



Αποκάλυψη  
REVELATION  
18:20-24

# OUTLINE

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- 🕒 Main Point
- 🕒 The Vision
- 🕒 The Response of Heaven (v. 20)
- 🕒 The Violence of Babylon's Downfall (v. 21)
- 🕒 The Finality of Babylon's Downfall (v. 22)
- 🕒 How Babylon Became Great (v. 23)
- 🕒 Babylon's Attack Against the Saints (v. 24)
- 🕒 Lessons For Us

# MAIN POINT

## God tells us that Babylon's destruction will be final

-  Uses the figure of a millstone being cast into the sea
-  Internally, the pleasures of life will be no more
-  Externally, people do not get rich off her, or export her evil

## Comparisons between Jerusalem and Babylon

-  A tale of two cities throughout the Bible
-  Many linguistic similarities in the prophecies against the two cities
-  But one is the city of God and will be restored, and the other is the city of Satan/man and will be destroyed

## Babylon as an exporter of evil

-  Sin tends to make more sin
-  Babylon exported its system of religion and corrupted everyone that came in contact with it
-  For a long time, the United States has exported to the world everything that God hates; what does that mean for us

# THE VISION



# THE RESPONSE OF HEAVEN (V. 20)

## Recall the response of the Earth-Dwellers

-  Not happy
-  Profits destroyed
-  No consideration for God or what Babylon had done

## Now we get the response from Heaven

-  Similar to **Jeremiah 51:48-49**, also directed at Babylon
-  The evil that had spread idolatry on the Earth has been judged
-  God has brought his vengeance for all his martyrs (c.f. **Romans 12:19**; **Revelation 6:9-11**)
  -  Recall that Babylon's slaughter extends far back in time

## It took a long time, but God finally did it

-  Why now?
  -  Give people a chance to repent (c.f. **Ezekiel 18:21-23**)
  -  Wanted to make a long-lasting example of Babylon
  -  Some other reason
-  God did not forget about those that suffered and died for Him
-  Gave a just punishment; e.g. the *Lex Talionis* of His justice
-  Babylon demonstrated that she wanted nothing to do with God, so God fully removes her from the scene
  -  Has not happened in modern or historic times
  -  Much is still left to play out

# THE VIOLENCE OF BABYLON'S DOWNFALL (V. 21)

## The destruction of Babylon is total

-  The figure of a millstone going into the ocean
-  It is heavy and the ocean is deep
-  It will not come up again
-  Especially if a strong angel threw it into the ocean
-  Babylon will not be revived and thus the system she propagated is gone forever
  -  We do know that there is another rebellion after the Millennium (**Revelation 20:7-10**)
  -  What is used in this rebellion to pull people away or act as a replacement for God?
  -  Move overt demon worship?
  -  Desperation?
  -  Something else?
-  Reminded of Jesus's words about leading little children astray in **Matthew 18:6**

## The destruction of Babylon is fast

-  Rocks go down fast when cast into water
-  Helps amplify the previous statements about downfall in a single hour
-  Leave behind a massive splash that lets everyone know what happened, then the waters calm

# THE FINALITY OF BABYLON'S DOWNFALL (V. 22)

## Three classes of people no longer in Babylon

-  Implies that they were there until the end
-  People going about life and living the best they can
-  Only living for the moment, not thinking about God or what He requires
  -  We are all accountable to God in the end
-  These are not just jobs, there are people tied to these jobs, and those people rejected God

## Musicians

-  Bring life and joy in the worst times
  -  How much were they making here?
-  Some may consider this a luxury, but music and the desire for beauty is a natural human trait
-  God is removing everything from them

## Craftsmen

-  Likely supportive of the trade to and from Babylon
-  Helped prop up the economy and/or the needs of the rich/priest class
-  Needed for repairs or to fix damage in other places from judgment?

## Flourmakers

-  Needed for life
-  The most basic elements are attacked here

# HOW BABYLON BECAME GREAT (V. 23)

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- 🏠 Similar to **Jeremiah 25:10**

- 🏠 No more light

- 🏠 Likely literal, but also amazing in its symbolism and precision
- 🏠 These people rejected the light of God, so light is removed from them
- 🏠 Compare with **Exodus 10:21-29**

- 🏠 Comparison between Babylon and Jerusalem

- 🏠 Similar language in **Jeremiah 7:34**
- 🏠 Jerusalem restored, Babylon is not

- 🏠 The infection of Babylon

- 🏠 The merchants, in a sense, became like her
- 🏠 Were wealthy and full of pride

- 🏠 Deception of Babylon

- 🏠 The deception of wealth
- 🏠 The deception of false religion

- 🏠 Passage similar in idea to **Matthew 24:38**

# BABYLON'S ATTACK AGAINST THE SAINTS (V. 24)

## 🔊 Killing prophets

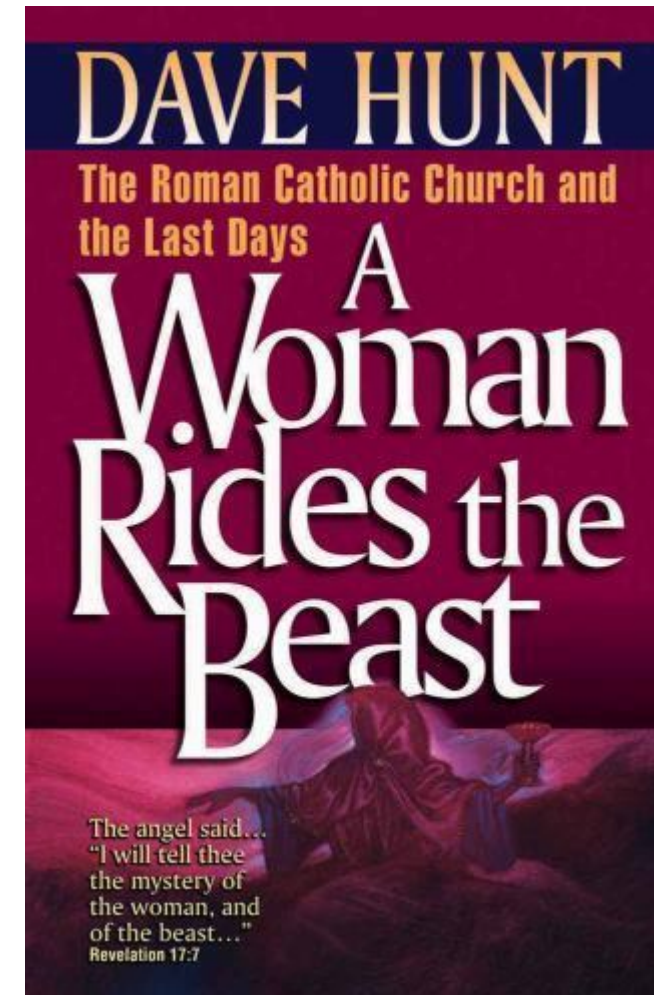
- 🔊 Another similarity with Jerusalem (**Matthew 23:35**)
- 🔊 The two are not the same, but it illustrates an interesting theme in Scripture

## 🔊 Killing the saints

- 🔊 Better translated as “the prophets and the other saints” (Thomas v2, p. 347)
- 🔊 The one is a subset of the other
- 🔊 Other agents have killed the saints in **Revelation**
  - 🔊 Earth-dwellers (**Revelation 6:10**)
  - 🔊 Beast from the Abyss (**Revelation 11:7; 13:7**)
  - 🔊 Beast from the Earth (**Revelation 15:15**)
- 🔊 Here, God is putting the ultimate guilt for this on Babylon as the agent behind this
  - 🔊 Recall that the woman rides the Beast

## 🔊 Context

- 🔊 Appears to be localized to Daniel's 70th Week (Thomas v2, p. 348)
- 🔊 This system across time has had a history of attacking those that are for Christ
  - 🔊 E.g. Israel in Egypt, Babylon mocking God (e.g. **Daniel 5:3**), the Christians under Rome, Catholic Church until relatively modern times (e.g., Hussite Wars, St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre)



# LESSONS FOR US

🏰 It is amazing how many comparisons in language there are between this judgment against Babylon and previous ones against Jerusalem

- 🏰 A tale of two cities throughout the Bible
- 🏰 Very different ends
- 🏰 One the city of Satan and the other the City of God
- 🏰 Jerusalem not totally abandoned or forgotten, despite all she has done
- 🏰 God keeps Jerusalem because He said He would
- 🏰 God destroys Babylon because she is against Him and nothing can prevent Him from fulfilling His will

🏰 God will judge this system

- 🏰 Judgment and destruction will be final
- 🏰 Will not be done by us, but by the ten kings
- 🏰 God's use of otherwise evil human agents

🏰 The sin of Babylon

- 🏰 Infected everything and everyone around it
- 🏰 Sin is strange the more you study it in the Bible
  - 🏰 Almost seems to have a mind of its own (e.g. **Genesis 4:7**)
  - 🏰 Sin makes more sin
  - 🏰 Seems to spread like an infection; could explain why God draws relationships between sin and the land and removal of sin (e.g. **Numbers 35:33; Deuteronomy 24:4**)