

# Rejoice Over Her, O Heaven, God Has Judged Her for the Way She Treated You

## 18: 20

**DIG:** How were the believers, apostles and prophets treated by Babylon?

**REFLECT:** How do you feel when evil is judged? How do you feel when God's righteousness is upheld? What is the difference between the two?

Jesus Christ has said: **I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:10).** When **one sinner repents**, heaven rejoices with great joy because the **sinner** has been delivered from hell and assigned to heaven for all eternity. But on the other hand, if such sinners harden their hearts and lead others to hell with them, then there is also another kind of joy in heaven when the rebels are brought to justice. Neither **saints** nor angels delight when some poor soul is sentenced to an eternity in hell. **Adonai ELOHIM** has said: **I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).** Yet the Bible also says: **Heaven and earth and all that is within them will shout for joy over the destruction of far eschatological Babylon, for out of the north destroyers will attack her (Jeremiah 51:48).**

Therefore, the viewpoint of heaven is entirely different than those upon the earth. There will be no funeral procession there! Rather, it will be the celebration of a longed-for event. The **saints** prayed for it, the apostles taught about it, and the prophets of the TaNaKh saw it coming. At the end of the Great Tribulation, it will be fulfilled. **God** will clear His name because judgment will have come. Just what is your heart fixed on today? It will make a lot of difference in that Day because you could possibly either be with the mourners on the earth or with those who rejoice in heaven.<sup>398</sup>

The angel who began speaking in **18:4** will address the redeemed in heaven, saying: **Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, believers and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she has treated you.** The long-awaited moment of vindication and justice for which the martyred Tribulation believers had prayed will have arrived (**6:9-10**). *God will impose on **Babylon** the same sentence that she imposed on them.* They will rejoice, not over the lost, but because of the triumph of righteousness, the exaltation of **Jesus**, the removal of **His** enemies and the onset of the messianic Kingdom.<sup>399</sup>