



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

Introduction: In Revelation 18, the Apostle John unveils a powerful vision of the impending destruction of 'Babylon,' a city representing the seductive allure of worldly wealth and material pursuits. This chapter serves as a stark warning that the things we often chase so fervently will ultimately burn. Through divine inspiration, John urges the saints of God to flee from Babylon and resist its corrupting influence, as God's judgment is imminent. This lesson will dissect the characteristics of this 'great city' to illuminate what truly holds lasting value in the eyes of God, prompting reflection on our own priorities and calling us to seek treasures that endure.

BABYLON IN BIBLE PROPHECY

- **The three Babylons mentioned in Scripture:**
 - Historic Babylon (Gen. 11; Ps. 137:1-2; Jer. 50-51)
 - Religious Babylon (Rev. 17)
 - Economic Babylon (Rev. 18)
- **The difference between Babylon (religious and economic):**
 - Religious Babylon will be destroyed by the 10 kings of the earth for they hated her and loved her demise (Rev. 17:16); but the Lord Himself will destroy Economic Babylon (Rev. 18:5, 8, 20) and the kings of the earth will bewail her fall (Rev. 18:9). The entire global economy will crumble because of Babylon's destruction.
- **The double reaction following Babylon's destruction:**
 - The earthly reaction: kings, merchants and consumers will weep and mourn (vs. 9-19)
 - The heavenly reaction: the heavenly saints, apostles, and prophets will rejoice at God's judgment (v. 20).

FOUR REASONS FOR BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION (v 18)

- **She sins relentlessly. "Her sins have reached unto heaven." (v 5)**
- **She glorifies herself. (v. 7)**
- **She diminishes the value of human life. (vs. 12-13)**
 - **NOTE:** Men and their souls were valued like merchandise. (v. 13) *Strong's Concordance* defines the word *slaves* in verse thirteen as **bodies**. Their bodies were sold as merchandise. Consider the devaluation of human life in today's global culture. We live in a time where the cells and body parts of aborted babies are sold to make "healthcare" products, and where young children and young adults are stolen and sold, victims of human trafficking.

"We cannot diminish the value of one human life without diminishing the value of all human life... There is no cause more important." ~ President Ronald Reagan
- **She persecutes God's people. (v 24)**

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THE LAMENT OVER BABYLON'S LOSS (vs 15-19)

- **The merchants. (vs 15-16)** ~ They do not weep for the loss of people, but for the loss of wealth and luxury.
- **The shipmasters. (vs. 17-18).** These, too, do not weep for the destruction of souls, rather they cry for the loss of their livelihoods. *"Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness."* (v 19)

THE FATE OF BABYLON (vs 19-24)

- **This great city is destroyed in one hour. (vs 10, 17, 19).**
- **This great city's destruction suggests the idea of finality.** This chapter uses the words **"no more"** six times in just three verses (vs. 21-23).
 - **No more Babylon (v 21)**
 - **No more music/joy (v 22)**
 - **No more craftsmen (v 22)**
 - **No more sound of the millstone (v 22)** (*commercial food production/distribution*)
 - **No more illumination (v 23)**
 - **No more gospel (v 23)**

Lesson Conclusion: Revelation 18 paints a stark picture of the fate of earthly investments: utter destruction. This serves as a powerful reminder for us as believers. While the world around us chases after fleeting treasures, we are called to a different kind of investment. Matthew 6:19-20 instructs us: *"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal..."* The choice is clear: invest in what is eternal, not what is temporal. Let us live with an eternal perspective, storing up treasures in heaven that will never fade away.