

The Fall of Babylon

Introduction:

Theme: A consideration of the destruction of Babylon

Revelation 18:1 (ESV) After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.

I. The announcement of the destruction of Babylon.

Revelation 18:2 (ESV) And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast

II. The reason for her destruction.

Revelation 18:3 (ESV) For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

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III. The call for God's people to separate from Babylon.

Revelation 18:4 (ESV) Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

A. God's people are to separate from Babylon so that they do not participate in her sinful actions.

Revelation 18:4 (ESV) Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

- B. God's people are to separate from Babylon so that they do not participate in her judgment.

Revelation 18:4 (ESV) Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

Here we hearken back to the image of Sodom.

Revelation 18:5 (ESV) for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

IV. Babylon will receive her just reward.

- A. It will be done to her as she has done to others.

Revelation 18:6 (ESV) Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

- B. Her punishment will be in keeping with her crimes.

Revelation 18:7 (ESV) As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'

- C. Therefore, Babylon's destruction will be swift.

Revelation 18:8 (ESV) For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."

V. What Babylon's destruction will mean for others.

- A. The rulers who have benefitted from her sinfulness will be sorrowful.

Revelation 18:9 (ESV) And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.

They will be afraid that they will experience the same judgment.]

Revelation 18:10 (ESV) They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come."

- B. Those who have done business with her will be saddened by their loss of wealth.

Revelation 18:11 (ESV) And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore,

Revelation 18:12 (ESV) cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble,

Revelation 18:13 (ESV) cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

They too will be afraid of experiencing the same judgment.

Revelation 18:14 (ESV) "The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!"

Revelation 18:15 (ESV) The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

- C. Those who have transported her goods will lament her destruction.

Revelation 18:16 (ESV) "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!

Revelation 18:17 (ESV) For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off

Revelation 18:18 (ESV) and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?"

Revelation 18:19 (ESV) And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

- D. Those who are in heaven will rejoice over her destruction.

Revelation 18:20 (ESV) Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”

1. It will mean that God’s people are vindicated and avenged.
Revelation 18:20 (ESV) Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”

2. The angel of God once again announces her judgement.

Revelation 18:21 (ESV) Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;

3. Her revelry will come to an end.

- a. There will be no more singing and dancing.

Revelation 18:22 (ESV) and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,

- b. There will be no more business.

Revelation 18:22 (ESV) and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,

- c. There will be no more reason for joy.

Revelation 18:23 (ESV) and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

4. All of this is going to come upon her due to her sinfulness.

- a. She deceived many by her spell binding wealth.

Revelation 18:23 (ESV) and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

- b. She opposed the rebukes and warnings given to her throughout the ages.

Revelation 18:24 (ESV) And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”

VI. Conclusion:

- A. Even the great and powerful will fall.
- B. The wealthy cannot trust in their riches to deliver them in the time of judgment.
- C. Riches are deceitful for they bring about a false confidence.
- D. Riches are often achieved at the expense of others.
- E. The pleasure of materialism must not replace the pleasure that is to be found in the worship of God.
- F. We must rejoice in the truth and not in iniquity.
- G. There will come a time when the injustices of this world will be addressed.

