

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Eighteen

When Babylon Falls

Focus Verses: **Revelation 18:2**

And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

I. Introduction

CONTEXT: In Chapter 17 we saw the destruction of *Religious* Babylon (Rome). We will now study the destruction of *Commercial* Babylon (connected to Rome again, as we will see in 18:24). This city will be THE center point of world commerce and trade during the Tribulation, and all money and wealth will be tied to this city. Please note how God tries to get the world's attention with the destruction of this city, and they get caught up in the situation instead of the Saviour!

During the Tribulation the antichrist's answer to the world's economic problems will be based upon rebuilding Babylon and controlling the economy from there and Rome. Another element of his plan will involve restricting Jewish wealth and power throughout the world.

II. Lesson - When Babylon Falls, or Man's Reaction To Trouble (18:1-24)

A. The Indictment Against Babylon's Sins (18:1-7)

1. This is proclaimed by an angel (Cf Heb 2:2; Acts 7:53; Ex 3:1-6)
 - a. PRINCIPLE: Don't mess with angels! (Heb 1:7), and by all means, DON'T WORSHIP THEM (Rev 22:8,9)!
 - b. PRINCIPLE: God is behind the demise or ruin of a nation, city, business, health. You need to only deal with God at the point of ruin and failure and get right with Him. (See Job for an example, as well as Nebuchadnezzar)
2. This reveals who Babylon really was (18:2) She was a "great" city (17:18) on the outside, but God's "X-Ray" Light reveals what's under the "skin":
 - a. A haven for devils (Cf Luke 8:4,5,11,12)
 - b. A place of fornication - Satan is into sex sins. We have studied fornication before (Balam in 2:15; and Jezebel as well as in 14:8 and 17:2,3)
3. This calls for _____ of God's people from her (18:4; Cf Gen 19:15)!
4. All be because of her "works" (18:6,7)
 - a. Note the "_____" she holds (Cf 17:4,6): she is a murderer!
 - b. Note her priority: HERSELF (18:7; Cf Isa 14). We are told to be wary of lovers of SELF (2 Tim 3:2)!

B. The Intervention By God In Babylon's Future (18:7,8)

1. The list of judgements: torment, sorrow, plagues, death, mourning, famine, and ultimately, _____ (Cf 17:16)
2. The duration of the judgements: _____! This is like the Day of the Lord as described in Malachi 4:1, "which shall burn as an oven."
3. It occurs towards the end of the Tribulation.

C. The Impact on the World's Systems (18:9-24)

1. The _____ System Fails (18:9,10)
 - a. All the world's leaders shall see God's judgement upon this city
 - b. All the world will lament over its loss!!!
 - c. Develops into a complete governmental breakdown – the one world government had been linked together via Babylon, and yet now was fractured and broken!
2. The _____ System (18:11-16)
 - a. This will be like the 1929 depression, but about 10 million times worse!!!

- b. This is the real reason why people will be upset over the loss of Babylon: Because it means the loss of MONEY (Cf Acts 19:24-27; Luke 5:14-17)
 - c. Look at what is the MOST important to the world: GOLD
 - d. Notice what is the LEAST important: the SOULS of men!
 - e. Develops into a complete economic breakdown
3. The _____ System (18:17-19)
- a. This judgment is not gradual – but in just one hour, the entire world’s economy collapses.
 - b. This burning city will attract all major shipping lines and maritime activity to the Mediterranean
 - c. Develops into a complete transportation breakdown

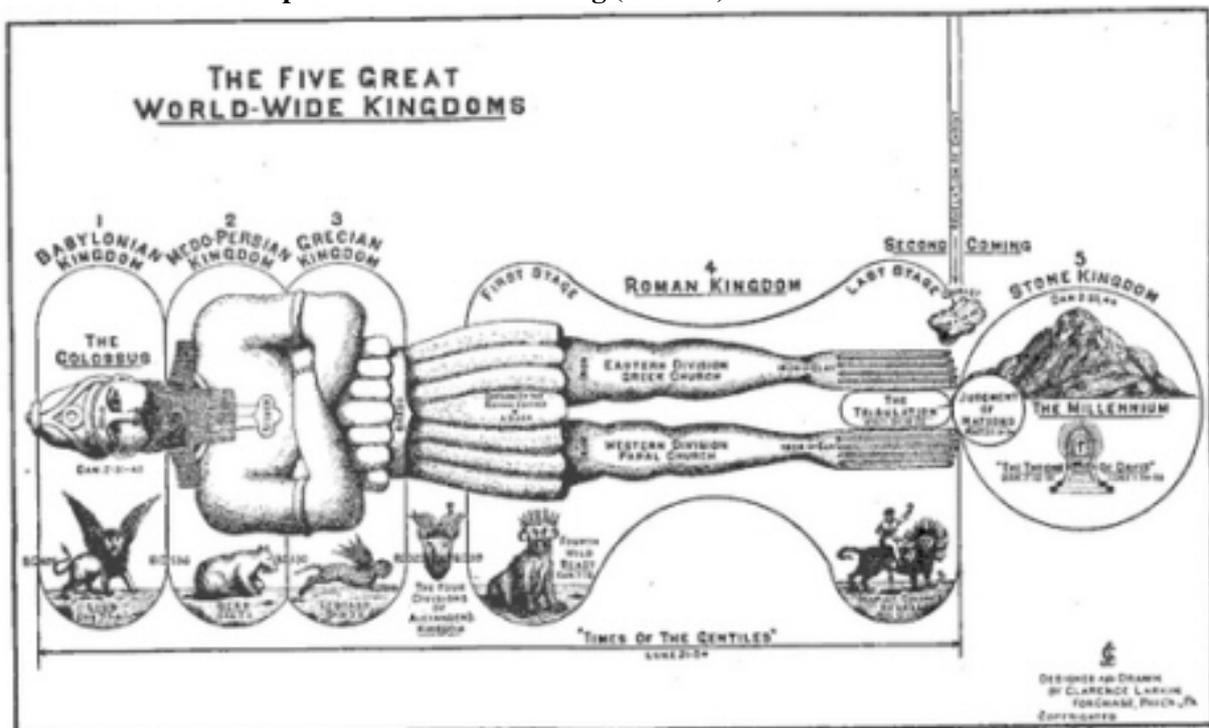
Notice how the whole world will pay more attention to the judgement of the city than to the JUDGE!!! Christian: PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE CHASTISER (Jesus Christ) THAN TO THE CHASTISEMENT, and TRIAL THAT YOU MAY BE GOING THROUGH!!!! As Job, quit your complaining ABOUT your troubles, and find out WHY you are having troubles!

D. The Importance of This Judgement (18:20-24)

- 1. To allow _____ for those who could not yet rejoice (Cf Ps 137:8,9)
 - a. As with the mothers of those men who die at the hands of terrorists with no retribution
 - b. As with the mothers of children who die in car-wrecks caused by drunk drivers
- 2. To bring _____ for past sins against God’s people
- 3. To _____ the secrets of her past (18:24)
 - a. Example of the eastern European countries getting access to KGB files
 - b. We find out that this city was responsible in some way or fashion for the death of the prophets, saints, and ALL THAT WERE SLAIN ON THE EARTH (18:24)

NOW, this is where the rubber meets the road! This city (and it is NOT literal Babylon) IS responsible for the death of EVERYBODY who was ever murdered! The death of Able was due to this city’s existence even before it existed!!! Therefore, we are dealing with a system that must match Cain’s murder of Able, all the way through history today and into the future. What caused Cain to kill his brother? His RELIGION (Gen 4:3)! This city therefore is responsible for the war between North and South Vietnam, for the Inquisition, for all of the Middle East Conflicts, and so on! So, at this point, God has destroyed Rome’s FINANCIAL system. The only thing left to destroy is Rome’s Leader!

III. Conclusion - Next Chapter: The Second Coming (19:1-21)



- A. So, Babylon is at the very end of the tips of the toes of Nebuchadnezzar's image
- B. There is a stone that comes down against this city in final judgment – could be an asteroid?
- C. Isn't it interesting that all three of these world "systems" (The Governmental System, the Economic System, and the Maritime System) are in almost constant chaos today, ready for a complete collapse?

IV. Some Questions

- A. Babylon is the spiritual name for what city? _____
- B. God's judgement will fall upon what three world systems? _____

- C. What is the most important thing to this world? _____
- D. What is the least important thing to this world? _____
- E. What caused Cain to murder his brother? _____