

THE FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT -- 18:1-24

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE PREDICTION OF THE FALL OF BABYLON – VS. 1-3

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

Rev 18:3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth

have drunk of the wine (blood) of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her."

THE PLEA TO GOD’S PEOPLE – VS. 4-5

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

Rev 18:5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Babylon is a mother and a mystery! It has dominated all the governments of the world. – The religious system which began in Babylon and has effected all the cultures and governments of the world since that time.

v. 1 “having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.” - The reappearance of another (allos) angel bring judgment on the great harlot.

v.2 Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! - The RESULTS of the fall of actual Babylon – Is it not here used as the prophecy of “that woman, Mystery Babylon”? -cf. Isaiah 13:19-22; Jeremiah 51:36-37, 41-44, 49, 53-55, 59-64

The REASON for the fall of Babylon – v. 3 - (notice three things) v. 3 all the nations....., the kings of the earth, and the merchants of the earth - The extent of her influence. She has influenced nations to kill Christians all through history! For example, Stalin killed over 30 million Christians?

v.3 “have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her;” - The Explanation of her seductive ways - 14:8; 17:6 - The effect of her seductive ways - cf. 1 Tim. 6:10

v. 4 “Come out of her, my people” - THE PLEA TO GOD’S PEOPLE - Cf. Jeremiah 50:8-10; 51:45; 1 Timothy 6:5; 2 Timothy 3:5; God will not forget! - cf. Rev. 16:19

v. 5 “have reached” (Greek - kollao) - putting bricks together with mortar - remember tower of Babel - Gen. 11

“THE FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT” - Revelation 18:1-24

“After these things” - does it indicate a sequence of events or simply additional remarks to what was said at the end of chapter 17?

ARGUMENTS for Babylon being the harlot woman in both chapters:

- (1) The usage of the word “Babylon” - 17:5, 18 - never used of the beast or its heads, which do represents kingdoms and empires.
- (2) The context before and after Rev. 18 - cf. 16:19; 17:1, 18 (..the woman....is that great city); 18:2-3; 19:2
- (3) The statements of Revelation 18 - vv. 3, 24 with 6:9-11

It would appear that there are some of God’s people in false religious systems!

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THE THE PAYMENT WHICH BABYLON WILL RECEIVE - VS. 6-8

Rev 18:6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.

Rev 18:7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow;

for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Rev 18:8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire,

for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE FALL OF BABYLON – vs. 9-19

Rev 18:9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

Rev 18:10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Rev 18:11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

vs. 6-8. THE PAYMENT WHICH BABYLON WILL RECEIVE - Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19 -

v. 6 "Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double" - The EXTENT of that payment - Cf. 14:10

v. 7 "In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow". - The EXPLANATION of her sins and iniquities. Is there anything anymore self-glorifying, more pomp, than religious pomp? Mother and child with the mother being more than the child?

v.7 "she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' - The EXPERIENCE of sorrow

v.8a "Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire". - The EVIDENCE of her judgment; What world empire destroy her, with her 10 divisions? - 17:16. - cf. Daniel 5:30-31

v.8b "for strong is the Lord God who judges her." - The EXECUTION of this payment. Who is ultimately judging her? - Rev. 17:17- God is fulfilling His purpose. He is in control!

THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY THE FALL OF BABYLON – vs. 9-19

v. 9 "The kings of the earth - The KINGS of the earth - 18:9-10 cf. 14:8; 17:2, 18; 18:3, 9, 23; 19:19-21

v. 11 "merchants of the earth....for no one buys their merchandise anymore: - The MERCHANTS of the earth - 11-17a - (They weep and sorrow for three reasons) - No one purchases their wares anymore!

To whom only, should we be glorifying?

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<p><i>Rev 18:12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;</i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.</i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and <u>all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.</u></i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,</i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:16 and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!</i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:17 <u>For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.</u></i></p> <p><i>' <u>Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea,</u> stood at a distance</i></p> <p><i>Rev 18:18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'</i></p>	<p><i>v. 14 “<u>all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.</u>” – <u>All the rich and splendid things are gone and can’t be found anymore!</u></i></p> <p><i>v. 17 a“ <u>For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.</u>” – In one hour all their great riches came to nothing! - Cf. <u>Luke 12:15-21</u></i></p> <p><i>v. 17b “<u>Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea,</u>” - The <u>SHIPMASTERS AND SAILORS</u> who trade by sea – vs. 17b – 19 - cf. <u>Ezekiel 27:29-36</u> (Isaiah 23) - judgment on Tyre</i></p>	<p><i><u>Do you see the possibility of nuclear destruction here?</u></i></p> <p><i><u>Does this not suggest that the “great city” will be one on the sea, associated with a great sea commerce?</u></i></p>
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THE FALL OF BABYLON THE GREAT -- 18:1-24

OBSERVATION

Rev 18:19 *"They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'"*

THE PRAISE OF THE BELIEVER'S – V. 20

Rev 18:20 *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"*

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BABYLON'S FALL – VS. 21-23

Rev 18:21 *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."*

Rev 18:22 *The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore.*

No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

Rev 18:23 *The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.*

Rev 18:24 *And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*

INTERPRETATION

v. 20 *"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"* - THE PRAISE OF THE BELIEVERS - Cf. 19:1-6 (be here next week!)

THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF BABYLON'S FALL - 21-24

v. 21 *"Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea - A violent CATASTROPHE is announced - Cf. Jeremiah 51:63-64*

Several CONSEQUENCES are described – vs. 22-23

v. 22a *"The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard"* - No more Music

v. 22b *"No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard"* - No more Manufacturing

v. 23 *"The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore",* - All activity is removed

v. 23 *"the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore"* - No more Marriage

Two basic CAUSES are given - 23b-24

v. 23 *"for by your sorcery (pharmaceutical. Drugs) all the nations were deceived."* - The Sorceries

v. 24 *"in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."* - The Slaying of martyrs – cf. Rev. 16:6; 17:6

APPLICATION

Questions:

1. Ez. Chaps. 27-28 speak of the fall of Tyre and of the king of Tyre's connection with Satan. What similarities and differences do you see between that and Rev. chapter 18?
2. Is there a difference between the Babylon in chapter 17 & 18? Do you think chapter 17 represents religious Babylon and chapter 18, an actual city-a commercial Babylon?
3. V. 4 - *"Come out of her, my people-* Do you think that means that there are true believers presently in a false Babylonian religious system?
4. V. 6 speaks of "double" punishment. What do you think that means?
5. V. 8 What world empire destroy her?
6. In verse 23, it says, "the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore" Why?

God's reward and His judgment will be forthcoming!!

Heb. 10:30 For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

Mat 10:42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

2Co 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.
2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,
2Co 4:18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.