

# Book of Revelation

## Chapter 18 – Babylon's Fall

# Revelation 18 - Overview

- Revelation 18 highlights the absolute destruction and death of Babylon
  - Lament over Babylon – vv 1-3
  - Warning to Escape Babylon's Judgment – vv 4-8
  - Threefold Woe Over Babylon's Fall – vv 9-20
  - Finality of Babylon's Doom – vv 21-24

# Revelation 18:1-3 NKJV

- **1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 2 With a mighty voice he shouted:**
- **“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.**
- **3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”**

# Revelation 18:1

- John's attention turns to another scene happening on earth
- Another angel of the same kind as the previous announced the next scene to John
- This angel possessed great authority and glory
- It is doubtful this is Jesus because John saw him as an angel
- His tremendous "glory" probably means he has just come from God's Presence

# Revelation 18:2

- The angel declares Babylon is **FALLEN** twice
- This repetition guarantees it will happen
- This is God's prophetic way of stating that it **WILL** be accomplished before it is actually accomplished
- While Ancient Babylon fell to Cyrus (539 BC), this fall did not fulfill Old Testament prophecies about Babylon completely (Isa 47:11 and Jer 51:18)
- John describes the upcoming fall of Babylon through the eyes of the onlookers on earth

# Revelation 18:2

- Since Babylon's creation, it rose to heights of idolatry and luxury
- During the Tribulation it will BE the center for false worship and economic prosperity
- It will also become the actual prison for demons against their will (v 2; Isa 13:21-22; 34:11-17; Jer 51:37)
- This implies Babylon's headquarters will be a physical place
- Babylon's physical existence will become utterly desolate

# Revelation 18:3

- The view of Babylon here is of the political, economic and commercial system of the earth, which leaves God out
- Babylon's philosophy has influenced all nations to
  - Act immorally
  - Grow rich
  - All at the expense of others
- Ultimately, Babylon's influence has been worldwide
  - Political self-interest, and
  - Materialism
- This is why so many corporations are increasingly trying to reach and include transgenders – it's all about money

# Revelation 18:4

- This is **THE** call for God's people to leave Babylon's system
- They should do this to avoid judgment
- All believers at that point should
  - Leave the physical city of Babylon (whatever it is/named)
  - Forsake enticements of
    - Idolatry
    - Self-sufficiency
    - Love of luxury and violence
- This is all addressed to **FAITHFUL** believers during the Tribulation
- Separation will mean protection from judgment falling on Babylon



# Revelation 18:5

- Babylon's sins, like the bricks used to build Babel (Gen 11), have accumulated so much that they reach heaven
- Babylon will have completely exhausted God's patience (Jer 51:9)
- God knows and remembers her sins
- Because He is Righteous, He must judge them

# Revelation 18:6

- The angel announces that God will actually use God's ENEMIES to pay Babylon back fully for its
  - Wicked deeds
  - Pride, and
  - Self-indulgent conduct
- This is essentially God's "law of retaliation" (Mt 7:2; Gal 6:7-8)
- To pay back double is another way of saying to pay back FULLY
- Babylon system had persecuted and murdered saints
- This is not a prayer for personal vengeance
- This is the divine response to cruelty committed by wicked people who have passed the point of no return morally
- No repentance is possible for the wicked at this point

# Revelation 18:7

- Luxurious living is another reason for Babylon's judgment
- Babylon believes herself to be superior and self-sufficient
- This should also remind us of the problem with the Laodicean church of Revelation 3
- Pride is the root of the problem and can affect anyone, believer or non-believer
- Babylon's "self-sufficiency" and "superiority" will come back on her
- Thinking she will never see mourning, she will be shocked to experience it
- Like globalists who gloat over their plans, their riches, their power, they will be brought low

# Revelation 18:8

- Babylon's wickedness is so egregious that her judgment will occur in a single day (literally), which includes:
  - Death
  - Mourning
  - Famine
  - Completely burn up
- This "single day" may also emphasize the suddenness of judgment
- If this is literal (as we believe), then some sort of physical Babylon will exist during the Tribulation and will represent Babylon's history of spiritual wickedness, deception and religious fraud
- Babylon will collapse suddenly, not gradually as many empires throughout history have done
- It seems that God will use His own enemies to turn on Babylon and destroy her

# Next Time:

- Revelation 18:9-24
  - Threefold woe over Babylon's Fall (vv 9-20)
  - Finality of Babylon's Doom (vv21-24)