

The Destruction of Babylon

Revelation 18:1-8

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. Chapters 17 & 18 are parenthetical meaning they don't advance the chronology of events in the tribulation, but rather they fill in information God wants us to know.
2. Chapter 17: is a description of the destruction of antichrist's false religious system.
3. Antichrist will use religion to lead people astray & to control the masses in tribulation.
4. Satan has used & will use false religion to lead people away from the true & living God
5. God will destroy the false religious system of the tribulation.

B. Commercial and political Babylon

1. Chapter 18 describes Babylon's destruction. Antichrist economic & political world system is called Babylon. After the flood, 1st organized human rebellion against God took place where the city of Babylon was founded.
2. Babylon in chapter 18 most likely refers to two things:
 - a. – A city: Antichrist will have a capital city. The Bible refers to this city as Babylon.
 - b. – Economic & political system: He will be powerful as he seeks world domination.
 - c. God will destroy this world economic and political system.

II. Judgment Announced (Revelation 18:1-3)

A. Another angel

- *This is "another" angel meaning he's not part of 7 who poured out the bowl judgments. Two things about this angel:*
 1. – He will have great authority.
 - a. There are degrees of authority among the angels. They operate under God's authority carrying out His commands without hesitation.
 - b. Application: Humanity seldom does all God commands especially with right hearts.
 2. – He illuminated the earth.
 - a. God's glory radiated from this angel for the angel had been in God's presence & His glory was all over him. Likewise, Moses had to cover his head coming down from meeting with God on Mt. Sinai.
 - b. It made Moses' face shine so people couldn't look at him.
 - c. The glory of God will illuminate the world.

B. Announcement

1. Babylon is fallen is regarding the destruction of the antichrist capital city.
2. God will destroy city that which represents antichrist power & rulership over the world
 - a. It also includes the entire world system of the antichrist.
 - b. God will destroy his economic power. God will destroy his political system.
3. God will bring the kingdom of antichrist to nothing.
4. Reasons for Judgment:
 - (1) – Dwelling place of demons (Revelation 18:2)
 - a. Satanic influence and power will emanate from the city of antichrist.
 - b. Demonic activity will be pervasive during the tribulation.

- c. When the church is raptured the Holy Spirit's restraining power will be removed making demonic influence unchecked in the tribulation. **See 2 Thessalonians 2**
- d. Wickedness of the tribulation will be unlike anything the world has ever known.
- e. Judgment will come upon this wickedness.
- (2) – All the world guilty (Revelation 18:3)
 - a. Satanic influence will morally corrupt the whole world.
 - b. The world will be infatuated with two things:
 - (i) Materialism and wealth
 - (ii) Sensuality and pleasures of the flesh

III. **A word of warning from God (Revelation 18:4-5)**

A. **A word to His own**

1. Before judgment falls on the city of antichrist, God warns those who are saved to flee.
2. This same pattern of deliverance for God's people is seen throughout the Bible.

(1) – Noah

- a. Before God flooded the world, He provided a way of deliverance for Noah.
- b. Noah preached for 120 years as he built the ark. The lost world was invited to believe & be saved, but no one except his family believed.

(2) – Lot

- a. Before God rained fire on Sodom & Gomorrah, He sent angels who delivered Lot.
- b. Others could have believed the warning of destruction and departed as well.
- c. Application: God has warned people today of impending judgment for sin & offered a way of escape for all who will accept it.

B. **Babylon's sins reached up to heaven.**

1. In the 1st Babylon they built a tower up to heaven. It was a place of pagan worship.
2. The final form of Babylon will have a tower that's a metaphorical tower of sin.
3. The heinous nature of their sin and rebellion will reach up to heaven.
4. Judgment: The Bible's stating God's mercy has run out & it's time to judge their sin.
5. Books in Heaven: Every sin, every idle word is recorded in heaven.
6. When you believe in Jesus & trust Him to save you, God forgives your sin forever.
7. But if you reject Jesus, God will bring forth the books at the Great White Throne judgment & you'll have to answer for every sin you have ever committed before God.

IV. **Just judgment (Revelation 18:6-8)**

A. **Description of judgment**

- *The whole system of rebellion against God is found in three areas:*

1. – Pride

- a. City of antichrist will exude pride. Pride's deep satisfaction over one's achievements
- b. The kingdom of antichrist will be prideful because of power & material success.
- c. Antichrist will consider himself a god. Application: God hates pride! (**Pro. 6:16-19**)

2. – Self security

- a. The society of the tribulation will think they need nothing, that they have all answers
- b. Secular humanism today says that science holds all the answers to man's problems.

3. – Godlessness

- a. The culture of the tribulation will be one that completely rejects God.
- b. They will live with abandon for wealth, power, luxury, and pleasure.

B. **Judgment will fall in one day.**

1. The kingdom of antichrist will fall in one day. There'll be death, mourning, & famine.