

## Revelation 18 The Fall of Babylon

### **Introduction**

This chapter gives details concerning the fall of the religious and political system known as "Babylon." The nation of Iraq has actually attempted to rebuild the actual city of Babylon. It may be that during the Tribulation, the antichrist will utilize that city at some point. The main point is that Babylon represents a social, political, commercial, and religious way of life that will be in complete control during the end time. In Revelation 18, this system is completely destroyed

### **I. The Condition of Babylon, v1-3**

This city/system is one that is marked by sin. From the outside it may look good. Riches are deceptive. It is a great city, v2, but a foul city.

A. A place of demon activity- v2 Notice the words here: devils, foul spirits, unclean and hateful birds. Birds in Scripture picture sin and Satanic activity, Mt. 13:1-9, 18-23, 31-32 Many things that are taking place in religion, society, and government today are demonically motivated.

B. A place of the flesh- v3 This is shown by the words, fornication, rich, and delicacies. I John 2:15-17, specifically warns against these things. The religion of Babylon strives to attain these things.

### **II. The Command, v4**

Here the Word of God simply repeats the command that has been given since the time of Israel, Dt.7, 12:29-32,28, 2 Co.6:14. God's people should be separate from sin and the influence of the world. When Christians fail to live a life of separation from sin, there is always a cost. Sin is not free, although many seem to believe that it is. The reason for separation is clearly given "that ye receive not of her plagues."

### **III. The Condemnation, v 5-19**

In this passage there is a list of charges against this system. God has judged and found them guilty. These verses list the sins of Babylon, and the reaction to its fall by those who worshipped its system.

A. The persecution, v5-6 The system of Babylon persecuted true believers, while living in comfort. This religious system also abused its own people. This was done in order to increase the riches of the religious leaders.

B. The pride, v7 False religion is often based on man's desire to be God. This verse shows the pride and arrogance that is at the heart of this false system.

C. The plague, v8 God is going to completely judge and destroy this religion. Once the judgment begins it will finish quickly, notice the phrase "in one day." This will be a quick, severe, and final judgment.

D. The politics, v9-10 The politicians of the world who have thrown in their lot with Babylon will be crushed. All their hopes and greed will be destroyed along with this system. Notice again that this will take place quickly, "in one hour."

E. The economics, v11-15 The system of Babylon will be tied in with the economy of the world. These verses list most major categories of buying and selling. During this time the world will be consumed with materialism. The loss of worldly goods will cause these people to fear, weep, and lose their wealth. Their lust and desires will not be fulfilled.

F. The final destruction, v16-19 This was a beautiful and powerful city. In a very short time it is totally destroyed. This may be old Babylon rebuilt, or a newer city named Babylon built close to a coast. Notice that the sailors can see the smoke of the destruction. The great city and system are made "desolate" in a very short time.

#### **IV. The Change in Babylon, v20-24**

The change in this city is great. It was once a center of religion, politics, and commerce. Scripture points out the certainty of its destruction, the phrase "not... anymore" is found six times in verses 21-23. After the judgment of God, it has become desolate. From this time on it will never be a factor again. All of this was brought on by the evil and the persecution of God's people through out history by those who followed this false system of Babylon.