

Babylon the Great Is Fallen, Is Fallen Revelation 18

Revelation 18 Introduction

- Today's chapter deals with the destruction of the great city Babylon.
- It brings together numerous prophecies from the Old Testament that have only been partially fulfilled.
- The encouragement for God's people is that they should all leave the city before its inevitable destruction.
- The ruins of the city of ancient Babylon still exist in Iraq and were partially rebuilt by Saddam Hussein.
-
- Though Babylon is no longer great, the prophecies pertaining to its destruction have never been completely fulfilled.
- We may therefore look forward to a further rebuilding of the city somewhere near its ancient location.
- It seems that it will become Antichrist's political and financial capital – the capital of the world.
- Let's look at some of the Old Testament prophecies.
 - Isaiah 13:19-22
 - Isaiah 14:22-23
 - Isaiah 47
 - Jeremiah 50:35-40
 - Jeremiah 51:6-9, 13, 17-19, 24-26, 29, 41-45, and 59-64
- Now we'll read Revelation 18 in sections to help digest the full weight of the message.
- Pay attention to the different voices that speak.
- **An Angel Announces Judgment 18:1-3**
 - The nations and kings have become corrupted.
 - The merchants of the earth have become rich.
- **A Voice from Heaven Calls for God's People to Separate Themselves from Her 18:4-8**
 - We'll consider what this separation means for us at the end our study.
- **The Voices of Those Who Mourn 18:9-19**
 - The kings of the earth 9-10
 - The merchants of the earth 11-17a
 - 18:13 "Bodies and souls of men" points to human trafficking as part of the economy.
 - Shipmasters and sailors 17b-19
- At this time, the only legal religion will be the worship of the Beast and his image.
- The Mark of the Beast will be implemented in an attempt to control legal commerce.
- And many will become exceedingly rich.

- As William R. Newell reminds us,
 - *“In order for this fearful program of Satan-worship to prevail without hindrance, there must be removed from the earth three things:*
 - *first, the true Church, the Bride of Christ;*
 - *second, apostate Christendom, represented by the harlot, which, however much she lacks the spirit, keeps the names of Christian things and,*
 - *third, the nation of Israel.*
 - *“God removes the first [the true church]; the Beast and his ten kings destroy the second [the apostate church]; while Armageddon is the final, supreme Satanic effort to obliterate the third—Israel—from the earth.”*
- The Voice of Victory 18:20-24
 - 18:23 merchants – Babylon’s underlying focus is on economics.
 - sorcery = *pharmakeia*; related to drugs. The word is also used in Revelation 9:21 and Galatians 5:20.
- Back in the 1800s, Bible commentator Robert Govett said,
 - *“The opposition to the spirit of commerce which this Book of God shows, is very remarkable, especially as running in direct contrast to the avowed plans of rulers and peoples of our day.*
 - *‘Cherish Commerce,’ is one of the great admitted ends of statesmanship. But its effects upon the mind are generally productive of covetousness.”*
- In order to fulfill the prophecies, the final destruction of Babylon must fulfill three requirements. It must be:
 - Sudden “in one day” or “in one hour”
 - Complete like Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Permanent never again inhabited
- The rebuilt Babylon of Antichrist will fall in exactly that way.

Conclusions: Leaving Babylon

- The prophecy leads us to some conclusions about a rebuilt and prosperous Babylon in the end times.
- This may or may not be something that we personally ever see.
- At present, the city is little more than a tourist attraction and Iraq is too unstable to encourage its prosperity.
- The spirit of Antichrist has been active in the world since John’s day.
- Today, we can see it very clearly in an entire world system that opposes the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- This is a system, a philosophy, a worldview or a set of values that hopes to ensnare us.
- The appropriate response is to flee.

- How Babylon ensnares God's people:
 - The world's power – economic, political, etc.
 - The world's praise – when the world often opposes Christ.
 - The world's pleasures – which tend to conflict with our sanctification.
 - The world's priorities – which cause us to think that we are missing out or not measuring up unless we adhere to them.
- The appropriate response is to flee.

- Yet, as Christians, we can still love the world so much that our desire will be to linger.
- The Israelites left bondage in Egypt only to spend unnecessary decades in the wilderness.
 - See 1 Corinthians 10:6-11

- Angels delivered Lot and his family before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah, but Lot's wife looked back longingly.
- Jesus warns us not to do the same.
 - See Luke 17:28-34

- We ought to carefully consider how we may still be clinging to the world.
- Again, this is how Babylon ensnares us:
 - The world's power
 - The world's praise
 - The world's pleasures
 - The world's priorities
- The appropriate response is to flee.
 - Again, Revelation 18:4-8