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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

In our last podcast we reviewed the role of both the Kings of the Earth and the Merchants of the Earth and their response to the judgment of the Harlot. Let’s pick back up with an examination of the Professionals and the Passengers who have been serving the Harlot.

EP154 Revelation 18 verses 18-20 P1

The Professionals & Passengers

This judgment (which is occurring even now) impacts not just the Merchants of the Earth, the merchants of Christianity and the other world religions, but also their respective communities, those who are customers of the Merchants, the professionals who keep this system of religion going on generation after generation.

Revelation 18:17-19

And every shipmaster and every passenger **now** sailing and sailor and as many as **now** choose to make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and cried as they are **now** seeing the smoke of her burning, **now** saying, 'What is like unto the city that great?' And they threw dust on their heads and cried, **now** weeping and **now** mourning, **now** saying, 'Woe, woe, the city that great, ***the city that great***, in which all who are **now** having ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in ***one hour*** she has been caused to be laid waste!'

Spiritual or Physical

Let us first attempt to understand if these shipmasters, passengers, sailors, and those who choose to make their living by the sea refer to spiritual entities or to men and women, or to both. Given the flow of the passage, there is a good chance that the shipmasters, passengers, sailors, and those who choose to make their living by the sea are the spiritual entities behind their human counterparts, their human avatars.

The **Code** creates tension and dissonance because the tenses within the sentences do not match. The *past* tense and the *present* tense are presented as part of the same transaction or experience. However, this incongruity helps us answer the question and discern whether this passage refers to spiritual entities or to men and woman who do business on the seas or to both.

The passage is primarily rendered in the *present* tense, which would apply to the *present* tense in which John lived through and to the present tense of our day-and-age. It addresses every moment of now. But there are two key verbs that are rendered in the *imperfect* tense, and that is the word “*cried*.” Twice we are told that they “*cried*.” And instead of using the *aorist indicative*, a way to express past events, as is used when we are told that they “*they threw dust on their heads*,” the Spirit uses the *imperfect* tense. The *imperfect* carries with it a very specific time reference and places the event of their crying before the time that this was spoken by the angel. Sometime before the **Revelation**, they cried.

The tense incongruity is important. We are not told that they *cried* as they were seeing, which would be a natural match of the tense, but “*they cried as they are now seeing*.” Likewise, we are not told that they *threw* dust on their heads and *cried* and were weeping and were mourning, again, a natural match of the tense, but that they “*cried, now weeping and now mourning, now saying*.”

So, what does this tell us?

“*Every shipmaster and every passenger now sailing and sailor and as many as now choose to make their living by the sea*” cried sometime in the past, before the **Revelation**, yet “they are “*now seeing the smoke of her burning*,” they are “*now saying*,” and “*now weeping*” and “*now mourning*,” “*now saying*.” Sticking to the **Code** would lead us to conclude that the Spirit must be primarily addressing spiritual entities who are immortal, the implications of which are terrifying, and secondarily, almost by implication, He is referring to their human avatars, who do business on the sea in the marketplace of religion.

They Cried

What event prior to the **Revelation** could have caused them to cry?

We are not told, but in addition to the prophecies in the book of **Jeremiah** and **Psalms** regarding the destruction of Babylon, which we previously covered, and of which they are likely well aware, it is highly probable that when Jesus rose from the dead, every spirit, angel and demon, knew in that moment that all **Yahweh** had prophesied would come true in a vengeance. They knew that He had won, the victory was His, and that this woman would no longer be a source of great provision.

Colossians 2:10, 13-15

... and He {speaking of Jesus} **now** is the head of all rule and authority...

And you **now** being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having, by choice, forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Having by choice disarmed {or divesting Himself} the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them in it.

The demonic kingdom thought they had defeated the Son of God by crucifying Him, but Jesus’ victory over the spiritual forces of wickedness was made public or open to all when He rose from the dead, forever defeating the power of sin and death. In so doing He divested or emptied out that which the rulers and

authorities (the Kings of the Earth and the Merchants of the Earth) held in terms of their power over mankind, the power of religion, the power of the law. Though Christ's resurrection the righteousness of faith apart from the law was revealed, namely that the people of God were made to be caused to die to the law through the body of Christ, so that they may choose to be joined to Christ.¹ As the Spirit says, "But now we have been caused to be released from the Law, having died to that by which we were caused to be bound, so that we **now** serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."² The Spirit also tells us that if they, the demonic entities, would have known the death of Christ would have led to the unveiling of this mystery, they would have never crucified the Lord of glory.³ Jesus' resurrection destroyed their hopes of ever prevailing.

In terms of His triumph being made public, we are told that Jesus even went down to the pits of the Abyss and proclaimed His victory to the spirits who rebelled during the time of Noah.⁴ That was a nice touch that put an exclamation mark on their epic failure.

In **Colossians 2**, and considering Jesus' triumph, the Spirit also chastises believers for holding to the elementary principles of the world, such as do not handle, do not taste, do not touch, which are all in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men. He chastises them for listening to those who are all about self-abasement or false humility and who encourage the worship of angels. All these matters are various vintages of the wine which the Harlot serves to those who love her and serve her, but as the Spirit says, it is all just a concoction of self-made religion.

Because Jesus died, we too died to such elementary principles; therefore, we should no longer live to fulfill such nonsense.⁵ The people of God were made new such that God could cause them to die to the law through the body of Christ, so that they may choose to be joined to Christ and abide in unrestrained freedom. Their being born again gave them this choice, which we have referred to as **Step-2**. This choice cannot be taken away by the demonic entities, they can only keep the people of God living in a religious delusion by serving them the Harlot's wine.

However, because Jesus rose from the dead, the people of God can choose to let God put their flesh to death so that they may live free. This is likely the reason the **shipmaster** and every **passenger now** sailing and **sailor** and as many as **now** chose to make their living by the sea have cried. In that spectacular moment, when the stone was rolled away, they all knew that the time of the Harlot was short and that her system would no longer prevail, for men and women were no longer bound by the law. Rather, the people of God could choose to consider the members of their body as dead to *idolatry* and instead choose to be laying aside the Old Man with its evil practices and choose to be putting on the new self."⁶

THE FREEDOM OF THOSE CHOSEN OF GOD IS LIKELY THE PAIN POINT THAT CAUSED THESE SPIRITUAL ENTITIES TO HAVE CRIED.

¹ **Romans 3:21, 4:13, 7:4**

² **Romans 7:6**

³ **1 Corinthians 2:7-8**

⁴ **1 Peter 3:18-20**

⁵ See **Colossians 2**

⁶ See **Colossians 3:1-10**

We will now turn to address *the shipmaster and every passenger now sailing and sailor and as many as now chose to make their living by the sea*. According to the **Code**, the sea is a picture of the restless masses of humanity, and the sea upon which the Harlot sits spans the breadth of humanity: “peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”⁷ No one has been exempt from her influence. Sticking with the imagery of the sea, “*the shipmasters and every passenger now sailing and sailor and as many as now chose to make their living by the sea*” provides us a picture of those whose business occurs on the sea of humanity in the world of religion. Let’s remember that Babylon the great city is all about religion, specifically religious apostasy.

Shipmasters, Sailors, Passengers & Those Who Make Their Living on the Sea

The **shipmasters** and the **sailors** are those who fish for the souls of men; they are responsible to carry the “gospel” message from one place to another. They use large nets to drag in all manner of fish into the household of God.⁸

The shipmaster charts the course and steers the ship, but the sailors are those who help the shipmasters navigate the rough seas. They do the hard work to keep the vessel afloat and operating per its design. In this regard, the picture of **shipmasters** captures the pastors, elders, priests, Imams, and the holy men who lead our churches, synagogues, mosques, and all the other places of religious gathering where the souls of men and women are collected. The **sailors** are all the ministry leaders who make the functioning of these religious gathering places possible. They do all the hard work to ensure that the services, the small groups, the men’s groups, the women’s groups, the college groups, the singles groups, the children’s ministry and all the various Sunday School classes, etc., all consistently accomplish their ministry goals.⁹

Every **passenger** now sailing captures all those who come and participate in the ministry and who attend the church services, the Bible studies, the small group gatherings, the conferences, the worship services, and so on. These are the masses who are active in our churches, our ministries, our para church ministries and so on. They love to be on the ship and explore all the places where the ship goes. They love the experience and the excitement of the sea.

As many as now choose to make their living by the sea picks up all those who are somehow involved in the business which supports the functioning of ministry. They provide the goods and services to ensure that the ministry remains stable and sound. This includes everything from those employed by the Christian radio stations to those who supply communion cups. The opportunity to make a living by the sea is massive.

The point the Spirit wants us to understand is that behind all the machinations of religion, behind all the work of the ministry that span the seas of humanity, and which stems forth from those held captive to the Harlot, are demonic entities. This is consistent with what we learned in terms of those who are drunk with her wine of her immorality being supervised by unclean spirits, birds, and beasts. This is

⁷ **Revelation 17:15**

⁸ **Matthew 13:47-48**

⁹ **See Psalm 107:23**

shocking to say, and most will likely not accept it, but even many of the efforts to spread the gospel and bring Jesus to others is motivated by these spiritual entities working through their human avatars. They love to bring people into the fold and get them drunk with the Harlot's wine. It brings them a sick satisfaction to steal freedom away from the people of God.

Consider that despite the Biblical translations and the way this verse has been preached to the masses, **Mark 16:15** is not a command to go into the world, the command is to preach the gospel. But our going out into the world is rendered in the *passive* voice indicating that God must be the one who is leading you to be going; it must be a work of His direct leading or else it is just another **work of the hands**. Going to all the world is not something we take on as a ministry burden believing we are being obedient to Him as we take the gospel to the nations. But if He does send us, we are then commanded to preach. The passage should be translated more accurately as follows:

"As God leads you to be going into the world, you are commanded to preach the gospel to all creation."

Going out to the world to spread the good news is not a requirement of being a good Christian. This verse has a very apostolic tone in that a person needs to be sent by God. And to know if we are being sent, we need to have ears to hear the Spirit as opposed to the voice of demonic spirits within Christianity telling us what we must do in Jesus' name.

Jesus expressed His sentiment about those who travel around on the sea to make converts, and though it is addressed to the religious leaders of His day, it applies to all the religious leaders of our day who are so intent on saving the world with all their missionary efforts but who are not leading people to know that **the source matters, the source is everything!**

Matthew 23:15

Woe to you, scribes, ***scribes*** and Pharisees, ***Pharisees***, hypocrites, ***hypocrites***, because you **now** travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he chooses to become one, you **now** make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

The Spirit's use of both the *nominative* and the *vocative* case, when He gave this to Matthew to scribe, is quite chilling. As backwards as it may seem, going to all the world and making converts, in Jesus' name, may be dooming those people to suffer the judgment of the Harlot. Christianity takes those who are enslaved to the world and brings them into the household of God only to be enslaved or imprisoned by those in the Harlot's great city, potentially making that person twice as much a son of hell, burning with zealotry for the faith, doing all things **for** God, in His name.

This is why we must become absolutely and unequivocally convinced that **the source matters, the source is everything!** This rock of truth is the reason why, as believers, we should only do what the Father tells us to do when He tells us to do it. We have learned that intentions matter not to God, our sincerest efforts to serve Him and please Him matter not to Him. In fact, He considered them to be evil, wicked, **works of our hands**, demonic and idolatrous. The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself in *agape* love, and that only occurs if He who **now** is *agape* love is the one who is doing the work, for only His works are good and only His works endure. That is why the Spirit tells us that the one who is **now** abiding in

agape love is abiding in God which, by definition, means that God **now** abides in that person.¹⁰

The Temptation

*And every shipmaster and every passenger **now** sailing and sailor and as many as **now** choose to make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, and cried as they are **now** seeing the smoke of her burning, **now** saying, 'What is like unto the city that great?' And they threw dust on their heads and cried, **now** weeping and **now** mourning, **now** saying, 'Woe, woe, the city that great, **the city that great**, in which all who are **now** having ships at sea **became rich by her wealth**, for in **one hour** she has been caused to be laid waste!'*

As with the Kings of the Earth and the Merchants of the Earth, religion is all about becoming wealthy and those who have ships at sea have economically benefited from her ways. In the economy of the unseen real, these demonic spirits garnish unto themselves some sort of currency that is important in their realm, and which makes them wealthy. This is just as true in the physical realm. These shipmasters, those who are now having ships at sea, love the riches (the power, control, honor, influence, wealth, productivity, validation, respect, etc.) that comes in both realms. In some ways this lament recalls those at the church of Laodicea who prided themselves in their great wealth and prosperity believing they were good with God when in actuality they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.¹¹

In this lamentation, the Spirit makes a distinction about this issue of “riches,” for He specifically ties the great wealth to those who are now having ships at sea. This does not mean that the others are not enjoying the benefits that flow from those who own the ships, they most definitely are, as this is addressing a spiritual and physical economy. Still, the consolidation of riches goes to those who own the ships.

There is an interesting dynamic in today’s marketplace of religion that really drives this home, and this dynamic has spread rapidly over the last decade. The leaders of churches and great ministries that used to promote in the name of their church or ministry now promote in their own personal names. Suddenly, everything is branded in the name of the individual, the “*shipmaster*.” They then sell their books, their teachings (which they preached at their church) or they ask for “*passengers*” to support their outreach efforts, but the money is designated for their individual ministry and not for their church.

Make no mistake, the marketplace of religion, if played right, is a source of great “riches” for those whose ships sail on its seas. And the professional leaders and ministers of religion now see their hopes for sustaining this great marketplace diminishing right in front of their faces. And since her destruction is a present ongoing event, which will climax in her ultimate demise, some professionals experience this loss and destruction in their now.

This passage communicates ever so clearly that not only are the “riches” this woman provides a massive problem for the professional ministers, but even more specifically, their dependence upon her money. This prostitute uses riches to seduce people to follow her in her harlotries and abominations. She promises provision to those who will love her and faithfully serve her.

Sadly, many get caught up in her prostitution. These professionals may seem busy about the business of religion (you know, doing “ministry” and “serving God”), but they serve to increase their riches. Just look at their extreme reaction to her destruction. They *throw dust on their heads*. This is an ancient sign

¹⁰ See **Galatians 5:6; 1 John 4:8, 16**

¹¹ See **Revelation 3:14-22**

of deep mourning and lamentation; this is a sign that they are devastated, broken hearted even. What are they to do?

The Solution

This brings us to one of the most powerful and often ignored passages ever communicated to us by Jesus. It is a passage that challenges our faith, it challenges our courage, it challenges our conviction, and it challenges our very instinct for survival. Jesus has asked us to look to Him to be our entire provision, even for the practical things of this life; and He has told us how to do this. We are to seek first the things that pertain to His Kingdom and His will being done on the earth. In turn He will be responsible for taking care of our practical needs.

Matthew 6:24-34

No one can now be caused to serve two masters; for either he will in the **future** hate the one and in the **future** love the other, or he will in the **future** choose to be devoted to one and in the **future** despise the other. You **now** cannot be caused to **now** serve God and mammon {the confidence and arrogance of wealth personified}.

For this reason I may choose to say to you, you are commanded do not **now** be worried about your life, as to what you may eat or what you may drink; nor for your body, as to what you may choose to put on. Is **now** not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? You are commanded to look at the birds of the air, that they do not **now** sow, nor **now** reap nor **now** gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father **now** feeds them. Are you **now** not worth much more than they?

And who of you by **now** being worried can **now** add a single hour to his life? And why are you **now** worried about clothing? You are commanded to consider how the lilies of the field **now** grow; they do not **now** toil nor do they **now** spin, yet I **now** say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory chose to be clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is **now** living today and tomorrow is **now** caused to be casting into the furnace, will He not much more **now** clothe you? You of little faith! **You of little faith!**

May you not be anxious, **now** saying, 'What may we eat?' or 'What may we drink?' or 'What may we choose to wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles **now** eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you **now** need all these things.

But you are commanded to **now** seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will in the **future** be caused to be added to you. So may you not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow in the **future** will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The only way to avoid the trappings of this woman of religious harlotry is to trust that our heavenly Father, our **I AM**, knows our needs and takes great pleasure in meeting our needs because He loves us. We have carried this burden of providing for our own needs far too long. The perceived need to get and hold on to money and resources to gain security and comfort has been our obsession, and it is not right. We have tried to control everything we can get our hands on, and protect it, so that no one will take it

away. This way of living has caused so many of us enormous amounts of stress, anxiety, paranoia, and fear. Anyone who has a struggle in this regard is a prime candidate for the woman's seduction, especially those who involve themselves in any form of ministry or service.

Jesus says that this is how unbelievers live. As such, it is wrong and entirely inappropriate for a child of the living God to carry on this way. Our Father is the one and only God who is greater than all, no one is greater than Him.¹² He knows our needs in detail, and He will in the **future** give us everything we need, if (and that is a big "if") we are willing to seek the kingdom of God above all else; yes, He means above all else. This is a mutual relationship. We have our part and God, our Father, will do His part. He is not like us; faithfulness is in His very nature. He is always ready to do His part.

Most of us struggle with the idea that His provision is communicated, and often experienced, as a *future* provision, not as meeting our immediate "need" now. We also struggle with the gap between what we think we need and what He thinks we need. Often those two perspectives are miles apart.

Did you notice that Jesus took another stab at the heart of religion. We are to seek **His righteousness** not our own. For the most part, within Christianity we have been taught to seek righteousness in-and-of itself so that we might be good Christians. This is a lie that has been part of the Harlot's delusions, which in our intoxication we fail to discern the error and so we strive so very hard to live righteous lives. After all, we would not want to embarrass our walk and our witness with the stain of sin.

So, we bound our life with things we can do and need to do to ensure that we live righteous lives. But that is self-made religious nonsense and is of no use against *fleshly* indulgences.¹³ Instead, Jesus wants us simply to seek His righteousness. This means we let go of our quest for righteousness and seek only to be identified by the righteousness of **Yahweh Tsikdenu, Yahweh** who is our righteousness. This is the secret to living in freedom and this is the secret to overcoming sin.

For each of us, this is a matter of faith in its rawest form. In very practical terms, this is what it means to bet our lives on the truth of the Word of God, on the things Jesus has said about Himself, about the Father, and about who we are to Him. This is also our recipe for living in peace and rest. As Jesus said, our worrying about such matters does nothing to help us, and it can change nothing. It can only take from us, exhaust us, and literally make us physically, mentally, and emotionally sick.

Jesus wants us to trust that our heavenly Father will do His part and He wants us to manically focus on our part: **to seek His kingdom above our own needs while relying only on His righteousness (none of our own)**. This is how we avoid the trappings of this Harlot who is so skilled at taking our desire for her "riches" (especially, money, wealth, comfort, security, and personal goodness) and wrap them up in all manner of "good religion," thereby seducing us with her abominations.

This begs a question. **Is it wrong for the "professionals" to make their living from religion?** NO! Absolutely not! In fact, we are told that those who labor hard at work, especially the elders who are engaged in preaching and teaching, are worthy of their wages.¹⁴ The issue is the heart which reveals what we believe when it comes to the source of our provision.

Sadly, once a professional becomes dependent upon a system, a methodology, a denomination, an

¹² **John 10:29**

¹³ **See Colossians 2:8-23**

¹⁴ **1 Timothy 5:17-18**

organization, etc., for their livelihood, they are more inclined to be tempted by this Harlot and to give in to her seductions, as they will do what is necessary to ensure they do not have their income stream, or their retirement interrupted. It is a very slippery slope. Yet, sadly, most professionals do not even connect to the idea that they might have given into this woman's seductions. For some reason, everyone believes these verses must apply to others and not to them. The delusion that comes from drinking the Harlot's wine is powerful.

And that is why we are to always live doing only **WHAT** the Father tells us to do **WHEN** He tells us to do it. We are to only say **WHAT** the Father tells us to say **WHEN** He tells us to say it. And we are to only go **WHERE** the Father tells us to go, **WHEN** He tells us to go.¹⁵ This is how Jesus lived, and it is the only way to avoid the seductions and trappings of this woman's riches. This lifestyle is not subject to gifting, talent, or opportunity. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness alone.

Let's stop here and in our next podcast pick back up with weeping and lamenting of the Professionals and the Passengers.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."

¹⁵ **John 5:19-20, 26-27, 36, 8:28, 38, 10:32, 37-38, 12:50, 14:10-11, 30-31, 15:15** and **John 4:4** where Jesus "had" to pass through Samaria, as "had" is rendered in the *imperfect active indicative*. In other words, the Father appointed it in the past and Jesus therefore had to complete this task. He was bound to complete it.