

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

The Fall of Babylon: Come out of her My People (Rev. 18:1-24)

Introduction

The most dangerous times in a person's life are times of prosperity.

Babylon

"The great Satanic system of evil which has corrupted the earth's history." (Alan Johnson)

"The world's idolatrous economic-religious system." Beale

"Babylon is not simply a cipher for Rome but is a rich biblical theological symbol for the world's idolatrous, seductive political economy – the archetypal godless city, which Rome embodied in the first century." Brian Tabb

I. The angel announces the fall of Babylon (18:1-3)

- A. The descending angel
- B. Cried out with a strong voice saying
 1. Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great
Cf. Isa. 21:9; Jer. 50:2; 51:8
 2. It has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of all unclean spirits Jer. 51:37
 3. A prison of every unclean and hated birth
[Var] and every unclean beast
 4. The nations have drunk of the wine of her passion of her immorality
(porneia) [the passion of her whoring]
 5. The kings of the earth have committed immorality (porneuō) [whoring]
with her
 5. The merchants of the earth of become rich by the power of her sensuality
(or luxury*)

II. The call to the people of God to come out of Babylon (18:4-8)

- A. The call to come out of her (4)
Isa. 52:11
Jer. 51:45
2 Cor. 6:14-18
- B. The basis of her judgment (18:5)
Jer. 51:9



Midweek Bible Study

- C. Her judgment is coming (18:6-8)
 - 1. Pay her back
Psa. 137:8; Jer. 50:29; 51:24
 - 2. Punishment fits the crime! (7-8)
 - 4. In one day – Isa. 47:9; Rev. 17:16

III. **The Laments Over Babylon (18:9-19)**

- A. Lament of the kings (18:9-10)
Cf. Ezek. 26:16-18
- B. Lament of the merchants (18:11-17a)
Cf. Ezek. 27:28-32
- C. Lament of sea captains and sailors (18:17b-19)

IV. **Rejoicing Over Babylon (18:20)**

- A. Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets
Jer. 51:48
- B. Because God has pronounced judgment for you against her
*The focus is not on delight in Babylon's suffering but on the successful outcome of God's execution of justice, which demonstrates the integrity of Christians' faith and God's just character*¹

V. **Destruction of Babylon (18:21-24)**

- A. Devastating destruction –
- B. Daily pleasures are gone – ordinary life has ceased
- C. Babylon's Christian-blood-lust is fully discovered

Babylon is the Kingdom of alluring Darkness.

Babylon is dangerous.

The Church needs to be careful! ~ Rev. 3:17!

¹ G. K. Beale and David H. Campbell, [*Revelation: A Shorter Commentary*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015), 394.

