



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

18:5-8

OUTLINE

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MAIN POINT

Babylon will be judged for her sins

-  The justice of God is, in fact, just
-  At no point does God forget about her sin
-  There is a totality and finality to this judgment that we should understand

It is perfect, complete, and when it comes, it is fast

-  God uses everything and everyone, even those in
-  The relationship between a sin and its consequence
-  The relationship between the boasts of Babylon and what happens to her
-  Recall **Obadiah**

What is our role in the justice of God?

-  Do we do nothing?
-  Do we only tell people right and wrong?
-  Faithful ambassadors?
-  If we are to become involved, how, why, and when do we do that?

THE VISION



SINS REACHING TO HEAVEN (V. 5)

🏰 More literal as, “because her sins have joined unto heaven, and God has remembered her unrighteous act” (Thomas v2, p. 321)

🏰 The image is of bricks being built up until they reach reach the top of a tower

🏰 Similar to the Tower of Babel

🏰 Sin building on sin and all the world can see it

🏰 The sins of Babylon were not hidden on the Earth

🏰 She was not even trying to hide them

🏰 But even if she was, God still sees

🏰 How many similar towers of sin have we built, but cannot see?

🏰 God “remembers”

🏰 Not that God forgot, but that now He will do something about it

🏰 Similar to **Genesis 8:1** or **Exodus 6:5**

🏰 Why does God wait?

🏰 Give people a chance to repent

🏰 After judgment there is nothing more that can be done (**Ezekiel 18:23; 33:11**)

🏰 Not yet time in His plan?

🏰 Some other reason we do not understand from our limited picture (part of the point of **Job**)

REWARDS FOR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS (V. 6)

Judgment against Babylon

According to the command of God

 It is God who judges, not us

 We are to be faithful ambassadors (c.f. **Ephesians 6:20**)

 We do not repay “evil for evil” (**Romans 12:14**) but are there ever points where we must execute righteous justice on earth?

Who is being spoken to?

 From context, it appears to be the ten kings (c.f. **Revelation 17:16**)

 God is still using them, even if they are in rebellion against Him

No offer of repentance

 Practically speaking that is gone as the people have taken the Mark

 Have had many chances to repent

Double punishment?

 A way of showing total or complete judgment (**Exodus 22:4, 7, 9; Isaiah 40:2; 61:7; Jeremiah 16:18; 17:18; Zechariah 9:12**)

 Do not think that God is being unfair

 The precision of God’s judgment?

 Recall **Obadiah**

 The cup was overflowing with abominations, and now is, in some sense, used in judgment (Thomas v2, p. 324)

GOD'S USE OF HUMAN AGENTS FOR JUDGMENT

🏰 God alone can judge (**Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30**)

- 🏰 May do this by supernatural means (e.g. the destruction of Sodom)

- 🏰 May use others to accomplish His purpose

🏰 Cyrus (**Isaiah 44:28; 45:1**)

🏰 Moses (**Exodus 14:26-27**)

🏰 Aaron, Hur, and a battle (**Exodus 17:12-13**)

🏰 Edom destroyed by her confederates (**Obadiah**)

🏰 Gideon, his men, and confusion in the enemy's camp (**Judges 7**)

🏰 General statements of Judgment and Battle (**Amos 3:6; Ezekiel 24:7-8**)

🏰 Babylonian Captivity (e.g. **2 Chronicles 36:21**)

🏰 What about historical events

- 🏰 God gave us capital punishment (e.g. **Genesis 9:5-6**)

- 🏰 Note the reason why?

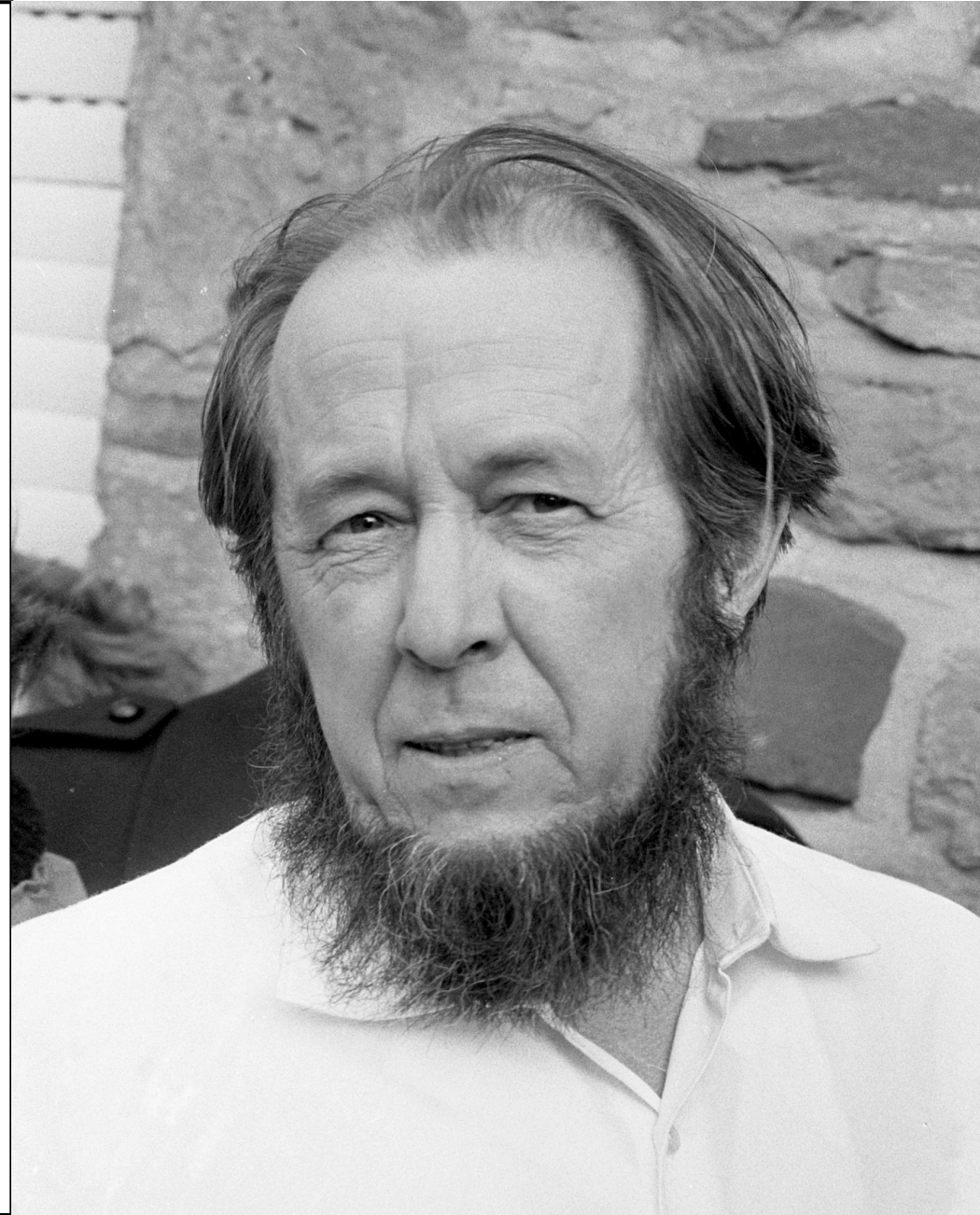
- 🏰 Conquest of the Aztecs?

GOD'S *LEX TALIONIS* JUDGMENT ON EDMOM (OBADIAH 1:15-16)

- 👤 The judgements that God sends us are just and (seem to be) aligned to what we have done
 - 👤 Jacob was a schemer and gets out-schemed by Laban and his sons
 - 👤 Israel abused the Land by not letting it rest, so God put them into captivity to let the land rest (2 Chronicles 36:19-20)
- 👤 Everything that Edom did relative to Judah will be done to them
 - 👤 Joined in the destruction and death of Judah, so Edom would be destroyed
 - 👤 Betrayed their brother, so Edom would be betrayed by their allies
 - 👤 Sought the total destruction of Judah, so Edom would be totally destroyed
 - 👤 Helped push Judah out of their land, so Edom would be pushed out of their land
- 👤 The judgment of God is just, and often terrifying
 - 👤 We love to speak of the mercy and grace of God, but that cannot exist without His judgment
 - 👤 Two sides of the same coin
- 👤 The difference between Judah and Edom, is that Edom will not be restored (v. 16)
 - 👤 Unless you are deep into Biblical or historical scholarship in this area, you might never have known Edom existed

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened." Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened"-- **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn**



A QUEEN WITH A BOAST (V. 7)

Queen

-  Lives in luxury
-  Cares only for herself
-  Self-glorification

No regard for God

-  “Babylon's attitude that is essentially, "There is no other God but me. “This is the extremity of wickedness”” cites **Psalm 10:4, 11, 13; 14:1; 53:1; Ezekiel 28:2-9** (Huges via Thomas v2, p. 325)
-  Sees herself in the place of God
 -  A priesthood that goes from a mediator with God to being seen as God
 -  Common for priesthoods to become corrupted
 -  No accountability to anyone or anything
 -  Only room for sin and pleasure

Not a widow?

-  Does not recognize the possibility of sorrow
-  Life is good now and always will be
-  Some have seen this as setting her in distinction with Israel (c.f. **Lamentations 1:1**)
-  Could also see this as a boast for not having died during the judgments

The issue of pride

-  The root of sin?
-  A continual affront to God
-  An assumption that we do not need God or can do things better than God

DESTRUCTION IN ONE DAY (V. 8)

Double

-  Again, meant to show totality or completeness
-  God is not being unfair here

One hour

-  Could be used to show rapid and dramatic destruction (e.g. **Isaiah 47:7-9**) (Thomas v2, p. 326)
-  No reason this could not be literal with modern technology
 -  Financial collapse
 -  Potent military force
 -  Some other method
 -  Supernatural help?

Type of destruction does not match any historical parallel

-  Not speaking of a gradual decline or natural process
-  Does not align with present history of Babylon or the fall or similar religious systems
-  Must be yet-future

LESSONS FOR US

God takes His word seriously

-  He says what He means and He means what He says
-  You don't mock God and get away with it (**Galatians 6:7**)

Not for us to say when or how

-  We do not need to justify god or the ways of God
-  God simply does as He wishes

The justice of God

-  Not our justice or standard
-  Our views are imperfect and corrupted by sin
-  Our narrow view, anger, or false compassion lead to error
-  Must have a grounding in God's Word to have a sense and semblance of justice