

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #36 | Revelation 18:1-24 | The Judgment of Babylon, part 3

Revelation 18:1-3 | The Announcement of the Fall

- Verses 1-2 – Whoever this angel is, he carries the glory of God with him, illuminating the earth.
 - Only in Ezekiel 43:2 (a millennial passage) do we see another place where the glory of the Lord illumed the earth.
 - There is nothing in the text to assume that those on the earth cannot see this brightness.
 - The announcement: **Babylon the great is fallen**
 - The condition of Babylon after falling fulfills Old Testament prophecies, including Isaiah 12-14, 34, Jeremiah 50-51, Zephaniah 2.
- Verse 3 – This future international city will be destroyed because of its international status.
 - It is destroyed because **all nations** and **the kings of the earth** have created her.
 - From the time of Babel, multi-national, cross-border, humanistic ventures have always brought destruction and not blessing.

Revelation 18:4-20 | The Description of the Fall

- Verse 4 – After the “pre-announcement” of the fall, a warning is given to **my people to come out** in order to avoid her sins and her punishment.
- Verse 5 – 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).
- Verse 6 - 7 – The Jewish people were told to **come out** in verse 4, and now they are told to **reward her**, and to quadruple the “reward.”
 - This imperative is the second person plural, thus an instruction for the Jewish people. The word 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.
 - The city of Babylon will sit in smug arrogance (like a **queen**), and the instruction is to reward her with **torment and sorrow**.
- Verses 8-10 – her destruction will come **in one day** and **in one hour**. The **kings of the earth** (the 10 kings of the final days?) will **bewail, and**

lament because of Babylon’s fall, for Babylon is the source of their pleasures.

- Verses 11-17a – The merchants lament her fall, for Babylon will be the economic engine of the last days. The loss of the wealth of the world is lamented in these verses.
 - The fine and “irreplicable” things of the is world – v. 12
 - The produce of this world – v. 13
 - The “finer things” of the world’s produce – v. 14
- A note on verse 16 - Often commentators will say that Revelation 17 is false religion, but Revelation 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.
- Verse 17a reminds us again that the fall takes place **in one hour**. I find nothing to reject this as being literal.
- Verses 17b-19 – the shipmasters and sailors wail her destruction.
- Verse 20 – the **heavens** are told to rejoice, along with the **holy apostles and prophets**.

Revelation 18:21-24 | The Fall of Babylon

- Verses 21-23 – the city is utterly and totally destroyed **with violence** (v. 21). It **will be found no more at all** (v. 21).
- Verse 24 – the truth is told: she is responsible for **the blood of the prophets and of saints**. The Babylonian system and way of thinking has always been at the root of the “culture war.”
- From Genesis 11, murder and martyrdom had roots in the Babylonian system that celebrates secular humanism rather than worship of the one true God.

Could the USA be Babylon?

- Sadly, the church world is full of prophecy teachers who teach that Babylon is the U.S.A.
- If you connect things that are similar and make them the same, then you can make all kinds of wild-haired theologies. (I read this week of a “prophecy” given in September that Donald Trump would be President for 8 years, based on Judges 12:13-14).
- The U.S.A. has been a blessing to its citizens and to the world because it historically has made good economic, political, and spiritual decisions. It’s economic policies have created a haven for the creation of wealth. But the wealth of the U.S.A. does not make it “Babylon.”
- The U.S.A. will rise, and fall based on its policies and decisions. The U.S.A. is neither prophesied nor mentioned at all in the Scriptures.