

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

Introduction

In chapter 17, we witnessed the destruction of the great worldwide ecumenical religion that has its roots in the ancient Babylon and that will flourish early in the Tribulation Period.

In chapter 18, we witness the fall of another Babylon – Commercial and Political Babylon. We know that these two are different Babylons because of the first phrase found in verse 1 “*after these things.*”

Also, the phrase “*another angel*” makes it clear that the angel of chapter 18 is a different angel from that of chapter 17.

I believe that Scripture here shows that in the days of the Tribulation Period, men will build an economic and political empire never equaled in this world.

Just as Babel was built in rebellion against God in Genesis 11, this Babylon will be built in rebellion against Him also! There will be astounding wealth and affluence. However, we will see that it will all come to a violent end.

In chapter 17, we saw the Babylonian religious system fall. Here we see both the Babylonian system and the city called Babylon that epitomizes that system fall. God Himself will judge their wickedness!

We will see God put forth a demonstration of His great power and we will also see four groups react to what the Lord has done!

I. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL OF BABYLON.(vs. 1-8)

A. The Heavenly Communicator.

This angel is said to have great power and to be filled with light and glory. (vs.1)

What a contrast we see when compared to Babylon in verse 2 and 3!

B. Babylon’s Corruption. (vs.2-3)

Ancient Babylon was the home of soothsayers, magicians and seers.

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THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

Remember the times of King Nebuchadnezzar who reigned over Babylon in Daniel’s day?

Daniel 2:2–“Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.”

1. Demonism.

This city will be filled with evil and will be infested with demons.

Could this be a glimpse at the way modern government is empowered, perhaps?

2. Drunkenness.

The entire world is smitten by her charms.

They are made drunk by her allurements.

The world is held captive under her intoxicating spell. She offers them immorality and sin without fear of religious oppression.

I believe that this speaks of a time of unbridled wickedness and lustful abandon.

But listen, God WILL deal with them!

C. Babylon’s Condition. (vs. 4-8)

1. There is a call to God’s people to separate. (vs. 4)
(e.g. Remember the warning to Lot found in Genesis 19:12-13 prior to the destruction of Sodom.)

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

2. In Genesis 11, Babel's tower did not reach Heaven, but her sins have! (Vs. 5)
God is patient and longsuffering, but He has a limit.

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

If repentance does not come, then judgment must eventually come!

- 3. Double payment is required for her sins. (Vs. 6)**
Ancient Babylon was notorious for its atrocities against the people of God.

Understand that this is not only the “*eye for an eye*” and “*tooth for a tooth*” justice under the law of God, but it is here doubled in recognition of the enormity of the sin of Babylon.

Look at Psalms 137:1-9

God will require double payment!

- 4. Pride has filled her and she defiantly believes that she shall see no punishment! (Vs. 7)**
- 5. Judgment WILL fall and will fall swiftly! (Vs. 8)**
Her desolation will come in a single day! God is powerful and He will dispense His justice swiftly!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL OF BABYLON.

**II. THE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE FALL OF BABYLON.
(Vs. 9-20)**

We see here that there are four groups here who react to the fall of the city:

- A. The Monarchs - (Vs. 9-10)**
The kings who have prospered because of Babylon.
It says that they shall, “*bewail her, and lament for her.*”
- B. The Merchants - (Vs. 11-16)**
They weep for all the money and business they have lost.
All the items - Gold is first and souls are last!

It depends on where your treasure is!

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

Matthew 6:19-21—“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

People will be trapped by materialism - in body and soul!

Think about modern politics for a minute. If a man promises prosperity and plenty he normally has a better chance of being elected, doesn't he?

Vs.14 is a picture of Hell - ungratified desires!

- C. The Mariners - (Vs. 17-19)**
Men will learn too late that materialism will lead to nothing.
Mark 8:36-37—“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- D. The Heavenly Multitude - (Vs. 20)**
There will be rejoicing in Heaven over the fall of this God hating city!
God has avenged the blood and the honor of His servants.

*THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FALL OF BABYLON.
THE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE FALL OF BABYLON.*

**III. THE ACCOMPLISHING OF THE FALL OF BABYLON.
(Vs. 21-24)**

Babylon and all she stood for is “*no more.*” **(Vs. 21)**
A millstone is thrown into the sea - A picture of complete and catastrophic judgment.

Jeremiah 51:61-64

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

Look at all the “*no mores*” and “*any mores*” mentioned!

- A. Babylon will not buy any more! (Vs 11)**
- B. All of her so-called “good things” will be no more! (Vs 14)**
- C. All of her music and fanfare will be no more! (Vs. 22a)**
- D. All of her industry and craftsmen will be no more! (Vs. 22b)**
- E. All appearance of habitation will be no more! (Vs. 23a)**
- F. All weddings no more! (III. No joy and happiness!) (Vs. 23b)**
- G. Babylon is representative of all the sin and murder of all time. (Vs. 23c -24)**

Judgment falls from the Lord to ultimately destroy all those who have opposed God.

The very silence of the city is a testimony to God’s devastating judgment!

Conclusion

We may have many questions as it relates to Babylon in the Book of the Revelation. Many that I may very well have no answer for!

Some have asked the question, is ancient Babylon the city going to be rebuilt? I believe this is the case! (e.g. Sadaam Hussein)

Some believe that the description of Babylon could be another city that embodies the spirit of ancient Babylon?

Some have even looked at the characteristics of Babylon and have seen great similarities in the United States?

Rather than get involved in such speculation, we should be more concerned with the fact of Babylon’s sins and the consequences she suffered in God’s judgments of her sins!

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THE JUDGMENT OF COMMERCIAL BABYLON
REVELATION 18:1-24**

Let me ask this question. If God judged Sodom, will he not judge those who exhibit the sins of Sodom? Yes, He will!

If God will thus judge Babylon, will he not judge those who exhibit the sins of Babylon? Yes, He will!