

The Fall of Political and Economic Babylon (the Antichrist's kingdom)

Revelation 18

Introduction

- The Seventh Trumpet has sounded, and we are reading about various activities that occur during the Seventh Trumpet.
- In Revelation 15-16 we were told about the angels with the seven last plagues.
- These seven last plagues are also called the golden “bowl” judgments.
- These seven plagues occur at the end of the Tribulation Period, during the last 3 ½ years which is known as “the great tribulation.”

Introduction

- We are seeing what happens during the seventh bowl judgment which is within the seventh trumpet.
- In **Rev. 17** we saw the destruction of the one-world church which was supported by Antichrist.
- The “religious” Babylon (the one-world church) will be destroyed by Antichrist (the beast) at the midpoint of the Tribulation Period and the worship of Antichrist will supplant all former worship (2 Thes. 2:4; Mat. 24:15).
- **Rev. 18 deals with destruction and judgment of Antichrist’s one-world government in its political and economic aspects.**

The prediction of the fall of economic and political Babylon (Antichrist's kingdom) 18:1-3

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

- The blazing appearance of another angel (not the same as 17:1, 7, 15) will certainly rivet the world's attention on him and his message of judgment on Babylon.

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!

The prediction of the fall of economic and political Babylon (Antichrist's kingdom) 18:1-3

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 become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

- Religious Babylon (**Rev. 17**) lures the nations into spiritual drunkenness and fornication with false Gods.
- Religious Babylon is destroyed by the Antichrist.
- Commercial & political Babylon (**Rev. 18**) seduces and draws the unbelieving world into a materialistic stupor appealing to the spirit of greed in unsaved people.

A warning to Christians to flee from the city (symbolically named Babylon) 18:4-5

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.

⁵ "For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

- Any Christians who live in or near this city (symbolically called "Babylon") are told to flee from it before judgment falls.
- Christians are warned against compromise and sharing "in her sins."

The reaping of judgment that Babylon will receive for her sins 18:6-8

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.

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.'

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 reaping of judgment that Babylon will receive for her sins 18:6-8

- The principle of sowing and reaping is:
 - 1) you reap the same as you sow;
 - 2) you reap more than you sow;
 - 3) you reap in proportion to what you sow;
 - 4) you reap subsequent to sowing – in a different season.
- “double” means “full” or “overflowing.” The punishment will fit the sins committed.
- Babylon’s pride and sense of power will be destroyed.

The effect of the destruction of economic and political Babylon 18:9-19

Notice that the lamenting and weeping is over loss of material prosperity, not over the sinfulness of the city.

- **Lamentation by the kings of the earth (9-10)**

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,

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.'

The effect of the destruction of economic and political Babylon 18:9-19

- **Lamentation by the merchants of the world (11-16)**

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

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;

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.

The effect of the destruction of economic and political Babylon 18:9-19

- **Lamentation by the merchants of the world (11-16)**

¹⁴ "The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

¹⁵ "The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

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!

The effect of the destruction of economic and political Babylon 18:9-19

- **Lamentation by the Merchant Marines (seamen) (17-19)**

¹⁷ 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance

¹⁸ "and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *is* like this great city?

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 rejoicing over Babylon's destruction by holy apostles and prophets (18:20)

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

- The angels exhorts the tribulation martyrs to rejoice, **not** over the deaths of those doomed to eternal hell, but **because** God's righteousness and justice has prevailed.

The violence that will characterize Babylon's destruction (18:21-23)

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.

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.

The violence that will characterize Babylon's destruction (18:21-23)

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.

God's vengeance poured out on those who killed His faithful followers (18:24)

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

- The fall of Babylon ends whatever semblance of normalcy will still exist in the world after all the seals, trumpets, and bowls.
- Life will be totally disrupted and the end near. No more music, no industry, no preparing of food ("millstone"), no more power for light, and no more weddings because God will destroy the deceivers and deceived.

God's vengeance poured out on those who killed His faithful followers (18:24)

- The religious and commercial/political systems embodied in Babylon will commit unspeakable atrocities against God's people (cf. 6:10; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 17:6; 19:2).
- Jesus, the Lamb of God, the King of kings and the Lord of lords will avenge the slaughter of His people.
- Remember **Romans 12:19**: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay," says the Lord."

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