

AUSTELL GRANDVIEW SDA CHURCH PRESENTS



THE
APOCALYPSE
SERIES

SHOWCASING JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY

THE FALL
OF
BABYLON

EPISODE 15

THE FALL OF BABYLON

Based on Revelation Chapter 18

MATTHEW SHALLENBERGER

MAIN IDEA

Spiritual Babylon is going to fall because she comes under the judgment of God. But this is good news for God's people, because God's judgment means their deliverance and salvation.

KEY POINTS

Babylon was an ancient empire that oppressed God's people and took them into captivity, as a result of God's judgment on His people for their rebellion against Him. But God promised He would one day deliver His people and punish Babylon for what it had done to them ([Jeremiah 25](#); [2 Kings 24:10-20](#); [Daniel 5](#)).

Babylon's fall is first predicted in [Revelation 14](#); we also learn in [Revelation 16](#) that Babylon falls because she comes under God's judgment.

Babylon makes the nations drunk, symbolizing the spiritual confusion that results from her worldwide influence ([Revelation 18:3](#)). She leads people astray with her false teachings about God. In response, God gives her the wine of His wrath to drink ([Revelation 16:19](#)).

In [Revelation 17](#), Babylon is portrayed as an adulterous woman. A woman symbolizes God's people ([Isaiah 54:5](#)). An adulterous woman symbolizes God's people when they have been unfaithful to Him ([Jeremiah 3:20](#)). Babylon is an apostate church, meaning she has fallen away from God.

INSIGHTS

The kings of the earth—the political powers of the world—commit adultery with Babylon ([Revelation 18:3](#)). This represents an illicit religious-political alliance formed between an apostate church and the world's governments.

The medieval church is a historical example of a time when apostate religious and political powers united to persecute God's people. Revelation tells us that such a union will take place again just before the return of Jesus ([Revelation 13](#)). Sometimes we're afraid of the concept of God's judgment. But God's judgment is only bad news for those who have chosen to take sides against Him. Judgment is good news for God's people. It means deliverance from the evil forces that have oppressed and persecuted them. ([Revelation 18:20](#); [Daniel 7:21, 22](#)).

Before God pours out His judgment on Babylon, He appeals to His people in Babylon to come out of her ([Revelation 18:4](#)). God's greatest desire is for all to be saved ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

Three groups of people mourn the fall of Babylon: the kings of the earth, the merchants, and the sea captains. These are the people who have profited from their illicit alliance with Babylon. She seemed invincible, and they are shocked to see her demise come so quickly and decisively ([Revelation 18:10, 17, 19](#)).

INSIGHTS

“Christ is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all!” (Hudson Taylor)

When Christians become enamored by worldly wealth, success, or power, they compromise their loyalty to Jesus. Political power is especially a temptation that Christians must carefully avoid. History warns us of the devastating consequences when the church compromises its witness for the sake of political power. Revelation warns us that those who repeat the sins of the past by joining religious and political power will once again persecute those who stand faithfully for God’s truth and refuse to compromise.

The fall of Babylon is a stark reminder not to put our hope in earthly things, which will all ultimately fail. The only kingdom that lasts forever is God’s. Babylon seems invincible, but in the end, God humbles her pride and judges her wickedness. Evil may appear to triumph for a time, but ultimately Jesus is victorious over the enemy.

We can trust God even in the midst of the oppression and injustice of this world, because we know that He is keeping an account, and one day He will judge in righteousness and in truth to deliver His people and to punish those who have oppressed them.