



SESSION 33 | REVELATION 17:15-18:24 | THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON, PART 2

A FINAL EXPLANATION OF THE ANGEL | REVELATION 17:15-18

- Verse 16 - the ten horns
 - It is important to recognize that the 10 Kings are not part of Babylon, but are haters of Babylon and instruments of her destruction.
 - Since the 10 Kings are of the Roman system, it makes it very hard to say "Mystery" Babylon is also of the Roman system. The Kings do not destroy themselves, they destroy Babylon.
- Verse 17 - The godless doing God's work. Even godless men can be used to accomplish God's will!
- Verse 18 - Clarity of the woman:
 - This is the most clear definition that could be given, and there is no merit to disregard the interpretation of Scripture.
 - The woman is a city, not a system, religion, spirit, individual or corporation.
 - Since the woman is a city and the city is real, we should take the name of the city also as real and not a symbol, i.e.: Babylon is the city of Babylon.

THE ILLUMINATING ANGEL | REVELATION 18:1-3

- Verse 1 - The description of the angel.
 - While we know very little about angels, we can see that they have differing levels of authority and glory.
 - Never before have we seen an angel that illumines the earth with his glory.
- Verse 2 - The forewarning: **Babylon has fallen**
 - This ultimate destruction of Babylon is prophesied by several Old Testament passages, including Isaiah 12-14, 34, Jeremiah 50-51, Zephaniah 2.
 - The Old Testament descriptions of the destruction of Babylon are only consistent with Revelation 17-18, not with any events in history.
- Verse 3 - Summary of the **nations, kings, and merchants**
 - The problem of the nations is, literally, "all nations have drunk of her fornication, and thus the wine of the fury of her fornication."
 - The problem is the drinking of her fornication, now the nations are receiving the wrath of that drink.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE JEWS | REVELATION 18:4-7

- Verse 4 - There were two announcements given.
 - The first pre-announced the fall of Babylon
 - The second warns "**my people**" to get out of Babylon.
 - **My people** are the Jewish people, some of whom will doubtless live in Babylon at the time.
 - There is a two-fold reason that they should **come out**: for holy living and to avoid her destruction.

- Verse 5 - There are two reasons given for the destruction of Babylon.
 - Her sins have reached to Heaven
 - On several occasions, the sins of a nation reach a point of no return. Compare Jeremiah 51:9 (Babylon), Genesis 18:20-21 (Sodom & Gomorrah), Jonah 1:2 (Nineveh).
 - God has **remembered her iniquities**. (Galatians 6:7 reminds us that **God is not mocked**.)
- Verse 6 - 7 - The second instruction for the Jews
 - **Reward her** - This imperative is the second person plural, thus an instruction for the Jewish people.
 - The word ἀποδίδωμι [*apodidomai*] means to "pay back."
 - Since Romans 12:17 instructs believers in the age of grace to **recompense no man evil for evil**, using the same Greek word as **reward** in Rev. 18:6, those without a dispensational theology have to make up something to explain the "discrepancy."
 - **Torment and sorrow give her** - Verse 7 -
 - Also an imperative, to the Jewish people.

THE MOURNING OF THE MASSES | REVELATION 18:8-19

- Verse 8 - Why give her torment and sorrow?
 - On account of the self-glorification of v. 7, the plagues of death, mourning, and famine will come, all very suddenly.
 - "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before the fall." (Proverbs 16:8)
- Verses 9-10 - The mourning of the Kings
 - The Kings of the earth were participants with her, but were not "her."
 - This is a further reminder that Babylon is a specific entity, not a system of religion, politics, or economics.
 - The Kings should be standing in fear, because their torment is soon to come.
- Verses 11-16 - The mourning of the merchants
 - The main reason for their mourning: **for no man buyeth their merchandise any more** (v. 11)
 - The list of verse 12: These are things that cannot be spiritualized.
 - This is simply an inventory list of some of the merchandise of the future city.
 - This shows a future prosperous economy centered in Babylon.
 - Beware of those who use the fear of economic collapse to encourage you to give, squander, or hoard your wealth in gold coins. Such fear-mongering is largely without basis, Biblical or otherwise.
 - The adornment of verse 16: Often commentators will say that Rev. 17 is false religion but Rev. 18 is a false economy. Often they will take the clothing of the woman in chapter 17 to "prove" that the Roman Catholic religion is the "whore." However, the same woman is in Chapter 18, with the same clothing.
- Verses 17-19 - The mourning of the sailors
 - Why chipmakers in Babylon? Babylon sits on the Euphrates river.

HEAVEN REJOICES | REVELATION 18:20-24

- Verse 20 - **God hath avenged her**
 - Literally, "God judged your judgment upon her" --and was in agreement. Thus, God **hath avenged you on her**.
- Verse 21 - The Greek uses the double negative, which is a means of double emphasis in Greek. Literally, "Babylon the great absolutely not at all will be found."
- Verse 24 - From Genesis 11, murder and martyrdom had roots in the Babylonian system that celebrates secular humanism rather than worship of the one true God.