

Morning Sermon 2/27/2022
"Babylon's End!" Revelation 18:20-24

I. *Review, what is Babylon?*

1. *In the Old Testament, Babylon was a dominant city:*

- A. *They invade and destroy Jerusalem, making Jerusalem's children Babylon's slaves – Daniel 1*
- B. *It is the first of four great empires – Daniel 2 & 7*
- C. *Its fall was sudden and final – Daniel 5*

2. *Here in the Book of Revelation it is the symbolic opposite of the New Jerusalem -*

- A. *Jerusalem is the Bride, the Lamb's wife – Revelation 21:9-10 | Babylon is the great harlot with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication – Revelation 17:1-2*
- B. *God the Father, Jesus – God the Son, and the Holy Spirit make up the Holy Trinity / Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet make up the unholy trinity ... Just as Christ has His true church, so the Beast has Babylon, not a church, but a unity, a league of liars and the lost.*
- C. *As literal Babylon invaded Jerusalem, so spiritual, symbolic Babylon – "the great harlot who sits on many waters..." Revelation 17:1 persecutes Christ's church!*
- D. *If the New Jerusalem is all the true people of God, both Jew & Gentile believers, the invisible church / Babylon is the sum total of all unbelievers, including those like Judas, who might seem to be part of the church, but was an enemy –*

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)

⁹ "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Revelation 2:9 (NKJV)

II. *Rejoicing & Revenge –*

²⁰ "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" Revelation 18:20 *There is nothing wrong with rejoicing at the end (downfall) of evil!*

1. *Rejoicing is always appropriate when evil is defeated –*

15 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! Exodus 15:1 (NKJV)

2. *This revenge was prayed for; even from Heavenly places –*

⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.* Revelation 6:9-11 (NKJV)

3. *This is the vengeance of God - ... for God has avenged you on her!" Revelation 18:20 B*

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:19-21 (NKJV)

III. *Rejected, thrown away by God like trash, gone forevermore –*

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³ The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.” Revelation 18:21–24 (NKJV)

1. *Not found again as a unity, a city, as a force to be reckoned with; this does not mean individuals won't spend ETERNITY in hell – Revelation 14:9-11 ... Sample - ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; Revelation 14:11*
2. *All productive, comforting, joyful, God-given things are gone – Revelation 18:22-24 A – note, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore :23 B... is currently distorted and under siege by sin ...*
3. *As believers, even if we die, even if we die a death like our Lord Jesus did, we do not have such a dreadful ending –*

¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.” Revelation 14:12–13 (NKJV)

It is so important to observe the constant contrast being drawn between evil's end and ours, Jesus says about the church – ... on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)

Jesus' church, the unity of His people, is built on a rock ... Hades, hell does not prevail!

Babylon, the unity of Satan's people, sinks like a great millstone, which means FAST to the bottom!

We need to see this; we need to believe it –

“They do not thoroughly believe hell, and so do not flee from it, —nor heaven, and so do not seek it” J. C. Ryle, Holiness

4. *God's people, because they believe Jesus:*

- A. *Keep His commandments and faith – Revelation 14:12 ↑*
- B. *Are blessed when they die – Revelation 14:13 B ↑*
- C. *Knowing this, they overcome, by the blood of the Lamb –*

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)

- D. *Look forward to eternity in Heaven, and the marriage supper of the Lamb, see the dramatic contrast presented in the very next chapter, this is the opposite of being thrown down and lost –*

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God. Revelation 19:7-9 (NKJV)

5. *Our Lord's supper is a preview of that greater supper, it reminds us of Jesus' death, and how we are saved by it – Revelation 1:5; Revelation 14:12, it reminds us we are not rejected, not thrown away, but loved – Romans 8:31-39*

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