

**Revelation #45****June 25, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: God's Crushing Judgment Against Babylon, pt 1; Revelation 18:1-24**

Babylon is the world wide empire of Antichrist. And, if you remember that empire, Babylon, will have a world-wide, tyrannical religious, political and economical system. As we learned in Revelation 17, at about the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Beast (Antichrist) along with his puppet kings, will overthrow "Mystery Babylon The Great (The mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth)". False religion will not cease to exist, but the Beast, having no stomach, no room for a competing outlet for worship will force all the inhabitants of the earth to worship him and him alone.

The Beast will hold all political and economic power and policy worldwide! With this in mind, and as we open Revelation 18, we come to God's crushing judgment against Babylon!

Now the question remains: is the Babylon of Revelation 18 indicative of a worldwide godless system? In other words, is God's crushing judgment against Babylon a judgment against Antichrist and his worldwide godless system? Or, is God's crushing judgment against an actual city called Babylon?

There can be little doubt, based on what we read in Revelation 17 and 18, that Antichrist's empire has swallowed up the religions and economies of the earth: That Babylon has secreted into and affected every religious, political and economic system known to mankind; That Babylon's weight and authority hangs over every human being. We can see how this could be possible just by looking at the far reaching impact the political and economic reach the United States of America has over all the earth. Why, as you read Revelation 18, you can't help but think of how American capitalism has lifted all the economies of the nations and the peoples of the earth! Can you imagine the devastation that would come to the earth if the United States of America collapsed today? It would be comparable to what we read in Revelation 18.

But, Revelation 18 gives us a clue in order for us to answer the question, is the Babylon of Revelation 18 merely a system or is Babylon a city? Just so you know, Biblical scholars, thinkers, preachers and saints have debated this question a long time and have yet to come to agreement. And, as much as I would like to think it is indicative of a worldwide system, I will take the well thought out and well defended position that the Babylon of Revelation 18 is a city. Here's why: First, it is referred to as a city five times in this chapter (18:10,16, 18, 19, 21). Second, there are many references in the OT describing the desolation and eventual destruction of Babylon. (see Is. 13:19-22; 14:22-23; Jer. 50:13,39; 51:37). The total destruction has yet to be fulfilled, but it will be when the events of Revelation 18 unfold with God's crushing judgment against Babylon. Look at Revelation 18: 21. Here you see Babylon's final destruction predicted: "...the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again." But, make no mistake, when Babylon falls, the whole world will go down with it! That is how far reaching and powerful the city of Babylon, Antichrist's capital city, will be!

But, keep these two ideas in mind as you read and listen, 1) God is on the throne and it is He who is delivering His crushing judgment on Antichrist and his Babylon. 2) God is judging Babylon to vindicate His Name and His people who have trusted in Him and His Christ and refused to follow the Beast upon pain of suffering and death!

We will divide chapter 18 into three parts: 1) Revelation 18:1-8: Babylon will fall; 2) 18:9-20, Babylon will fall hard; and, 3) 18:21-24, Babylon will fall hard never to rise again.

## I. (18:1-8) Babylon will fall

### A. Another angel

1. Different from the one in Revelation 17
2. An angel with great authority and beaming brightly to illuminate the earth in his splendor.
  - a) This brightness and splendor is reflective of the glory of God who sent him.
  - b) Think of this as *a divine intrusion of God* as the angel casts a **worldwide** reflection of the glory of God upon the deep moral and spiritual darkness that covers the earth!
    - (1) Isaiah 60:2: "Behold, darkness has covered the earth and gross darkness the people, but the Lord shall rise upon you and His glory appears over you."
    - (a) But, rather than coming in a saving manner to His awaiting people, His coming will infuriate and appall the peoples of earth and Antichrist!
    - (b) The reaction will not be welcoming!
      - (i) John 3:20: "Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his evil deeds will be exposed."

### B. (18:2-3) The angel shouts in a mighty voice the divine decree:

1. (18:2a) Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
  - a) The OT prophets, Isaiah and Jeremiah, had predicted her destruction.
    - (1) It happened in part in 539 B.C. when Persia overthrew the city.
    - (2) But, now is the time of her absolute and total destruction!
  - b) Application: Babylon the Great was great for at least two reasons:
    - (1) She was the greatest most powerful city on earth
    - (2) She thought of herself as great.
      - (a) **She was built on her pride! And God has said in numerous places that "pride comes before the fall," and that God opposes the proud.** (Pr. 16:18; Pr.15:25)

- (i) **God will oppose everything and everyone who lays pride as their foundation and builds on it!**
  - (b) **PRN>** Promotion comes from the Lord!
    - (i) The prayers of the contrite vs. the Pharisee
      - (a) Luke 18:14: "I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- 2. (18:2b) "She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit..."
  - a) Who are these demons?
    - (1) Remember the untold number of demons/ locusts released from the Abyss in Revelation 9:1-11?
    - (2) Remember the release of the 200,000,000 demons at the sounding of the sixth trumpet in Revelation 9:13-16?
      - (a) These were bound at the Euphrates and released by the four angels kept there? This was near Babylon!
    - (3) Remember the myriad of angels cast out of heaven when Satan was cast down to earth in Revelation 12:9?
  - b) God will confine them to Babylon!
    - (1) MacArthur: "God will, so to speak, gather all the rotten eggs into one basket before disposing of them."
- 3. "...a haunt for every unclean and detestable (**hateful**) bird." (these are hated demons who are a brand of even more terrible demons than the others!)
  - a) Conclusion: Demons of all kinds will be confined to Babylon, incarcerated at the Lord's command. It is thought that their incarceration there will continue through the millennial kingdom waiting for the final judgment of God!
    - (1) Remember, even Satan will be bound for 1,000 years in the Abyss waiting for his final moment of rebellion just before his judgment.
  - (a) **See Revelation 20:1-3**
- 4. (18:3) The reasons for her destruction
  - a) Babylon corrupted the entire world!
    - (1) Every sector of life: political, commercial, and religious

- b) Beginning with Nimrod and his kingdom which God forced to spread over all the earth, and along with that spread went every “abominable practice of Babel. Since that time, all nations have been drinking her potion.”

(Garland)

(1) Every conceivable evil originated in Nimrod’s Babylon

(a) The New Age movement

(b) Eastern mysticism

(c) Sexual perversion

(i) Cult prostitution

(ii) The transforming of sexuality and gender

(a) See You Tube video entitled: “Prophetic Message: Jonathan Cahn exposes Pride Month & the mystery behind it”

(b) Even our national leaders are promoting this demonic perversion.

c) Political powers and Leaders of commerce allied with Babylon

(1) Kings/ Leaders drank from her cup. In other words, by corrupting the leaders, the people become corrupt by “her” adultery!

(2) Merchants: 18:23 calls them, “the world’s great men”

(a) They used their “drunken powers of wealth” to influence policy and practices around the world!

(i) Think of the power and influence of “multinational corporations” like Walmart, Target, Google, etc.

(a) They shape culture!

(ii) Men like George Soros, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos

(iii) Organizations like the World Economic Forum, World Health Organization

(iv) Influencers, Celebrities, advertisers, etc.

d) Yet, despite the great sin of Babylon, the world prospered and the saints suffered. God will bring about a great reversal!!

C. (18:4-8) Another Voice from Heaven

1. (18:4a) A Saving Word to God’s People: !

a) “Come out of her, my people...”

(1) **A call to disentangle** from the world of Babylon.

(a) You have been set by Christ, come out and be free!

- (i) Lot was commanded to Get out of Sodom, Gn 19
    - (ii) Jesus warned of future believers in Matthew 24:13-22. "When you see the Abomination that causes desolation..." Run! Flee! Get out!
  - 2. (18:4b) A Gracious word for God's people. "...not share in sins"
    - a) **Many Christians suffer the "plagues" associated with the consequences of sin, by remaining under sin when we should flee!**
      - (1) **Flee** (evil desires) **and Pursue** (righteousness)
        - (a) **2 Tim. 2:22:** "**Flee** the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart!."
        - (i) **What is your Babylon from which you must flee? What sin are you comfortable with?**
  - 3. (18:5) A word of terror for those who are at ease in Babylon!
    - a) (18:5) God knows. A apt verse: Numbers 32:23, "Be sure your sin will find you out." There is not too much sin for God to overlook the guilt of a person.
      - (1) The wicked will be found out, to be sure. Sinners are at ease in Babylon. They will suffer the wrath of God.
      - (2) Believer! Listen! There is no saving hope for your Babylon! Come out! Come out from your Babylon. Repent or you will give in "to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life."
        - (a) "Do not love the world or anything in the world..." 1 Jn.3:15ff
  - 4. (18:6-8) The **Pride and Fall** of Babylon
    - a) Babylon is loud and proud in her pride of power, position and prosperity
    - b) But God has determined a painful return on pride and boasting.
      - (1) In her pride she lived in lavish ease, uncaring of God and men.
      - (2) God will give her double trouble for her fullness of pride.
        - (a) She rejected to worship God in her pride
        - (b) She abused, tortured and killed God's faithful saints
- D. Application: How has Babylon seduced you? When you hear her boasting and her arrogance in 18:7 are you tempted to believe it?
- 1. This takes me back to **Psalm 73**. In that Psalm, Israel's singer of songs is frustrated because it seems like the people who live without care, who live at ease, with no thought for God or their fellow man, have good health and not a care in the world. Meanwhile, he laments that, "surely in vain I have kept my heart pure." But, when he goes to worship and he hears the law of God read, he

then remembers their end. He remembers that God has put those people on slippery ground, and that they will eventually be destroyed. When he remembered God and His Righteousness and Goodness, he found peace.

2. Christian, do not stop fleeing from your Babylon. What does Babylon have that God will not supply your needs better? Do not stop pursuing righteousness, faith, love and peace. Friend, don't forsake associating with those who love God! (read again **2 Timothy 2:22**)