



# Vision 6 – Part 1: The Judgment of Babylon

## Rev 17-18

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### The Woman and the Beast

The great prostitute (Babylon) is the opposite of the woman in Chapter 12, which represented the church. Babylon represents the seductions of the world (Rev 17:4; 18:3). Her corruption is contrasted with the purity of the bride of the Lamb (Rev 19:7-9). Babylon encompasses the worship of the godless world. By contrast, the bride (the church) represents the worshipers of the true God. Just as Satan, the beast and the false prophet form a counterfeit trinity, so Babylon is a counterfeit church that seduces the world to allegiance to the counterfeit trinity. Satan attacks the saints in two main ways: (1) The beast attacks with power and persecution, endeavoring to destroy the witness of the saints and to force them to worship the beast; and (2) Babylon attacks with seduction, endeavoring to destroy the purity of the saints. (Kistemaker, 2001)

Rev 17:1 – The great prostitute who sits on many waters

Rev 17:15 – And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.”

Rev 17:2

1. The dwellers on earth (Rev 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:8)
2. With whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality
  - a. Rev 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.
  - b. Ez 27:33 – When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth.
3. With the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.
  - a. Rev 14:8 – Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”
  - b. Jer 51:7 – Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.

Rev 17:3



1. Scarlet beast
  - a. Rev 13:1 – And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.
  - b. Is 1:18 – Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
  - c. Matt 27:28 – And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him
2. Full of blasphemous names (Rev 13:1, 5, 6)
3. It had seven heads and ten horns (Rev 13:1; Dan 7:7, 20, 24)

Rev 17:4

1. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls
  - a. Rev 18:16 – Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!
  - b. Jer 4:30 – And you, O desolate one, what do you mean that you dress in scarlet, that you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, that you enlarge your eyes with paint? In vain you beautify yourself. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.
2. Holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality (Jer 51:7; Rev 14:8; 17:2)

Rev 17:5 – Mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations

1. 1 John 2:15-16 – Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
2. Gal 5:19-21 – Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
3. Rev 2:20-23a – But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead.

Rev 17:6 – And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev 18:24; 1:2, 9; 12:17; 19:10; 20:4; Jer 51:49)



### Rev 17:8

1. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction (contrast with Rev 1:4, 8; 4:8)
  - a. Rev 11:7 – And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them
  - b. Rev 13:3 – One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.
  - c. Rev 19:20 – And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
  - d. Rev 20:10 – and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
2. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast  
Rev 13:3 – One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

The beast controlled the nations and kingdoms of the world. God had chosen Israel as his own people out of all the nations, while Satan ruled all the others. The devil tempted Jesus by offering him all the kingdoms of the world if he would worship him (Luke 4:5-7), but Jesus refused. When the Lord was about to ascend to heaven, he uttered his enthronement speech by saying, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me” (Mt 28:18). With these words he indicated that Satan had lost the battle and that Jesus rules supreme. In this battle, one of the beast’s heads was fatally wounded, but it had healed (Rev 13:3, 12, 14). After Pentecost, the unstoppable gospel of Christ went forth from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. This gospel is proclaimed in every nation, and Satan is unable to restrain it. Until Pentecost, the beast as Satan’s representative had power over all the nations except Israel, but now his authority belongs to the past. (Kistemaker, 2001)

### Rev 17:9

1. This calls for a mind with wisdom  
Rev 13:18 – This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.
2. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. Note that the woman sits on many waters (Rev 17:1, 15), the beast (Rev 17:3), and seven hills. Seven hills points to Rome, which symbolizes world powers.



3. The seven mountains refer to the well-known geography of Rome's site. But in prophetic imagery mountains are associated with great power or rule (Dan 2:35, 44-45; cf. Rev 14:1), and God had called ancient Babylon a "destroying mountain": "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys the whole earth.... I will make you a burnt out mountain" (Jer 51:24-25). So both mountains and kings symbolize the world-wide (sevenfold – comprehensive) authority given to the beast to rule "every tribe and people and tongue and nation" (Rev 13:7). (Johnson, 2001)

Babylon stands for the city of Rome with its immorality. For the seven churches of Revelation, Rome was the source of all manner of idolatry – not only the worship of the Roman emperor, but also the structures of an idolatrous society. The paganism of the cities of Asia Minor made each into a small manifestation of Rome. Full economic and social participation (Rev 13:17) involved attendance at idol feasts and pagan religious celebrations. Worship of the emperor was an expected expression of political allegiance. Pagans called Christians "atheists" because Christians did not worship the many gods, and they accused believers of hating humankind because Christians withdrew from compromised forms of social life (1 Pet 2:12; 4:3-4). In reaction to this pressure, some professing Christians argued that participation in idolatrous feasts and sexual immorality was acceptable (Rev 2:12, 20; 1 Cor 6:12-20). The woman Jezebel mentioned in 2:20-23 was a key seducer whose work is generalized and more deeply symbolized in Babylon the prostitute (cf. 17:2). Modern cities may also be centers of seduction to idolatry and sexual immorality. Thus, the symbolism of Babylon is capable of multiple embodiments, including a final, climatic embodiment just before the second coming. (Johnson, 2001)

#### Rev 17:10

1. They are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen – ancient Babylonia (Gen 10:8-12), Assyria, Neo-Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia
2. One is – Rome
3. The other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while
  - a. Rev 11:1-3 – Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."
  - b. Rev 12:6 – and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.
  - c. Rev 12:12 – Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!



- d. Rev 13:5 – And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

The solution to the puzzle may be simpler, if understanding the message of the seven or eight kings is not dependent on historiographic expertise: Seven symbolized completeness, so it shows that the beast's reign apparently holds sway over the whole history of fallen humanity. Yet from the perspective of God's plan to establish his kingdom under the scepter of the Lamb, the beast's time is drawing short – five out of seven already "have fallen." To be sure, John's readers are not yet at the very end of the conflict of the ages. The one king who "has not yet come" and must "remain a little while" shows that, though the dragon has been decisively defeated by the blood of the Lamb and therefore "has only a short time" (Rev 12:11-12), nevertheless the church must be prepared to endure further suffering. (Johnson, 2001)

Rev 17:11 – As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven (literally, He is of, or like, the seven) and it goes to destruction.

2 Thes 2:3-4 – Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

The church must persevere not only under the pressure of present levels of suffering (the seventh king) but also under the coming, crushing conspiracy of its enemies at the end (the beast to arise and an eighth king). This final assault against the church by the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, and their allies is pictured in various ways throughout Revelation: the emergence of the beast from the abyss to wage war against the witnesses and overcome and kill them (11:7); the emergence of the beast from the sea to wage war against the saints and overcome them – killing those who refuse its mark (13:1, 7, 15); the gathering of the kings to wage the war of the great day of God, the Almighty (16:13:16); the gathering of the beast with earth's kings and residents to wage the war against the Word of God, who rides the white horse, and his army (19:19); the dragon's "short time" of release from the abyss, when he will gather the nations for the war against the camp of the saints and the beloved city (20:7-10, cf. vv. 1-3). In our present text, this last battle is pictured in the future coming of the beast out of the abyss as an eighth king, who belongs to the seven, at least as the climactic expression of their arrogance toward God and hostility toward his people. At its root every pagan world empire is another incarnation of the same satanic spirit that will reach full intensity just before it shatters before the glory of the Lamb and "goes to destruction" (17:8, 11). (Johnson, 2001)



Rev 17:12

1. The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power
  - a. Dan 7:7 – After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.
  - b. Dan 7:19-27 – “Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’
2. For one hour
  - a. Rev 18:10 – 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.”
  - b. Rev 18:17a – For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste
  - c. Rev 18:19b – 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.
3. But they are to receive authority as kings...together with the beast (Rom 13:1)



Rev 17:14

1. They will make war on the Lamb
  - a. Dan 7:21 – As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them.
  - b. Rev 11:7 – And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them
  - c. Rev 13:7a – Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.
2. And the Lamb will conquer them
  - a. 2 Thes 2:8 – And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.
  - b. Rev 11:11 – But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
  - c. Rev 16:17-21 – The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.
  - d. Rev 19:19-21 – And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.
3. For he is Lord of lords and King of kings
  - a. Dt 10:17 – For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.
  - b. Ps 136:3 – Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever



- c. Dan 2:47 – The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”
4. And those with him are called and chosen and faithful
  - a. Rom 8:30 – And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
  - b. Eph 1:3-5 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will
  - c. 1 Th 4:13-17 – But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
  - d. Rev 11:11-12 – But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

The final conspiracy is also symbolized in the ten kings (ten horns) who receive authority with the beast “for one hour,” for the sole purpose of putting that authority at the beast’s disposal as it launches its last desperate assault on the Lamb and his “called and chosen and faithful” followers (17:12-14). The camera angles on this last battle vary as we move from Revelation 12 to Revelation 20, but the story line they tell is consistent. Jesus’ followers must be prepared for a period of unparalleled, intense persecution at the end, when evil forces now restrained will be released to work their worst against the church. Yet that time of trauma will be brief, and our enemies’ final conspiracy will end not in the downfall of the church, as they expect, but in their destruction. (Johnson, 2001)

Rev 17:15 – The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages (Rev 17:1)





1. Is 8:5-8 – The Lord spoke to me again: 6 “Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, 7 therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, 8 and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”
2. Jer 47:2 – Thus says the Lord: Behold, waters are rising out of the north, and shall become an overflowing torrent; they shall overflow the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. Men shall cry out, and every inhabitant of the land shall wail.

Rev 17:16

1. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute.  
Mk 3:23-24 – And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.”
2. They will make her desolate and naked
  - a. Ez 16:39-41 – And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare. 40 They shall bring up a crowd against you, and they shall stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. 41 And they shall burn your houses and execute judgments upon you in the sight of many women. I will make you stop playing the whore, and you shall also give payment no more.
  - b. Ez 23:28-30 – For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will deliver you into the hands of those whom you hate, into the hands of those from whom you turned in disgust, 29 and they shall deal with you in hatred and take away all the fruit of your labor and leave you naked and bare, and the nakedness of your whoring shall be uncovered. Your lewdness and your whoring 30 have brought this upon you, because you played the whore with the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.
3. And devour her flesh and burn her up with fire
  - a. Lev 21:9 – And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring, profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.
  - b. Ez 23:25 – And I will direct my jealousy against you, that they may deal with you in fury. They shall cut off your nose and your ears, and your survivors shall fall by the sword. They shall seize your sons and your daughters, and your survivors shall be devoured by fire.

Rev 17:17 – For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose

1. Amos 3:6 – Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?



2. Is 45:7 – I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.
3. Lam 3:38 – Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?
4. Acts 4:27-28 – for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, 28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Rev 17:18 – And the woman that you saw is the great city (Rev 11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10)

The prostitute is borne up by a hideous beast (evidently the same beast as in Rev 13:1-10). The beast, representing the Roman Empire, supports the city of Rome in its luxurious idolatry. It also spreads the practices of Rome throughout the empire. Eventually, however, the beast turns against the prostitute and destroys her (Rev 17:16-17). The rapacious powers of Roman government and the Roman legions destroyed prosperity, and eventually the military powers of surrounding tribes completely destroyed the city of Rome. The lesson from Roman times can be generalized: Idolatrous states end up destroying the very powers, riches, privileges and people that they start out supporting. False worship is self-destructive. When the destruction of false worship is complete (Rev 17:1-18:24), the true worshipers (the bride of the Lamb) stand out in their splendor and joy (Rev 19:1-10). (Johnson, 2001)

## The First Lament

Rev 18:1 – After this (Rev 1:19; 4:1; 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 19:1; 20:3)

Rev 18:2

1. Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great (Rev 14:8; Is 21:9)
2. 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.
  - a. Jer 50:39 – Therefore wild beasts shall dwell with hyenas in Babylon, and ostriches shall dwell in her. She shall never again have people, nor be inhabited for all generations.
  - b. Jer 51:37 – and Babylon shall become a heap of ruins, the haunt of jackals, a horror and a hissing, without inhabitant.

Rev 18:3

1. For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality



- a. Rev 14:8 – Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”
- b. Jer 51:7 – Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad.
2. The kings of the earth have committed immorality with her
  - a. Rev 17:2 – with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.
  - b. Ez 27:33 – When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth.
3. And the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living (Ez 27:12-23 describes the luxury of Tyre)

## The Command to Flee

Rev 18:4 – Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues

1. Is 48:20 – Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea, declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it, send it out to the end of the earth; say, “The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!”
2. Is 52:11 – Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the Lord.
3. Jer 51:45 – Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let every one save his life from the fierce anger of the Lord!
4. 2 Cor 6:16-18 – What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”
5. John 17:14-18 – I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

Rev 18:5 – For her sins are heaped as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities

1. Gen 11:3-4 – And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”
2. Jer 51:9 – We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to heaven and has been lifted up even to the skies.

Rev 18:6 – 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.

1. Jer 16:18 – But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, because they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations.
2. The words *repay her double* go back to a Hebrew idiom that signifies “to produce a duplicate.” An idiom ought not to be translated literally; therefore the translation in English should be “Give her the *very equivalent* according to her works,” that is, pay her back in kind. (Kistemaker, 2001)

Rev 18:7 – Since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.

Is 47:7-8 – You said, “I shall be mistress forever,” so that you did not lay these things to heart or remember their end. 8 Now therefore hear this, you lover of pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, “I am, and there is no one besides me; I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children”

Rev 18:8 – For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire

1. Is 47:9 – These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments.
2. Jer 50:31-32 – Behold, I am against you, O proud one, declares the Lord God of hosts, for your day has come, the time when I will punish you. 32 The proud one shall stumble and fall, with none to raise him up, and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it will devour all that is around him.

## The Second Lament – The Fall of Babylon

This section (Rev 18:9-20) can be divided into four parts:

- The kings of the earth lament the doom of Babylon (Rev 18:9-10)



- The merchants weep and mourn over the loss of sales and wealth (Rev 18:11-17a)
- The sea captains and sailors bemoan the ruin of the great city (Rev 18:17b-19)
- The saint and apostles in heaven respond by rejoicing over God's judgment (Rev 18:20)

(Kistemaker, 2001)

Rev 18:9 – Will weep and wail over her (Ez 26:16-17)

Rev 18:11 – The merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her (Ez 27)

Rev 18:16 – That was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls

Rev 17:4 – The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Rev 18:19

Ez 27:28-33 – At the sound of the cry of your pilots the countryside shakes, 29 and down from their ships come all who handle the oar. The mariners and all the pilots of the sea stand on the land 30 and shout aloud over you and cry out bitterly. They cast dust on their heads and wallow in ashes; 31 they make themselves bald for you and put sackcloth on their waist, and they weep over you in bitterness of soul, with bitter mourning. 32 In their wailing they raise a lamentation for you and lament over you: 'Who is like Tyre, like one destroyed in the midst of the sea? 33 When your wares came from the seas, you satisfied many peoples; with your abundant wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth.

Rev 18:20 – For God has given judgment for you against her

1. Dt 32:35-36 – Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.' 36 For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.
2. Rom 12:19 – Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

## **Babylon Cast Down**

Rev 18:21 – Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea.



1. Jer 51:63-64 – When you finish reading this book, tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates, 64 and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’
2. Matt 18:5-6 – Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Rev 18:22-23a

Jer 25:10 – Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

Rev 18:23b

1. For your merchants were the great ones of the earth
  - a. Is 23:8 – Who has purposed this against Tyre, the bestower of crowns, whose merchants were princes, whose traders were the honored of the earth?
  - b. Ez 28:5 – by your great wisdom in your trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth
2. And all nations were deceived by your sorcery
  - a. Rev 13:13-16 – It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, 14 and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. 16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead
  - b. Rev 17:8 – The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Rev 18:24

Jer 51:49 – Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel, just as for Babylon have fallen the slain of all the earth.