

## FALL OF BABYLON AND ITS CONCLUSION

(Rev 18:17-24) 05-24-20

Grace Bible Church, Gillette, Wyoming

Pastor Daryl Hilbert

- I. MONARCHS' LAMENT (9-10)
- II. MERCHANTS' LAMENT (11-16)
- III. MARITIME'S LAMENT (17-19)
  - A. Lament Over Babylon's Sudden Fall (17)
    1. One Hour (Rev 18:8, 10, 17, 19)
      - a. Sudden and Swift - The phrase "**one hour**" is emphasized by being repeated three times (Rev 18:10, 17, 19). The timeframe of the judgment of God will at least mean sudden and swift judgment. It corresponds with the judgment on Babylon in "one day" (Rev 18:8).
      - b. Possibly Literal - Since it is repeated at least three times, similar to "weeping" (Rev 18:9, 11, 15, 19) and the "woes" (Rev 18:10, 16, 19), it could be literal.
      - c. Additional Judgment - Though the fall of Babylon seems to be in or just after the final bowl judgment (Rev 16:17-21), the actual judgment upon Babylon appears to be an additional judgment.
        - 1) At the last bowl judgment "all cities fell," but God specifically designated Babylon for His fierce wrath (Rev 16:19).
        - 2) Babylon will receive plagues, pestilence, mourning, and famine suddenly ["one day"] (Rev 18:8a).
        - 3) Babylon will be "burned up" (*katakaiō - consumed, destroyed*) with fire by the special judgment of God suddenly ["one hour,"] (Rev 18:8, 18).
        - 4) Babylon will suddenly disappear by the Lord's wrath ["violence"] (Rev 18:21).
        - 5) Perhaps it will be the bowl judgments that devastate Babylon with plagues, pestilence, mourning, and famine, but it will be the Lord's final and fatal blow that will suddenly (in one hour) decimate Babylon.
    2. Great Wealth - This chapter is all about the fact that the **great wealth** that the world-wide commercial system produced for the Antichrist and the nations will be **laid waste.**"
    3. Great Maritime Industry
      - a. Shipmasters - The **shipmasters** (*kubernētēs - helmsman, pilot*) were the captains or chief pilots of the ships. These shipmasters would be the captains of cargo ships in particular. It would also include **sailors, passengers**, and those who **made their living** by the sea.
      - b. Maritime Judgment - They will **stand at a distance**, desiring not to be a part of the judgment upon Babylon's great maritime industry.
      - c. Historical Rome - Bullinger made an interesting observation that historical Rome was not the major seaport and trade city.
      - d. Improvements to the Euphrates - Babylon's location (if perhaps rebuilt) would fit better than Rome. Especially if the Euphrates were to be dredged from the Persian Gulf to Babylon. Shallow barges could transport the cargoes of larger ships. Otherwise, railways could transport the approximate 400 miles to Babylon (Garland).
  - B. Lament Over the Incomparable Babylon (18)
    1. Smoke of Burning - The "**smoke of her burning**" is obviously related to the detail that Babylon will be "burned up with fire" (Rev 18:8). The final phrase of Rev 18:8\* suggests that it will be a specific judgment by the "Lord God who judges her."
    2. Incomparable City - Babylon will be an incomparable city in all of history ("**What city is like [it]?**"). It is called the "**great city**" 6 times (Rev 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21) and the

“strong city” once (Rev 18:10). But because she will be destroyed by the Lord God who judges her, He is “strong(er)” (Rev 18:8).

C. Lament with Woes Over Babylon (19)

1. Threw Dust - In the previous verses we have already observed weeping, mourning, and lamenting. Now we add to those things **throwing dust** on their heads (sign of extreme grief, Jos 7:6; Eze 27:30) as well as **crying out**.
2. Woes - A third funeral dirge is given but this time it is from the maritime industry. They also declared “**woes**,” but it was because their maritime industry suddenly became bankrupt.

IV. SAINTS REJOICE OVER BABYLON’S JUDGMENT

A. Saints Rejoice (20)

1. Contrast Two Responses - The contrast is quite clear. The world will mourn for the Antichrist’s Babylon, but heaven will rejoice.
2. Exhortation to Rejoice - An exhortation to rejoice over Babylon’s fall was possibly given by the angel in Rev 18:1, 4.
3. Saints in Heaven - The angel addresses **heaven** and not necessarily metaphorically. He addresses the **saints, apostles, and prophets** which are probably the ones in heaven.
4. Divine Court - The context speaks of a divine court case and the trial was about Babylon’s killing of the saints. The Judge ruled for the prosecution (“**for you**”) and “pronounced judgment” against Babylon (“**her**”).
5. Vindicated Saints - The impetus for rejoicing was that the saints were vindicated in the divine courtroom (cf. Rev 6:9-11\*). In addition, fair and righteous judgment was brought against Babylon, the guilty perpetrator.

B. Sudden Judgment (21)

1. Divine Sentence - Because the Divine Judge ruled in favor of the martyred saints, the Divine Judge sentenced Babylon with a Divine Judgment.
2. Millstone - A **strong angel** (cf. Rev 5:2; 10:1) will carry out the divine judgment. It is likened to a millstone being thrown into the sea. A millstone was a heavy stone used for grinding grain (Num 11:8).
3. Symbolism - A millstone became a symbol of judgment, perhaps with the death of Abimelech (Jdg 9:53). Jesus specifically used it as a symbol of sudden (“**thrown down**”) and complete (“**into the sea**”) judgment (Mat 18:6\* cf. Jer 51:61-64\*).
4. No Longer Found - So complete will be Babylon’s judgment that it will “**no longer be found**,” a phrase that becomes a theme for the judgment of Babylon (cf. Rev 18:14, 22-23).

C. Summation of Judgment (22-23).

1. Extent of Silence - The destruction of Babylon will be so complete that there will be no signs of life. The silence will be a sign of the extent of judgment. There will be **no sound of musicians, craftsmen, mills, marriages, and even the light of lamps**.
2. Voice of the Bridegroom - So sad will be its judgment that Babylon will never hear the voices of a bridegroom and bride. However, there will be a voice of another Bridegroom and bride that will be heard in the future. It will be the future voice of Christ calling His bride, the church, at the Rapture (1Th 4:15-17) and to the marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:7-9).
3. Deception of All Nations - The deception by Satan, demons (“**sorcery**”), the Antichrist, and the False Prophet will succeed in deceiving all the nations because it will be God who sends them a “deluding influence” so that those who do not believe will be judged (2Th 2:8-12\*)

D. Slaughter of the Saints

1. The blood of the martyrs was found “**in her**,” that is, Babylon, the religious and commercial empire under Satan and the Antichrist. Satan uses the Antichrist to send as many unbelievers as he can to their spiritual death (Hell) and believers to their physical death.
2. The martyrs spoken of here most likely refer to the Tribulation martyrs, though it very well could apply to all martyrs of all ages. They were the prophets (cf. Rev 11:10, 18), the saints (Rev 16:6), and “**all who have been slain on the earth.**”

V. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

A. Rejoice over Divine Judgment

1. Because we will be in the presence of the Lord (2Co 5:8).
2. Because the battle is over for us (Mat 25:21).
3. Because faithful servants and martyrs are vindicated (Rev 6:10).
4. Because it will make an end to sin (Babylon), not necessarily sinners (“make an end of sin” Dan 9:24).
  - a. *Heaven rejoices, not over the damnation of sinners, but because of the triumph of righteousness, the exaltation of Jesus Christ, the elimination of His enemies, and the arrival of His kingdom on the earth. Mac.*
  - b. *We must not think that this voice of celebration calls us to be glad because sinners are judged. The fact of divine judgment ought always to break our hearts, knowing that lost sinners are condemned to eternal punishment. Wiersbe.*
5. Because God’s plan will be fulfilled (“seal up vision and prophecy” Dan 9:24).
6. Because the Lord Jesus Christ will take His rightful place on David’s throne (“bring in everlasting righteousness” Dan 9:24).

B. Rejoice in the One who is Judge, Jury, Executioner.

1. To accuse someone of being “judge and jury in his own court” is normally an insult. Judge Cutler appears to have deftly sidestepped that duplication. It's even more of an insult to say of someone that they are “judge, jury, and executioner.”
2. Unless of course, that One is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is Judge, Jury, and Executioner.
3. But He is also an Advocate (Lawyer - 1Jo 2:1) to those who have placed their faith in Him. But even more amazingly, He is also our Substitute because He took our sin and guilt and paid the penalty with His own blood. “He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world” (1Jo 2:2).
4. J. Vernon McGee said, “*Are we citizens of Babylon or citizens of heaven? Can you rejoice because your name is written in heaven? If not, then the time has come for you to trust Jesus Christ and get out of Babylon and into the family of God.*”



**FALL OF BABYLON AND ITS CONCLUSION**  
(Rev 18:17-24) 05-24-20

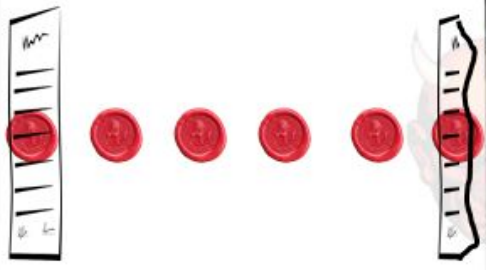

- I. **MONARCHS' LAMENT (9-10)**
- II. **MERCHANTS' LAMENT (11-16)**
- III. **MARITIME'S LAMENT (17-19)**
  - A. **Lament Over Babylon's Sudden Fall (17)**
  - B. **Lament Over Incomparable Babylon (18)**
  - C. **Lament with Woes Over Babylon (19)**
- IV. **SAINTS REJOICE - BABYLON'S JUDGMENT**
  - A. **Saints Rejoice (20)**
  - B. **Sudden Judgment (21)**
  - C. **Summation of Judgment (22-23).**
  - D. **Slaughter of the Saints**



**FALL OF BABYLON AND ITS CONCLUSION**  
(Rev 18:17-24) 05-24-20

- V. **OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**
  - A. **Rejoice over Divine Judgment**
  - B. **Rejoice in the Judge, Jury, Executioner**

## EVENTS IN REVELATION (Chapters)

<b>6 - 7</b>		<b>8 - 11 16 18</b>		
				
C O V E N A N T	S E A L S	<b>7-Year Trib. (Jer 30:7) (Dan 9:24-27)</b>		B O W L S

B  
A  
B  
Y  
L  
O  
N