

Series: The Blessing Book
Text: Revelation 18
Title: Humpty Dumpty 2.0

In studying Revelation 18 and the fall of Babylon, the literal place as well as the worldwide economic and political system in an hour made me think of the old children's nursery rhyme, "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall, all the king's horses and all the king's men, couldn't put Humpty Dumpty back together again."

God will judge the world system of greed, pride, deception, and persecution; for us as His people, we must live separated from the world, be watchful, and be satisfied in Christ.

Mankind has a tendency to overestimate our capabilities. The builders thought the Titanic couldn't sink... and yet one iceberg, one piece of frozen water took the ship down.

Revelation 18 is one of the most sobering chapters in all the Bible. It shows us the collapse of a system the world thought was untouchable.

A city called Babylon falls. Not just a city of bricks and towers, but a civilization of rebellion. A system of wealth without worship, pleasure without purity, commerce without conscience, and power without God.

Last week we saw in Revelation 17 we read about religious Babylon, a counterfeit spiritual system, with a harlot riding the beast, intoxicated with false worship and the blood of the saints.

Here in Revelation 18 we see the fall of commercial Babylon, the economic, political, and materialistic system of the last days.

There are 404 verses in the book of Revelation and 46 of those verses deal with Babylon. If you use the bible to interpret the bible Babylon will be a real place that we read about last week in the Old Testament. Every time the word Babylon was used in the Old Testament, it referred to a specific place. And since the book of Revelation means “to unveil” it would be odd that suddenly God switches to figurative language.

From a pretribulation, futurist perspective, this chapter points forward to events during the future seven-year Tribulation, after the church has been caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The world will be under the rule of the Antichrist, and for a time it

will look as if man's final kingdom has succeeded. There will be global commerce, luxury, power, deception, and spiritual corruption, and then suddenly without further warning, **"Babylon is fallen"**

Revelation 18:1, **"1 After all this I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority, and the earth grew bright with his splendor."**

Some think this angel is Jesus, but this angel is described as "another," angel. Aallos in the Greek means, **"another of the same kind."** That is, another of the same kind of angel as appeared in chapter 17. This being possesses the glory given to angels, not the glory belonging to God alone.

So the message today is simple: The command, **"Come away"** from the world's system before it comes down.

John 17:14, **"I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world."**

We are not of this world... Heaven is our home!

1 Peter 2:11-12, **“11 Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.”**

We are strangers; we are just passing through.

John sees a mighty angel coming down from heaven. This angel has great authority, and the earth is illuminated with his glory.

The world is dark, but heaven is not dim.

The earth may be filled with deception, but God still has messengers. God still has authority. God still has light. And when heaven speaks, Babylon trembles. The world system will shine brightly for a moment, but just as the bible makes clear that sin is only pleasurable for a moment, it will fall suddenly under the hand of Almighty God.

The repeated cry of chapter 18 is: “Babylon is fallen — that great city is fallen”

Revelation 18:2, **“2 He gave a mighty shout: “Babylon is fallen—that great city is fallen! She has become a home for demons. She is a**

hideout for every foul spirit, a hideout for every foul vulture and every foul and dreadful animal.

Notice the certainty of the announcement. It is spoken as if already accomplished. With regard to prophecy, when God declares the future, He often speaks of it as already done because His purposes cannot fail.

Babylon is called great, but she is fallen. What once looked glamorous is revealed to be demonic. What once looked sophisticated is exposed as spiritually filthy. That is the nature of Babylon. It always dresses rebellion in expensive clothing.

That is a powerful contrast.

The world calls her great.
God calls her fallen.

The world sees luxury.
God sees corruption.

The world sees success.
God sees judgment.

The world sees a marketplace.
God sees a graveyard.

Revelation 18:3, “**3 For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of her passionate immorality. The kings of the world have committed adultery with her. Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich.**”

Nations will fall because they will become intoxicated with materialism and greed because of Babylon, the trophy of commercialism and trade. If we are honest, we will find that this level of greed is not far-fetched, for there is covetousness inside every human heart.

Babylon corrupted nations, seduced kings, and enriched merchants through luxury.

This is more than economics. This is spiritual adultery.

The world system says, “You can have wealth without righteousness. You can have pleasure without holiness. You can have power without accountability. You can have prosperity without God.”

But Revelation 18 declares that every kingdom built on rebellion will collapse.

Psalm 2:1, **“Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans?”**

The answer is: because fallen man still believes he can build a world without God.

Gary Hamrick, in his book **“Standing on the Edge of Eternity: The End Times According to Revelation”** writes,

“Biblical Stewardship God wants us to remember that our identity is in Him and not the stuff money can buy. Instead, whether we have little or much, we must be good stewards of what He has entrusted to us. That means we must live within our means and be generous with what we have. God wants us to be at peace with what He has given us—to be content rather than greedy. Challenging Statistics. The worldly system of materialism and greed does not come out of nowhere. Babylon is not just something far ahead. In some ways, Babylon is already here:

1. There are 300,000 items in the average American home.
2. The average American home has tripled in size over the last 50 years.

3. Off-site storage has been the fastest-growing segment of the commercial real-estate industry over the last four decades, and one out of every ten Americans rent storage space.
4. Twenty-five percent of people with two-car garages do not have room to park cars inside them due to their extra possessions, and 32 percent have room for only one vehicle.
5. The United States has upward of 50,000 storage facilities—more than five times the number of Starbucks.
6. Currently, there is 7.3 square feet of self-storage space for every man, woman, and child in America; thus, it is physically possible that every American could simultaneously stand atop the total canopy of self-storage roofing.
7. Only 3.1 percent of the world's children live in America, but they own 40 percent of the toys consumed globally.
8. The average American woman owns 30 outfits—that is one for every day of the month. In 1930, they owned nine.
9. The average American throws away 65 pounds of clothing per year.
10. Americans spend more on shoes, clothing, watches—\$100 billion—than on higher education.”

Revelation 18:4, **“4 Then I heard another voice calling from heaven, “Come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins, or you will be punished with her.”**

This is not just a prophecy to satisfy curiosity. It is a warning to shape our character. God is saying to His people: **“Come away from her, my people...”**

Babylon may be impressive, but Babylon is doomed. “Remember the old saying, **“The bigger they are, the harder they fall.”**

Babylon’s Sin is more than wealth. It is the worship of wealth.

Don’t miss the point: Revelation 18 is not condemning honest work, business, trade, or possessions.

The bible does NOT say that money is the root of all evil.

1 Timothy 6:10, **“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”**

Commerce itself is not the sin. Industry itself is not the sin. Wealth itself is not the sin.

The sin of Babylon is that she turned wealth into her god. Her economy became idolatry. Her luxury became self-worship. Her marketplace became a temple. Her merchants became priests of greed.

In Revelation 18:12-13 we discover her merchandise, **“12 She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth; things made of fragrant thyine wood, ivory goods, and objects made of expensive wood; and bronze, iron, and marble. 13 She also bought cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, wagons, and bodies—that is, human slaves.**

This is where Babylon as a system always fails.
When profit becomes god, people become products.
When greed rules the heart, human beings become merchandise.

Babylon is not just guilty of having luxury. She is guilty of consuming people to sustain her luxury.

This truth applies in every age. It is seen in the slavery of human sweatshops, human trafficking, exploitation, pornography, corruption, dishonest business, unjust wages.

Any system that treats people made in the image of God as tools for pleasure or profit.

Commercial Babylon is the final expression of an old sin: man using man while rejecting God.

Matthew 16:26, **“And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”**

Here is the main point: This command to “Come Away” is a command to not get caught up in the worlds system.

John 17:15-18, **“15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do. 17 Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world.”**

So **“Come Away”** does not mean isolation from sinners. It means separation from sin.

It means we do not adopt Babylon's values.

Babylon says, "Live for luxury." Jesus says, "**Lay up treasures in heaven.**"

Babylon says, "Glorify yourself." Jesus says, "**Deny yourself.**"

Babylon says, "Use people." Jesus says, "**Love your neighbor.**"

Babylon says, "Buy and sell at any cost." Jesus says, "**What will it profit a man?**"

Babylon says, "You are secure." Jesus says, "**Fool! This night your soul will be required of you.**"

This command is repeated throughout Scripture.

Isaiah 52:11, "**Get out! Get out and leave your captivity, where everything you touch is unclean. Get out of there and purify yourselves, you who carry home the sacred objects of the LORD.**"

Jeremiah 50:8, "**But now, flee from Babylon! Leave the land of the Babylonians. Like male goats at the head of the flock, lead my people home again**"

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:14, "**Don't team up with those who are unbelievers.**"

How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness?"

Ephesians 5:11, **"Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them."**

The danger is not only that Babylon is out there. The danger is that Babylon can get in here. Into each of our lives...

Babylon can get into our spending.

Babylon can get into our ambitions.

Babylon can get into our entertainment.

Babylon can get into our business ethics.

Babylon can get into our homes.

Babylon can get into our churches.

The call is not just about a location. It is spiritual.

That's why God judged spiritual Babylon first for its out of the heart... out of our spiritual being that our life flows.

God is saying simply, **"Come away from her before you become like her."**

Revelation 18:5, **"5 For her sins are piled as high as heaven, and God remembers her evil deeds."**

Babylon's sins have piled up like another tower of Babel but this time they reached heaven and got God's attention. Mankind has been stacking rebellion upon rebellion, transgression upon transgression, injustice upon injustice, blasphemy upon blasphemy.

“And God remembers.”

That phrase should make every non-believer live in fear!

But for the child of God who is trusting in Jesus Christ, Hebrews 8:12 says, **“And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.”**

For those trusting in Babylon, sins are remembered in judgment. For the believer, sins are removed by grace.

Revelation 18:6-8 describes Babylon's judgment:

Revelation 18:6-7, “6 Do to her as she has done to others. Double her penalty for all her evil deeds. She brewed a cup of terror for others, so brew twice as much for her. 7 She glorified herself and lived in luxury, so match it now with

torment and sorrow. She boasted in her heart, ‘I am queen on my throne. I’m no helpless widow, and I have no reason to mourn.’”

This is not divine overreaction. It is divine justice.

God pays Babylon back according to her works. She glorified herself. She lived luxuriously. She said, “I sit as queen.” She said, “I am no widow.” She said, “I will not see sorrow.”

That is the language of arrogance. Babylon believes she is untouchable.

Revelation 18:8 says: **“Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day—death and mourning and famine. She will be completely consumed by fire, for the Lord God who judges her is mighty.”**

Babylon might be strong, but God is stronger!

Her merchants are strong.
Her kings are strong.
Her armies are strong.
Her banks are strong.
Her networks are strong.
Her influence is strong.

But Revelation 18:8 reminds us **“for the Lord God who judges her is mighty.”**

This is why we focus on the Lord and not the things of the world.

The real question is not how strong Babylon is. The most important question is how strong God is.

Revelation 18:9-10, **“9 And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. 10 They will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. They will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for you, O Babylon, you great city! In a single moment God’s judgment came on you.”**

“In a single moment God’s judgment came on you.”

In Revelation 18:17-19, the merchants cry: **“And all the captains of the merchant ships and their passengers and sailors and crews will stand at a distance. 18 They will cry out as they watch the smoke ascend, and they will say, “Where is there another city as great as this? 19 And they**

will weep and throw dust on their heads to show their grief. And they will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for that great city! The shipowners became wealthy by transporting her great wealth on the seas. In a single moment it is all gone.”

“In a single moment.”

3 times we hear it: **“In a single moment”**

The world system that took centuries to build can be brought down by God in a moment in time.

That is how fragile earthly security is.

A moment in time can change a nation.

A moment in time can change an economy.

A moment in time can change a life.

A moment in time can change eternity.

Do not build your soul on what God can destroy in a moment in time.

Matthew 6:19-21, **“19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your**

treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

The bottom line! Build your life on Jesus Christ; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Don't miss this in Revelation 18:9-19, Babylon's mourners Reveal their hearts

1. The kings mourn

Revelation 18:9-10 says: **“9 And the kings of the world who committed adultery with her and enjoyed her great luxury will mourn for her as they see the smoke rising from her charred remains. 10 They will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. They will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for you, O Babylon, you great city! In a single moment God’s judgment came on you.”**

They do not mourn because they have sinned. They mourn because their luxury is gone.

They do not repent. They regret the loss of comfort. That is worldly sorrow. Worldly sorrow says, **“I hate the consequences.”**

Godly sorrow says, **“I have sinned against the Lord.”**

2. The merchants mourn

Revelation 18:11-16, “11 The merchants of the world will weep and mourn for her, for there is no one left to buy their goods. 12 She bought great quantities of gold, silver, jewels, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet cloth; things made of fragrant thyine wood, ivory goods, and objects made of expensive wood; and bronze, iron, and marble. 13 She also bought cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, wagons, and bodies—that is, human slaves. 14 “The fancy things you loved so much are gone,” they cry. “All your luxuries and splendor are gone forever, never to be yours again.” 15 The merchants who became wealthy by selling her these things will stand at a distance, terrified by her great torment. They will weep and cry out, 16 “How terrible, how terrible for that great city! She was clothed in finest purple and scarlet linens, decked out with gold and precious stones and pearls!”

Their grief is economic. They are not crying over souls. They are crying over lost sales.

They are not grieving over injustice. They are grieving over lost inventory.

They do not say, “No one worships God anymore.”

They say, “No one buys our stuff anymore.”

That is the heart of Babylon: buying and selling without moral concern.

3. The sailors mourn

Revelation 18:17-19, **“17 In a single moment all the wealth of the city is gone!” And all the captains of the merchant ships and their passengers and sailors and crews will stand at a distance. 18 They will cry out as they watch the smoke ascend, and they will say, “Where is there another city as great as this?” 19 And they will weep and throw dust on their heads to show their grief. And they will cry out, “How terrible, how terrible for that great city! The shipowners became wealthy by transporting her great wealth on the seas. In a single moment it is all gone.”**

They all cry out in their self-interested sorrow.

They became rich by her wealth, and now the source has dried up. Here is the tragedy: everyone mourns Babylon, but no one repents.

They weep over the collapse of their world, but not over the corruption that fills their hearts.

That is a warning: It is possible to cry when sin costs you something and still not repent. Pharaoh did that. King Saul did that. Judas did that.

Do not merely mourn the consequences of sin. Turn from sin and run to Christ.

Understand: 2 Corinthians 7:10, **“For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death”**

Personal Application: We read in these verses that God knocks down every idol. Maybe you have noticed in your own life the same principle: that God will work to remove what you have grown to prioritize above Jesus.

Notice that in heaven there is not sorrow but rejoicing!

Revelation 18:20-23, **“20 Rejoice over her fate, O heaven and people of God and apostles and prophets! For at last God has judged her for your sakes. 21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a huge millstone. He threw it into the ocean and shouted, “Just like this, the**

great city Babylon will be thrown down with violence and will never be found again. 22 The sound of harps, singers, flutes, and trumpets will never be heard in you again. No craftsmen and no trades will ever be found in you again. The sound of the mill will never be heard in you again. 23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The happy voices of brides and grooms will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the greatest in the world, and you deceived the nations with your sorceries.”

Earth mourns. Heaven rejoices. Why?

Not because God is cruel. Not because God's people delight in suffering. Not because judgment is entertaining.

Heaven rejoices because God has finally answered evil with justice.

Remember the martyrs under the altar cried in Revelation 6:10,

Revelation 18 is part of the answer. God has not forgotten His people. God has not ignored their tears. God has not overlooked their blood.

Revelation 18:24 says, **“24 In your streets flowed the blood of the prophets and of God’s holy people and the blood of people slaughtered all over the world.”**

Babylon is not only greedy. She is violent. She hates God’s people because she hates God. But God takes the persecution of His people personally.

When Saul who became the apostle Paul persecuted Christians, Jesus appeared to him and said in Acts 9:4, **“Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”**

Jesus did not say, “Why are you persecuting them?”
Jesus said, **“Why are you persecuting Me?”**

To touch the people of God is to touch what belongs to Christ.

So heaven rejoices, because righteousness wins.
Truth wins. God wins!

The world may silence prophets.
The world may kill saints.
The world may mock Scripture.
The world may persecute believers.

But Babylon never has the final word.

God does.

Revelation 18:21, **“21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a huge millstone. He threw it into the ocean and shouted, “Just like this, the great city Babylon will be thrown down with violence and will never be found again.”**

This picture comes from Old Testament judgment language. It shows finality.

A great stone sinks into the sea and disappears.

So Babylon will fall and not rise again

Revelation 18:22-23 **“22 The sound of harps, singers, flutes, and trumpets will never be heard in you again. No craftsmen and no trades will ever be found in you again. The sound of the mill will never be heard in you again. 23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The happy voices of brides and grooms will never be heard in you again. For your merchants were the greatest in the world, and you deceived the nations with your sorceries.”**

Revelation 18:22-23 repeat the phrase “**never again**”

Babylon promised life but ends in silence. That is always what sin does.

“you deceived the nations with your sorceries.”

The word translated “**sorcery**” is connected to the Greek word **pharmakia**; it's where we get our English word pharmacy, which most often in Scripture is associated with drugs, potions, and occult deception.

Babylon intoxicates the nations. She drugs the conscience. She numbs the soul.

And isn't that what worldliness does?

Rome Understood: “**Keep them fed and entertained and you can rule the world**”

The Focus of Rome. Keep people entertained enough not to think about eternity. Keep people busy enough not to pray. Comfortable enough not to repent. Distracted enough not to notice judgment approaching.

God says: **“Come away from her, My people.”**

The blessing of getting away from Babylon now is the Rapture of the church!

Jesus said in Revelation 3:10, **“Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.”**

The key word being “From” not “Through”

The apostle Paul said the same thing in 1 Thessalonians 5:9, **“9 For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us.”**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, **“16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.”**

Our hope is not the Antichrist. Our hope is Jesus Christ.

We are not looking for Babylon to rise. We are looking for Jesus to come.

But until Jesus comes, Revelation 18 still speaks to us.

It says: do not fall in love with the world that Jesus is coming to judge.

1 John 2:15-17, “**15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.**”

Babylon is passing away. Heaven is forever. Live for what will last.

Closing Question:

How do believers come out of Babylon while still living in this world?

1. Examine your loves. Is there anything I love more than Jesus?

Ask yourself: What do I desire most?

2. Practice contentment.

1 Timothy 6:8, **“So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.”**

Contentment is rebellion against Babylon as a content Christian is hard to enslave.

3. Make Money A Servant

Being rich is NOT a sin.

1 Timothy 6:10, **“10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”**

It's the love or lust for money!

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24, **“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”**

Notice: Jesus did not say you should not. He said you cannot.

4. Live With Eternity In View

Everything Babylon offers has an expiration date!

Only three things last forever. God, The Word of God and the souls of men!

The gold will burn.

The music will stop.

The markets will close.

The lights will go out.

The city will fall.

But the kingdom of God will never end!

Matthew 6:19-24, **“19 “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and**

steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. 21 Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”