

## The Fall of Babylon Revelation 18:1-24 (Part 25)

**Key characters:** Babylon the great (capital city of satanic influence), Babylon (the worldly system).

**Big idea of chapter 18:** The worldly system of Babylon will come to an end and no longer influence people and draw them to Satan.

**Revelation 18:1-2** *After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.*

**The earth was made bright with his glory:** This is the final of the tribulation where Satan's rule and influence of the earth will come to an end.

**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!:** The satanic system of false religion and materialism will come to an end. It will no longer reign over the earth.

**She has become a dwelling place for demons:** The world system of Babylon is demonically driven. Also Babylon the place will possibly be a prison for demonic spiritual beings during the reign of Christ on earth. **Isaiah 13:9-13, 19-22**

**A haunt for every unclean spirit:** The word haunt can be translated prison or cage.

**Revelation 18:3** *For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."*

**The problem:** False religion and materialism have corrupted the peoples and rulers.

**Revelation 18:4-5** *Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; 5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.*

**Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues:** Those (Jews especially) who choose to sin and follow Babylon's false religion and materialism will reap the punishment of Babylon

**Her sins are heaped high as heaven:** This is a play on words from the Tower of Babel where they used bricks to build up to reach heaven.

**God has remembered her iniquities:** The day of judgment has come for the worldly system and dominion of Satan.

### 1. The system of Babylon is against God's system

**Revelation 18:6-7** *Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. 7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'*

**Repay her double for her deeds:** The time for payment has come for Babylon. She will reap her deeds double.

**I sit as a queen:** The Babylonian system has ruled over the earth like a queen. She has not been sad but rejoiced in her reigning and killing and leading to hell.

**Revelation 18:8-10** *For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her." 9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. 10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come."*

**The kings of the earth...will weep and wail over her:** We see the sadness of the rulers when their system of materialism implodes.

## 2. Live in a material system but don't live for the system

**Revelation 18:11-13** *And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.*

**The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her:** Those who have profited by the material goods of "Babylon" are weeping because the system has been destroyed.

**No one buys their cargo anymore:** 29 items in 7 categories. Precious metals and gems, clothing, furnishings, spices, food, animals, slaves.

**Genesis 3:6-7** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

**Revelation 18:14-16** *"The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!" 15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, 16 "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!*

**The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you:** Everything they have lived for is burned up and gone.

**Revelation 18:17-19** *For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" 19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.*

**Sailors and all whose trade is on the sea:** In John's day the men who traded using ships on the sea were the wealthy tycoons and mega rich merchants.

**Revelation 18:20-22** *Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!" 21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; 22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,*

**Rejoice over her:** The unbelieving world is weeping with sadness, but heaven and believers rejoice that the materialistic system has finally found its demise.

**A great millstone and threw it into the sea:** This shows the finality of Babylon and her impact on the world, it is over.

**Revelation 18:23-24** *and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."*

## 3. Find joy in the things of God