

Revelation

Revelation 18: The Fall of Babylon

Introduction:

This chapter describes the destruction of **Mystery Babylon's** second identity as a city that is home to a one-world political and economic system.

We should see chapter eighteen as a song that reflects the events of chapter seventeen. God used the Antichrist to destroy **Religious Babylon** in the previous chapter. He uses the evil people of the world to destroy **Political Babylon**.

The Announcement of Babylon's Fall

18:1-3

- A. The chapter opens with the appearance of **another angel** whom John describes in 18:1.
 1. The angel's appearance is marked by two special points: (1) He is powerful and (2) His glory casts a light over the whole earth.
 2. The announcement goes throughout the world.

- B. The Angel's announcement is in the form of a **hymn**.
 1. The **first stanza** describes and celebrates Babylon's destruction. Repetition is designed to reflect surprise.
 2. The **second stanza** gives the reasons for judgment. 18:3
 - Demonic activity.
 - Their sinfulness.
 3. These sins that are listed are not just the sins of present-day Babylonians but the culmination of sins from the time of Babel.

- C. Look now at the wickedness of the city.

The Call of God for Separation

18:4-8

- A. Verse four begins with another message in hymn form. ***“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.”***
 - 1. This is from God telling us that judgment is avoidable for us.
 - 2. There are two reasons given for this call: (1) We should avoid the sin of the city, and (2) We can avoid the world’s judgment.
- B. The speaker changes again in verse six where we have a prayer of the people of God in relation to the judgments on the city.
 - 1. To these people Rome was Babylon and they felt that they had a right to pray for her judgment.
 - 2. This is not a vindictive or hateful prayer.
 - 3. There does come a time for judgment!
- C. This is also a prayer against their haughty spirit and pride. 18:7
 - 1. Scripture here speaks of a three-fold sin: (1) Self-indulgence, (2) Pride, and (3) Self-sufficiency.
 - 2. ***“I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.”*** (v.7)
 - 3. In response there comes a prediction of swift judgment. (v.8)

Hymns of Defeat

18:9-19

- A. The **first group of mourners** are the kings of the earth. (9-10)
- B. Application: Believers in the early church could have said to Rome, *“your judgment was set as soon as you became the Babylon of our day.”*
- C. The **second group of mourners** are the merchants of the earth. (11-17)
- D. The **third group of mourners** are the sea captains. (17-19)

A Hymn of Victory

18:20-24

- A. The tone of the song changes from a lament to a hymn of victory.
 - 1. First, there is the exhortation to all who have been oppressed in verse twenty.
 - 2. There is an on-going tower of Babel created in every age to oppose God.
 - 3. God vindicates those who have pronounced judgment.

- B. The hymn continues in verse twenty-one by demonstrating how quickly Babylon is destroyed.

- C. The hymn also describes the desolation of the site of the city. (22-23)

- D. Verse twenty-four gives us the reasons for Babylon's destruction.