

Revelation 18 is a longer chapter and we'll be looking at it in clusters of verses. We saw the fall of the Church of Babylon, the whore of Babylon which was a counterfeit church. You can see about that in our Revelation 17 study. Revelation 18 is the end of the City of Babylon. The city is the capital of the kingdom. It represents the political rule of Babylon and why it is coming to an end.

**Revelation 18** After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. <sup>2</sup> With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”<sup>[a]</sup>

She has become a dwelling for demons  
and a haunt for every impure spirit,  
a haunt for every unclean bird,  
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

<sup>3</sup> For all the nations have drunk  
the maddening wine of her adulteries.

The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,  
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive  
luxuries.”

First thing to notice is that Revelation 18 starts with, after this, or after these things. There has been another shift here. Something has changed. The theological part of Satan's efforts has fallen because Satan doesn't want to share the spotlight. When that falls the political side will fall too. They are two sides of the same coin. Babylon, like most empires of old was both religious and spiritual on one side, and political and economical on the other. If one falls, they both fall.

Who is this angel? He comes from the heavens. He gives light. He has authority. He makes judgment. His job is to reveal the glory of

God. God's glory is revealed by judgment because judgment comes before God's kingdom overcomes heaven and earth. There is a connection between this light, God's glory, and judgment.

The judgment is that Babylon is fallen. This proclamation means that exile is over. Babylon always represented exile and death. Now it is fallen. Because all of the nations drank from the wine of her fornications, her harlotry, her adultery, ie a false religion based on the pleasures of the flesh, all nations are judged. Whenever you see the word nations, you have to think in Hebrew of Goyim. Gentiles. This isn't a racist thing. When the Jewish people reject God and commit adultery they choose a new husband. They become one with the husband they lie with. This is as much a judgment on Jews as gentiles because it is the whole earth, everyone left.

The City of Babylon is the head of the world and it has become a dwelling place of demons, unclean spirits, and every foul thing and every king and merchant has taken part in the demonic and uncleanness of this Satanic kingdom.

<sup>4</sup> Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,<sup>[b]</sup>  
so that you will not share in her sins,  
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

<sup>5</sup> for her sins are piled up to heaven,  
and God has remembered her crimes.

<sup>6</sup> Give back to her as she has given;  
pay her back double for what she has done.  
Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

<sup>7</sup> Give her as much torment and grief  
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

In her heart she boasts,  
'I sit enthroned as queen.

I am not a widow;<sup>[C]</sup>

I will never mourn.'

<sup>8</sup> Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:  
death, mourning and famine.

She will be consumed by fire,  
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

The next message from this messenger is for us. It is for all people who can still avoid becoming part of this Satanic kingdom. Don't be part of Babylon. Come out from her. It is like Egypt. The word is Exodus. Repent now. Give your lives to Christ now because the judgment of Babylon is set.

Notice the connection between sins and plagues. Unrepentant sin is unforgiven sin. Unforgiven sin is remembered sin. This is a call to people to repent so our sins can be forgiven. But here in Babylon the sins have piled up and now God will execute judgment upon Babylon, not only for what it did to God, but even more so for what God did to the people who were in covenant with God. Remember they enjoyed getting drunk on the blood of the saints.

Babylon has set herself up as queen who has no king. It is the opposite of Israel who is the bride of Yahweh. This queen isn't under anyone's authority and she thinks that she will never die or end. There's only one kingdom that will never end and it isn't this one. Evil usually doesn't see the end to what it does. People who cave in to sin and evil usually think it will feel good forever, it will last forever, they'll feel like gods forever, they'll be drunk on the blood of the martyrs forever. But God's judgment comes in a moment and sin and evil will have an end. Her plagues will overtake her in one day. People in sin never see judgment coming, but death, mourning, and famine plus the holiness of God will erase, burn, consume her.

<sup>9</sup> “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. <sup>10</sup> Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,  
you mighty city of Babylon!  
In one hour your doom has come!”

When the kings of the earth see Babylon burning they will stand far off in fear and cry about it because they know that the same thing is coming for them. They never saw it coming. They thought Babylon would stand forever. In one hour she was destroyed. Now they know they will be too.

This is the outcome of rebellion. Are we rebels or are we friends? Are we rebels or are we the bride of the groom? Are we rebels or are we servants of God? Rebellion gives people a false sense of strength. Anger gives people a false sense of power. If I just stay angry I will stay strong. If I just keep rebelling I'll feel strong, I'll feel right, I'll block out wisdom, I'll block out truth. I'll just listen to my truth no matter how destructive it is to me and everyone around me. But just like what always happens to people who rebel against God today, there will be plagues, and judgment associated with it.

<sup>11</sup> “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— <sup>12</sup> cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; <sup>13</sup> cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

What do all of these fine things, including human slaves, have in common? They define the kingdom of Babylon which is all about objectifying, dominating, and controlling all of God's creation. The world sees all of these things as precious and lasting forever, but all of these things will be gone in a second. They will be refined by fire.

<sup>14</sup> "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' <sup>15</sup> The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn <sup>16</sup> and cry out:

"Woe! Woe to you, great city,  
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,  
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

<sup>17</sup> In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

All of these people who were mourning, standing at a distance crying over all this were completely unaware because they put their faith in stuff. What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his soul? Remember that all people are going to be resurrected and judged. All of us will be. The effects of judgment are eternal. Those who are written in the book of life are judged to life, not based on their holiness but because they were given, accepted, and received the holiness of Y'shua. We're looking at a situation that is essentially everlasting for those who don't repent. They live in constant fear, mourning, and distress, torment, torture in a sense of their own making when they have to face the truth forever.

"Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. <sup>18</sup> When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' <sup>19</sup> They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,  
 where all who had ships on the sea  
 became rich through her wealth!  
 In one hour she has been brought to ruin!”

<sup>20</sup> “Rejoice over her, you heavens!  
 Rejoice, you people of God!  
 Rejoice, apostles and prophets!  
 For God has judged her  
 with the judgment she imposed on you.”

Notice that no one has remorse over what they did. They cry out when they see the smoke and fire from Babylon. They are filled with remorse, not because they have the opportunity for freedom, light, life, love, and forgiveness, but because they are so sad that sin is destroyed. They liked sin so much that the cry about it being destroyed. They aren't sad about the judgment of Babylon. They are sad that she's gone because their wealth is gone. What happened to Babylon happened to them. 1998 bubble burst story...

Notice the connection in verse 20 between the apostles and the prophets. We can't understand the apostle's teaching if we don't understand the prophets. Think about all the prophets that are connected to Revelation: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zechariah, Joel, Malachi. I can think of them and there's more. The prophets are so important because the prophets show us God's judgment, and His plans, His purpose, His glory, His wrath. The prophets tell us why God does what He does. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God's truth is unchanging.

<sup>21</sup> Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence  
 the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,

never to be found again.

<sup>22</sup> The music of harpists and musicians, pipers and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again.

No worker of any trade will ever be found in you again.

The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.

<sup>23</sup> The light of a lamp will never shine in you again.

The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again.

Your merchants were the world's important people. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

<sup>24</sup> In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."

Then a mighty angel picks up a boulder and cast it into the sea. What is the sea? It is the masses. It is the nations. It is the peoples of the world. He proclaims that it is in that way Babylon will come to an end. It is good when Babylon comes to an end because the exile, the domination, the kingdom of lies, of harlotry, of idolatry is over. That is good.

There will be no more commerce, no more social life, no more entertainment, no more energy, no more future for Babylon anymore. Why? Because the sorcery, the magic spell that Babylon seduced the world with have been revealed to be false and by the way the cost of that magic, remember all magic has a cost, the cost of that magic was the blood of the prophets and God's holy people. Think about it, every lie that grows through religion and politics grows as the truth tellers are destroyed, imprisoned, and silenced. Every death of a prophet was the extinguishing of the truth and the

Jezebels and Ahabs, and Herods extended their lies in those times. But the truth couldn't be extinguished because it was already out there and it was the word of God and couldn't be undone because God's words can't be undone. Now the prophets are dead. The apostles are dead. The lies took over the world, but the world doesn't belong to Satan. The universe and everything in it belongs to God and His holiness and truth prevails.

The 18<sup>th</sup> letter in the Aleph Bet is Tzadeh. It's numerical value is 90. It means righteous. This whole chapter has been about righteousness overcoming unrighteousness. If you look up the letter Tzadeh it looks like a person who is either kneeling in prayer or standing and raising their hands in praise and worship depending on how it is used at the end of a word. This chapter is a call to God's righteous people to remain righteous and not fall into rebellion or temptation. The judgment of God on Babylon is because of what Babylon did to God's righteous people, the prophets, saints, martyrs, apostles, disciples. Also, the end of Babylon the unrighteous kingdom is the beginning of the reign of Christ the righteous kingdom.