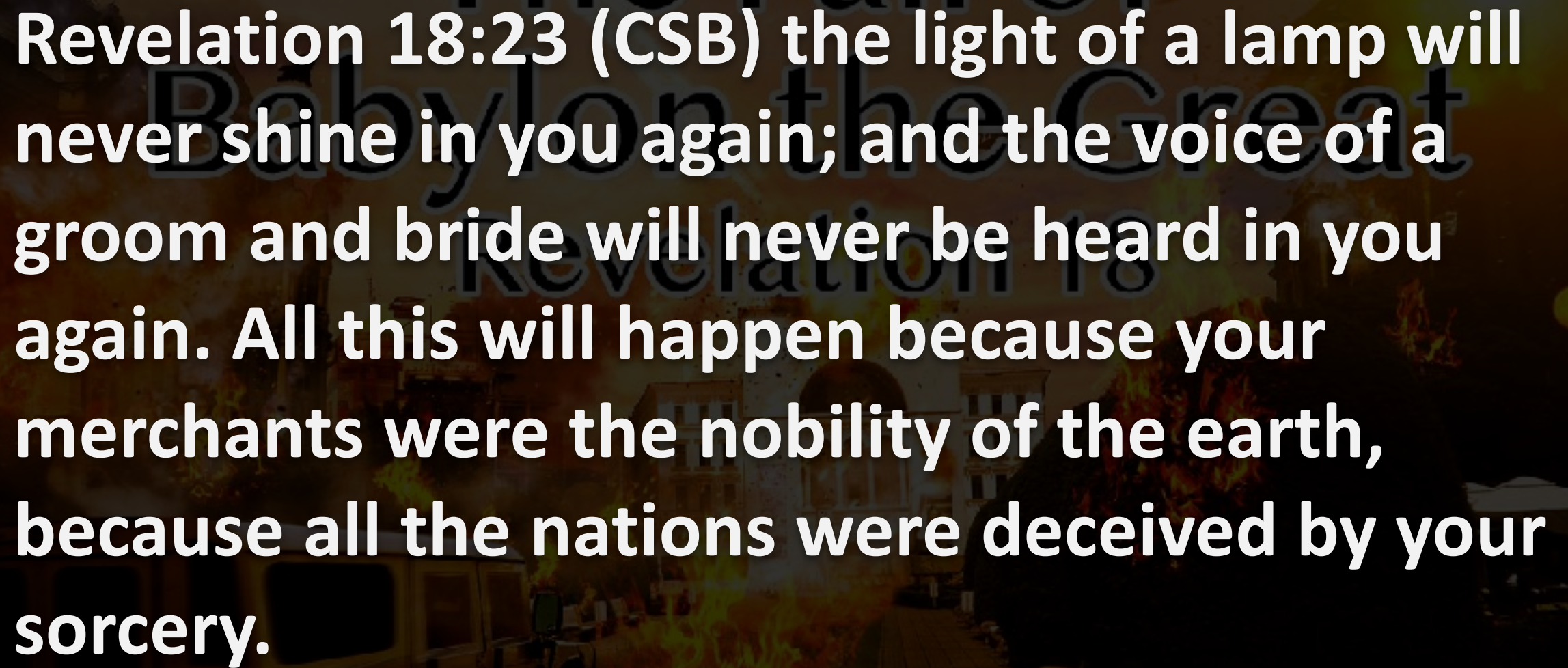
Revelation 18:15–16 (CSB) The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand far off in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls;

The Fall of

Revelation 18:17–18 (CSB) for in a single hour such fabulous wealth was destroyed! And every shipmaster, seafarer, the sailors, and all who do business by sea, stood far off as they watched the smoke from her burning and kept crying out, “Who was like the great city?”

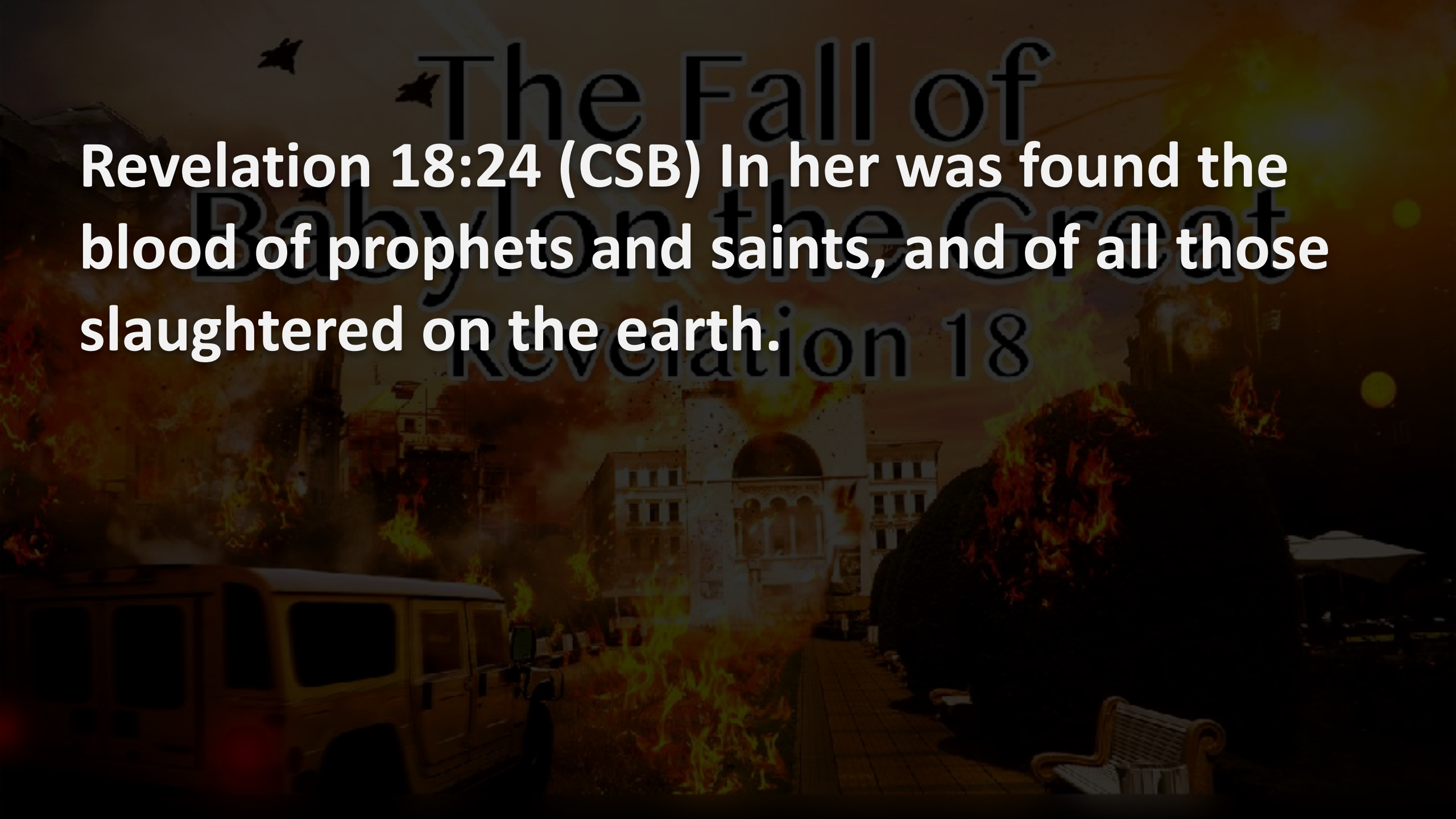
Revelation 18:19–20 (CSB) They threw dust on their heads and kept crying out, weeping, and mourning, Woe, woe, the great city, where all those who have ships on the sea became rich from her wealth; for in a single hour she was destroyed. Rejoice over her, heaven, and you saints, apostles, and prophets, because God has pronounced on her the judgment she passed on you!

Revelation 18:21–22 (CSB) Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, In this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found again. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; no craftsman of any trade will ever be found in you again; the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again;



Revelation 18:23 (CSB) the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of a groom and bride will never be heard in you again. All this will happen because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

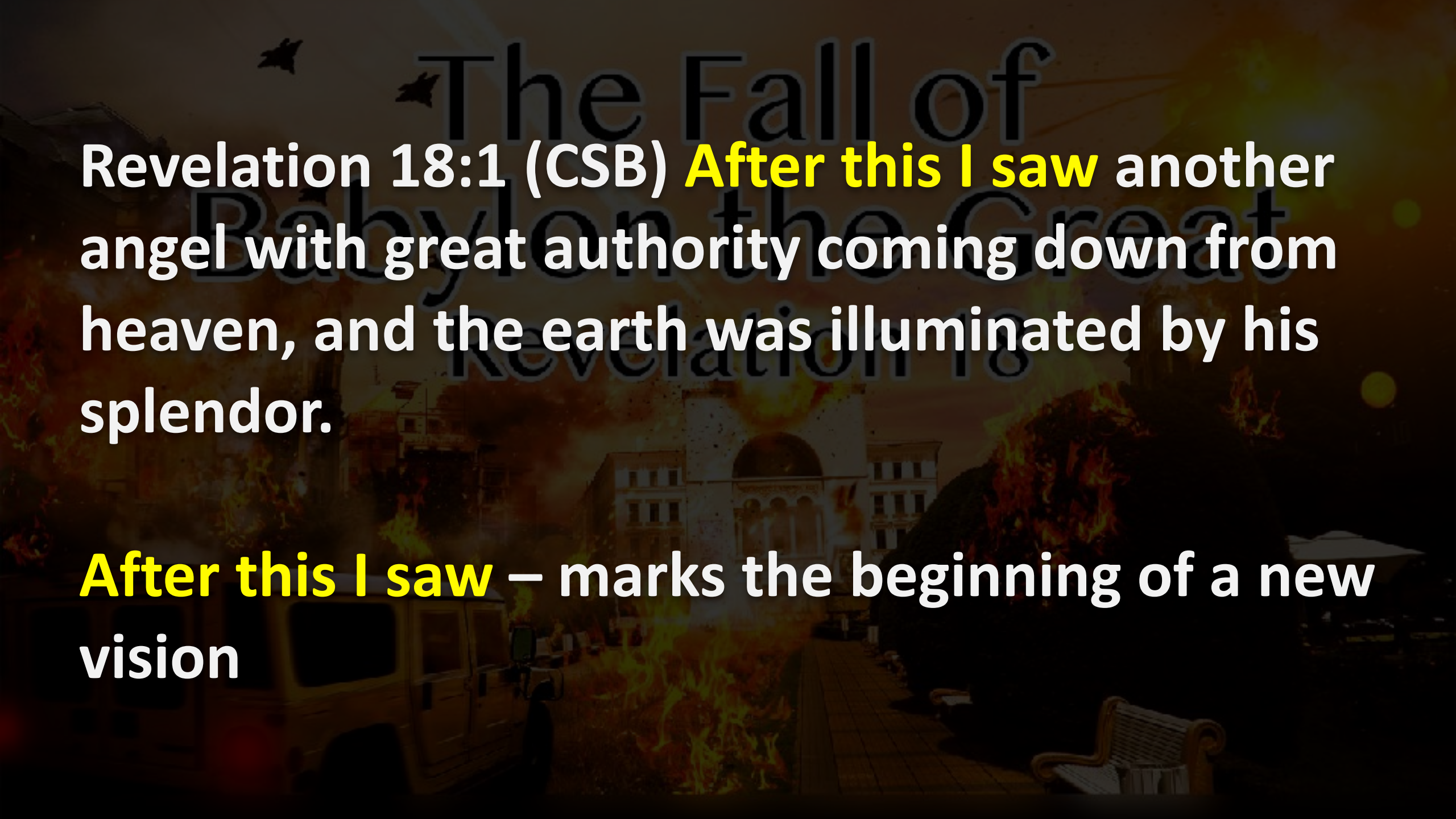
Revelation 18:24 (CSB) In her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all those slaughtered on the earth.



The background image depicts a city street at night, completely consumed by intense orange and yellow flames. In the foreground on the left, a white van is partially visible, its rear end facing the viewer. To the right, a large, dark, rounded bush is also engulfed in fire. In the distance, a multi-story building with arched windows is visible, also surrounded by fire. The sky is dark, with a few stars and a bright, glowing orb (possibly the moon or a star) on the right side. The overall scene is one of total destruction and chaos.

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

COMMENTARY



Revelation 18:1 (CSB) **After this I saw** another angel with great authority coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

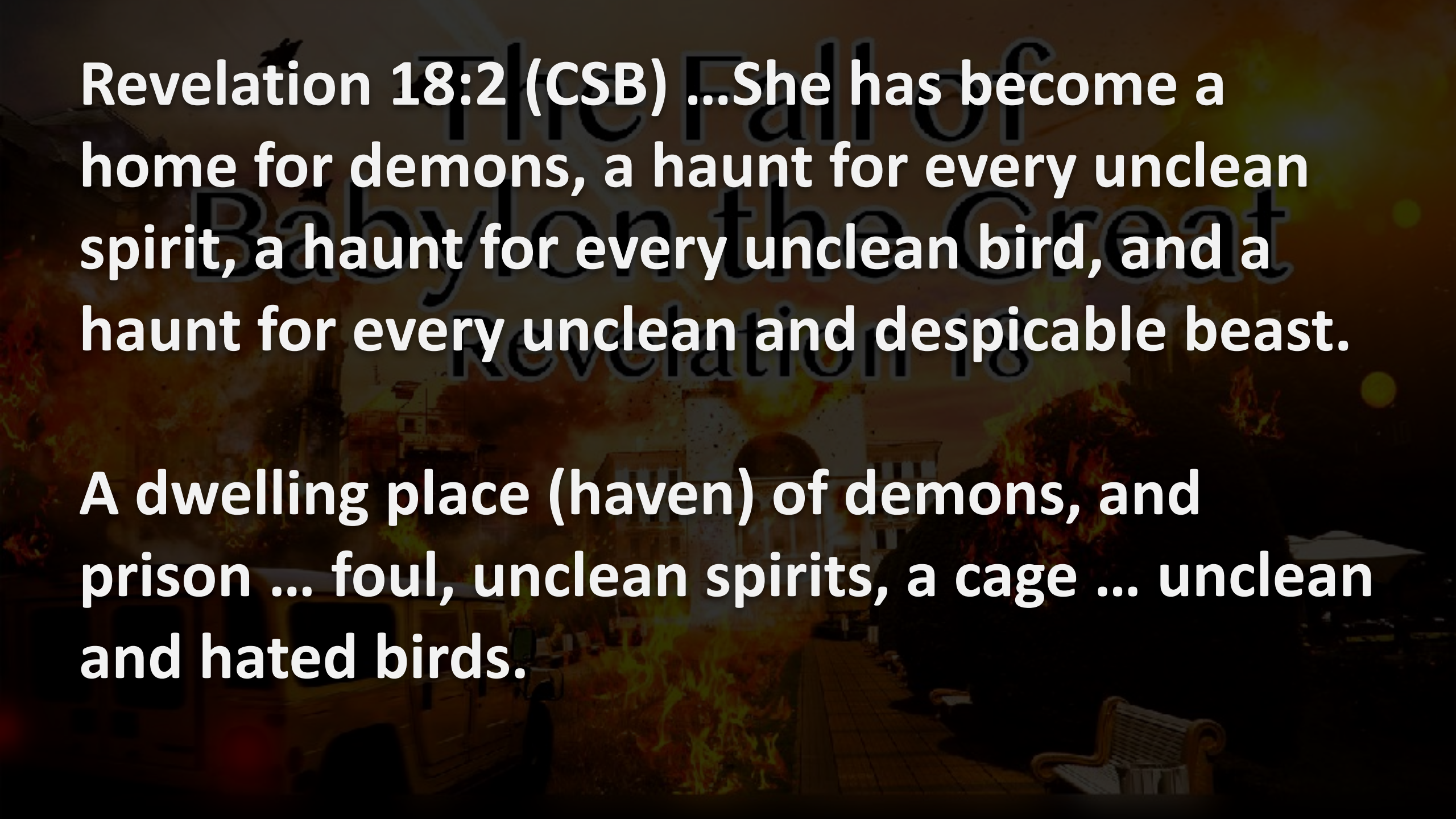
After this I saw – marks the beginning of a new vision

Revelation 18:1 (CSB) After this I saw **another angel** with great authority coming down from heaven, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor.

Another (allon) angel 1) from heaven, 2) having great authority, 3) illumines the earth with His glory. Having come from the very presence of God, the angel reflects and radiates the glory of God. The earth is lit up by the one who comes from God.

Revelation 18:2 (CSB) He called out in a mighty voice: **It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen!**

Babylon the great is fallen – stated in the past tense, repeated for emphasis. It is a signed, sealed and settled reality (cf. Isaiah 21:9; Jeremiah 51:8).



Revelation 18:2 (CSB) ...She has become a home for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, and a haunt for every unclean and despicable beast.

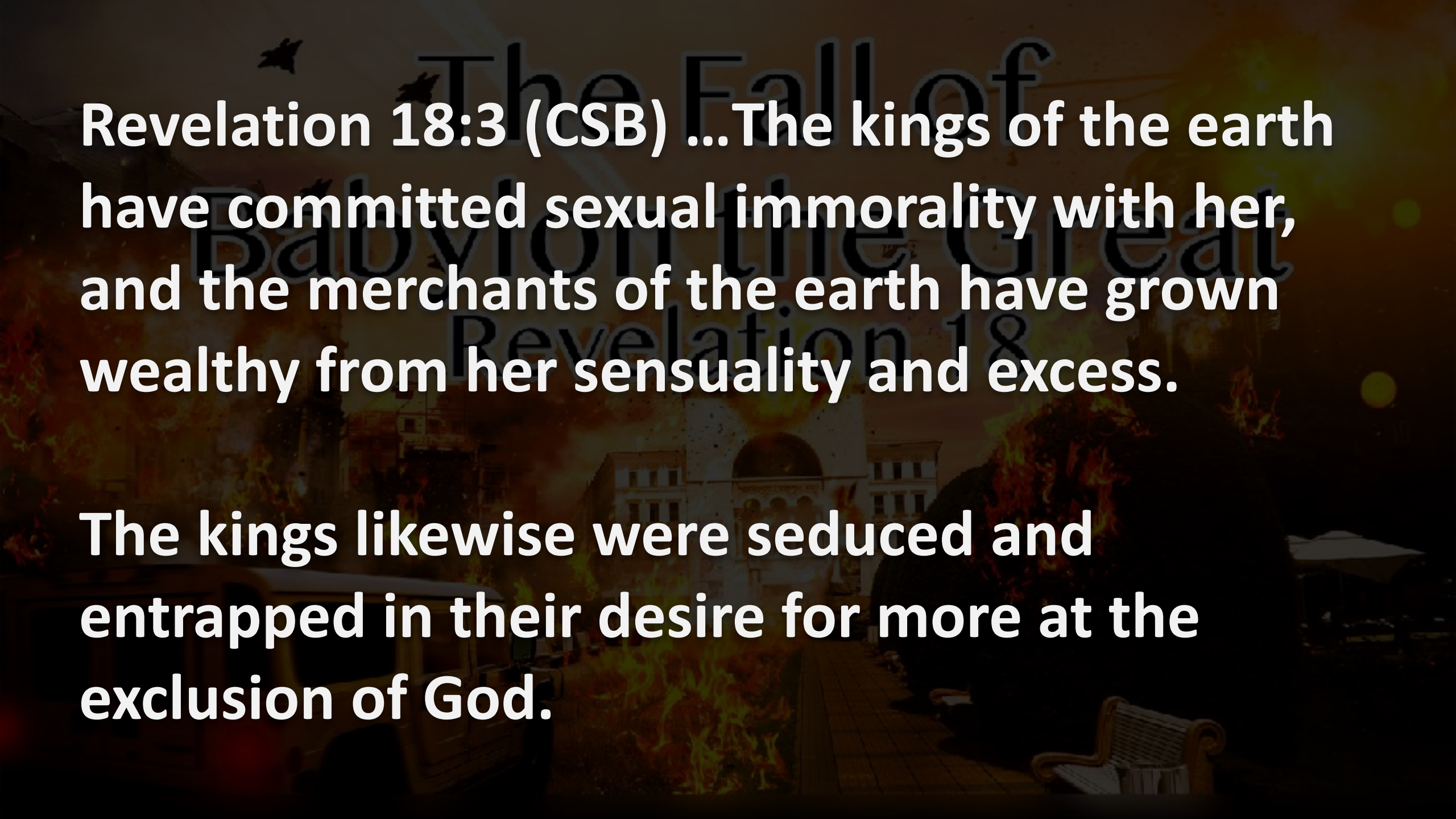
A dwelling place (haven) of demons, and prison ... foul, unclean spirits, a cage ... unclean and hated birds.

Revelation 18:2 (CSB) ...She has become a home for demons..

The proud has been laid low, absolute desolation and desertion is mighty Babylon's end. Once her streets teemed with people, she thrived with activity. Now, only the evil and unclean occupy her vanity fair. Tokyo, London, New York, suddenly nothing more than ghost towns.

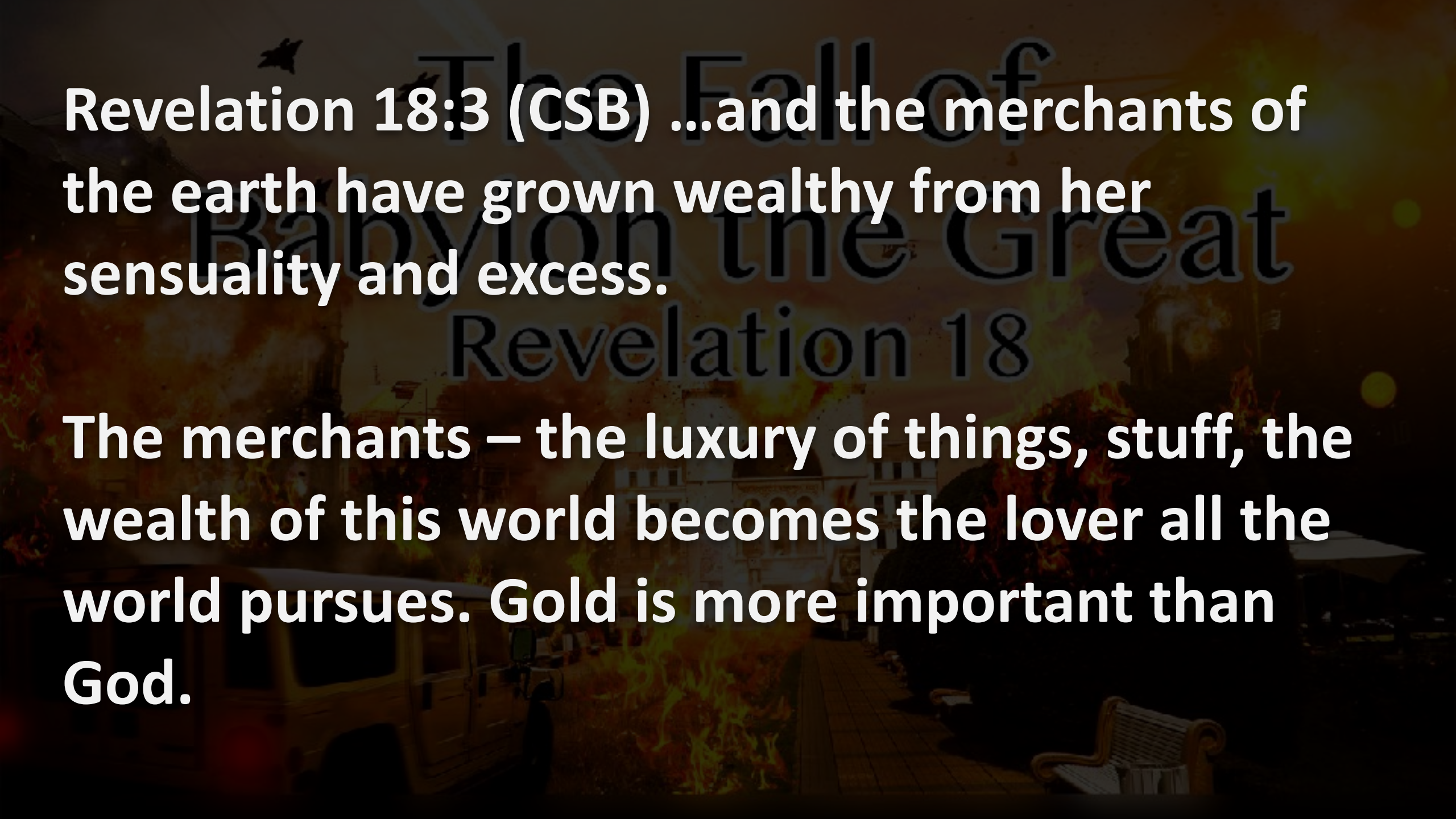
Revelation 18:3 (CSB) For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath...

“All” nations have drunk (intoxicated) of the wine of the maddening (NIV) of her fornication. The world is in an intoxicating stupor consumed and controlled by their lust for stuff.



Revelation 18:3 (CSB) ..The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess.

The kings likewise were seduced and entrapped in their desire for more at the exclusion of God.



Revelation 18:3 (CSB) ..and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess.

The merchants – the luxury of things, stuff, the wealth of this world becomes the lover all the world pursues. Gold is more important than God.

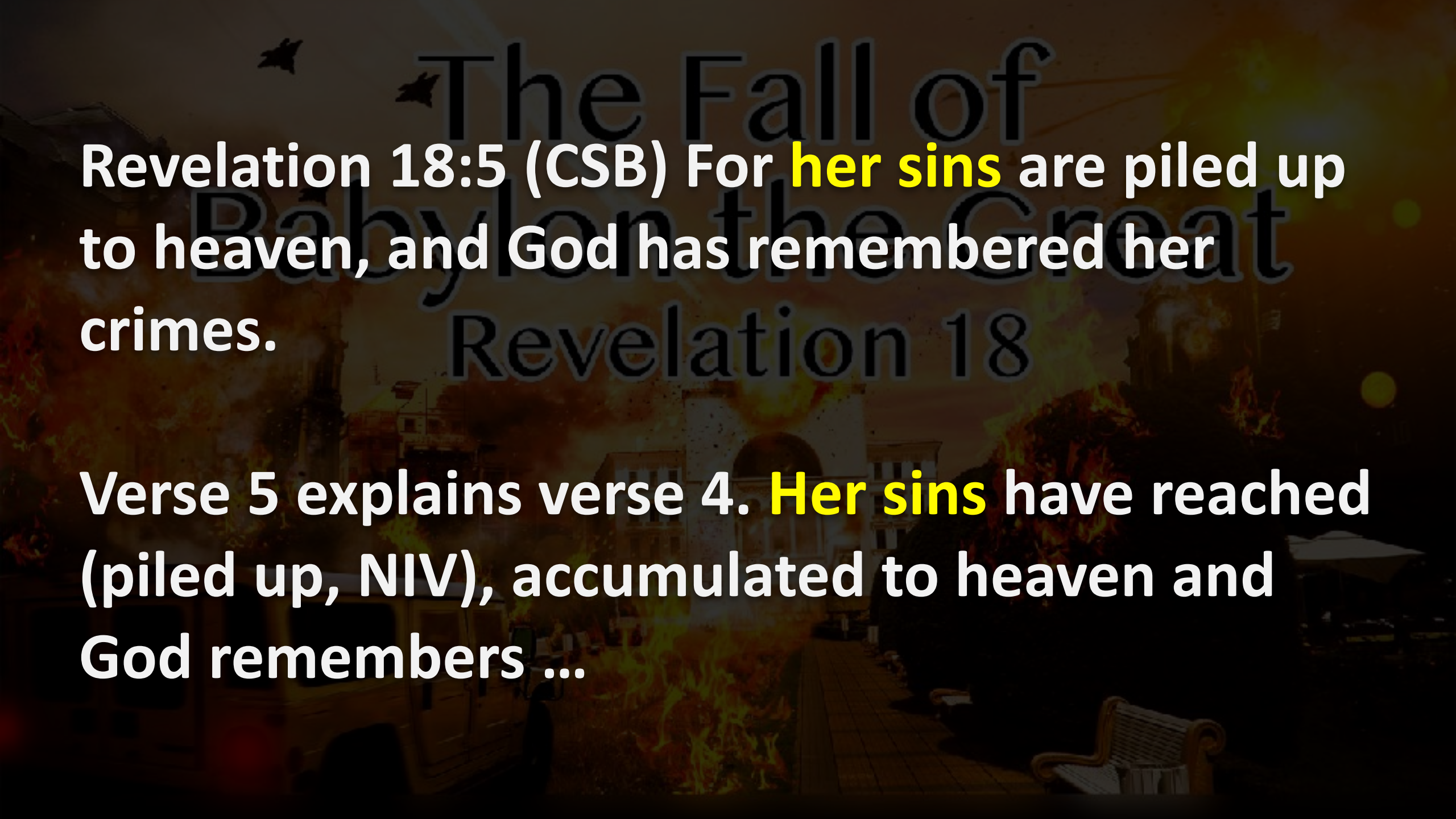
The Fall of

Babylon the Great

The things of this life overshadow the things of the life to come. “Eat, drink, be merry and make money, for we shall never die!” The world crawls in bed with the whore of wealth, unaware of her infectious and fatal disease.

Revelation 18:4 (CSB) Then I heard **another voice** from heaven: **Come out** of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins or receive any of her plagues.

Another voice – probably another angel. **Come out**... my people (God's people) lest you share (fellowship) in her sins ... receive her plagues (judgment).



Revelation 18:5 (CSB) For **her sins** are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Verse 5 explains verse 4. **Her sins** have reached (piled up, NIV), accumulated to heaven and God remembers ...

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

Application:

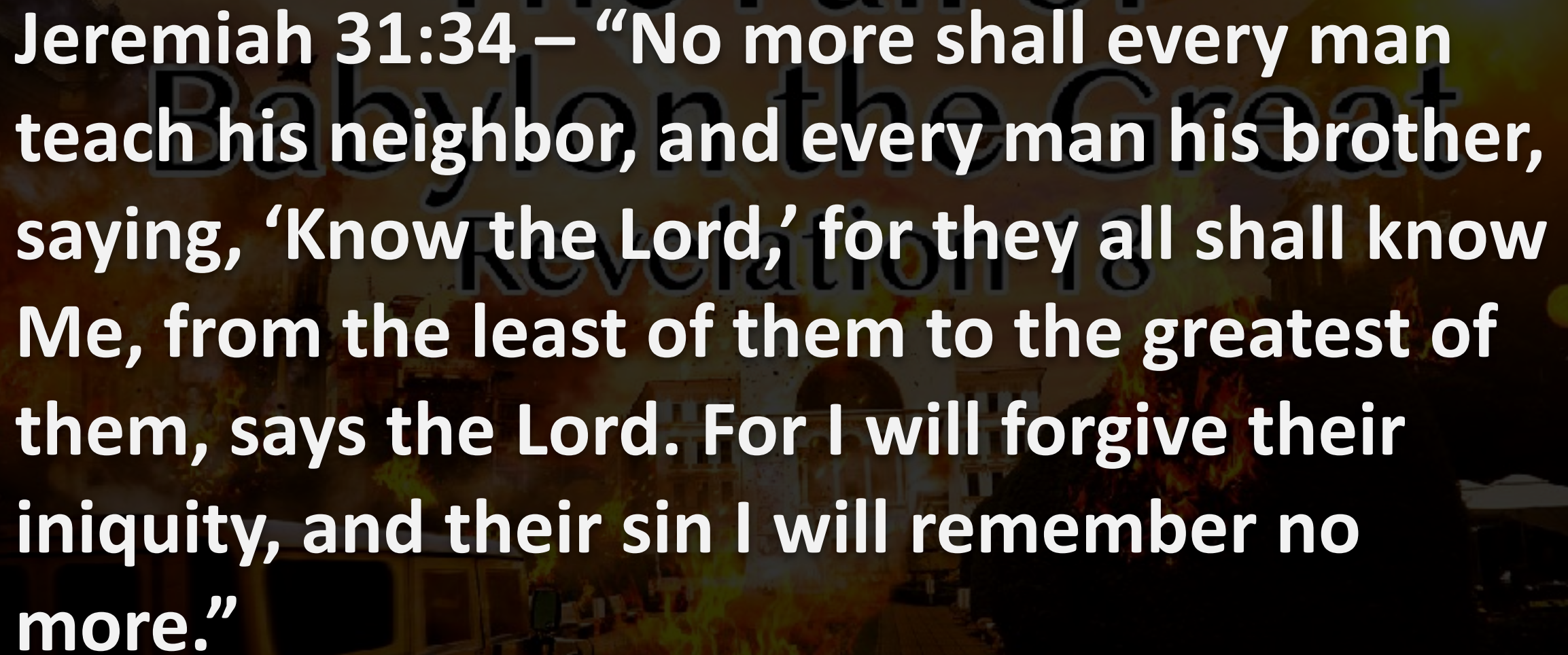
1) Romans 12:2 says “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”



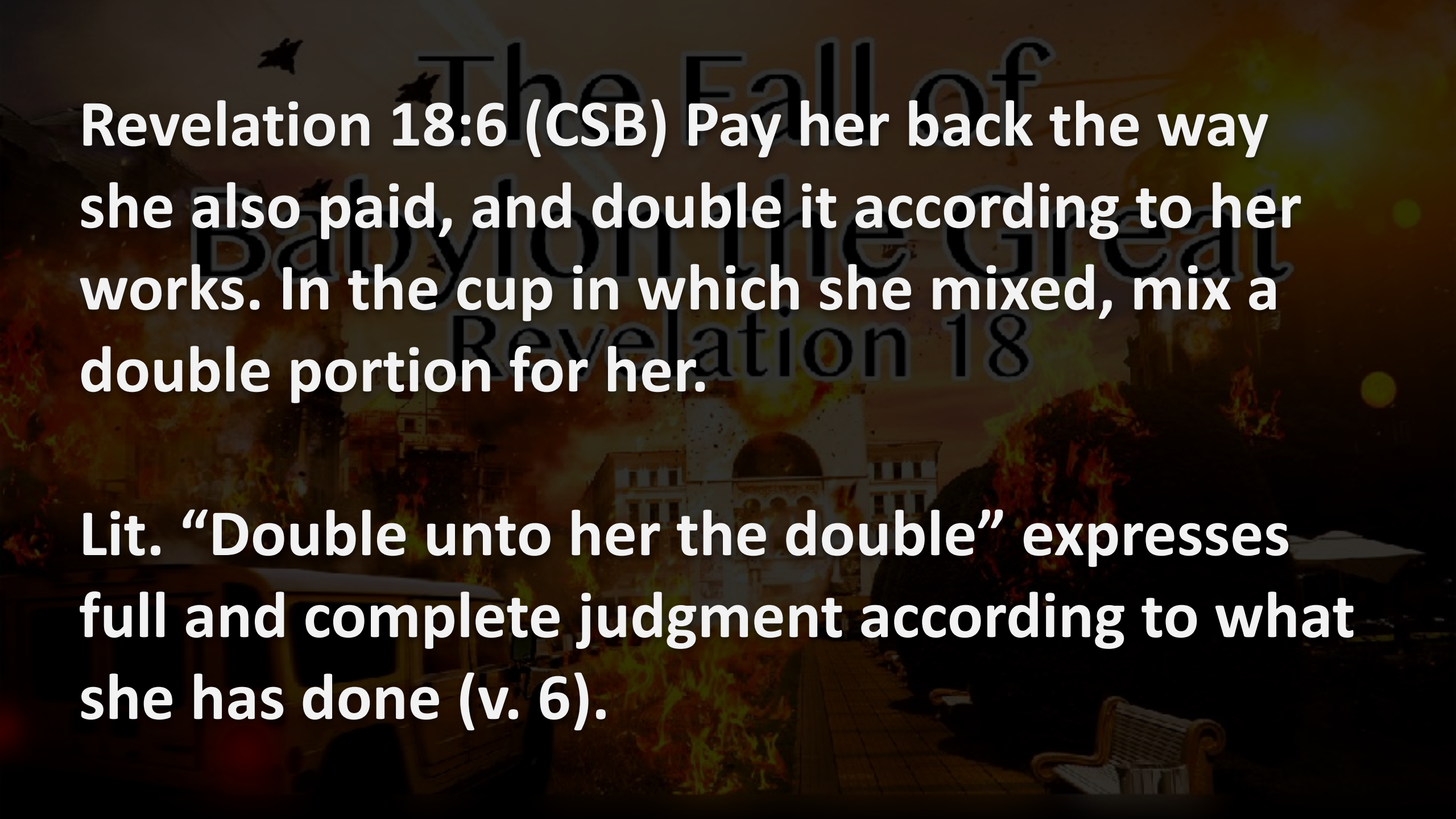
The sins of the lost are remembered not forgotten, but ours:

Revelation 18

Isaiah 43:25 – “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”

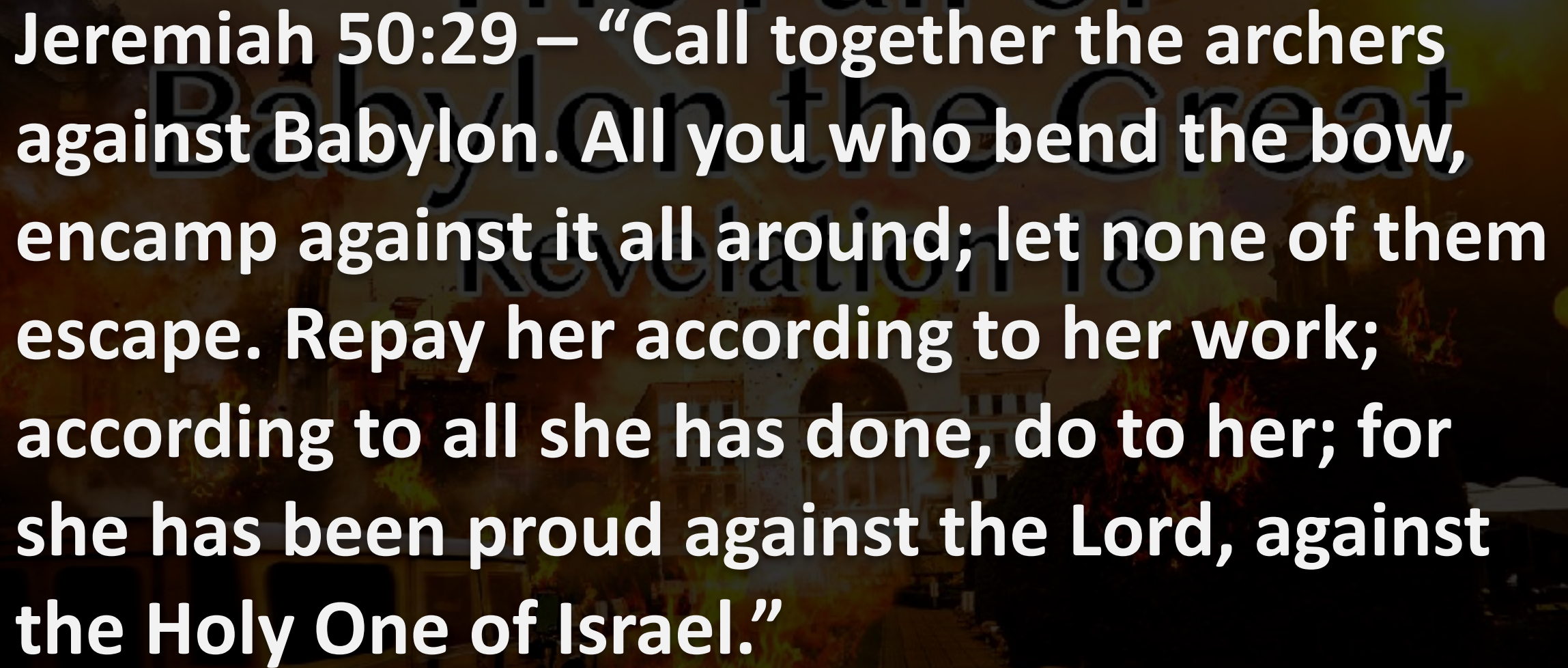


Jeremiah 31:34 – “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

The background features a dark, fiery scene of a city being destroyed. In the upper portion, the text 'The Fall of Babylon the Great' is written in a large, light-colored font. Below it, 'Revelation 18' is also visible. The main text of the slide is overlaid on this scene.

Revelation 18:6 (CSB) Pay her back the way she also paid, and double it according to her works. In the cup in which she mixed, mix a double portion for her.

Lit. “Double unto her the double” expresses full and complete judgment according to what she has done (v. 6).



Jeremiah 50:29 – “Call together the archers against Babylon. All you who bend the bow, encamp against it all around; let none of them escape. Repay her according to her work; according to all she has done, do to her; for she has been proud against the Lord, against the Holy One of Israel.”

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

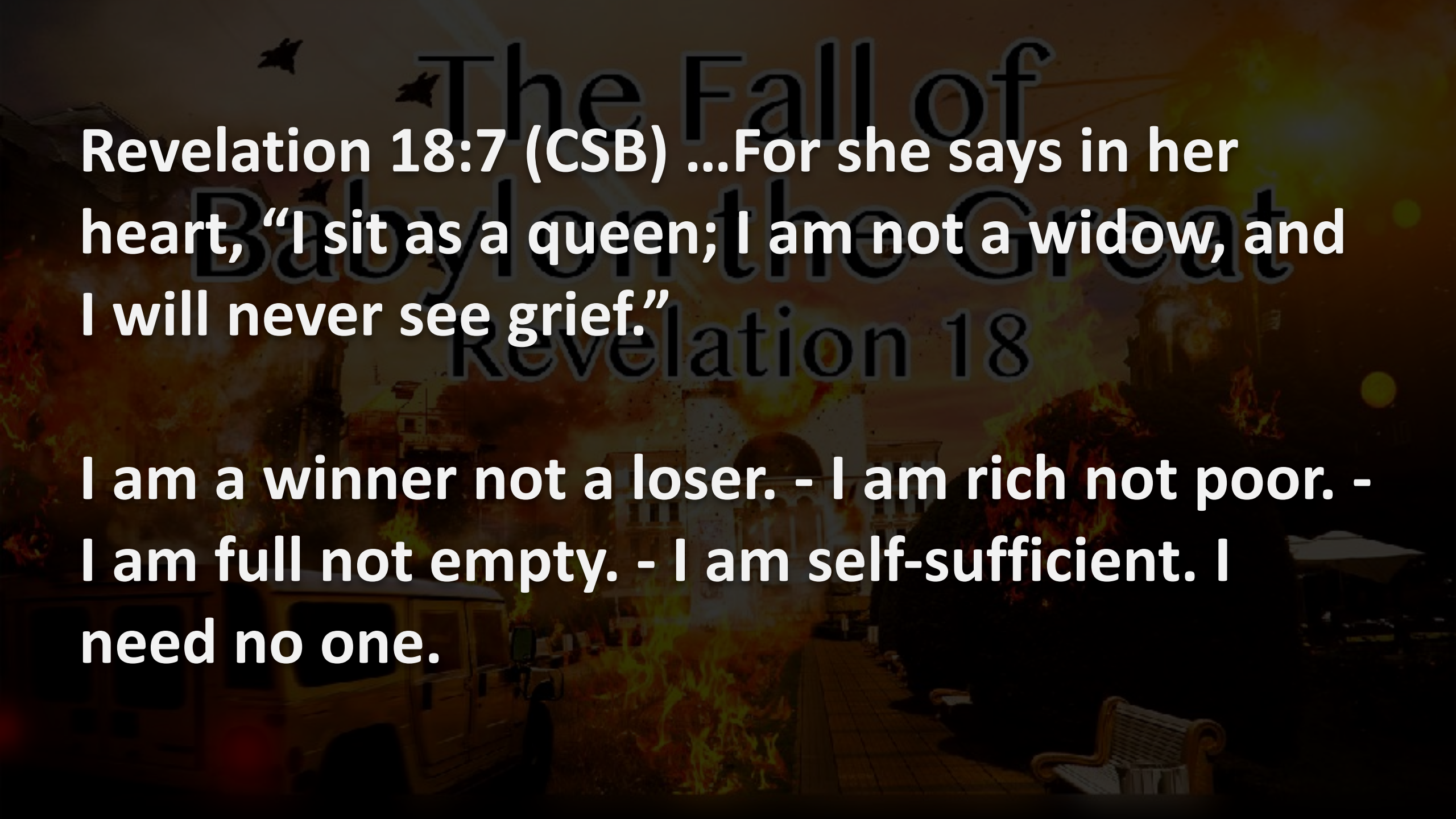
Revelation 18:6 (CSB) ...In the cup in which she mixed, mix a double portion for her.

Make her drink out of her own cup! Double!

The Fall of

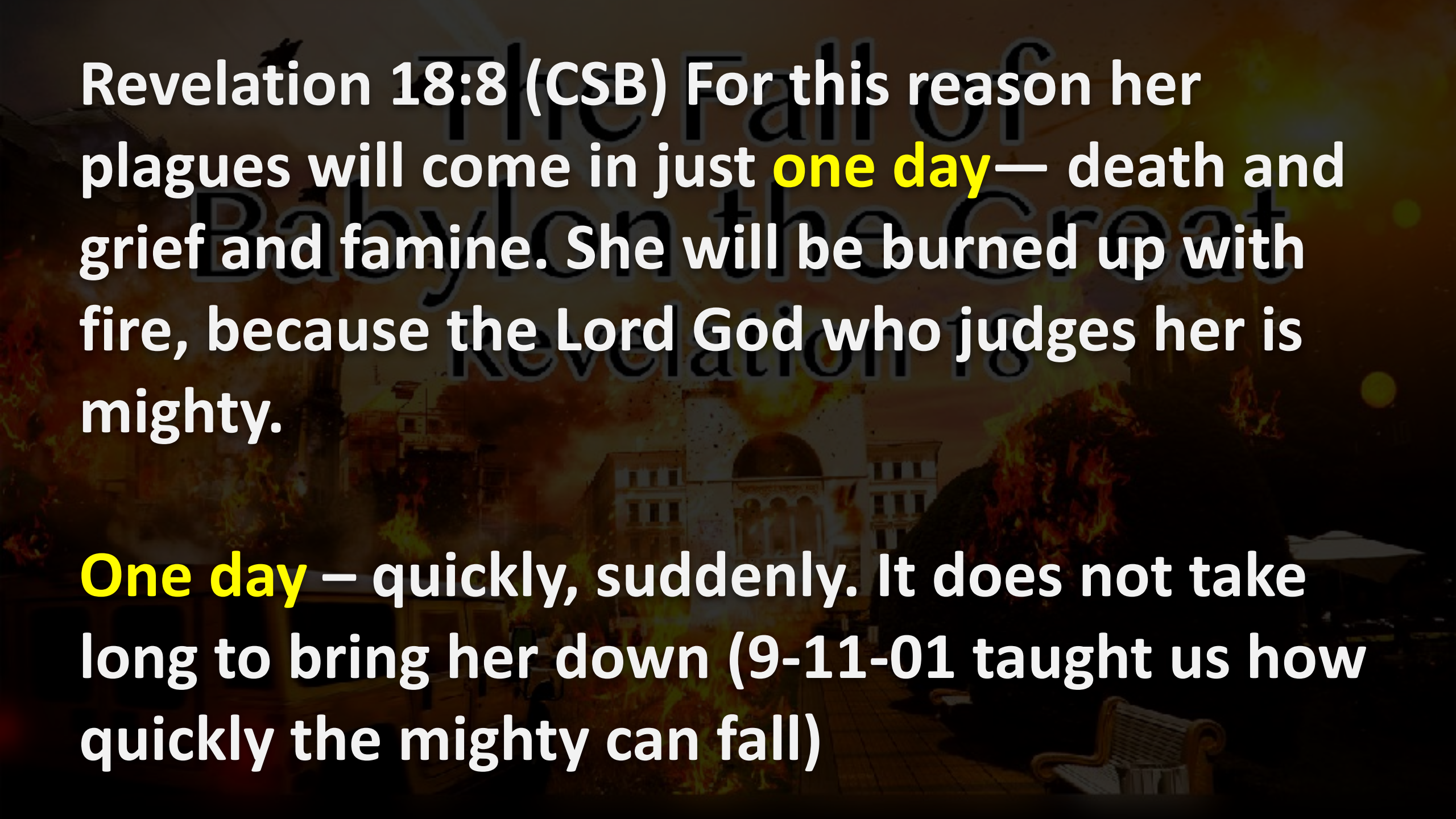
Revelation 18:7 (CSB) As much as she glorified herself and indulged her sensual and excessive ways, give her that much torment and grief...

Let her punishment fit the crime (v. 7). Let her arrogant boast be brought to an end! (v. 7)



Revelation 18:7 (CSB) ...For she says in her heart, "I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never see grief."

**I am a winner not a loser. - I am rich not poor. -
I am full not empty. - I am self-sufficient. I
need no one.**



Revelation 18:8 (CSB) For this reason her plagues will come in just **one day**— death and grief and famine. She will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

One day – quickly, suddenly. It does not take long to bring her down (9-11-01 taught us how quickly the mighty can fall)

Revelation 18:8 (CSB) For this reason her plagues will come in just one day— **death** and grief and famine. She will be burned up with **fire**, because the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

Death ... fire!!! In the ancient world the smoke of a burning city signaled its collapse. Not much has changed! It is the Lord God's doing. Nothing can prevent it.

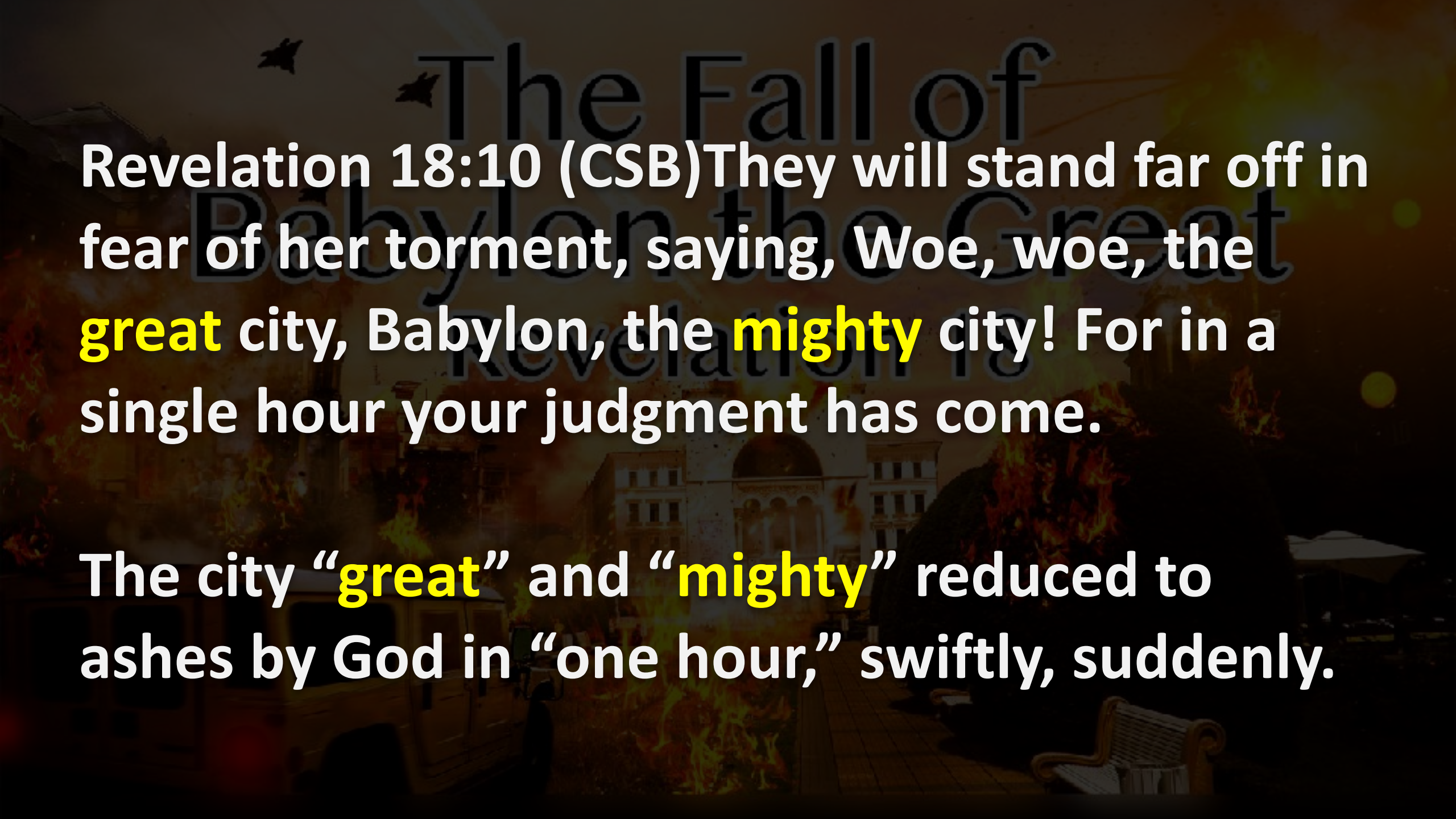
God judges Babylon with great lamentation. 18:9-20 Verses 9-20 consist of 3 dirges or laments over the sudden destruction of Babylon: 1) The kings (vs. 9-10), 2) the merchants (vs. 11-17), and 3) all seamen of every trade (vs. 18-20) wail over the fall of their idol, their god. The words of John recall the words of Ezekiel 27 and the sorrow over the destruction of Tyre.

Revelation 18:9 (CSB) The kings of the earth who have committed sexual immorality and shared her sensual and excessive ways will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke from her burning.

The kings weep and lament first (sob openly). This harlot had brought them great wealth and happiness. They are sad to see her go (shown by her burning / smoke).

Revelation 18:10 (CSB) They will stand far off in fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come.

They stand at a distance (vs. 10, 15, 17), afraid of being consumed by the same torment and destruction. woe, woe, Greek ouai, ouai (cf. vs. 10, 16, 19).



Revelation 18:10 (CSB) They will stand far off in fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the **great** city, Babylon, the **mighty** city! For in a single hour your judgment has come.

The city “**great**” and “**mighty**” reduced to ashes by God in “one hour,” swiftly, suddenly.

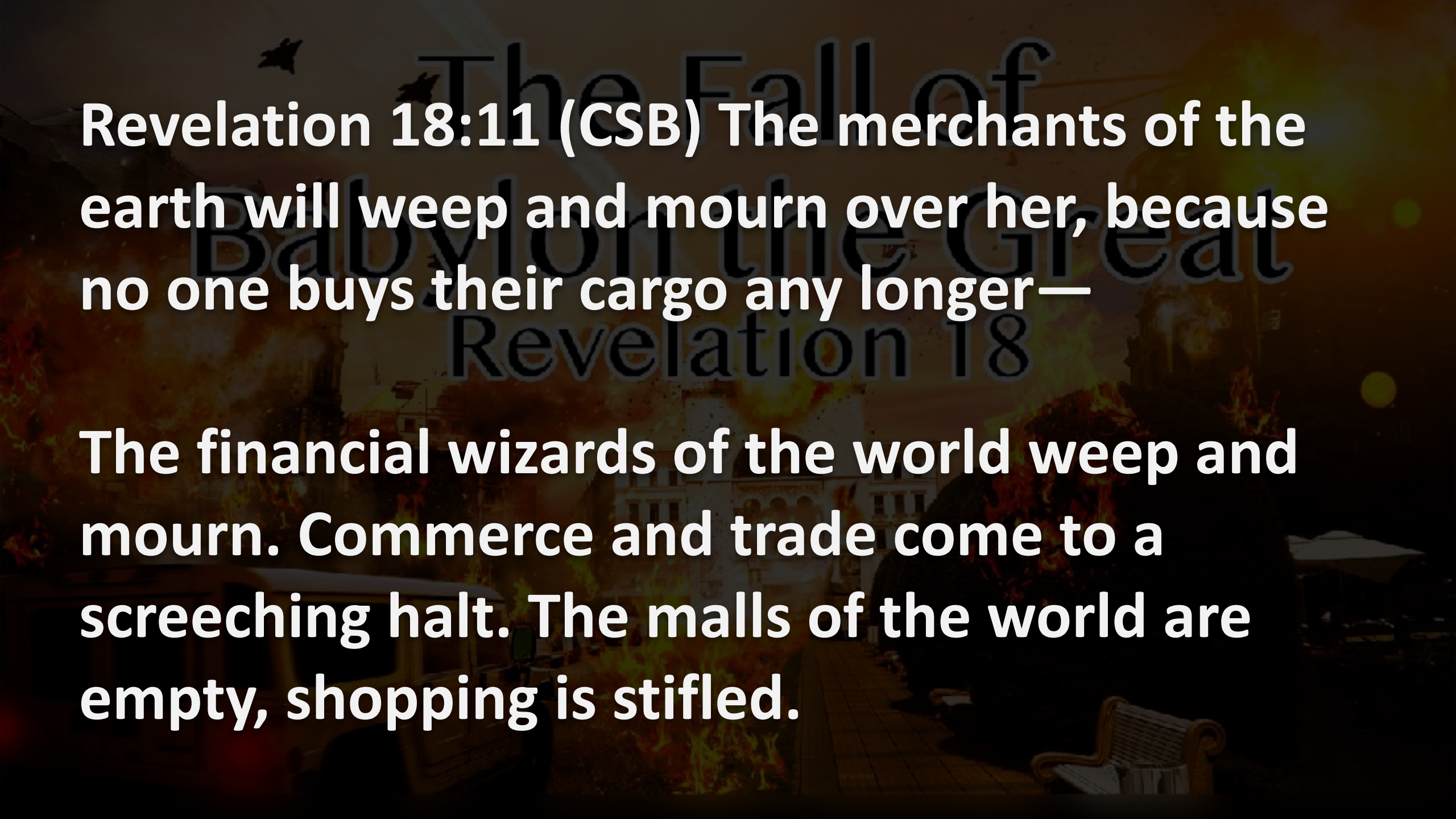


The Fall of

Like the twin towers of the World Trade Center, Babylon crashes to the ground more quickly than we could ever imagine. Shock is the only word that can describe man's reaction.

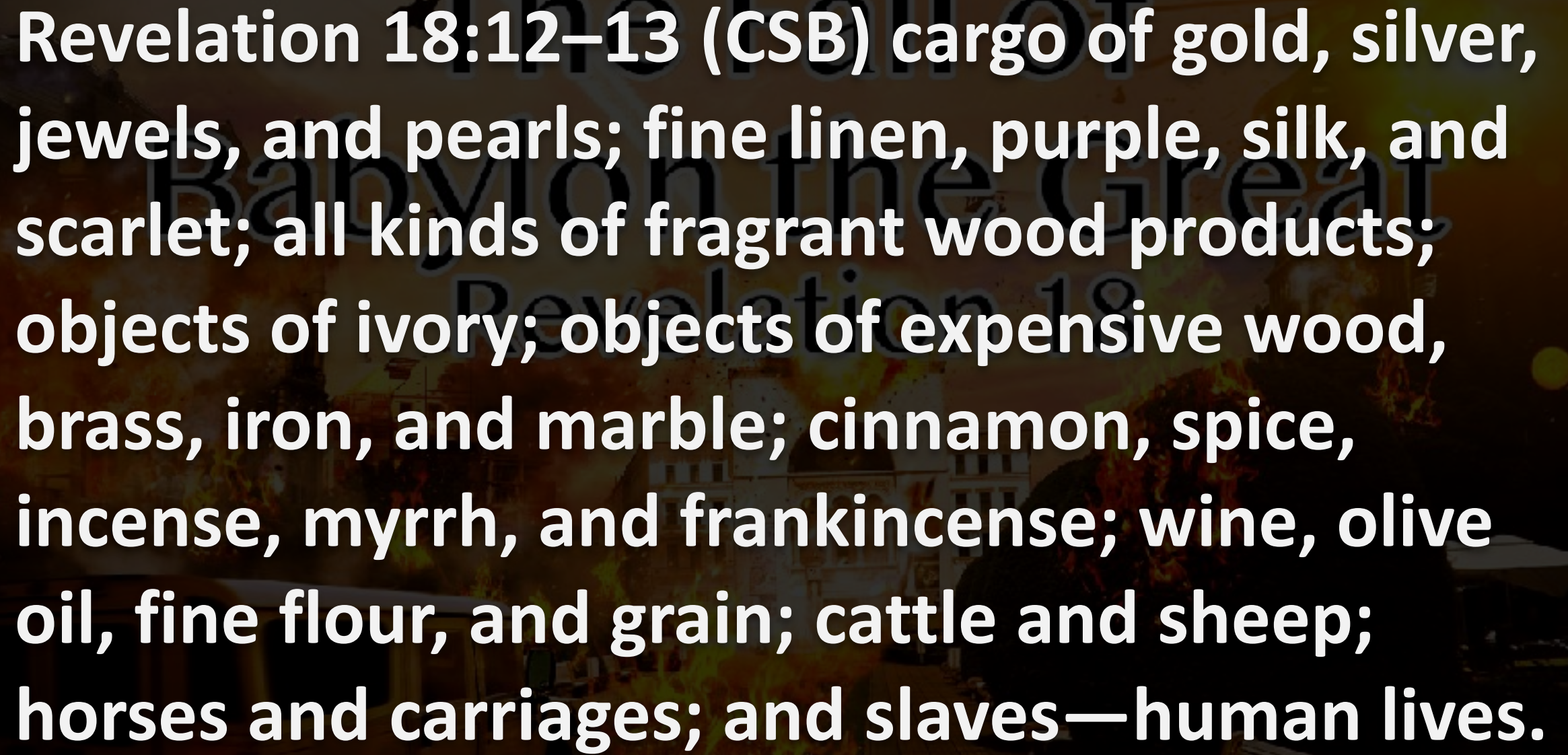
Revelation 18:11 (CSB) The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any longer—

Economic collapse and chaos ensue. Tokyo, London, Wall Street bottom out. The Nasdaq, Stock market, and the S&P hit the skids, take a dive.



Revelation 18:11 (CSB) The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any longer—

The financial wizards of the world weep and mourn. Commerce and trade come to a screeching halt. The malls of the world are empty, shopping is stifled.

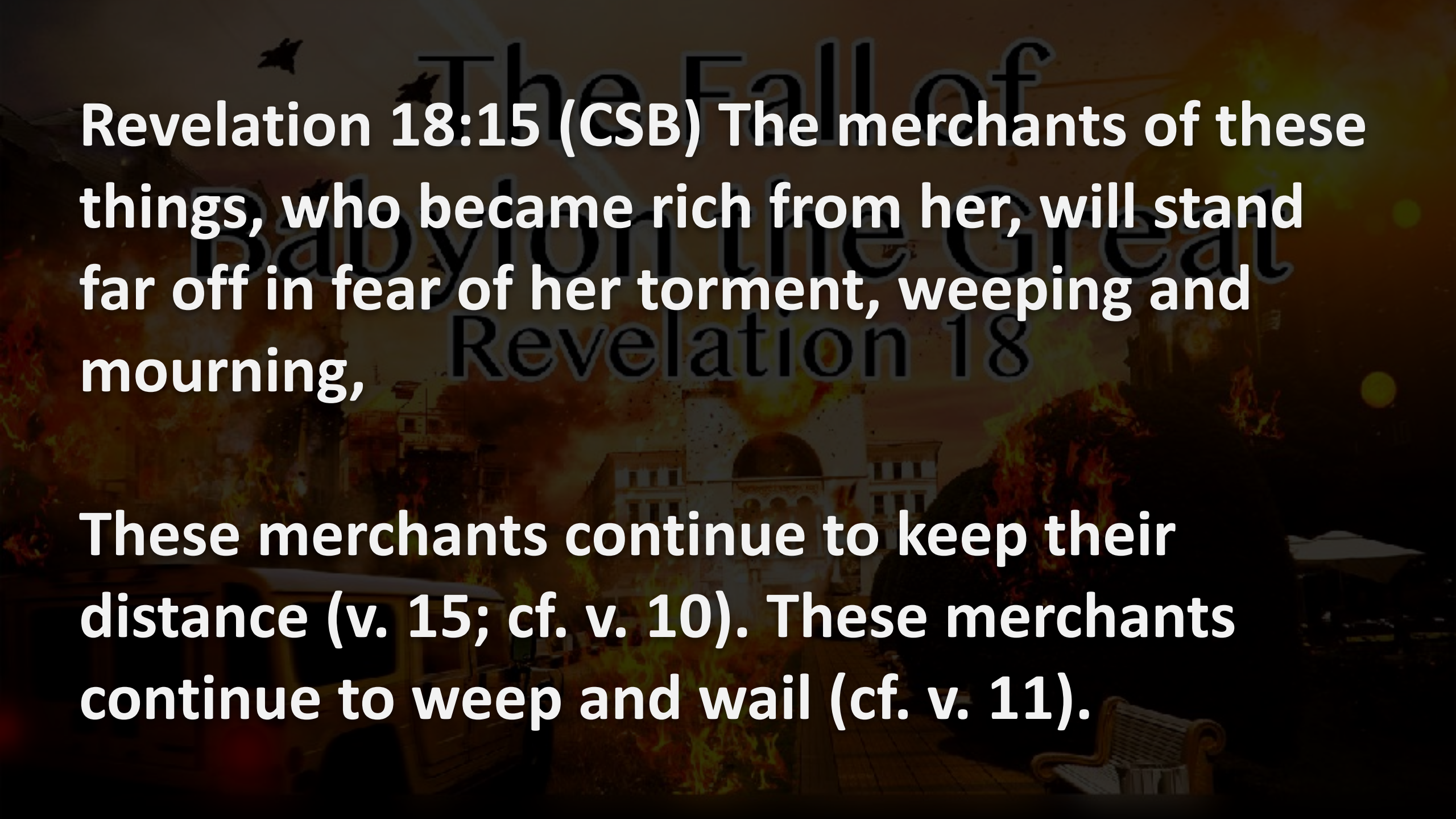


Revelation 18:12–13 (CSB) cargo of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of fragrant wood products; objects of ivory; objects of expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble; cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, olive oil, fine flour, and grain; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and slaves—human lives.

Verses 12-13 list 29 items of value and wealth, falling into 6 categories: 1) Precious metals and gems; 2) Fabrics for expensive clothing; 3) Ornaments; 4) Aromatic substances; 5) Foodstuffs and 6) Animals and men. Note at the end of verse 13 “bodies and souls of men.” Once again, mankind will traffic in human slavery, a testimony to the utter depravity of man

Revelation 18:14 (CSB) The fruit you craved has left you. All your splendid and glamorous things are gone; they will never find them again.

**The fruit (return of their investment) their soul (psyche) lust for gone ... “all” the things gone and literally “no more not no” them shall you find!
This is the first of 7 double negatives in the remainder of the chapter. This is actually a double, double negative!**

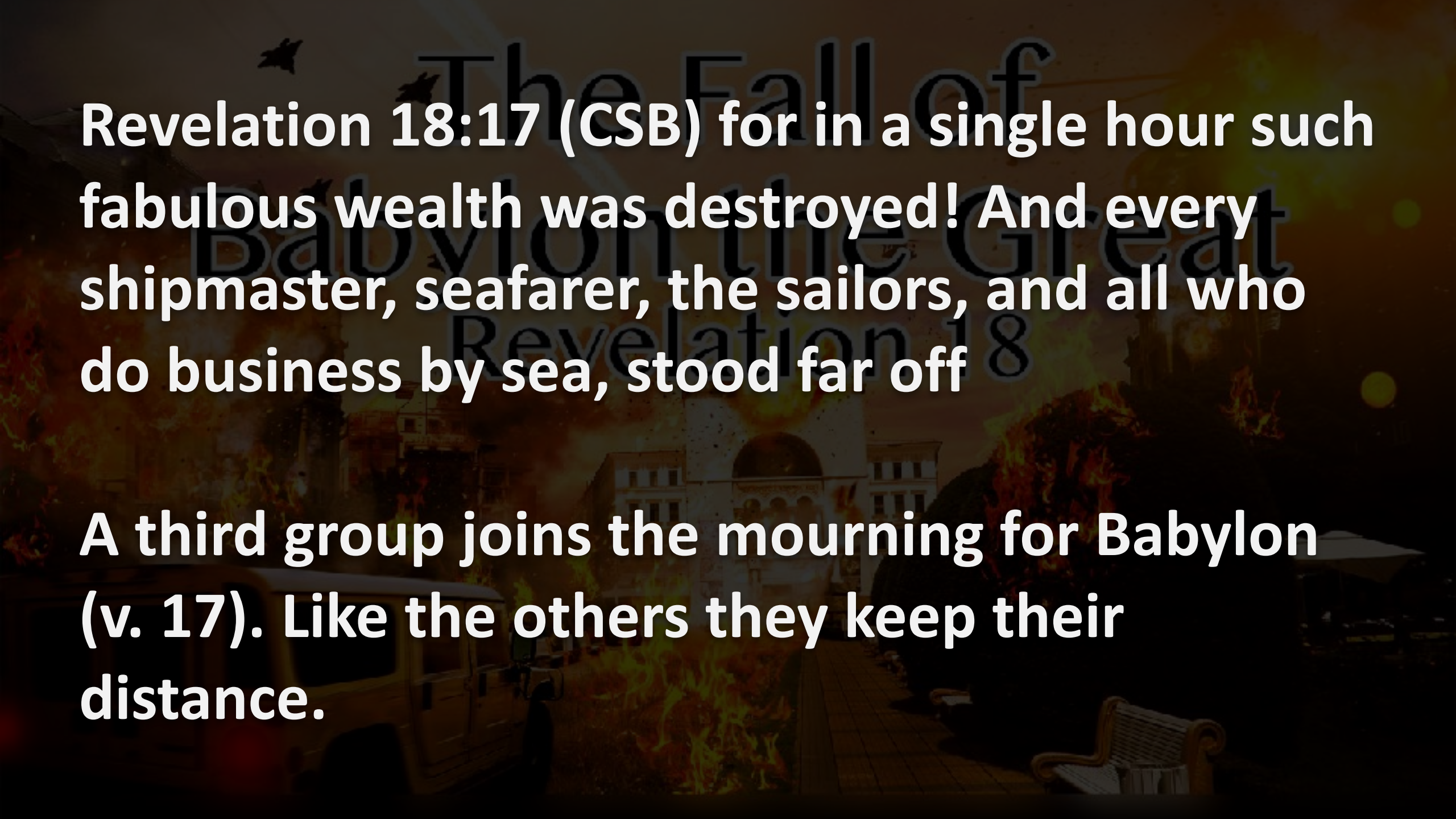


Revelation 18:15 (CSB) The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand far off in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

These merchants continue to keep their distance (v. 15; cf. v. 10). These merchants continue to weep and wail (cf. v. 11).

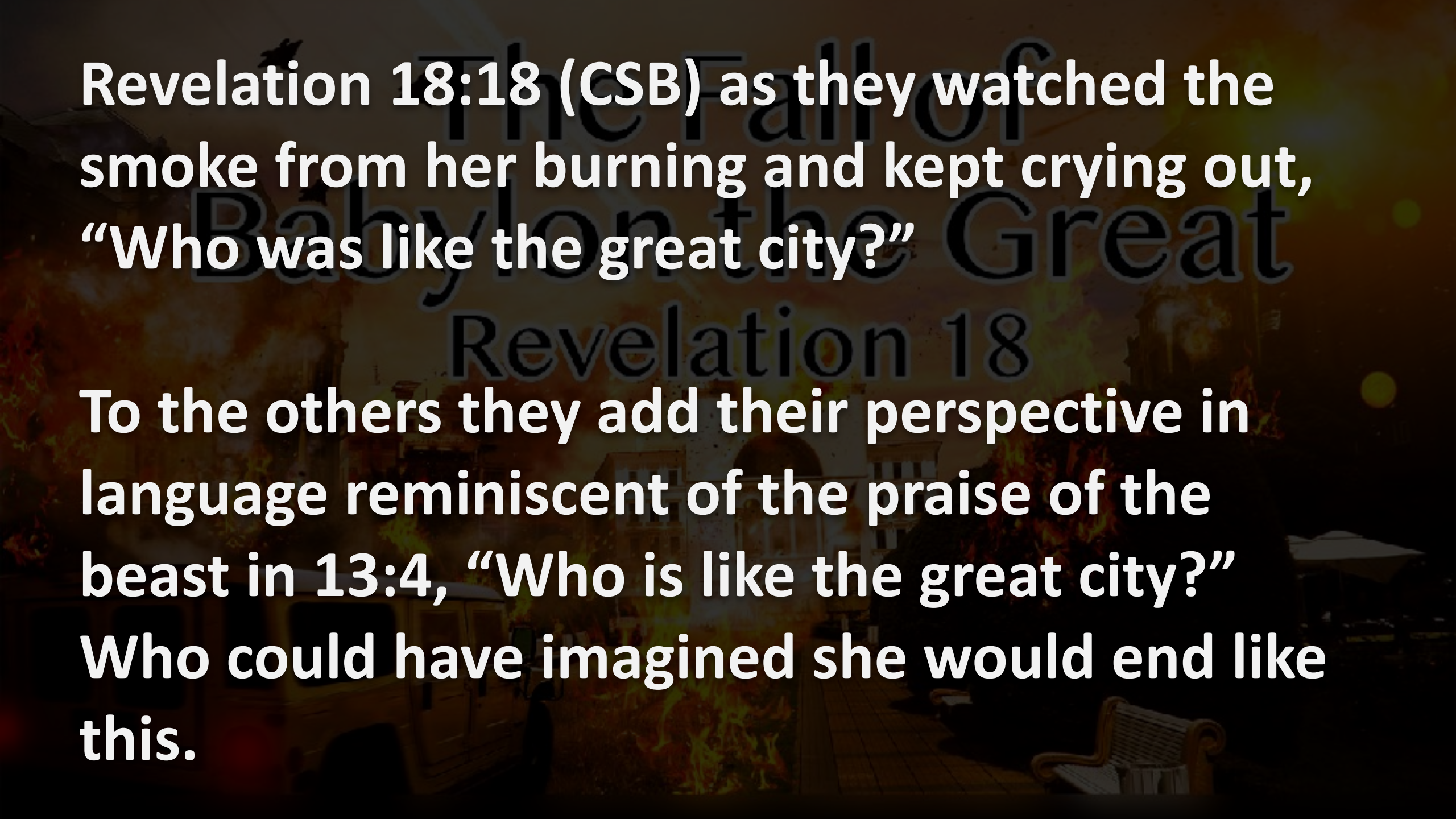
Revelation 18:16 (CSB) saying, Woe, woe, the great city, dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls;

These merchants again say “woe, woe”, ouai, ouai. In essence they ask, “how could something so great and so rich come to nothing and so quickly (vs. 16-17).



Revelation 18:17 (CSB) for in a single hour such fabulous wealth was destroyed! And every shipmaster, seafarer, the sailors, and all who do business by sea, stood far off

A third group joins the mourning for Babylon (v. 17). Like the others they keep their distance.



Revelation 18:18 (CSB) as they watched the smoke from her burning and kept crying out, “Who was like the great city?”

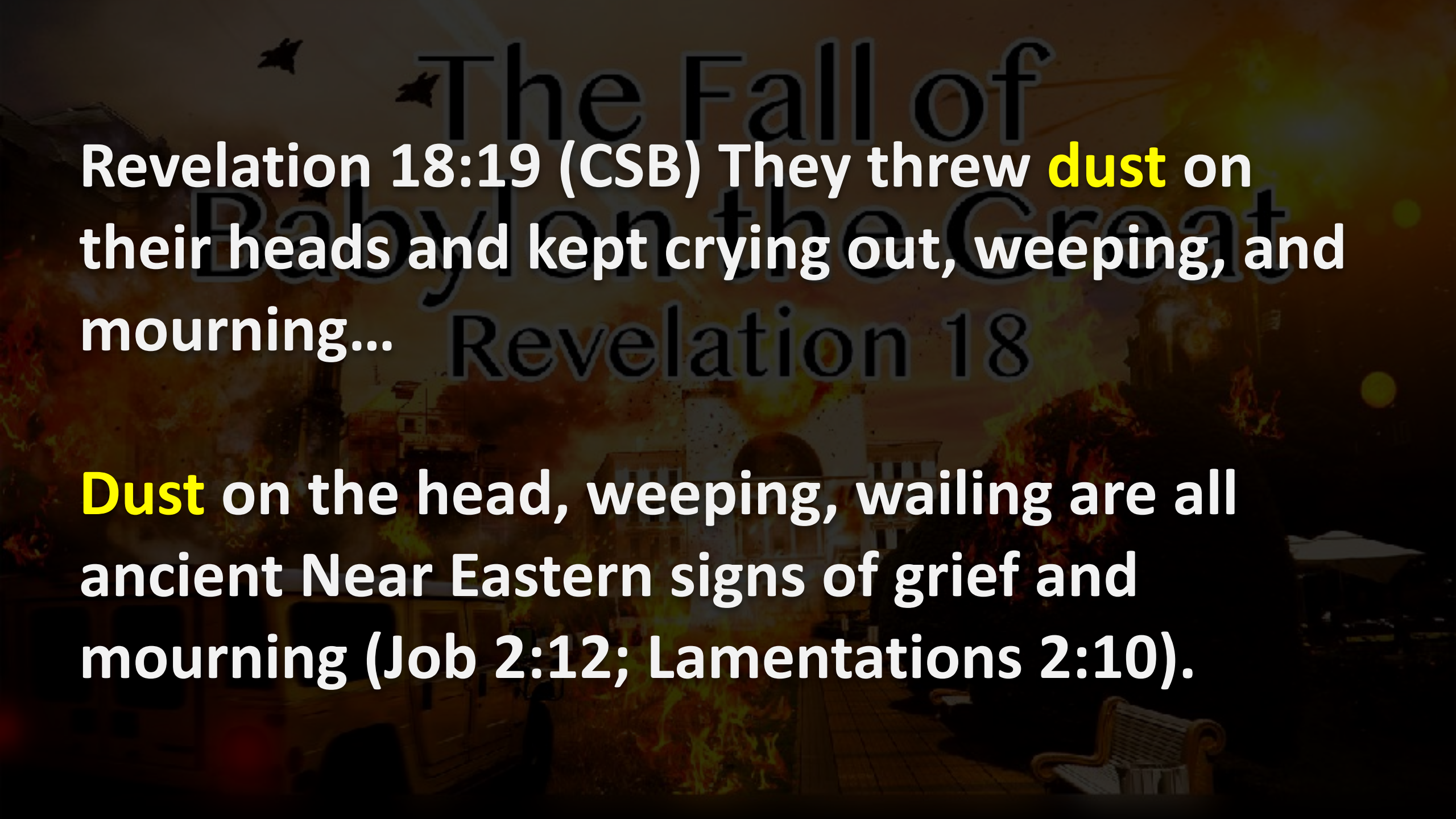
To the others they add their perspective in language reminiscent of the praise of the beast in 13:4, “Who is like the great city?”

Who could have imagined she would end like this.

The Fall of Babylon the Great

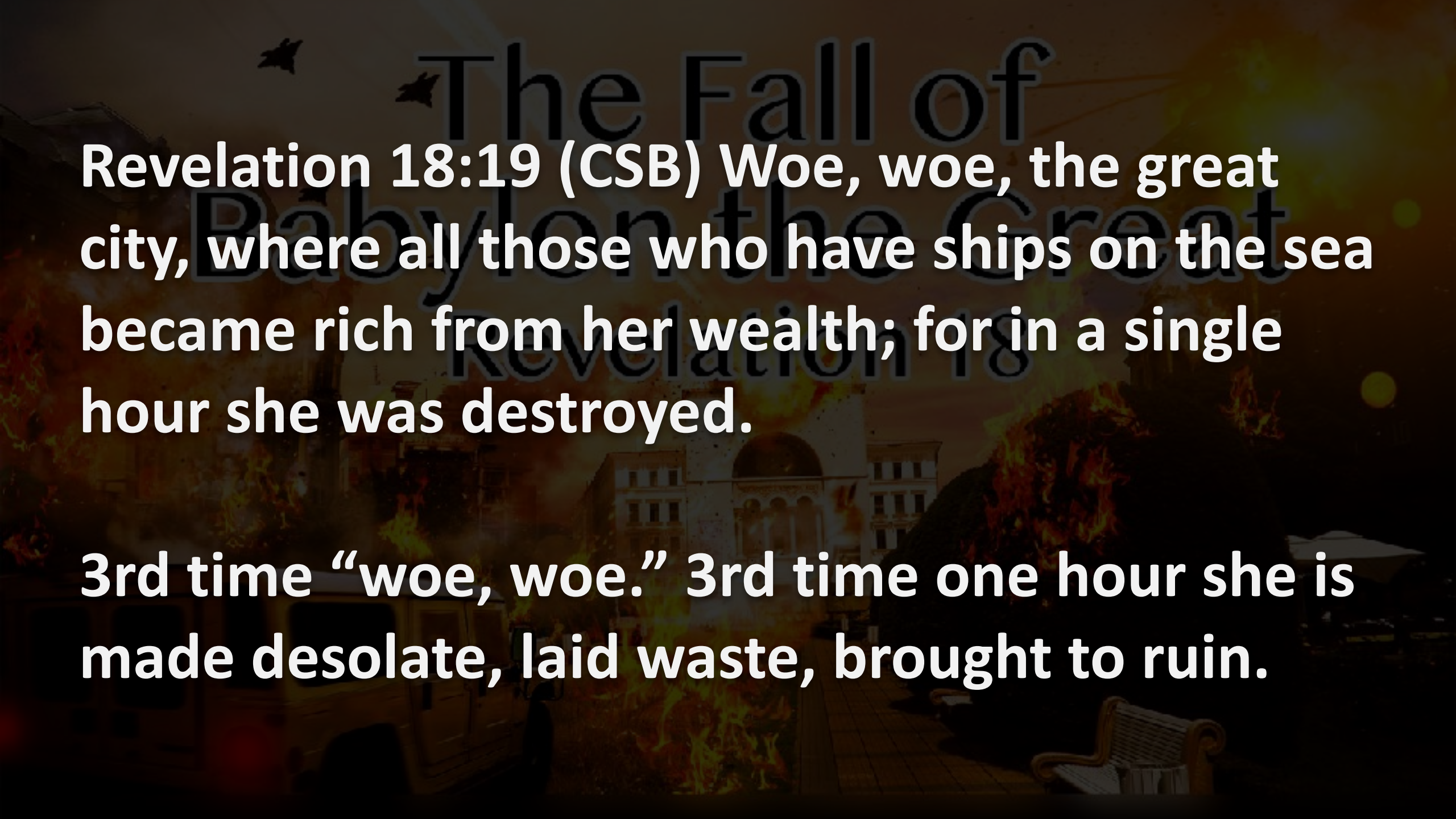
Revelation 18

She was glorious and now she is gone. She was rich and now she is ruined. She was everything and now she is nothing. Wealth is great while it lasts, but never forget wealth does not last!



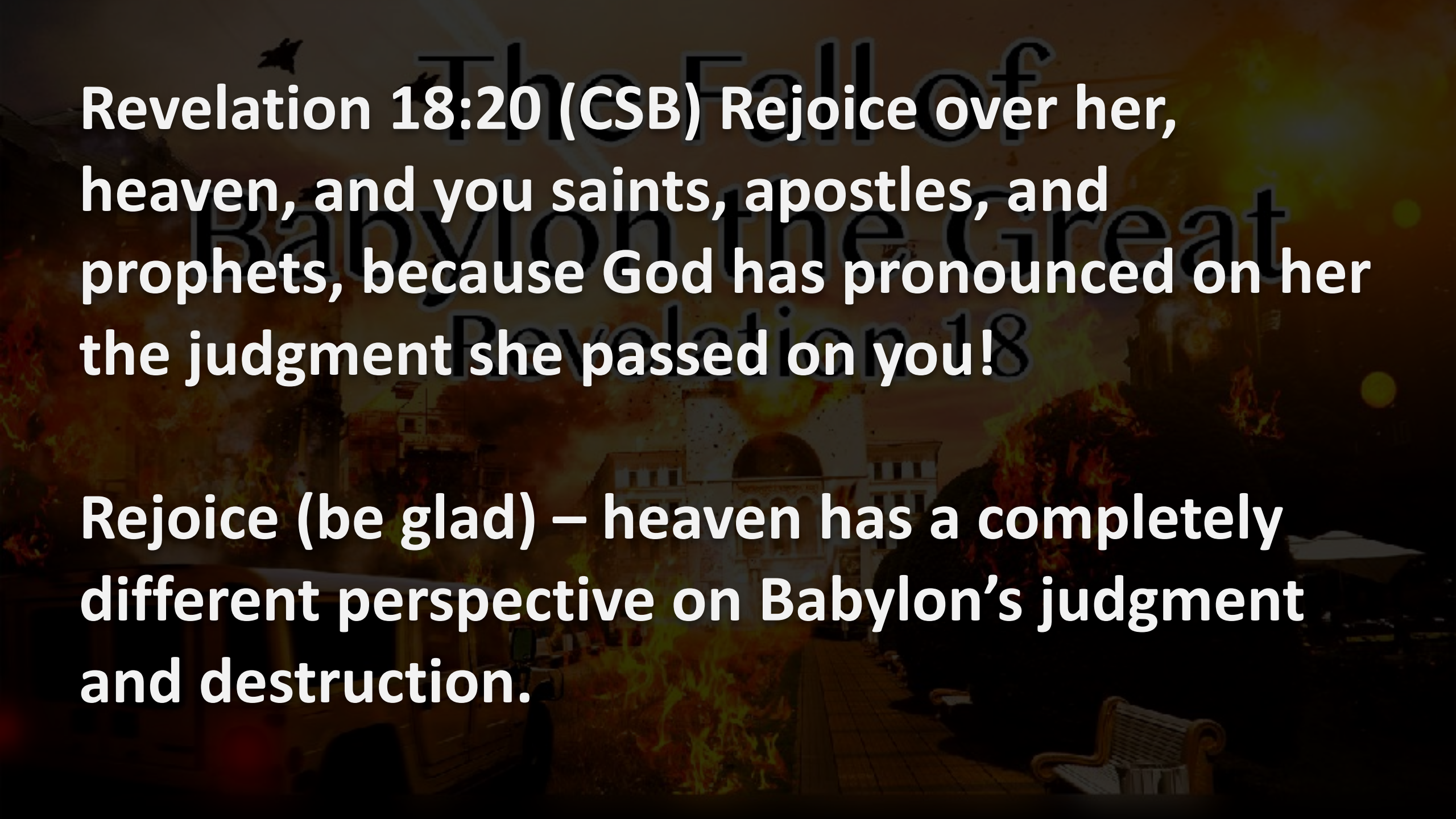
Revelation 18:19 (CSB) They threw **dust** on their heads and kept crying out, weeping, and mourning...

Dust on the head, weeping, wailing are all ancient Near Eastern signs of grief and mourning (Job 2:12; Lamentations 2:10).



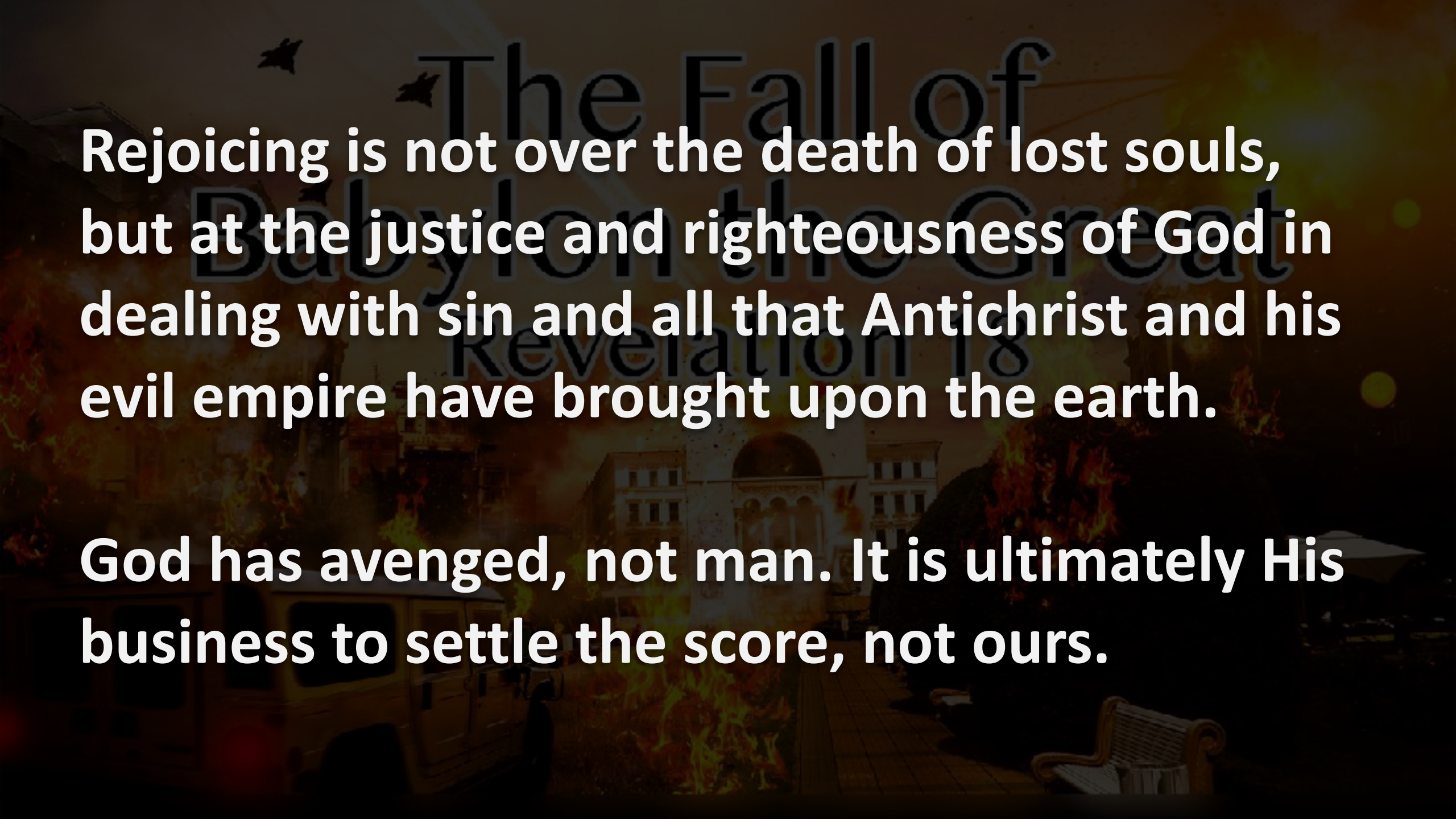
Revelation 18:19 (CSB) Woe, woe, the great city, where all those who have ships on the sea became rich from her wealth; for in a single hour she was destroyed.

3rd time “woe, woe.” 3rd time one hour she is made desolate, laid waste, brought to ruin.

The background of the slide is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a city, likely representing Babylon, engulfed in flames. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the fire, which casts a warm, orange glow. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of classical-style buildings and a bench. The overall mood is one of destruction and divine judgment. Overlaid on this background is the text of Revelation 18:20 in a large, white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in four lines, with the first line being the longest and the last line being the shortest. The text is centered horizontally and occupies the upper two-thirds of the slide.

**Revelation 18:20 (CSB) Rejoice over her,
heaven, and you saints, apostles, and
prophets, because God has pronounced on her
the judgment she passed on you!**

**Rejoice (be glad) – heaven has a completely
different perspective on Babylon’s judgment
and destruction.**



**Rejoicing is not over the death of lost souls,
but at the justice and righteousness of God in
dealing with sin and all that Antichrist and his
evil empire have brought upon the earth.**

**God has avenged, not man. It is ultimately His
business to settle the score, not ours.**

Revelation 18:21 (CSB) Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, In this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found again.

It is time to turn out the lights. Party time on evil earth has come to an end. A deafening silence now sweeps across the world as Babylon disappears from the radar screen.

Revelation 18:21 (CSB) Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, In this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found **again**.

6 times in vs. 21-23 the word "**again**," no more at all occurs. It is the double negative ou me.

Revelation 18:21 (CSB) Then a mighty angel ...

Mighty angel appears (3rd time; cf. 5:2; 10:1). This spiritual Hercules, this angelic Atlas in graphic symbolism throws a great milestone into the sea. It plunges to the bottom never to be seen again. This is Babylon's destiny. She appears never to be seen or heard from again. Suddenly, she is gone forever.

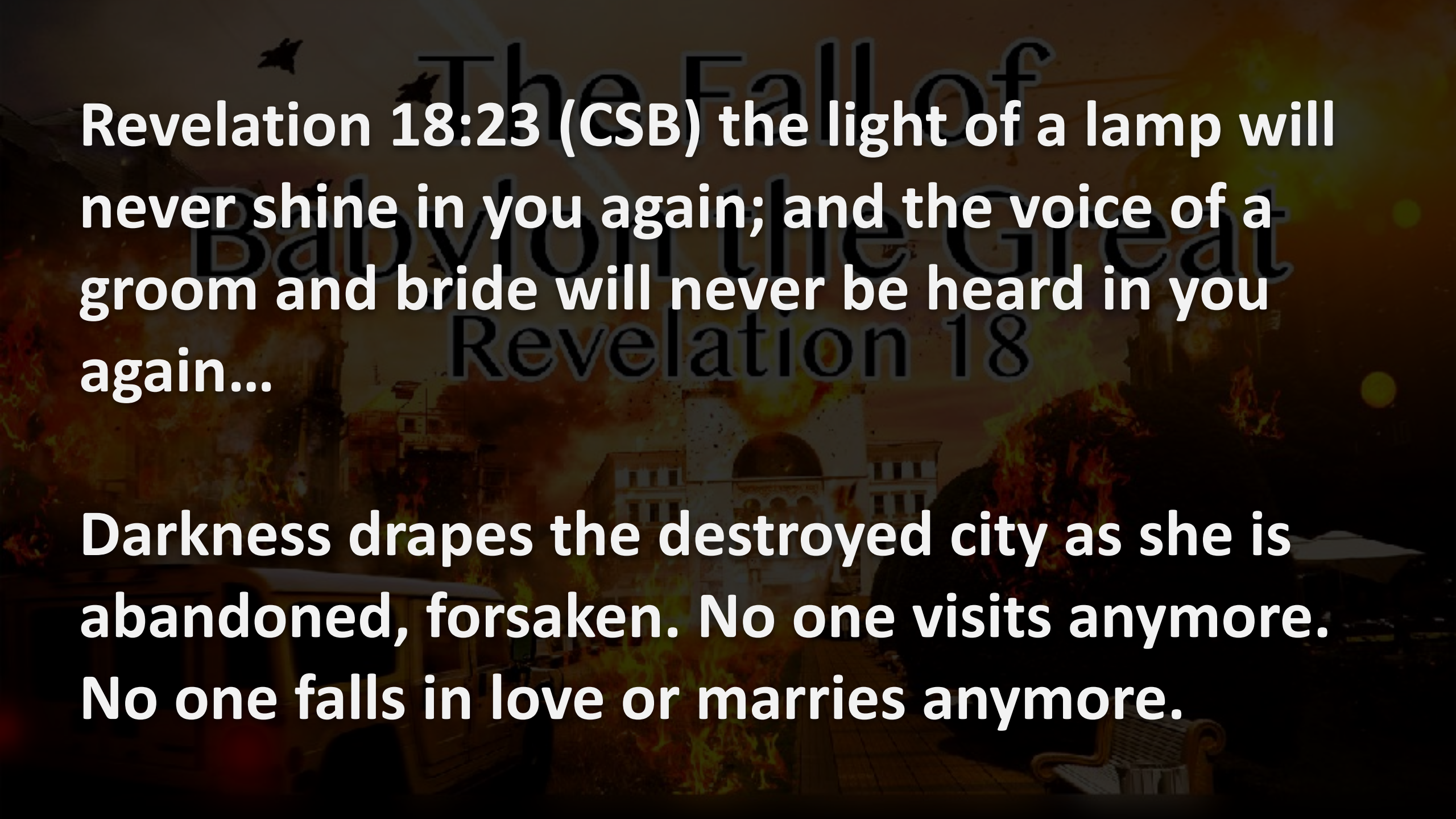
Revelation 18:22 (CSB) The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; no craftsman of any trade will ever be found in you again; the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again;

Music ceases! Silence reigns! In places where the city and streets were once centers of song and music, now ... only an eerie silence!

The Fall of

**Revelation 18:22 (CSB) ...the sound of a mill
will never be heard in you again;**

**There will be no rebuilding of her. No one
works, industry comes to a standstill. The
economy comes to a screeching halt.**

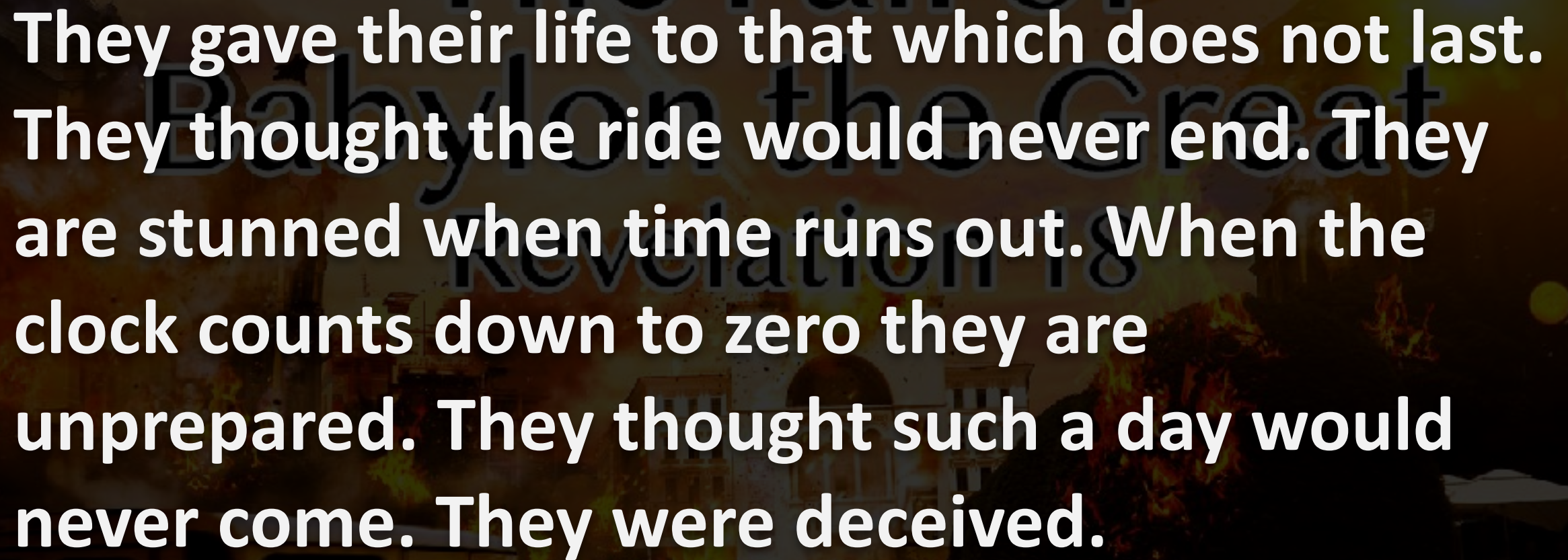


Revelation 18:23 (CSB) the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of a groom and bride will never be heard in you again...

Darkness drapes the destroyed city as she is abandoned, forsaken. No one visits anymore. No one falls in love or marries anymore.

Revelation 18:23 (CSB) ...All this will happen because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Her judgment is just. By sorcery (pharmakeia) all were deceived. Intoxicated and fooled by her religion, wealth and power, the nations “exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God” for a lie!

The background is a dark, atmospheric scene with a large, faint title 'The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18' in a serif font. The scene is filled with fire and smoke, suggesting a city in flames. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a person standing on a wooden deck or walkway, looking towards the viewer. The overall mood is dramatic and ominous.

**They gave their life to that which does not last.
They thought the ride would never end. They
are stunned when time runs out. When the
clock counts down to zero they are
unprepared. They thought such a day would
never come. They were deceived.**

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

The magic of money and the attractiveness of Antichrist blinded their eyes, their minds and their hearts. What an awesome witness to the power of sin and the seduction of Satan

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18:23 (CSB) ..All this will happen because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were **deceived** by your sorcery.

Word study on the word “Deceived”

The verb *planaō* (“deceive”) plays a significant role in the New Testament and especially in Revelation, where it is translated in various ways: “deceive” (13:14; 20:3, 8, 10), “lead astray” (12:9; 18:23), “delude” (19:20), and “mislead” (2:20).

Word study on the word “Deceived”

Jesus repeatedly warns his followers not to be deceived by false prophets and false teaching (e.g., Mark 13:5–6; Matt. 24:4–5, 11, 24; Luke 21:8). Peter, James, and Paul also warn against the dangers of deception (e.g., 1 Pet. 2:25; 2 Pet. 2:15; James 1:16; 2:19; 1 Cor. 6:9; 2 Tim. 3:13; Titus 3:3).

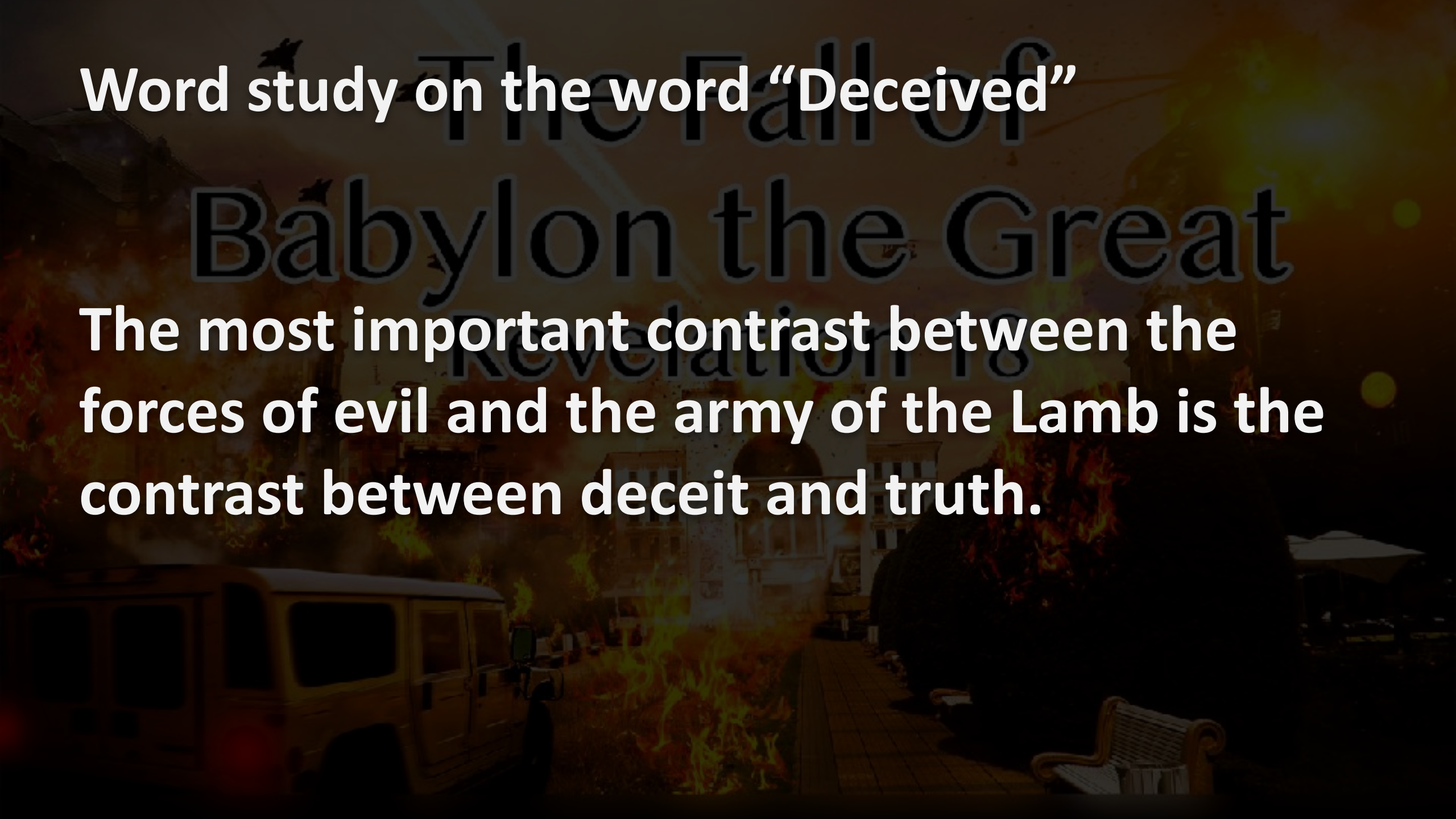
Word study on the word “Deceived”

In Revelation, the deceivers include Satan (12:9; 20:3, 8, 10), the false prophet (13:14; 19:20), Babylon (18:23), and Jezebel (2:20). Those who are deceived include the inhabitants of the earth (13:14), the nations (18:23; 20:3, 8, 10), the whole world (12:9), those who received the mark of the beast (19:20), and, on one occasion, those who claim to be believers (2:20).

Word study on the word “Deceived”

The Fall of Babylon the Great

The most important contrast between the forces of evil and the army of the Lamb is the contrast between deceit and truth.



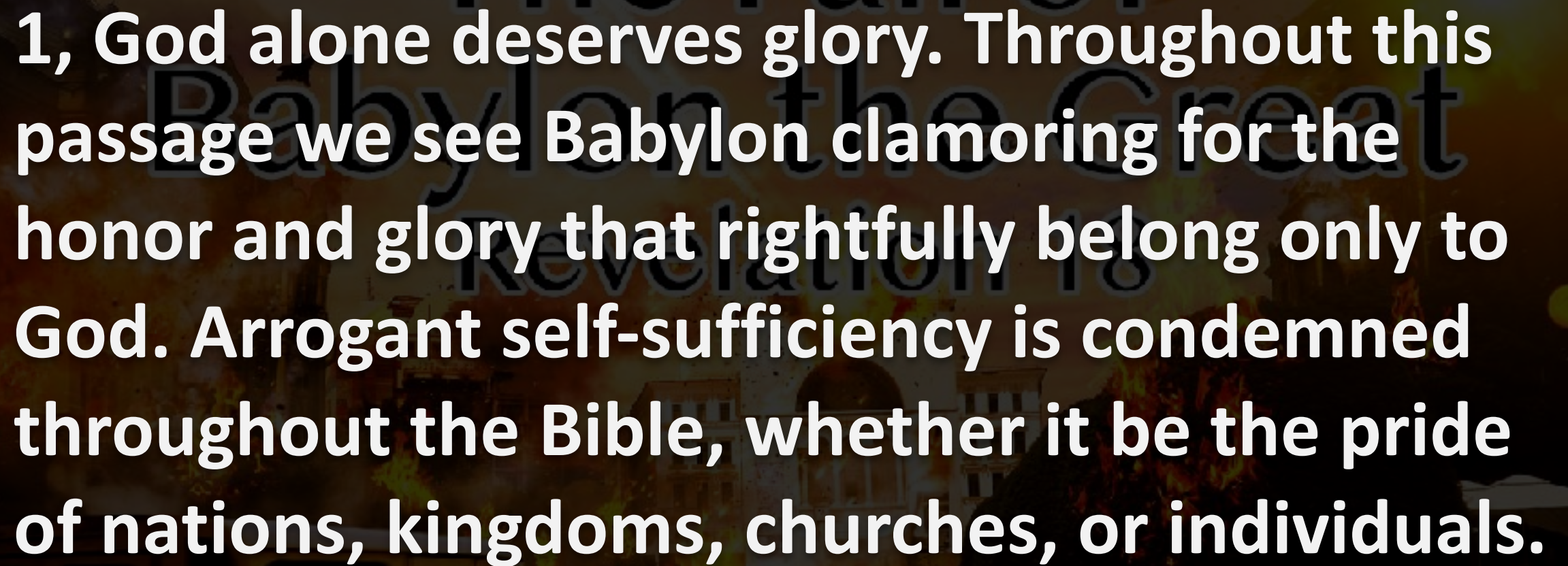
Revelation 18:24 (CSB) In her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all those slaughtered on the earth.

Rejecting and despising the shed blood of Christ for sin, Babylon sheds and demands the blood of those who love and follow the Lamb. For persons like this, there is no salvation, no redemption. Her guilt cries for justice and God hears that cry.



The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

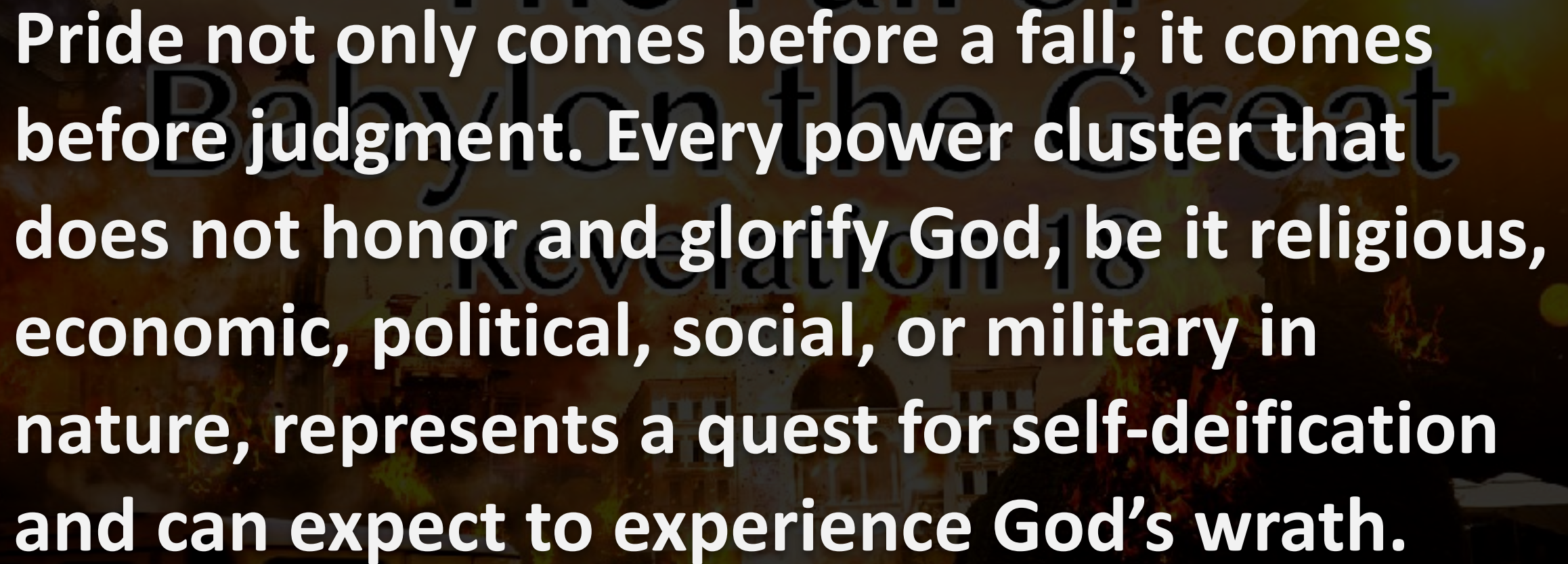
MODERN APPLICATIONS



1, God alone deserves glory. Throughout this passage we see Babylon clamoring for the honor and glory that rightfully belong only to God. Arrogant self-sufficiency is condemned throughout the Bible, whether it be the pride of nations, kingdoms, churches, or individuals.

The Fall of

Earlier in the book of Revelation, the risen Christ rebuked the church at Laodicea for this very attitude: “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing’ ” (3:17).



Pride not only comes before a fall; it comes before judgment. Every power cluster that does not honor and glorify God, be it religious, economic, political, social, or military in nature, represents a quest for self-deification and can expect to experience God's wrath.

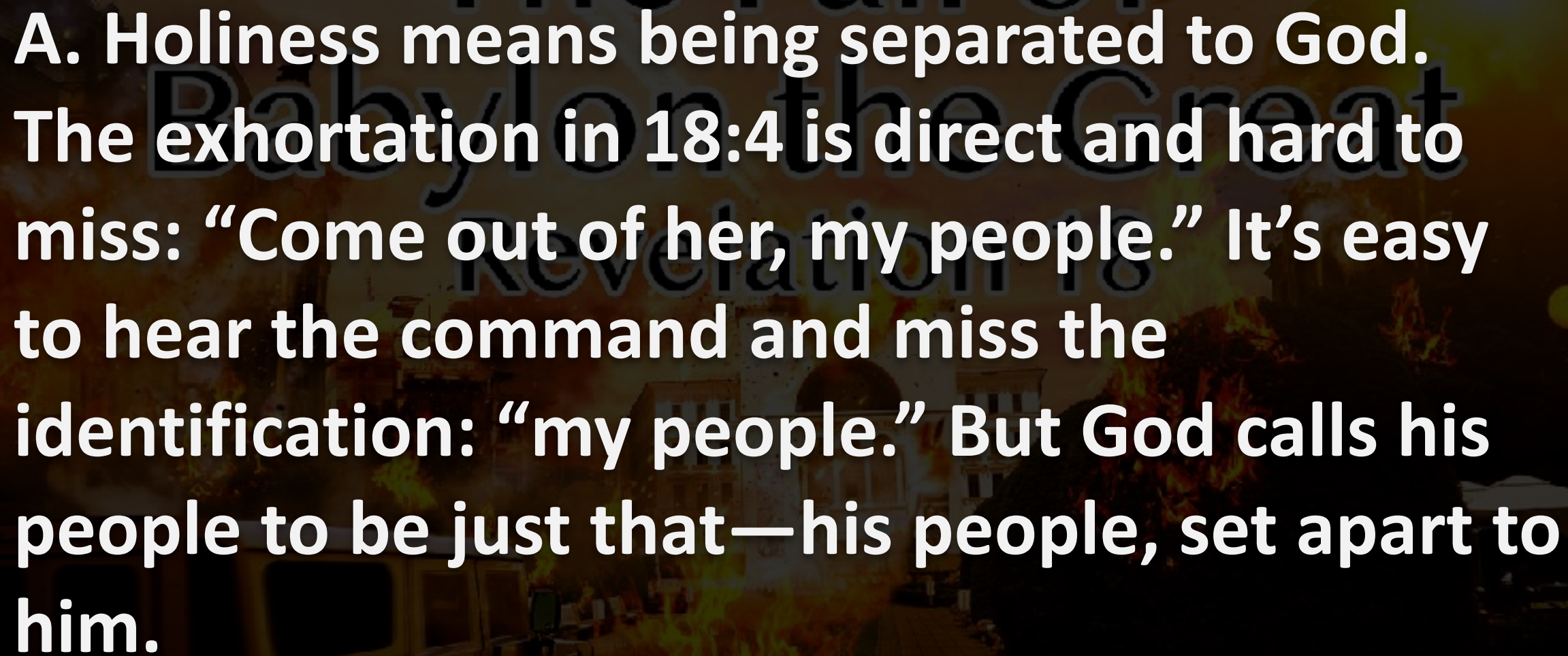
The Fall of

2. Holiness is vital for the Christian!

This passage offers two primary teaching points for believers, one negative and the other positive, but both related to how we understand and live out authentic holiness.

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18



A. Holiness means being separated to God. The exhortation in 18:4 is direct and hard to miss: “Come out of her, my people.” It’s easy to hear the command and miss the identification: “my people.” But God calls his people to be just that—his people, set apart to him.

Holiness is as much about belonging to God as it is about withdrawing from wickedness. Since the time God chose a people, he wanted them to imitate him precisely because they belong to him: “You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own” (Lev. 20:26; cf. Deut. 7:6; Exod. 19:5–6).

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

**Holiness certainly means separation from the world, but wholehearted devotion to the Lord lies at the heart of holiness. This separation-
unto-the-Lord aspect of holiness is easily overlooked.**

The Fall of

This passage reminds us of who we are in Christ and reminds churches of who they are as the people of God. The biblical theme of separation unto God finds its ultimate fulfillment at the close of Revelation when we see the Lord face-to-face (see 21:3, 7; 22:3–4).

Babylon the Great
Revelation 18

The Fall of

Until that time, our call to be God's people in this world remains a defining characteristic of authentic holiness. Knowing holiness as separation unto God can motivate us like nothing else to do kingdom work in this world.

The Fall of

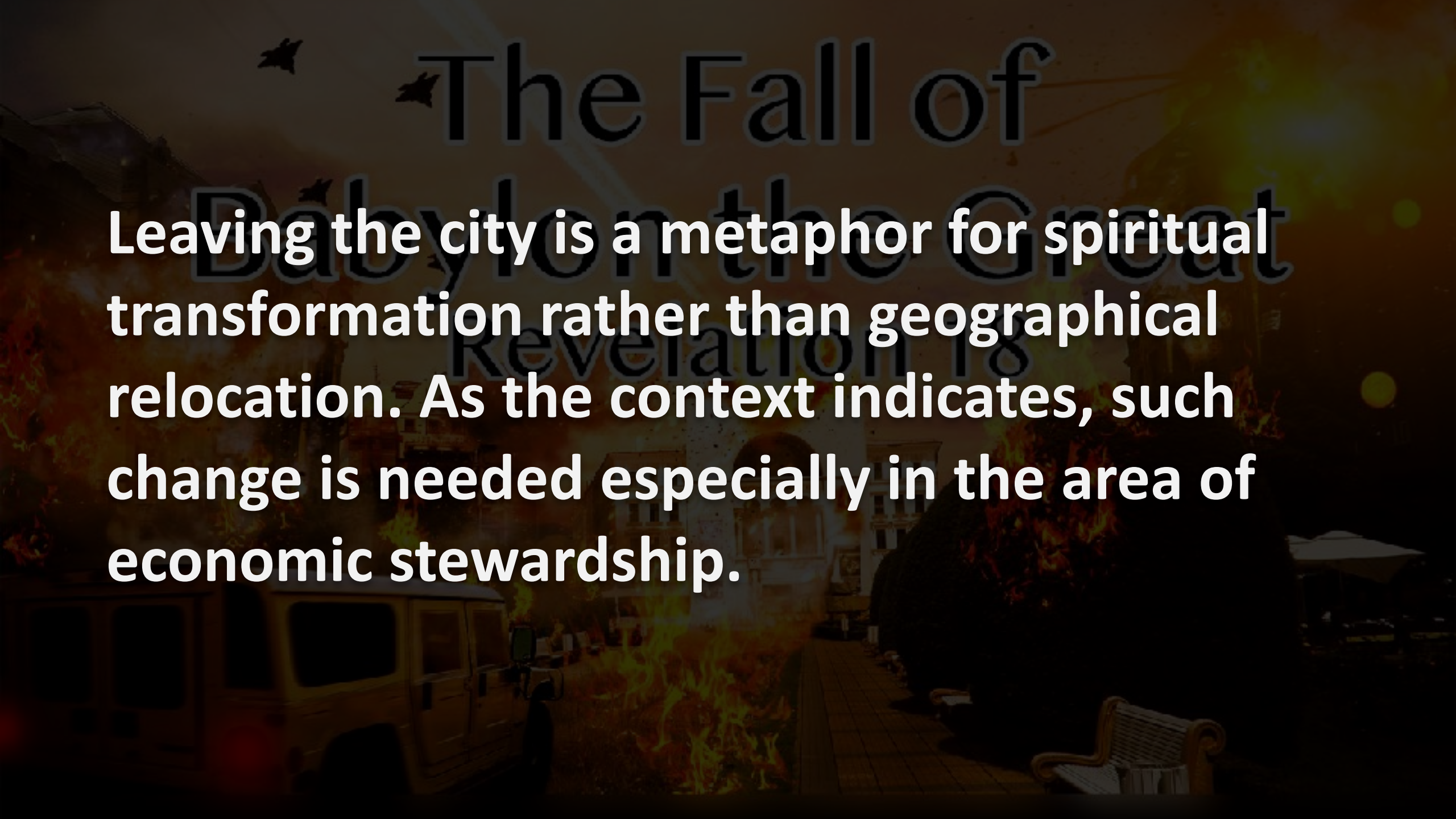
B. Holiness means being separated from the world. Of course, the first part of 18:4 is “come out of her,” a call to refuse to embrace Babylon-like attitudes, such as arrogance, self-sufficiency, sensuous idolatry, and aggressive materialism.

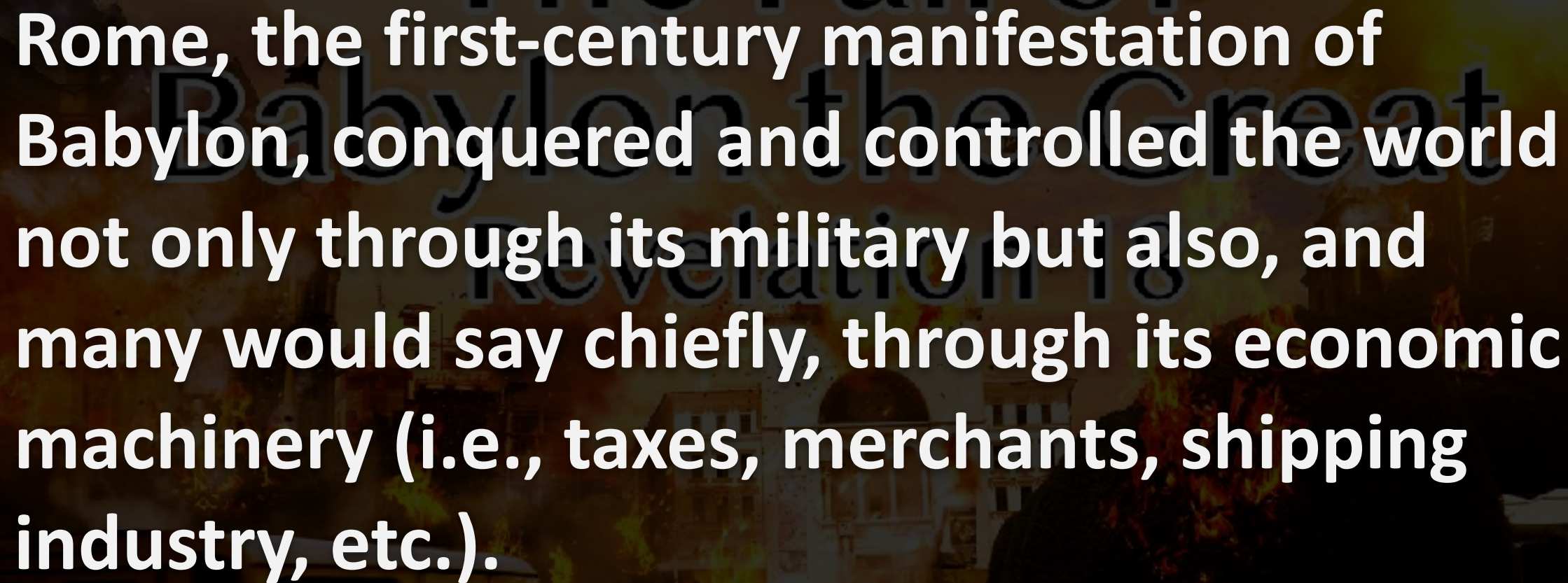
Babylon the Great
Revelation 18

The Fall of

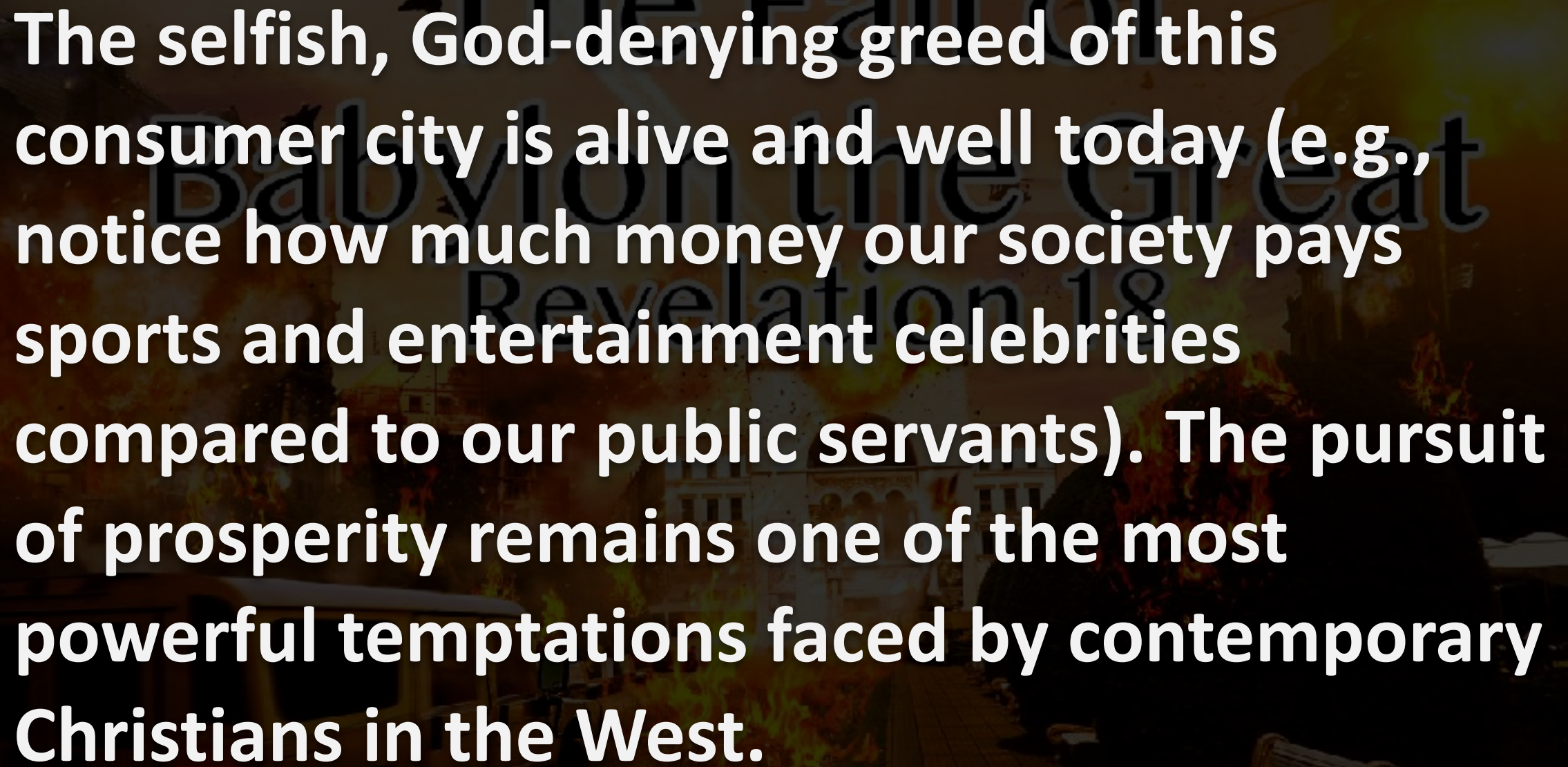
Leaving the city is a metaphor for spiritual transformation rather than geographical relocation. As the context indicates, such change is needed especially in the area of economic stewardship.

Babylon on the Great Revelation 18





Rome, the first-century manifestation of Babylon, conquered and controlled the world not only through its military but also, and many would say chiefly, through its economic machinery (i.e., taxes, merchants, shipping industry, etc.).

The background of the image is a dark, fiery scene of a city in flames. Overlaid on this scene is the text 'The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18' in a light, serif font. The main text of the image is in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered on the page.

The selfish, God-denying greed of this consumer city is alive and well today (e.g., notice how much money our society pays sports and entertainment celebrities compared to our public servants). The pursuit of prosperity remains one of the most powerful temptations faced by contemporary Christians in the West.

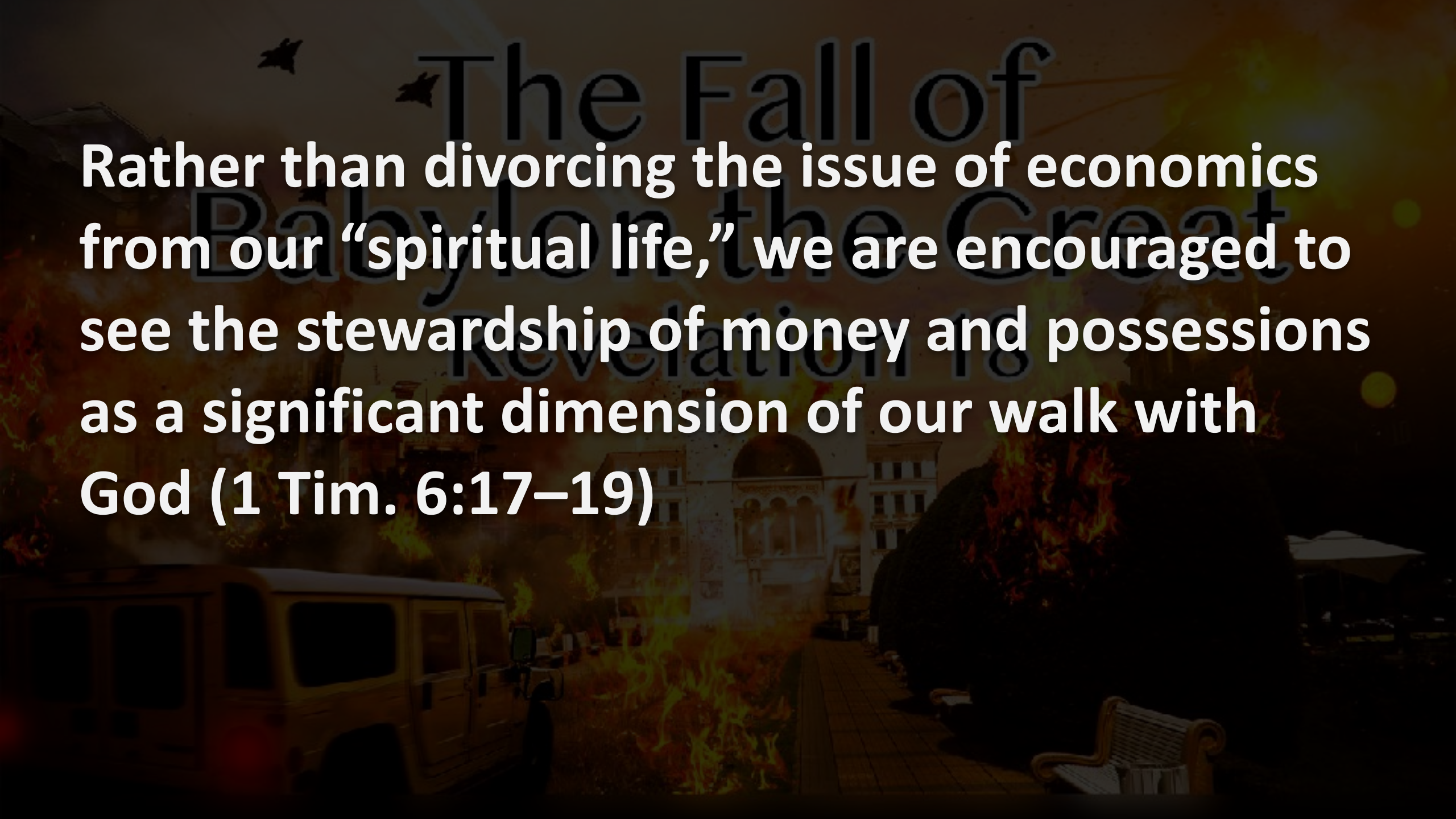
One good test of our materialism is to read the list of luxury items in 18:12–13 and then ask ourselves how many of those (or their modern parallels) we have in our own homes. What is subtle for us is not so subtle to God, who promises to bring sudden and decisive judgment on those who go down this hedonistic and idolatrous path that leads to oppressing and exploiting others financially.

The Fall of

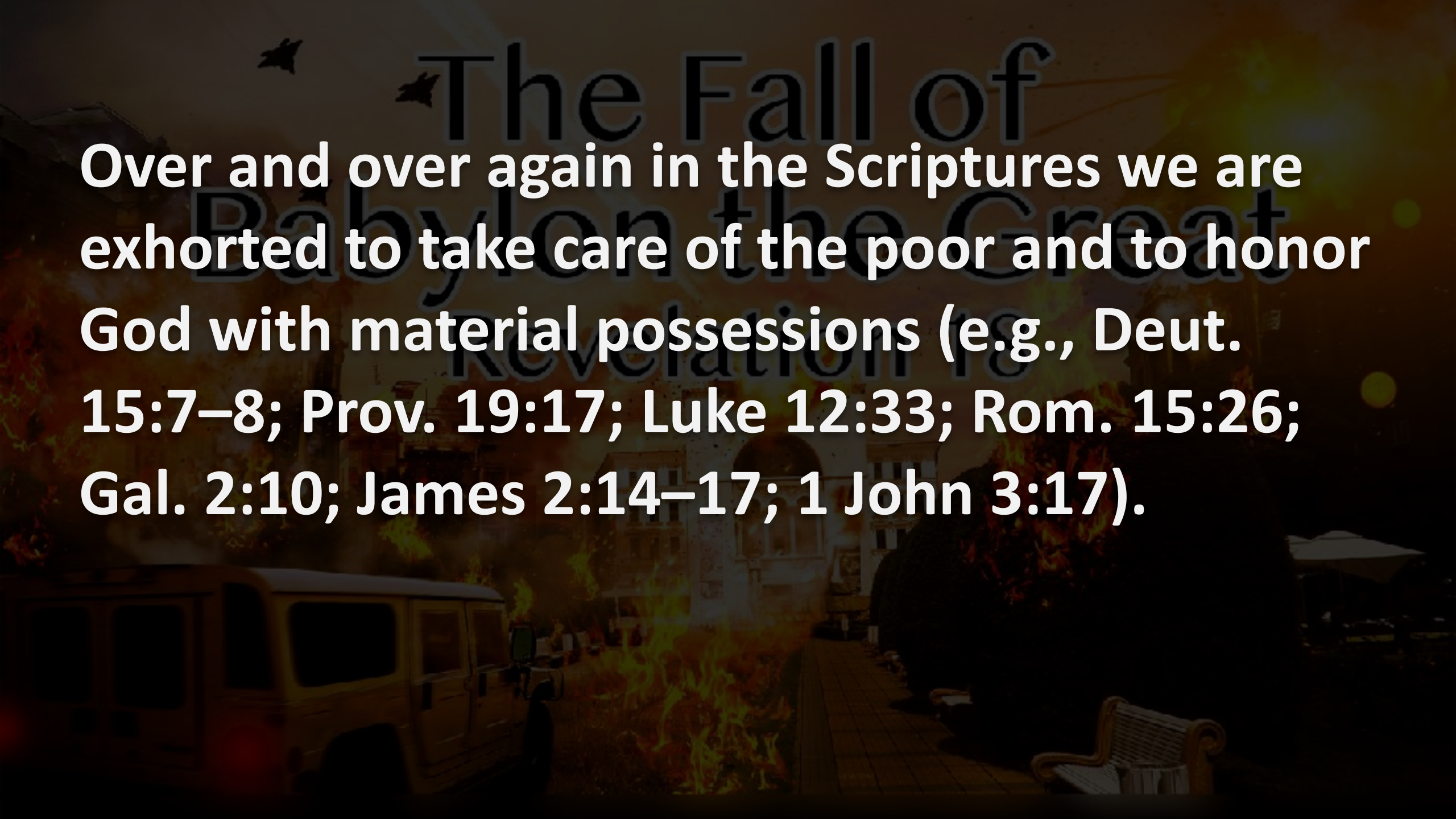
3. Store up your treasures in Heaven. The Bible has much to say about the dangers of loving money and the need to put our hope in God rather than in earthly treasures (e.g., Deut. 8:1–18; Pss. 52:7; 62:10; 1 Tim. 6:9–10; James 5:1–6).

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

Jesus teaches that those who misplace their hope will be deeply disappointed (Matt. 6:19–20), and that we must choose between serving God and serving money (Matt. 6:24).



Rather than divorcing the issue of economics from our “spiritual life,” we are encouraged to see the stewardship of money and possessions as a significant dimension of our walk with God (1 Tim. 6:17–19)

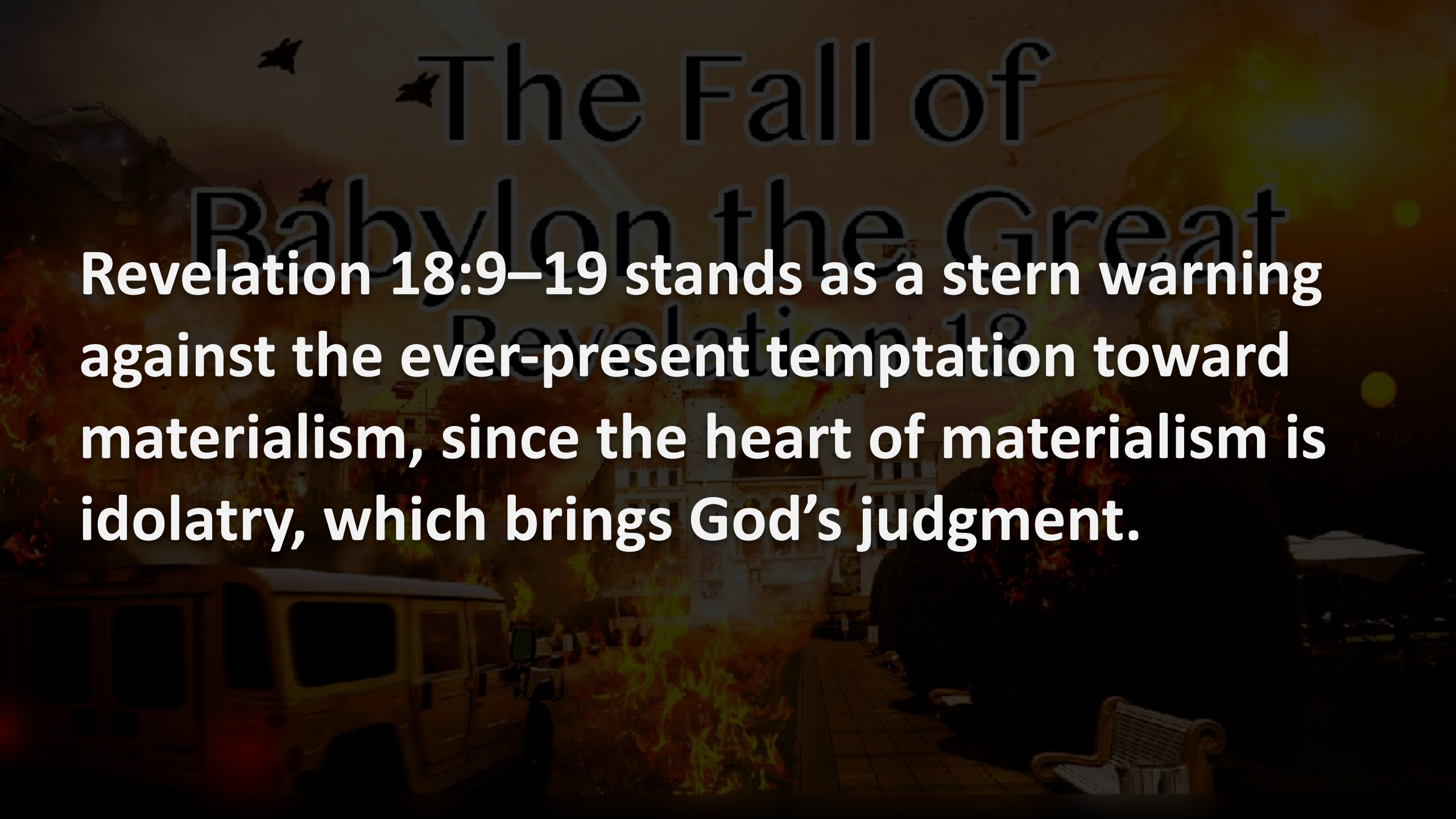


Over and over again in the Scriptures we are exhorted to take care of the poor and to honor God with material possessions (e.g., Deut. 15:7–8; Prov. 19:17; Luke 12:33; Rom. 15:26; Gal. 2:10; James 2:14–17; 1 John 3:17).

The Fall of

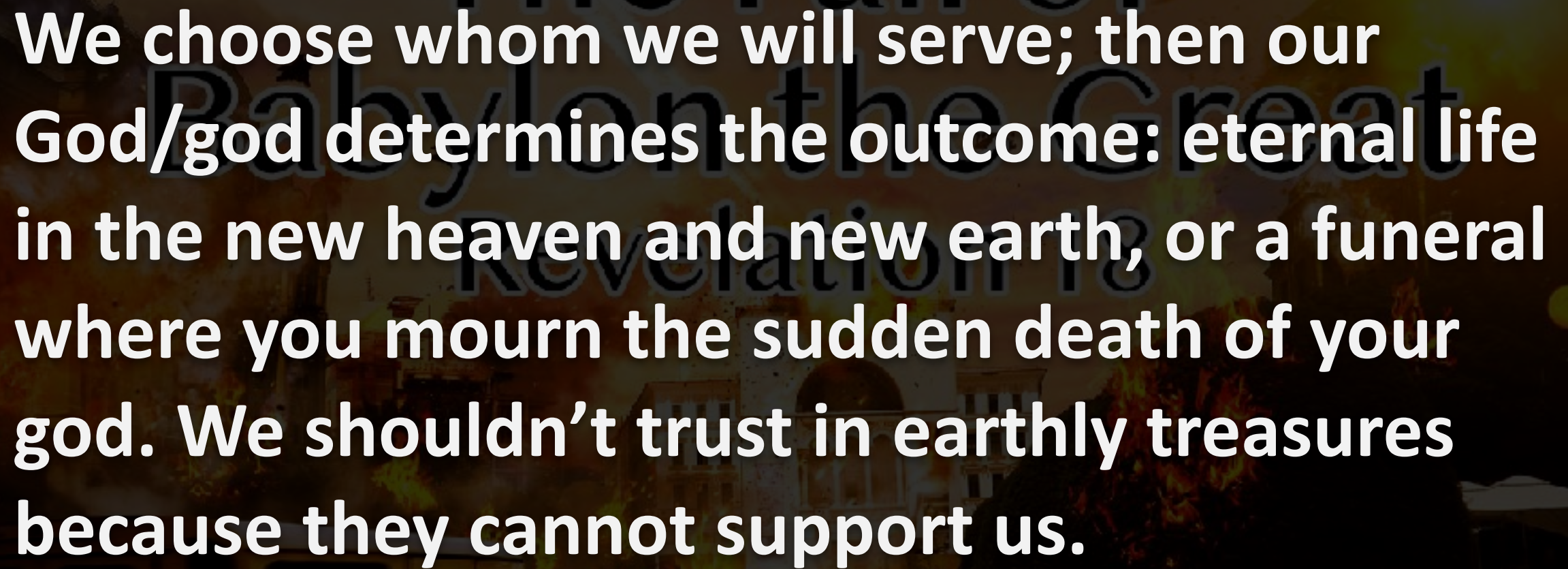
Babylon the Great

Revelation 18:9–19 stands as a stern warning against the ever-present temptation toward materialism, since the heart of materialism is idolatry, which brings God’s judgment.



4. Prepare to party in Heaven!

Do you prefer funerals or worship services? Resseguie is probably correct in saying that this funeral lament of the kings, merchants, and mariners of Revelation 18 is a parody of the heavenly worship service of Revelation 4–5 with the four living creatures, the elders, and all of creation—what he labels a “counterworship service for the counterfeit god.” Resseguie, Revelation, 227.



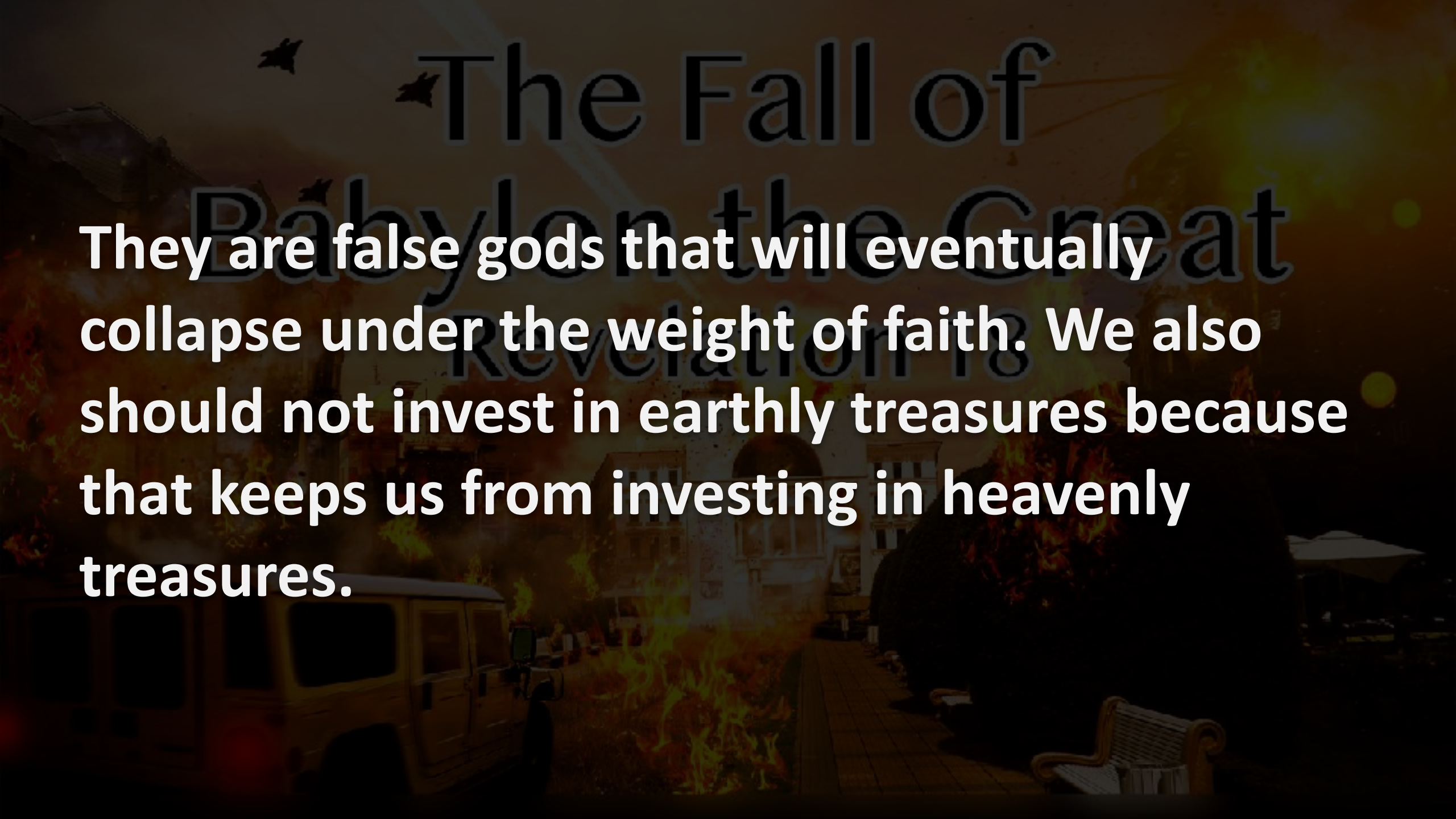
We choose whom we will serve; then our God/god determines the outcome: eternal life in the new heaven and new earth, or a funeral where you mourn the sudden death of your god. We shouldn't trust in earthly treasures because they cannot support us.

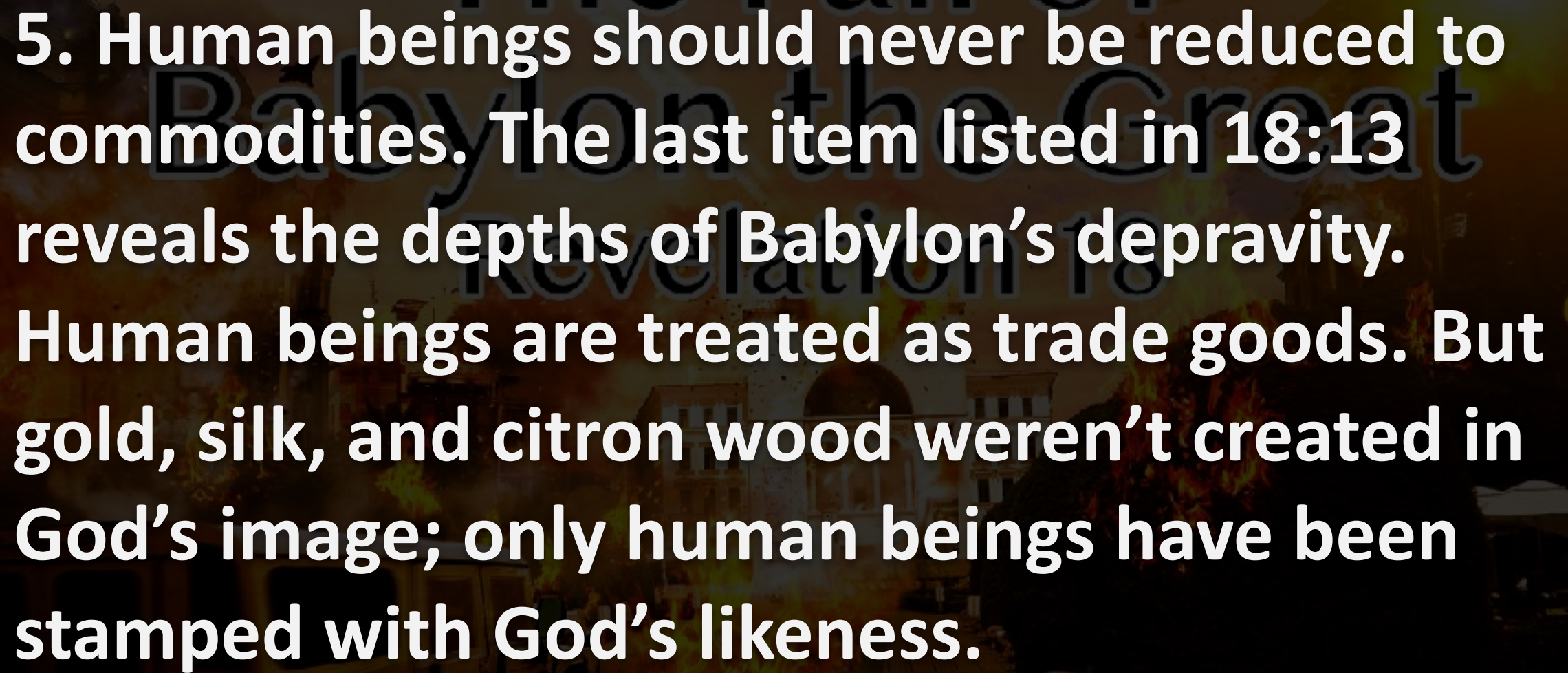
The Fall of

Babylon the Great

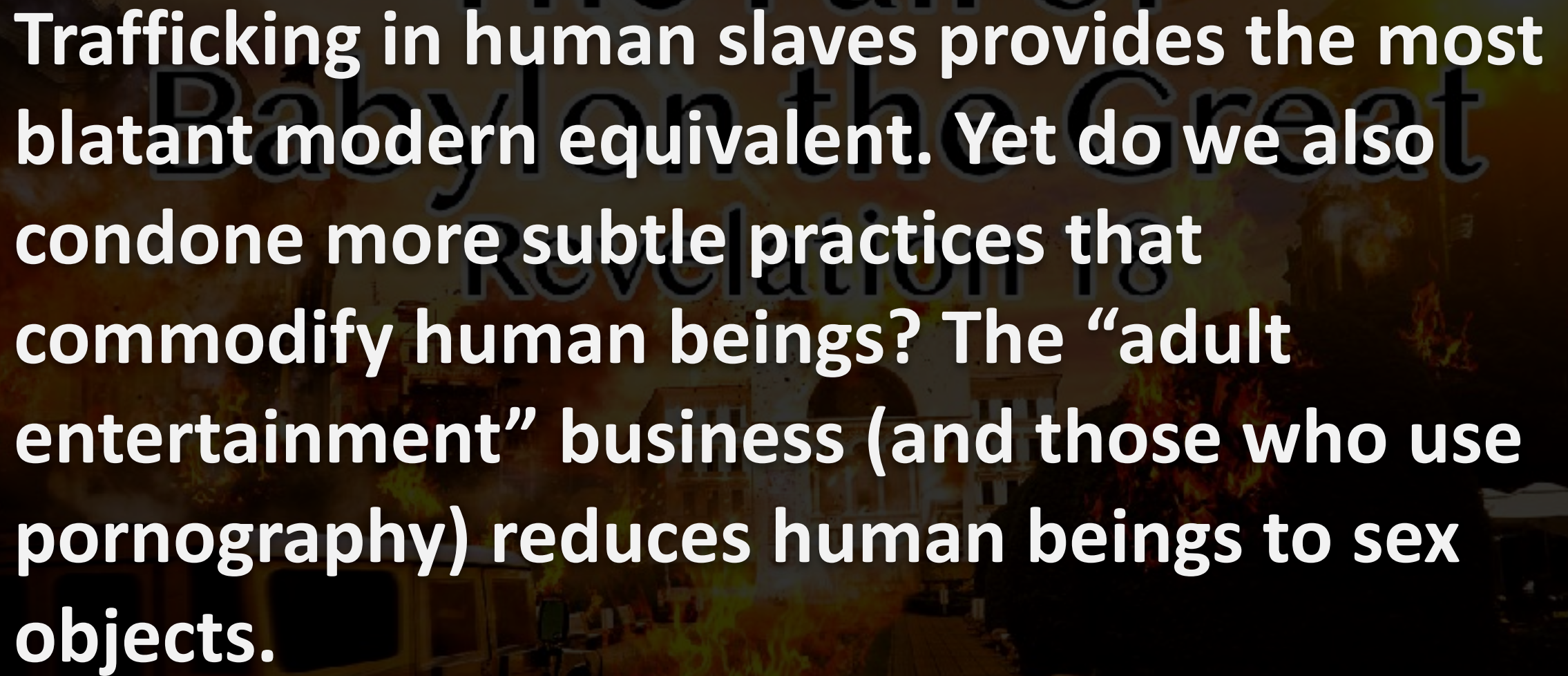
Revelation 18

They are false gods that will eventually collapse under the weight of faith. We also should not invest in earthly treasures because that keeps us from investing in heavenly treasures.

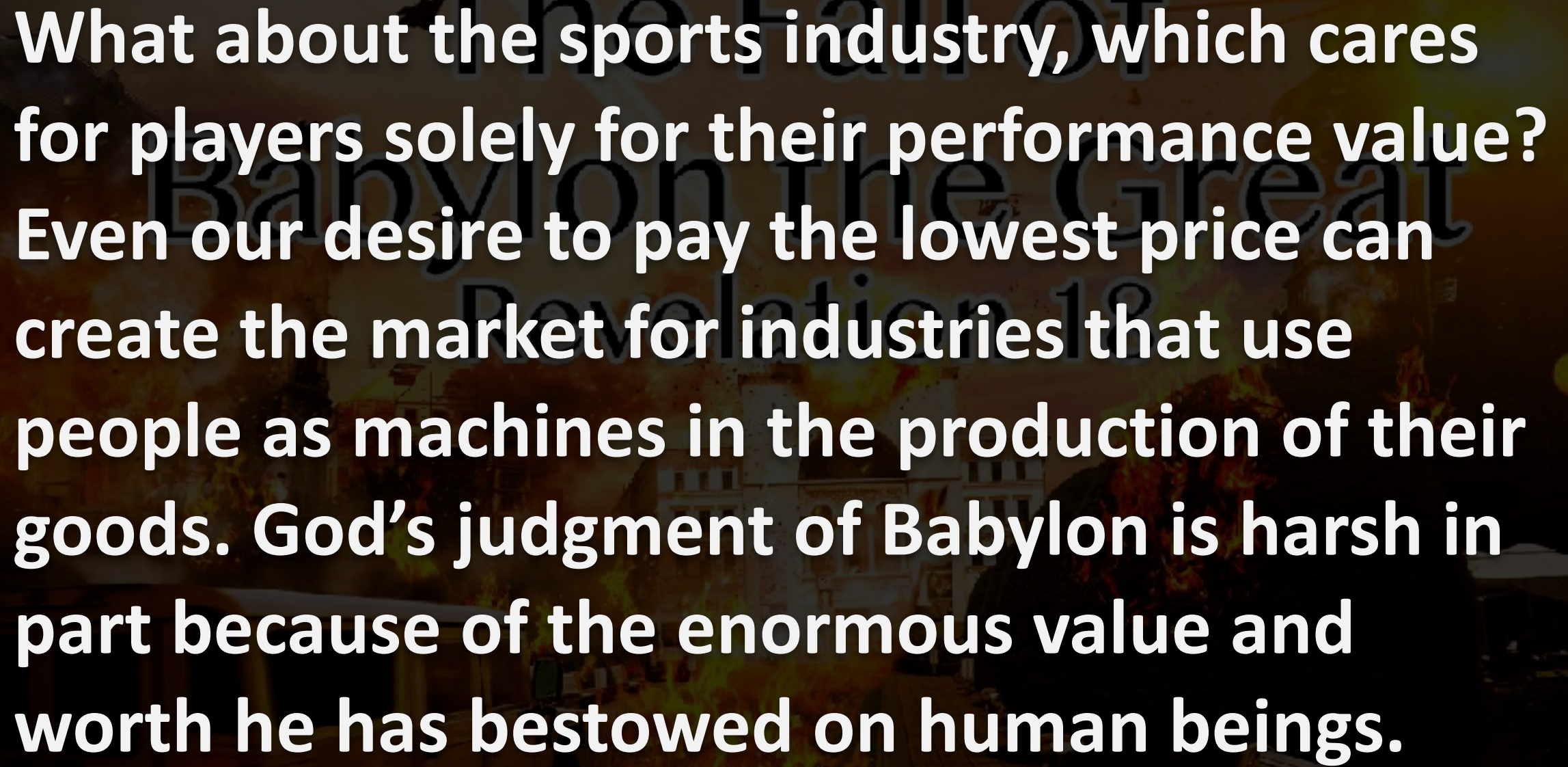




5. Human beings should never be reduced to commodities. The last item listed in 18:13 reveals the depths of Babylon's depravity. Human beings are treated as trade goods. But gold, silk, and citron wood weren't created in God's image; only human beings have been stamped with God's likeness.

The background is a dark, fiery scene with a faint, large-scale text overlay. The text, which is semi-transparent, reads "The Fall of Babylon on the Great Revelation 18". There are two small, dark star-like symbols in the upper left quadrant. The overall color palette is dominated by dark browns, blacks, and oranges from the fire.

Trafficking in human slaves provides the most blatant modern equivalent. Yet do we also condone more subtle practices that commodify human beings? The “adult entertainment” business (and those who use pornography) reduces human beings to sex objects.



What about the sports industry, which cares for players solely for their performance value? Even our desire to pay the lowest price can create the market for industries that use people as machines in the production of their goods. God's judgment of Babylon is harsh in part because of the enormous value and worth he has bestowed on human beings.

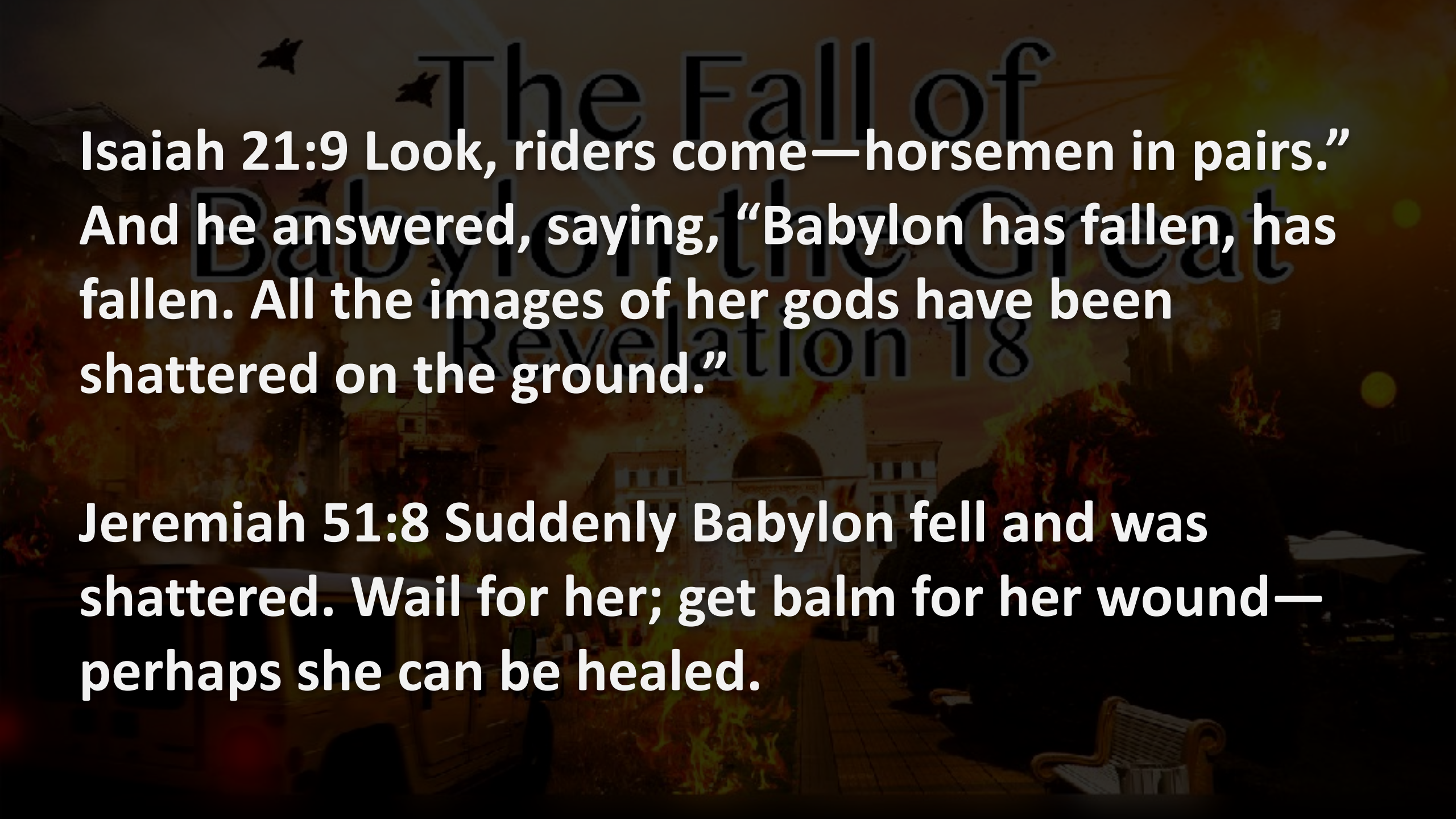


The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Revelation 18:2 He called out in a mighty voice: It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen! She has become a home for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, and a haunt for every unclean and despicable beast.

Isaiah 13:21 But desert creatures will lie down there, and owls will fill the houses. Ostriches will dwell there, and wild goats will leap about.

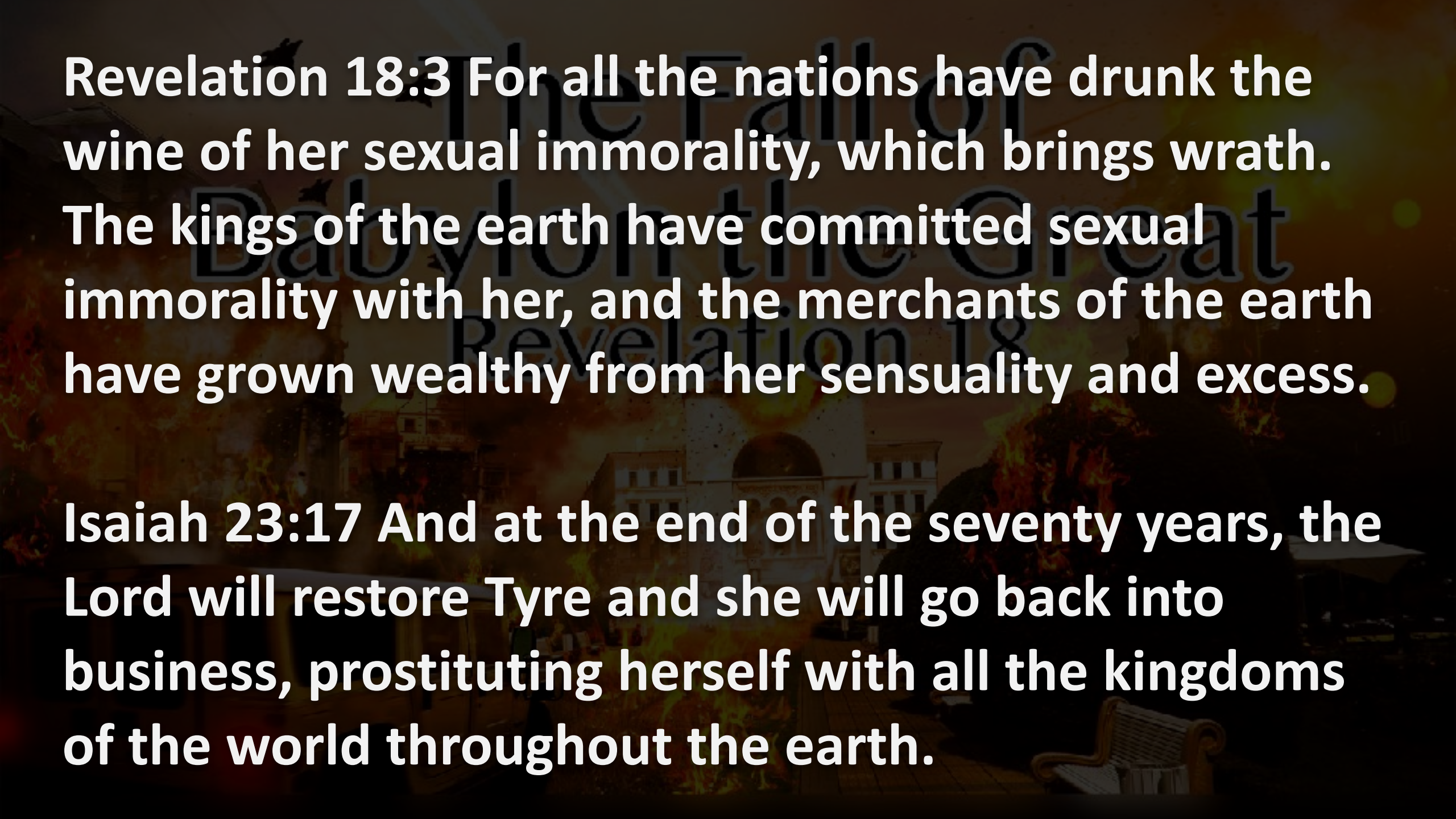


**Isaiah 21:9 Look, riders come—horsemen in pairs.”
And he answered, saying, “Babylon has fallen, has
fallen. All the images of her gods have been
shattered on the ground.”**

**Jeremiah 51:8 Suddenly Babylon fell and was
shattered. Wail for her; get balm for her wound—
perhaps she can be healed.**

Isaiah 34:11 Eagle owls and herons will possess it, and long-eared owls and ravens will dwell there. The Lord will stretch out a measuring line and a plumb line over her for her destruction and chaos.

Jeremiah 50:39 Therefore, desert creatures will live with hyenas, and ostriches will also live in her. It will never again be inhabited or lived in through all generations.

The background of the image shows a city, likely representing Babylon, in a state of complete destruction and fire. The buildings are dark and silhouetted against a bright, fiery orange and yellow glow. The overall atmosphere is one of devastation and judgment. Overlaid on this scene is the text of Revelation 18:3 in a large, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered and occupies the upper half of the image. There is also a faint, semi-transparent watermark in the background that reads "The Fall of Babylon on the Great Revelation 18".

Revelation 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess.

Isaiah 23:17 And at the end of the seventy years, the Lord will restore Tyre and she will go back into business, prostituting herself with all the kingdoms of the world throughout the earth.

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand, making the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations go mad.

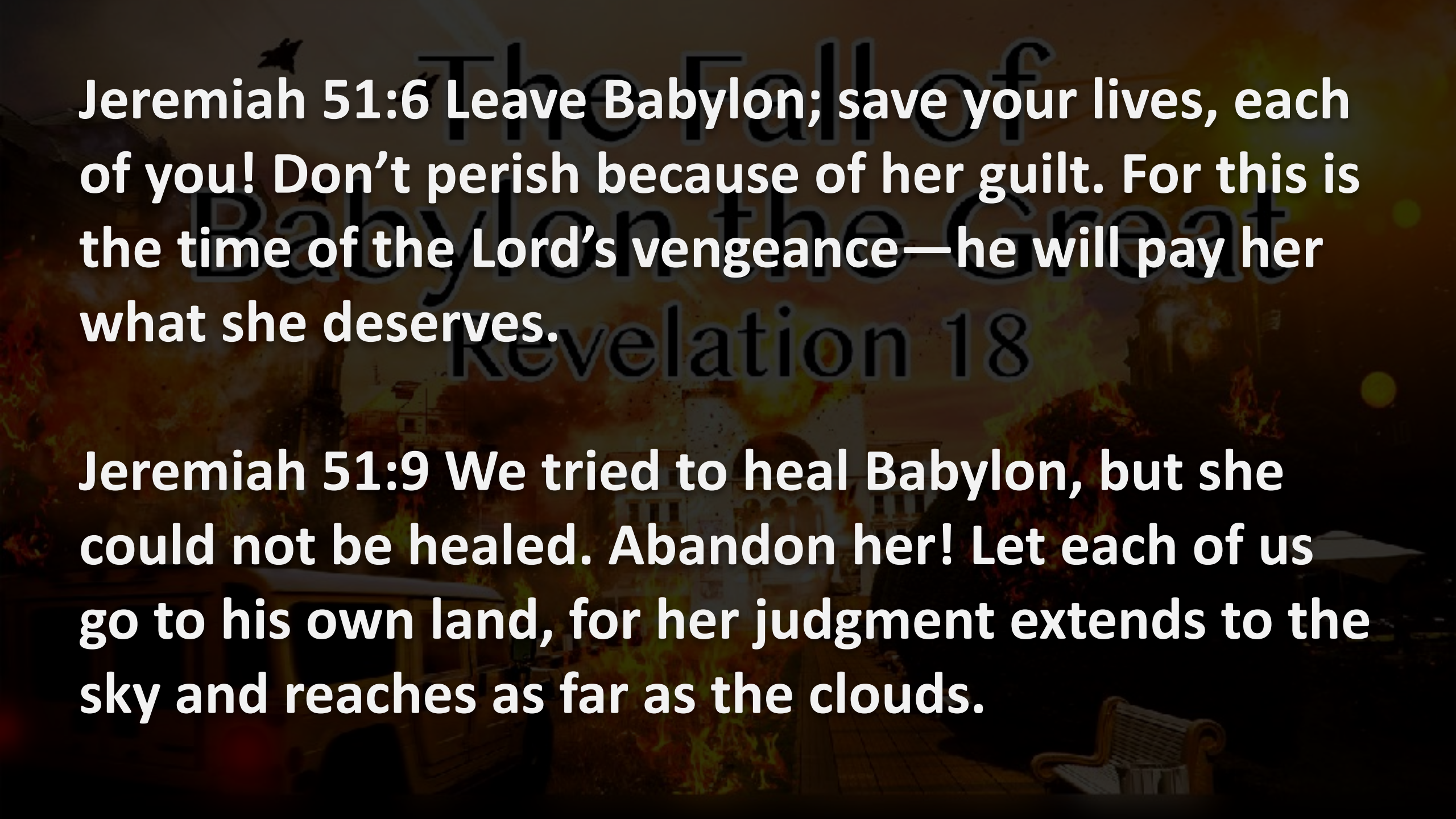
Revelation 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven: Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins or receive any of her plagues.

Isaiah 48:20 Leave Babylon, flee from the Chaldeans! Declare with a shout of joy, proclaim this, let it go out to the end of the earth; announce, "The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!"

The Fall of

Isaiah 52:11 Leave, leave, go out from there! Do not touch anything unclean; go out from her, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord.

Jeremiah 51:45 Come out from among her, my people! Save your lives, each of you, from the Lord's burning anger.

The background features a dark, fiery scene of a city being consumed by flames. Overlaid on this scene are several text elements in a light, semi-transparent font: 'The Fall of Babylon the Great' at the top, 'Revelation 18' in the middle, and 'Jeremiah 51:6' at the bottom. The main text of the first block is in a bold, white font.

Jeremiah 51:6 Leave Babylon; save your lives, each of you! Don't perish because of her guilt. For this is the time of the Lord's vengeance—he will pay her what she deserves.

Jeremiah 51:9 We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be healed. Abandon her! Let each of us go to his own land, for her judgment extends to the sky and reaches as far as the clouds.

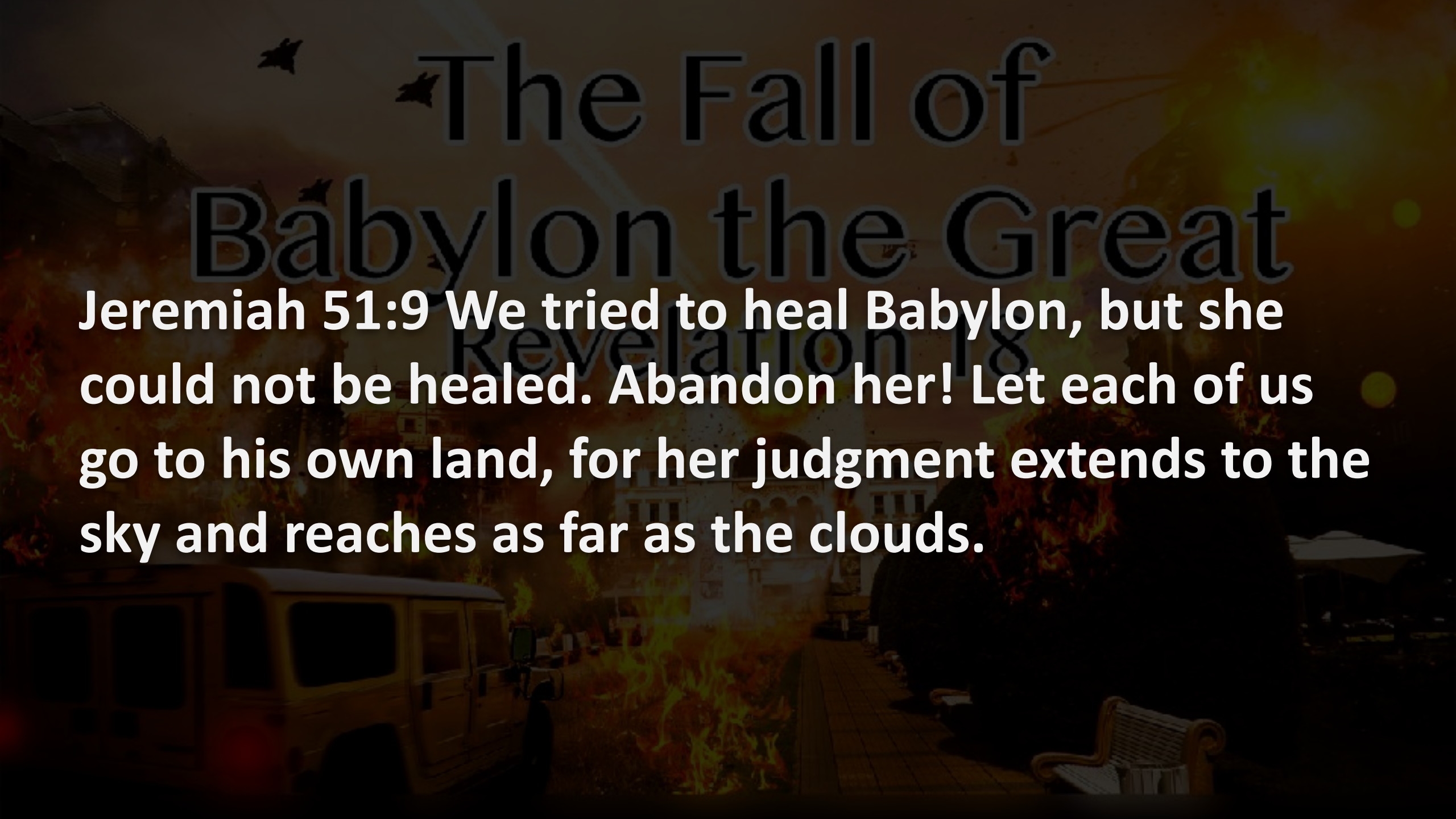
Revelation 18:5 For her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

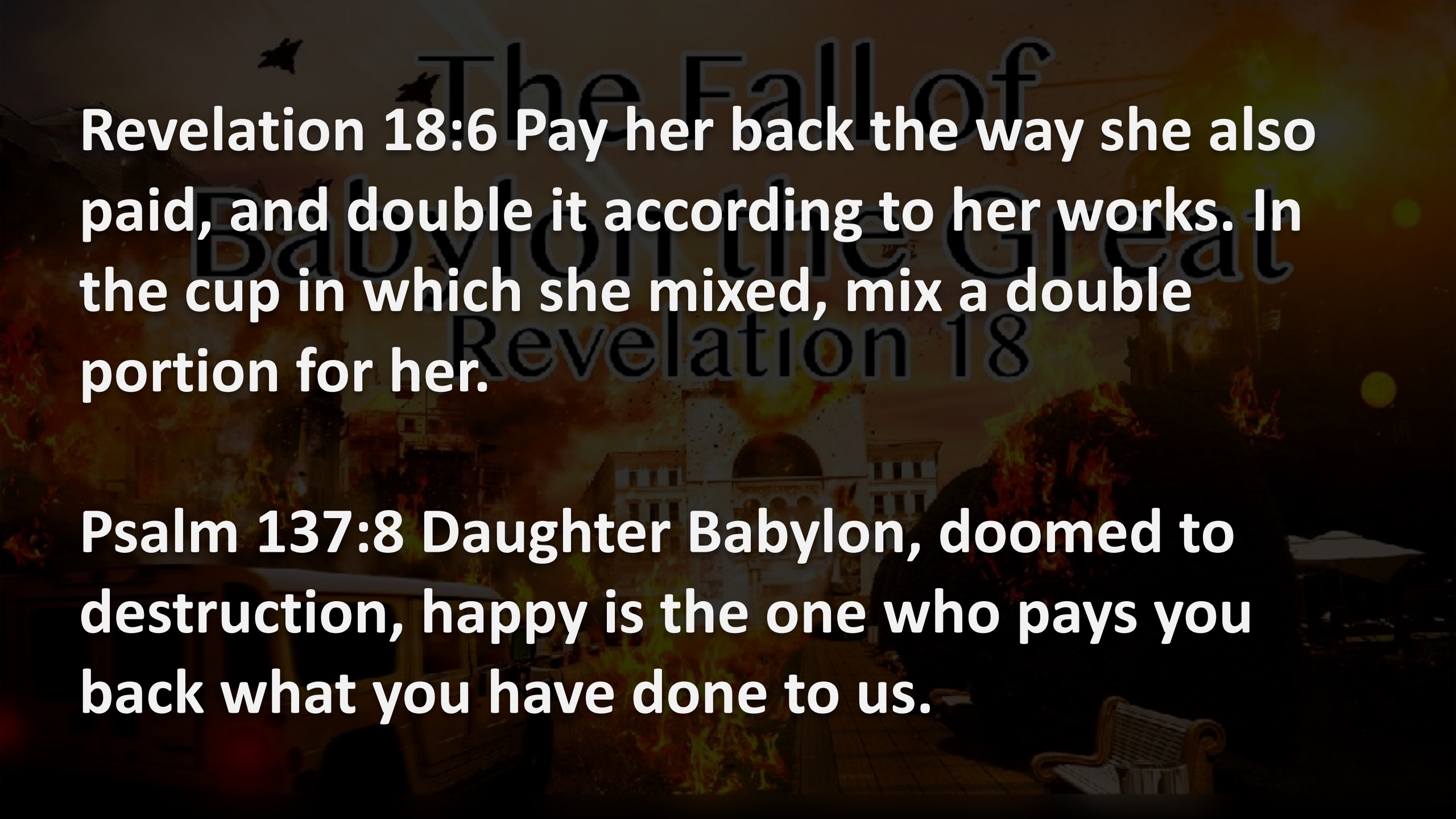
Genesis 18:20–21 Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious. 21 I will go down to see if what they have done justifies the cry that has come up to me. If not, I will find out.”

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Jeremiah 51:9 We tried to heal Babylon, but she could not be healed. Abandon her! Let each of us go to his own land, for her judgment extends to the sky and reaches as far as the clouds.

Revelation 18



The background features a dark, fiery scene of a city being destroyed. In the center, a large, domed building is engulfed in flames. The sky is dark with falling stars or embers. Overlaid on this scene is the text 'The Fall of Babylon the Great' in a large, light blue font, and 'Revelation 18' in a smaller, similar font below it. The main text of the image is in white, bold font.

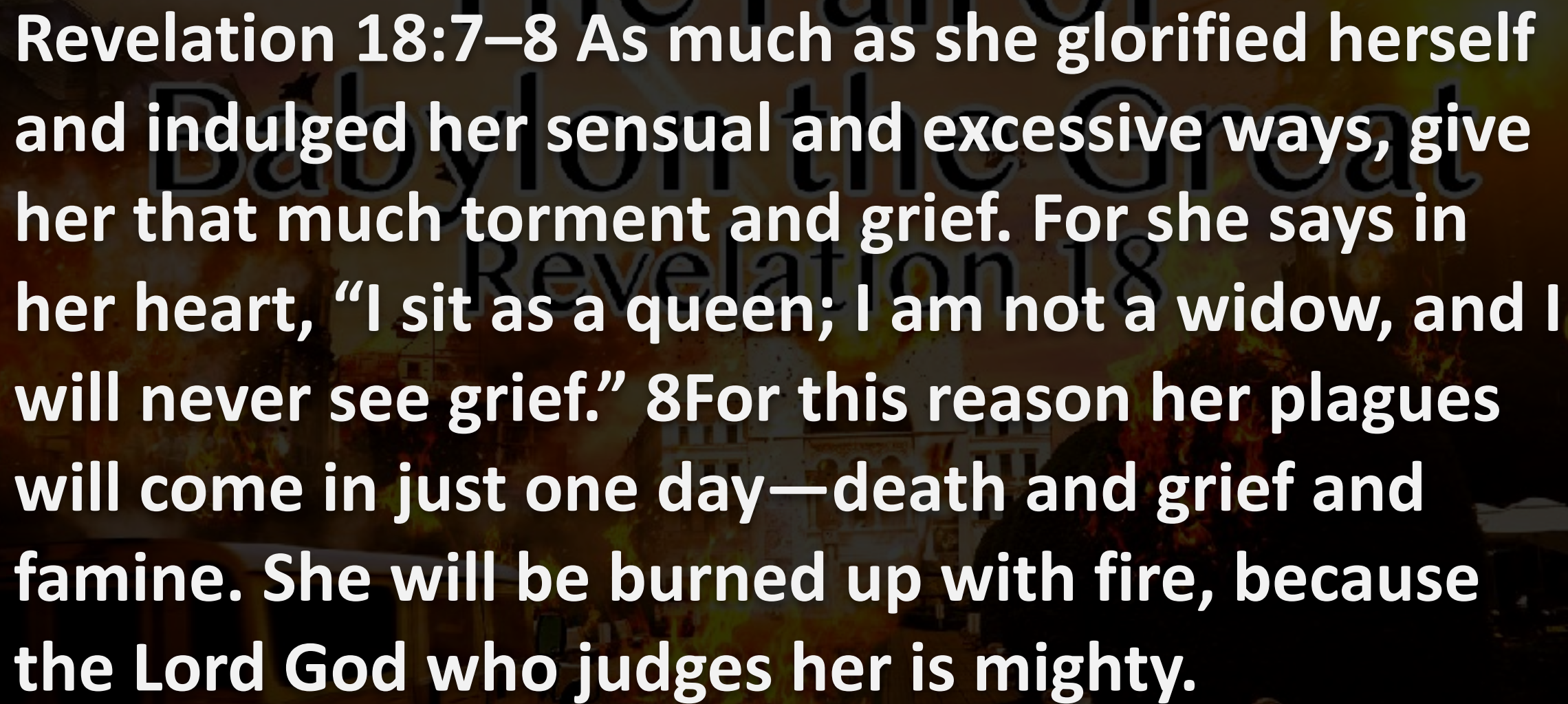
Revelation 18:6 Pay her back the way she also paid, and double it according to her works. In the cup in which she mixed, mix a double portion for her.

Psalm 137:8 Daughter Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is the one who pays you back what you have done to us.

The Fall of

Jeremiah 50:15 Raise a war cry against her on every side! She has thrown up her hands in surrender; her defense towers have fallen; her walls are demolished. Since this is the Lord's vengeance, take your vengeance on her; as she has done, do the same to her.

Babylon the Great
Revelation 18



Revelation 18:7–8 As much as she glorified herself and indulged her sensual and excessive ways, give her that much torment and grief. For she says in her heart, “I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never see grief.” 8For this reason her plagues will come in just one day—death and grief and famine. She will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

**Isaiah 47:7–9 You said, ‘I will be the queen forever.’
You did not take these things to heart or think
about their outcome. 8“So now hear this, lover of
luxury, who sits securely, who says to herself, ‘I am,
and there is no one else. I will never be a widow or
know the loss of children.’ 9These two things will
happen to you suddenly, in one day: loss of
children and widowhood. They will happen to you
in their entirety, in spite of your many sorceries
and the potency of your spells.**

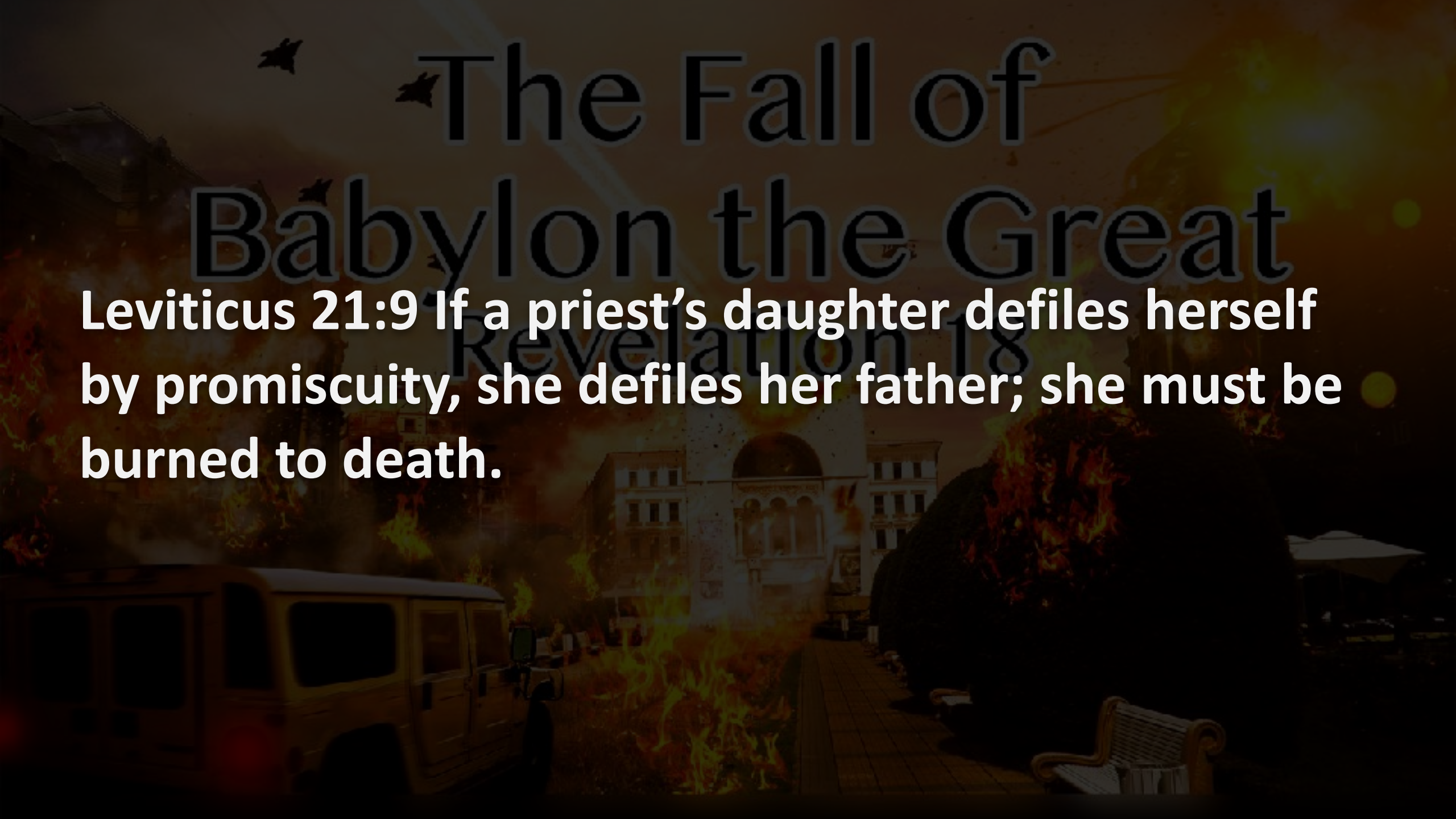
Revelation 18:8 For this reason her plagues will come in just one day—death and grief and famine. She will be burned up with fire, because the Lord God who judges her is mighty.

Jeremiah 50:34 Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of Armies is his name. He will fervently champion their cause so that he might bring rest to the earth but turmoil to those who live in Babylon.

The Fall of Babylon the Great

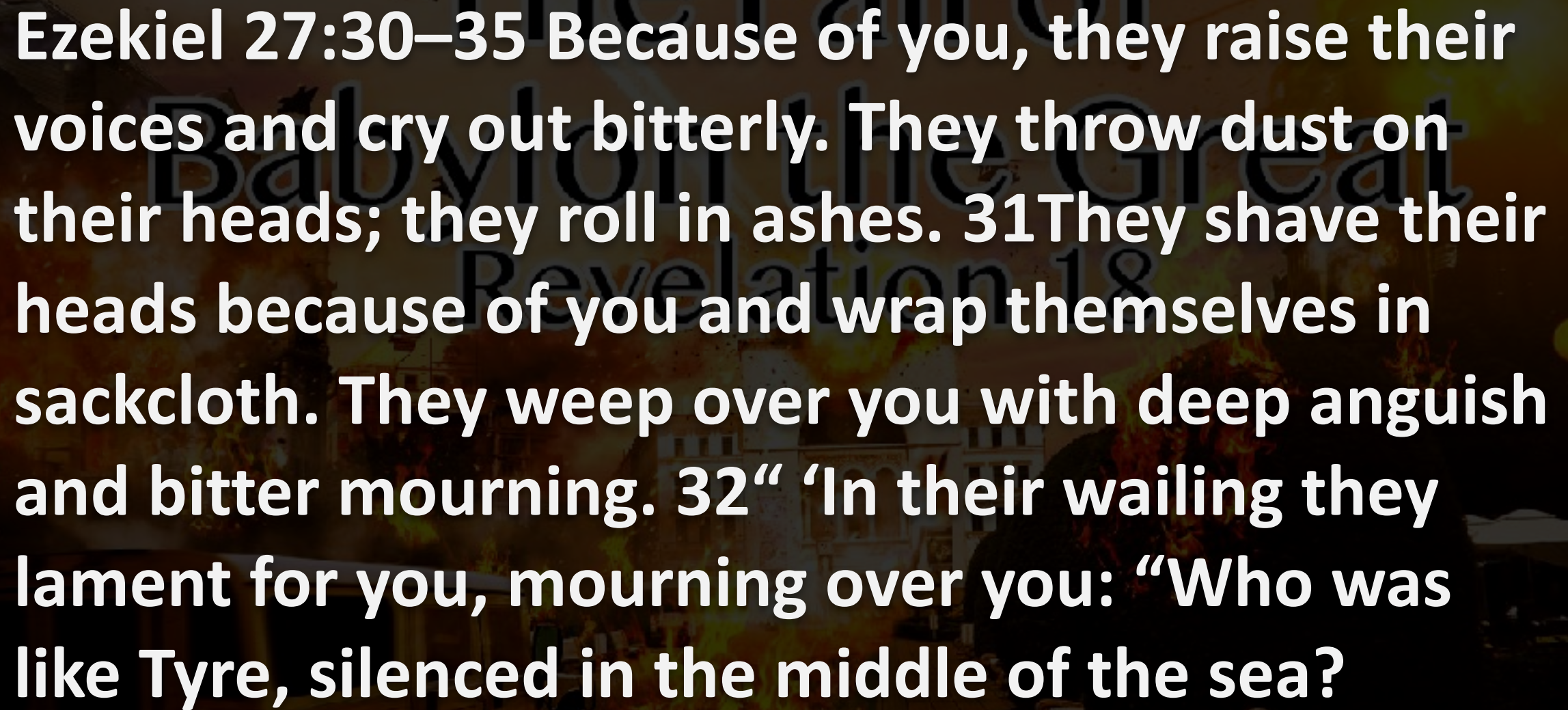
Leviticus 21:9 If a priest's daughter defiles herself by promiscuity, she defiles her father; she must be burned to death.

Revelation 18



Revelation 18:9 The kings of the earth who have committed sexual immorality and shared her sensual and excessive ways will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke from her burning.

Ezekiel 26:16 All the princes of the sea will descend from their thrones, remove their robes, and strip off their embroidered garments. They will clothe themselves with trembling; they will sit on the ground, tremble continually, and be appalled at you.

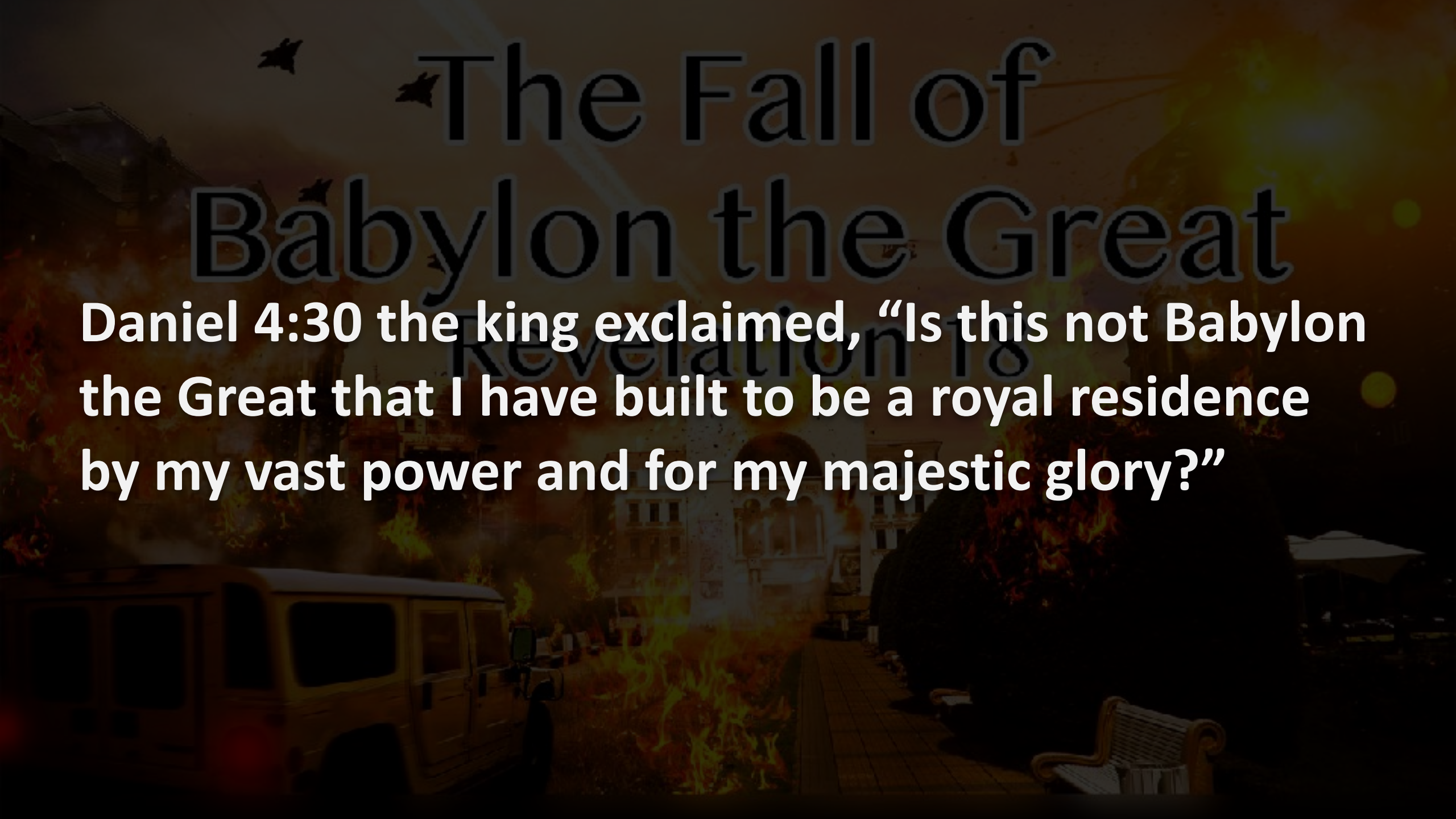


Ezekiel 27:30–35 Because of you, they raise their voices and cry out bitterly. They throw dust on their heads; they roll in ashes. 31 They shave their heads because of you and wrap themselves in sackcloth. They weep over you with deep anguish and bitter mourning. 32 “In their wailing they lament for you, mourning over you: “Who was like Tyre, silenced in the middle of the sea?

Ezekiel 27:30–35 33 When your merchandise was unloaded from the seas, you satisfied many peoples. You enriched the kings of the earth with your abundant wealth and goods. **34** Now you are wrecked by the sea in the depths of the waters; your goods and the people within you have gone down. **35** All the inhabitants of the coasts and islands are appalled at you. Their kings shudder with fear; their faces are contorted.

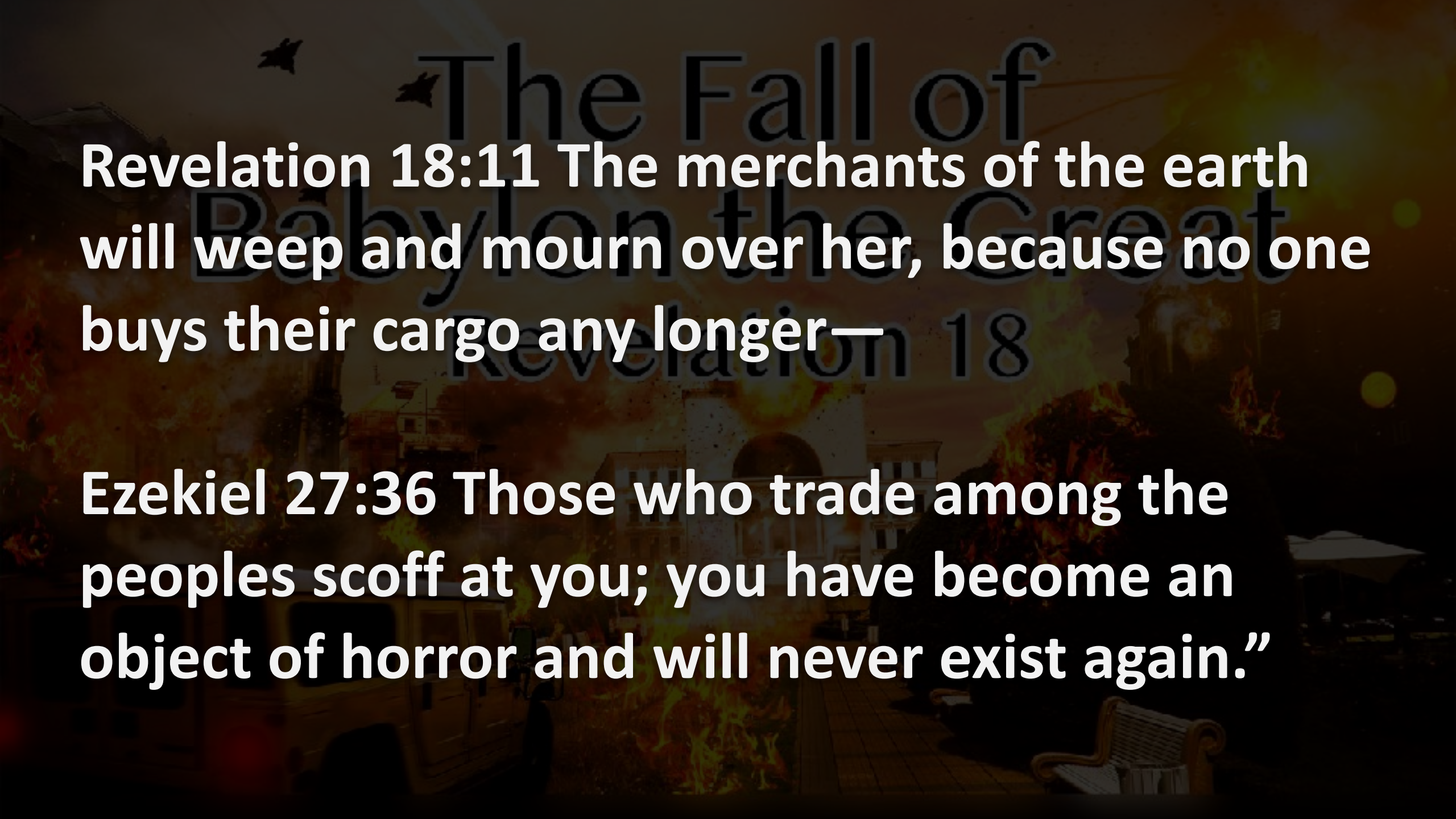
Revelation 18:10 They will stand far off in fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come.

Ezekiel 26:17 Then they will lament for you and say of you, 'How you have perished, city of renown, you who were populated from the seas! She who was powerful on the sea, she and all of her inhabitants inflicted their terror.'



The Fall of Babylon the Great

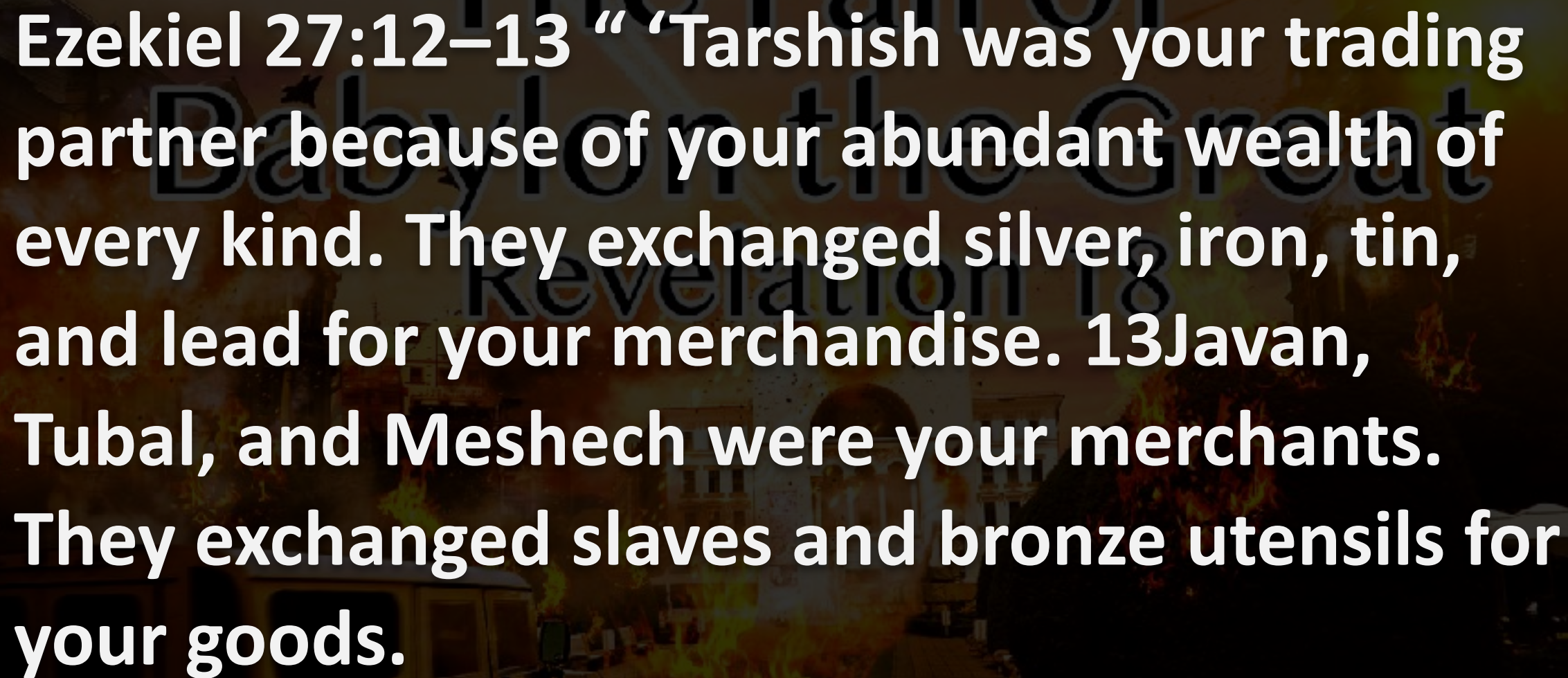
Daniel 4:30 the king exclaimed, “Is this not Babylon the Great that I have built to be a royal residence by my vast power and for my majestic glory?”



Revelation 18:11 The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo any longer—

Ezekiel 27:36 Those who trade among the peoples scoff at you; you have become an object of horror and will never exist again.”

Revelation 18:12–13 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of fragrant wood products; objects of ivory; objects of expensive wood, brass, iron, and marble; 13cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, olive oil, fine flour, and grain; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and slaves—human lives.

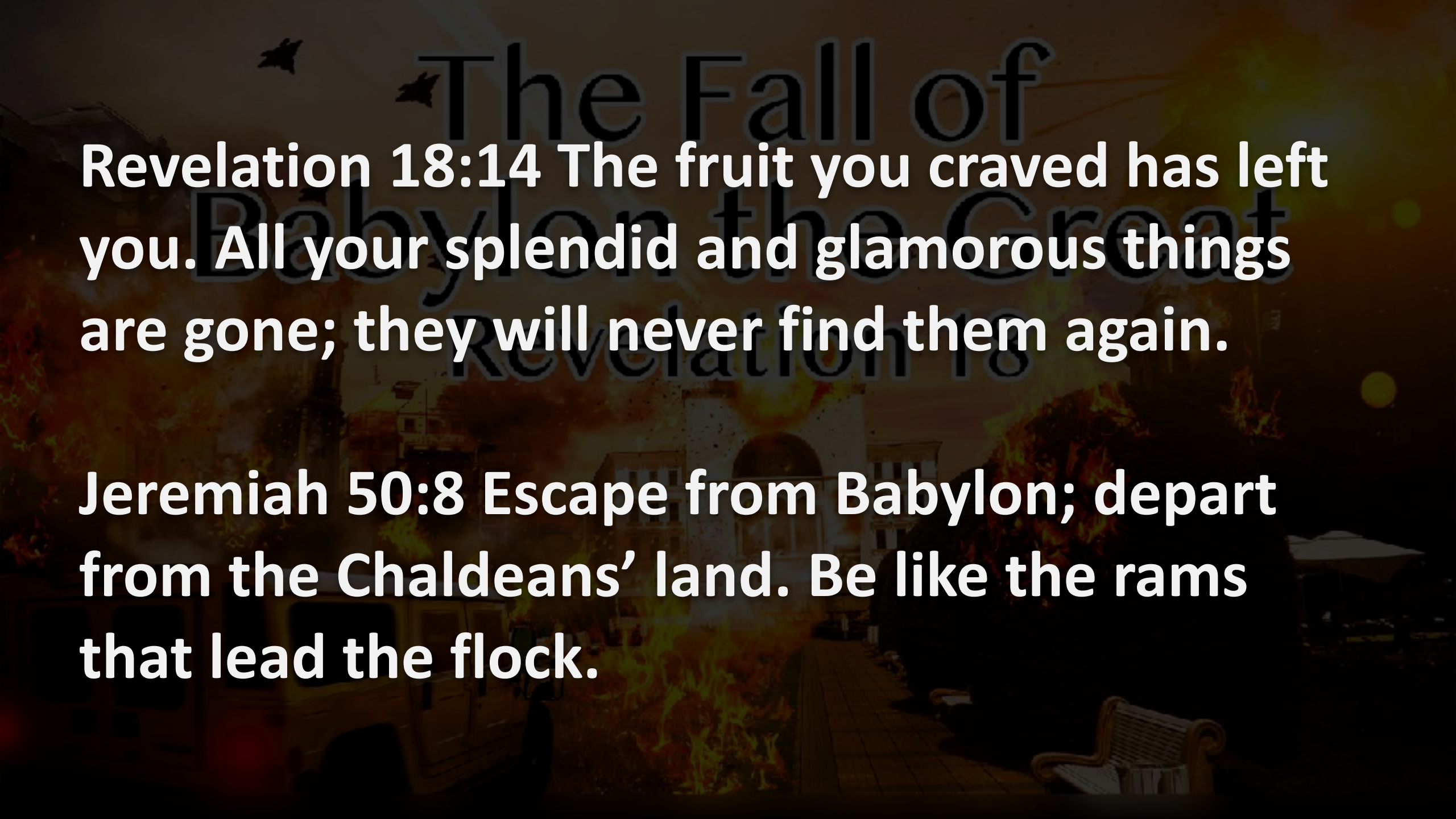


Ezekiel 27:12–13 “Tarshish was your trading partner because of your abundant wealth of every kind. They exchanged silver, iron, tin, and lead for your merchandise. 13Javan, Tubal, and Meshech were your merchants. They exchanged slaves and bronze utensils for your goods.

The Fall of

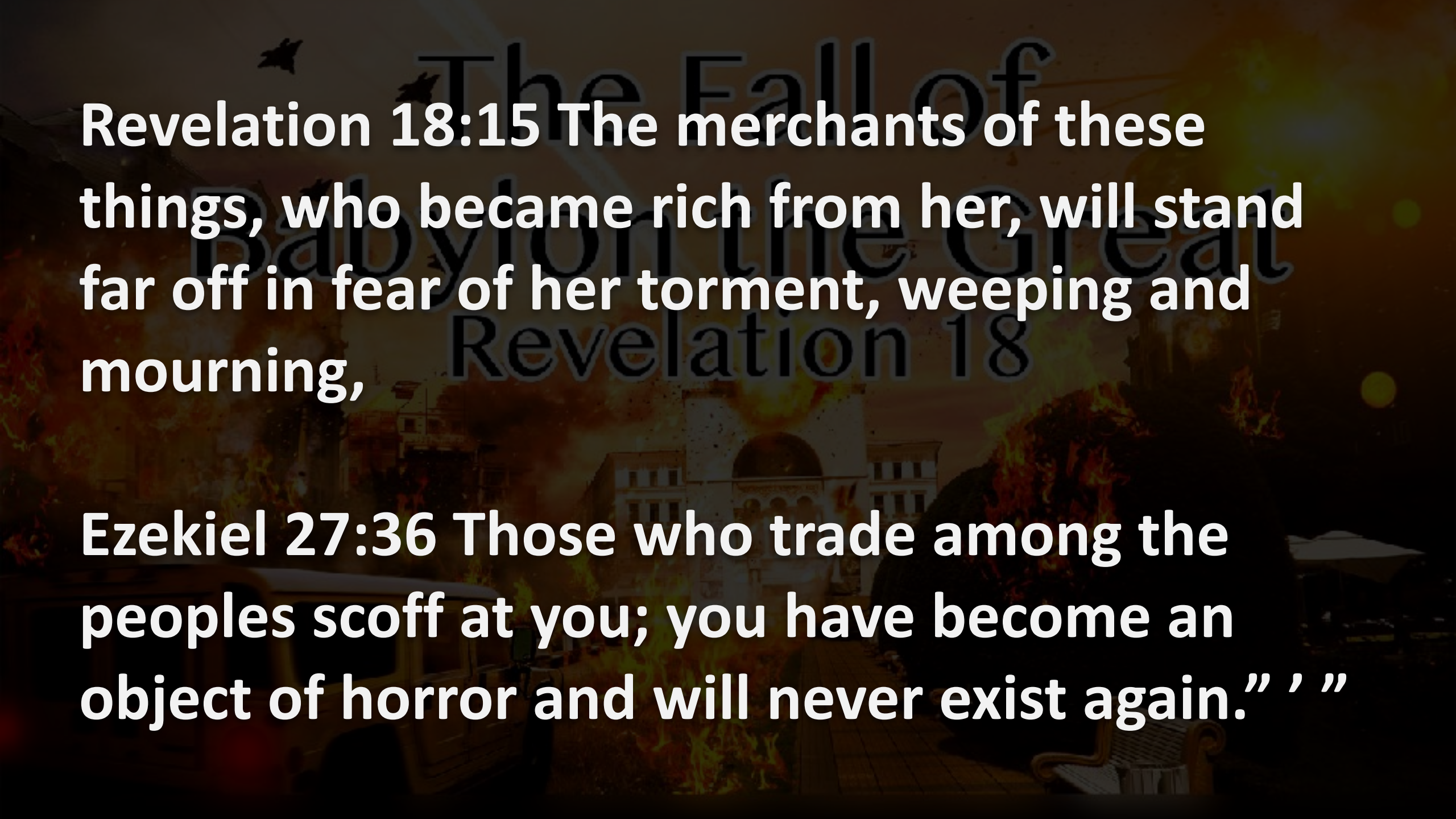
Ezekiel 27:22 The merchants of Sheba and Raamah traded with you. For your merchandise they exchanged the best of all spices and all kinds of precious stones as well as gold.

Babylon the Great
Revelation 18



Revelation 18:14 The fruit you craved has left you. All your splendid and glamorous things are gone; they will never find them again.

Jeremiah 50:8 Escape from Babylon; depart from the Chaldeans' land. Be like the rams that lead the flock.

The background features a dark, fiery scene of a city being consumed by flames. Overlaid on this scene is the text 'The Fall of Babylon the Great' in a large, light-colored font, and 'Revelation 18' in a smaller font below it. There are also small star-like symbols in the upper left corner.

Revelation 18:15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand far off in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

Ezekiel 27:36 Those who trade among the peoples scoff at you; you have become an object of horror and will never exist again.” ’ ”

Revelation 18:16 saying, Woe, woe, the great city, dressed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls;

Ezekiel 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every kind of precious stone covered you: carnelian, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and emerald. Your mountings and settings were crafted in gold; they were prepared on the day you were created.

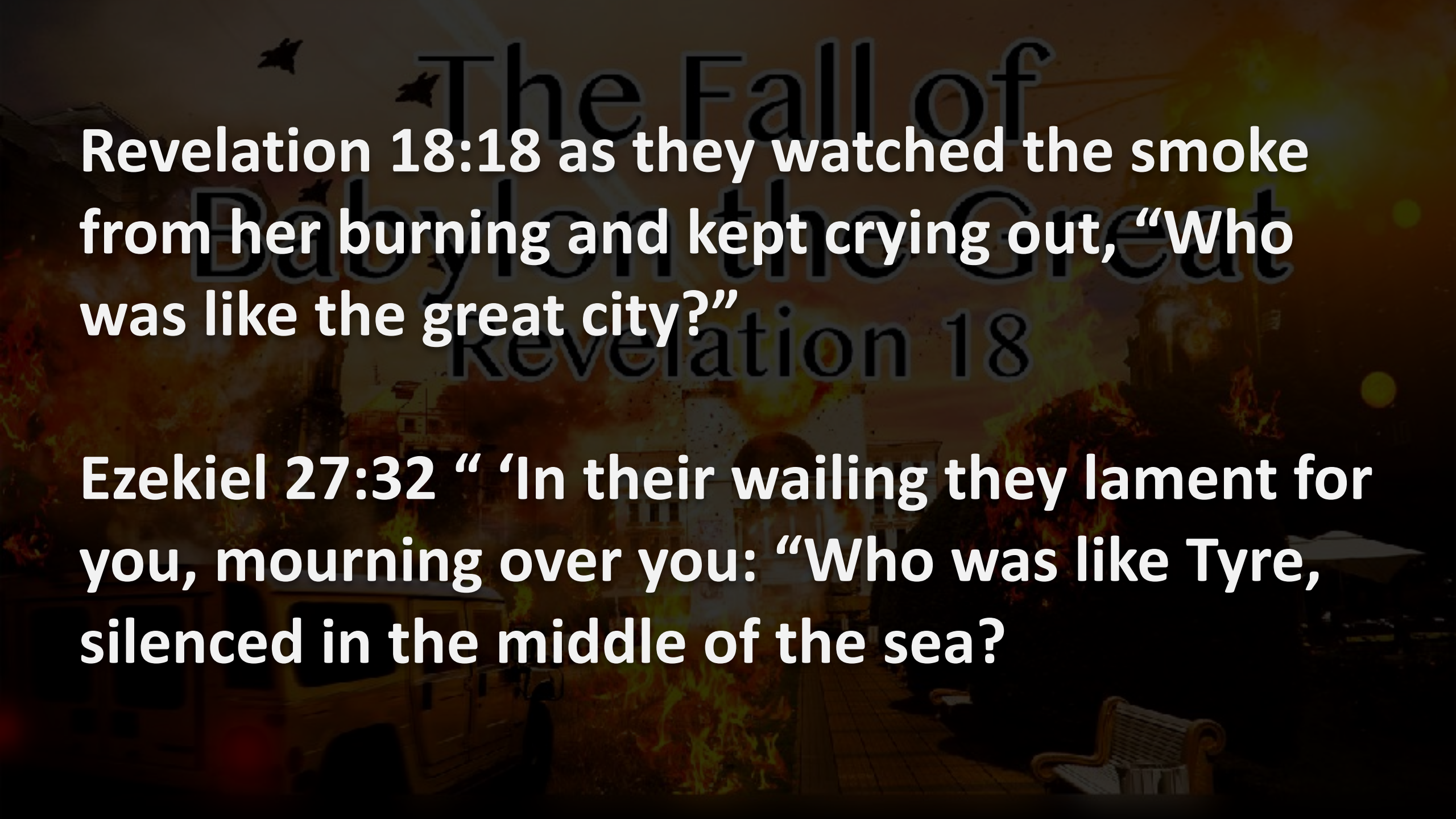
Revelation 18:17 for in a single hour such fabulous wealth was destroyed! And every shipmaster, seafarer, the sailors, and all who do business by sea, stood far off

Ezekiel 27:27–29 Your wealth, merchandise, and goods, your sailors and captains, those who repair your leaks, those who barter for your goods, and all the warriors on board, with all the other people within you, sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your downfall.

The Fall of

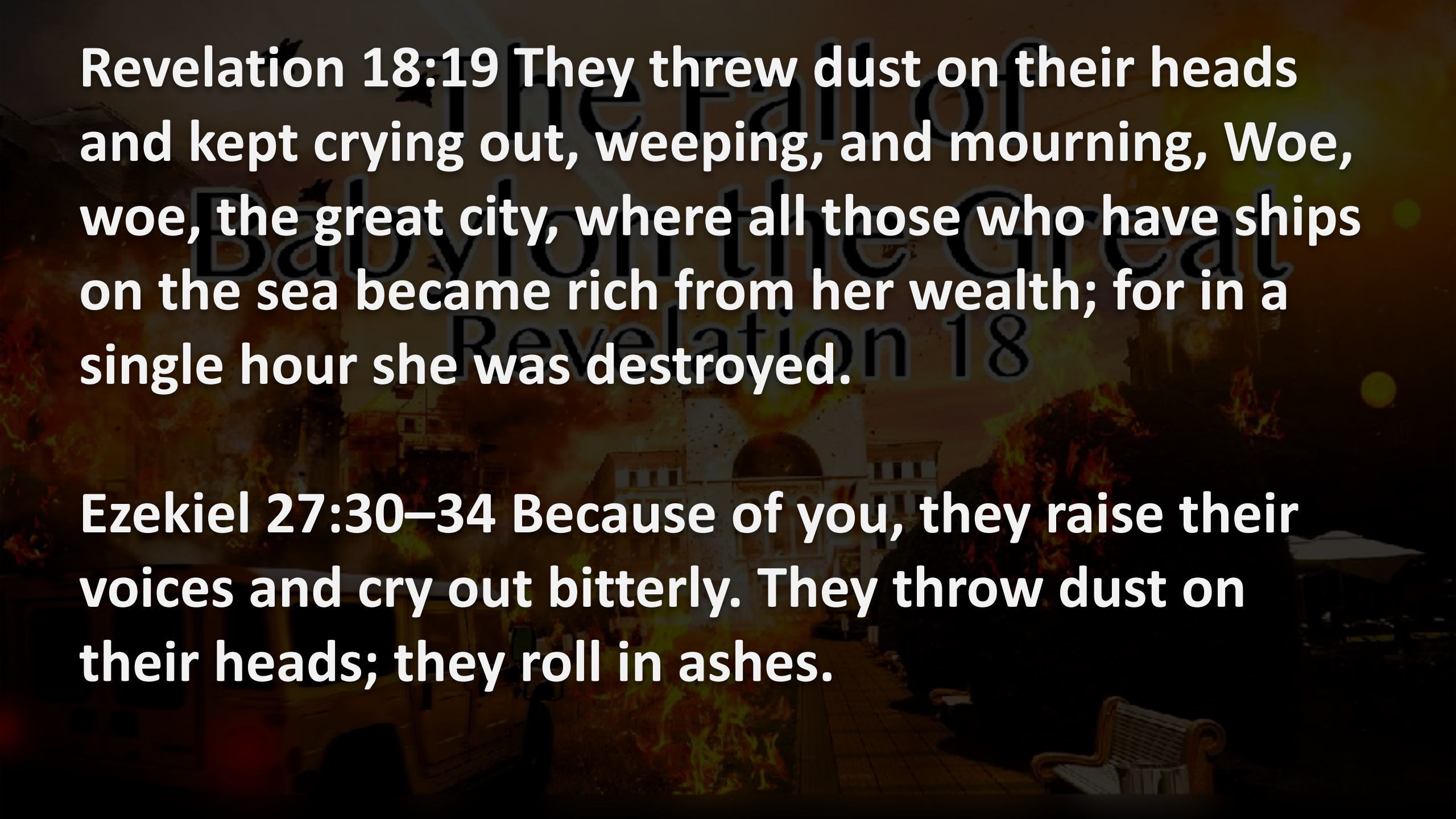
Babylon the Great

Ezekiel 27:27–29 28” ‘The countryside shakes at the sound of your sailors’ cries. 29All the oarsmen disembark from their ships. The sailors and all the captains of the sea stand on the shore.



Revelation 18:18 as they watched the smoke from her burning and kept crying out, “Who was like the great city?”

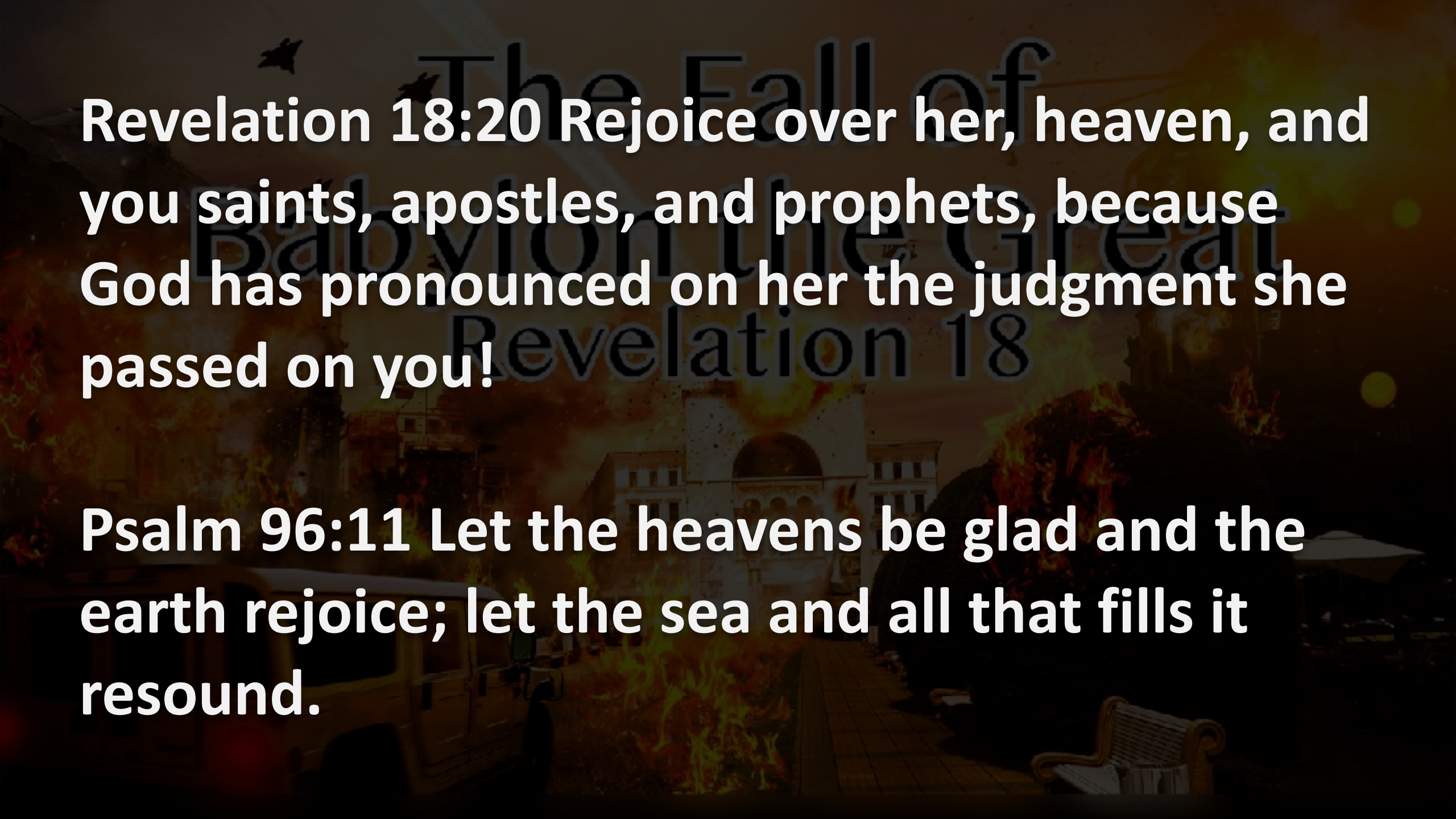
Ezekiel 27:32 “ ‘In their wailing they lament for you, mourning over you: “Who was like Tyre, silenced in the middle of the sea?”



Revelation 18:19 They threw dust on their heads and kept crying out, weeping, and mourning, Woe, woe, the great city, where all those who have ships on the sea became rich from her wealth; for in a single hour she was destroyed.

Ezekiel 27:30–34 Because of you, they raise their voices and cry out bitterly. They throw dust on their heads; they roll in ashes.

Ezekiel 27:30–34 31 They shave their heads because of you and wrap themselves in sackcloth. They weep over you with deep anguish and bitter mourning. 32“ ‘In their wailing they lament for you, mourning over you: “Who was like Tyre, silenced in the middle of the sea? 33When your merchandise was unloaded from the seas, you satisfied many peoples. You enriched the kings of the earth with your abundant wealth and goods. 34Now you are wrecked by the sea in the depths of the waters; your goods and the people within you have gone down.



Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, heaven, and you saints, apostles, and prophets, because God has pronounced on her the judgment she passed on you!

Psalm 96:11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and all that fills it resound.

Isaiah 44:23 Rejoice, heavens, for the Lord has acted; shout, depths of the earth. Break out into singing, mountains, forest, and every tree in it. For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorifies himself through Israel.

Isaiah 49:13 Shout for joy, you heavens! Earth, rejoice! Mountains break into joyful shouts! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

Revelation 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, In this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found again.

Jeremiah 51:63–64 When you have finished reading this scroll, tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates River. 64 Then say, ‘In the same way, Babylon will sink and never rise again because of the disaster I am bringing on her. They will grow weary.’ ” The words of Jeremiah end here.

The Fall of Babylon the Great

Ezekiel 26:21 I will make you an object of horror, and you will no longer exist. You will be sought but will never be found again.” This is the declaration of the Lord God.

Revelation 18

Revelation 18:22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; no craftsman of any trade will ever be found in you again; the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again;

Ezekiel 26:13 I will put an end to the noise of your songs, and the sound of your lyres will no longer be heard.

Revelation 18:23 the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of a groom and bride will never be heard in you again. All this will happen because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Isaiah 23:8 Who planned this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose traders are princes, whose merchants are the honored ones of the earth?

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Isaiah 47:9 These two things will happen to you suddenly, in one day: loss of children and widowhood. They will happen to you in their entirety, in spite of your many sorceries and the potency of your spells.

Jeremiah 16:9 For this is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: I am about to eliminate from this place, before your very eyes and in your time, the sound of joy and gladness, the voice of the groom and the bride.

Jeremiah 25:10 I will eliminate the sound of joy and gladness from them—the voice of the groom and the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

Jeremiah 7:34 I will remove from the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem the sound of joy and gladness and the voices of the groom and the bride, for the land will become a desolate waste.

Revelation 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all those slaughtered on the earth.

Jeremiah 51:49 Babylon must fall because of the slain of Israel, even as the slain of the whole earth fell because of Babylon.

Ezekiel 24:7 For the blood she shed is still within her. She put it out on the bare rock; she didn't pour it on the ground to cover it with dust.



The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

SUMMARY

Key Themes of Revelation 18:1–8

- **Babylon, the mother of all wicked centers of power, is guilty of moral degradation, prideful arrogance, self-indulgence, economic oppression, and the persecution of God's people.**
- **God's coming judgment of Babylon is certain.**
- **God calls his people to separate from Babylon or risk incurring the judgment she will receive.**

Key Themes of Revelation 18:9–19

- **God is able to bring judgment upon worldly power centers suddenly and decisively.**
- **Those who participate with evil, including putting their hope and trust in worldly treasures, will not only be deeply disappointed but will suffer great personal loss.**
- **In the end, sin brings destruction and hardship.**

The Fall of

Babylon the Great

Key Themes of Revelation 18:20–24

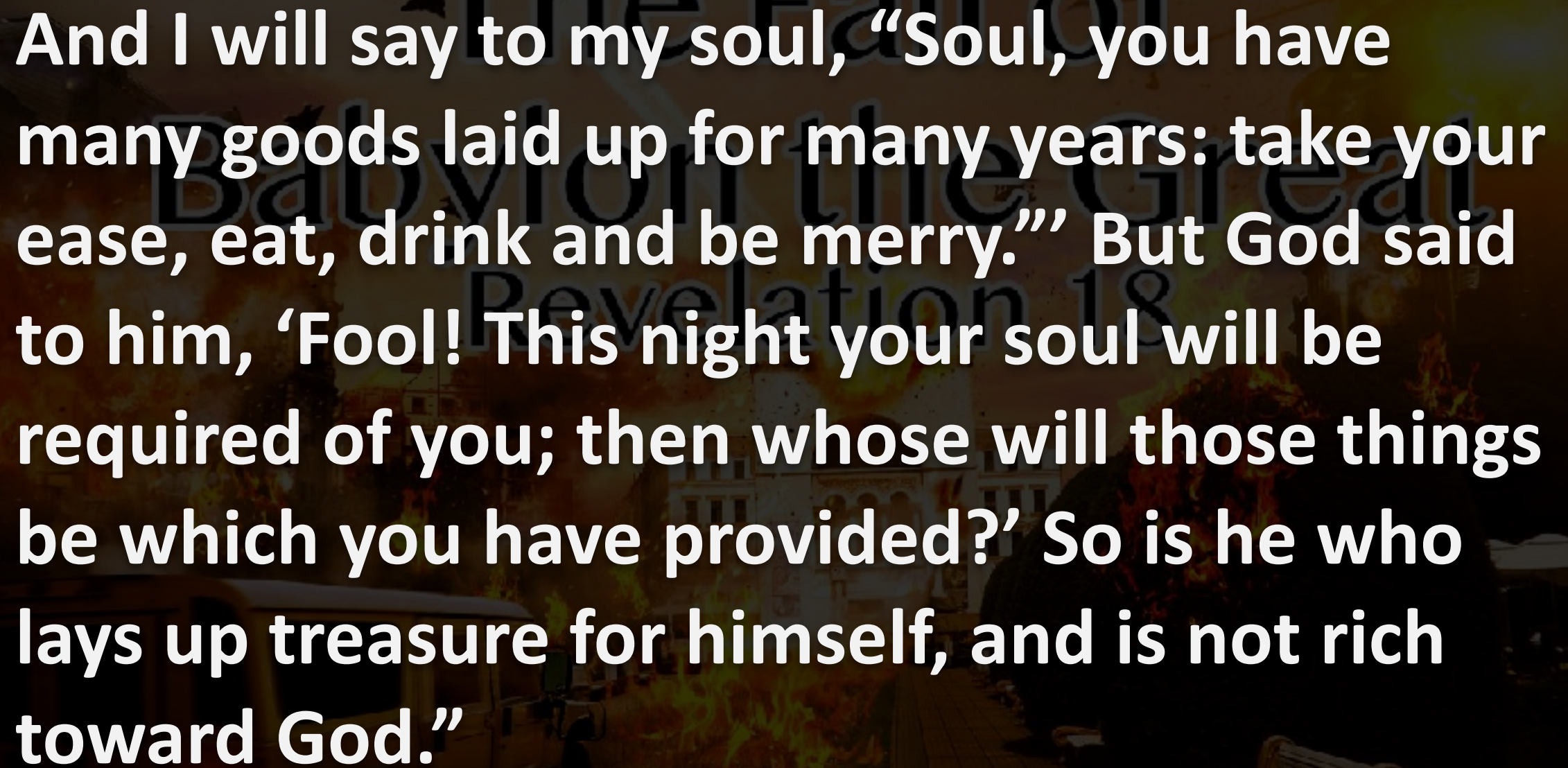
- God's people are called to rejoice at the demonstration of God's righteous judgments.
- Evil power centers are guilty of arrogance, deception, and murder.
- God will avenge the suffering of his people.



The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18

CONCLUSION

Luke 12:16-21, Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.



And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years: take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.” But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

A dramatic scene of a city street engulfed in flames. In the foreground, a white van is parked on the left, and a wooden bench sits on the right. The street is filled with fire, and buildings in the background are also burning. The sky is dark with a bright, glowing orb on the right. The text 'The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18' is overlaid in the center in a large, white, outlined font.

The Fall of Babylon the Great Revelation 18