

Book of Revelation

Chapter 18 – Babylon’s Fall, Part 2

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1

Revelation 18:9-20 - Overview

- In this part, we will cover the following:
 - Threefold Woe Over Babylon’s Fall – vv 9-20
- We will cover the final portion of Revelation 18 next time
 - Finality of Babylon’s Doom – vv 21-24

2

Revelation 18:9-24 NKJV

- 9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

3

Revelation 18:9-10

- Notice how the “kings of the earth” (or political leaders), mourn the destruction of Babylon
- They “fornicated” with her by immersing themselves in her riches, often by stepping on the poor and downtrodden
- Babylon is destroyed by fire, which if taken literally means it will be a real city, destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah
- The smoke from the fire will be what causes these kings to mourn because they know it’s over
- Babylon will be destroyed in one hour

4

Revelation 18:11-13

- 11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and **bodies and souls** of men.

5

Revelation 18:11-13

- The merchants mourn due to loss of their riches and sales at the destruction of the physical Babylon
- The city was the source of their riches
- These merchants are saddened at the loss of customers...
- Yet they also supported the mandate that kept people from buying or selling without the mark of the beast (Revelation 13)
- The “whore” is destroyed
- The religious system remains with Antichrist as its head

6

Revelation 18:11-13

- Babylon will truly be THE trading center of the world
- Many of the items listed were luxury items in John's day
- There are 7 categories:
 - precious metals and gems
 - Clothing
 - Furnishings
 - Spices
 - Food
 - animals and implements,
 - and bodies and souls of men (!)

7

Revelation 18:12-13

- "Persons are 'bought and sold' (and even traded!) by athletic teams; and our great corporations more and more seek to control the lives of their officers and workers. As people become more enslaved to luxury, with more bills to pay, they find themselves unable to break loose from the 'system.'" (Wiersbe)

8

Revelation 18:14

- 14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.
- This verse is made up of two double negatives in the Greek:
 - Merchants lose their luxurious possessions, and
 - Will never get them back again
- The words “luxurious” and “splendid” refer specifically to *food* and *clothing* respectively [Note: Swete, p. 235; Charles, 2:108.]

9

Revelation 18:15

- Again the merchants about their fate.
- Selfishness and greed characterize these individuals.
- They too, like the kings, stand at a distance viewing the destruction of the city (cf. Revelation 18:10; Revelation 18:17) – Constable’s Notes on Revelation 18

10

Revelation 18:17

- 17 For in **one hour** such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'
- We see "one hour" again; making it emphatic
- Four groups of sea people:
 - Helmsmen
 - Passengers
 - Sailors
 - Fisherman/divers

11

Revelation 18:18

- These merchants and people put their hope, faith, sweat, tears and money in a city that would be destroyed
- This is really the collapse of a future tremendously large commercial headquarters and system
- The implied response to their question is *nothing* can compare with Babylon and her material greatness

12

Revelation 18:19

- 19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in **one hour** she is made desolate.’
- They actually *mourn* the death and destruction of Babylon – the city and system!
- People did the same thing over the destruction of Tyre (Ezekiel 27:30)
- Again we see the phrase “one hour” to remind us of the swiftness of destruction

13

Revelation 18:20

- 20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”
- The upshot of Babylon’s demise:
 - God has avenged believers who have been used, misused and destroyed physically because of Babylon
 - Consider today’s increasing “wokeness” spreading like a virus
 - Even Chick-Fil-A has now added “diversity, equity and inclusion” to its corporate agenda
 - Christians are being pushed to the fringes with all manner of perversions being lionized
 - It will worsen

14

Next Time:

- Revelation 18:21-24
- Finality of Babylon's Doom (vv21-24)