



Revelation 18

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The Fall of Babylon

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Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code



- i. Please keep praying for America, for Global Revival, for Pastor Mike and Calvary San Jose, for the release of all hostages, & for the Peace of Jerusalem (2 Chron. 7:14)
- ii. Do you want to give personally to aid for SoCal fire victims? Calvary Chapel Chino Hills (Jack Hibbs) has set up a link where 100% of all donations go to direct aid to first responders & fire victims. This is approved by Pastor Mike & can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ynw8pvnr>
- iii. **Understanding The Times:** "National ID: Big Brother at its Worst". Today at 1:00PM on 88.1 FM or at OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/yppvz5wb>
- iv. **Agenda Weekly:** "The Uprising of the Global Elite" <https://tinyurl.com/3nh4mrvk>
- v. **Amir Tsarfati's Weekly Newsletter** (terms of ceasefire): <https://tinyurl.com/muzkap8c>
- vi. **In the midst of disaster, God's Spirit still draws people to Him:** <https://tinyurl.com/36aa579y>
- vii. **Would you like a better understanding of what A.I. is & what are the risks and benefits?**
 - a. Recap of Nvidia's GB10 CPU: <https://tinyurl.com/5n77n66e>
 - b. What is Project Stargate: <https://tinyurl.com/yvy8n8wy>
- viii. **Trump Pardons 23 Pro-Life Protestors:** <https://tinyurl.com/4rtswsws>
- ix. **Hamas releases 4 Hostages in Propaganda Show:** <https://tinyurl.com/3t3ak78a>

II. Revelation Chapter 18:1-24 ... The Fall of Commercial Babylon

i. An Overview

- a. **Introduction: is this the same Babylon as is described in chapter 17?**
- b. Good scholars see the issue differently. Some point to two manifestations of Babylon, one religious and one commercial or material. Others see the two as one, both being judged at the same time.
- c. There are definite similarities between Babylon as described in [Revelation 17](#) and [Revelation 18](#). Both are under the rule of Antichrist, and have ruling queens; both are filled with blasphemy; both hate the saints, and shed their blood; both are associates with kings in fornication; and both are under judgment and destroyed.
- d. However, there are also some significant differences:
Mystery Babylon (Religious Babylon):
 - Symbol: Harlot woman; - Identified with Rome (inland); - Woman, whore, mother; - Guilty of religious abominations; - Destroyed by a political power that previous supported her.**Commercial Babylon:**
 - Symbol: Great city; - Identified with a port city (coastal); - Habitation, great city, marketplace; - Guilty of greed and self-indulgence; - Destroyed by sudden act of God
- e. In the view of most commentaries, it's best to see 'both Babylons' as intertwined, yet somewhat distinct. Religious Babylon of [Revelation 17](#) is judged at the mid-point of the seven-year period of tribulation. Commercial Babylon is judged at the end of that period.
- f. This breadth in prophecy shouldn't surprise us. Think of what the Old Testament says about the first coming of the Messiah:
 - Micah said that Messiah would *come* out of Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#))
 - Hosea said that Messiah would come out of Egypt ([Hosea 11:1](#))
 - Malachi said that Messiah would *come* to the temple ([Malachi 3:1](#))
 - Zechariah said that Messiah would *come* to Zion ([Zechariah 9:9](#))
 - Isaiah said that Messiah would *come* to Galilee ([Isaiah 9:1-2](#))
- g. **The fall of Babylon ... Both of them!** (Religious Babylon AND Commercial Babylon)
 - ✓ Which of these is true? They are all true. So it isn't strange at all to say, "Babylon is falling" **and to mean it in two senses** (religious Babylon and commercial Babylon) **at two different times** (the middle of the Great Tribulation and the end of the Great Tribulation).
 - ✓ This passage is very much in the style of Old Testament prophecies of doom regarding wicked cities. Two examples of this are Babylon ([Isaiah 13-14](#), [Isaiah 21](#) and [Jeremiah 50-51](#)) and Tyre ([Ezekiel 26-28](#)).
- h. **Is Babylon of Revelation 18 a literal or symbolic city?**
- i. Some thought it to be a future rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates River in the Middle East. This presents a bit of a problem as this is now a desolate desert in modern day Iraq.

- j. **Remember Saddam Hussein's boast that he would resurrect the ruined city of Babylon in all its glory?** He obviously failed, but it's possible a 'renamed' Babylon could be a world economic center, especially with the wealth of Mideast oil.
- k. Most likely, here, a commercial Babylon is **symbolic**, like religious Babylon.
- ii. **Announcement of the Glorious Angel (Verses 1-3)**
- a. **"Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen"**: He announces that Babylon is **"fallen, fallen"**. Remember in John's time, repeating a word is a way to emphasize a concept or message.
- b. **"Become a dwelling place of demons"**: This is "a prophetic picture of absolute desolation where the proud achievements of man become the demonic haunts of unclean and horrible creatures." (Mounce)
- c. **"Abundance of her luxury"**: Babylon's sin was not only idolatry (referred to with the term '**fornication**'), but also pride, greed, and selfishly held wealth.
- iii. **A call to God's People to Separate from Babylon (Verses 4-5)**
- a. **Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins**: It is inconceivable that a child of God could be a part of religious Babylon (though elements may creep in, especially if you buy into the 'Woke-Church' agenda).
- b. **Come out of her**: The call to depart from Babylon and the worldliness that it represents is a theme repeated frequently in the Scriptures.
- c. **God has remembered her iniquities**: This is the destiny of the materialistic world, but towards believers, God says, *I will remember their sins no more* ([Hebrews 8:12](#)).
- iv. **A call to those who will carry out Babylon's Judgement (Verses 6-8)**
- a. **Render to her just as she rendered to you**: The ancient Greek word for **render** (*apodidomi*) means literally "to pay a debt" or "to give back that which is due." God will give Babylon exactly what she deserves.
- b. **Repay her double according to her works... mix for her double**: Double restitution was required in the Old Testament in cases of theft ([Exodus 22:4-9](#)). This perhaps is a commentary on how Babylon has made her wealth – through dishonest dealings.
- c. **Therefore her plagues will come in one day**: The destruction of commercial Babylon will come suddenly and with completeness (**utterly burned with fire**).
- v. **Lament of the Kings (Verses 9-10)**
- a. **Standing at distance for fear of her torment**: So great is the heat and **smoke of her burning** that these kings must stand **at a distance**. Some think this may be an indication that nuclear weapons are used in the judgment of these commercial centers.
- b. "Whether this is to be understood of the literal destruction of the city of Rome by fire, is surely doubtful, considering the mystical character of the whole prophecy." (Henry Alford's Greek Testament Critical Exegetical Commentary)
- vi. **Lament of the Merchants (Verses 11-17)**
- a. **Merchandise of gold and silver**: Note these are all luxuries, not necessities. It is plain that the mourning is rooted in self-interest: **for no one buys their merchandise anymore**.
- b. "The combined picture is one of complete abandonment to the wealth of this world and complete disregard of the God who gave it." (Walvoord: "The Rapture Question")
- c. **And bodies and souls of men**: Could this be reference to today's widespread human trafficking, prostitution, and pornography? Also remember Mark 8:36.
- d. **You shall find them no more at all**: Those who lived for the luxuries of commercial Babylon will be tormented their eternal absence of those luxuries all the more: **you shall find them no more at all**. Ultimately, hell will be a place of unfulfilled desire.
- vii. **Finale: Commercial Babylon's Death Knell (Verses 21-24)**
- a. **"A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea"**: This is reminiscent of Jeremiah's instructions to Seraiah to bind a stone to a text of Jeremiah and cast it into the Euphrates. *"Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary"* ([Jeremiah 51:61-64](#)).
- b. But it also reminds us of what Jesus said in [Matthew 18:6](#): *"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea"*. This applies to Babylon in [Revelation 18](#), because *"she led others into sin"*. While it's a terrible thing to sin unto yourself; it is even more terrible to lead others into sin.
- c. **(v 21) "The great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore"**: Some day, this world system will pass away, like a great stone falls to the bottom of the sea.
- d. Will this 'fall' hurt us? My understanding says 'we' are not here. But you can only be hurt to the extent that you invest in the mentality of commercial Babylon's materialism and worldliness.
- e. **(vs 22-23) Babylon is left desolate and powerless**.
- f. **Shall not be heard... shall be found anymore... shall to be heard in you anymore... shall not shine in you anymore**: In graphic and poetic language, John describes how the industry and commerce of Babylon will come to an end.
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- j. **Shall not be heard... shall be found anymore... shall to be heard in you anymore... shall not shine in you anymore**: In graphic and poetic language, John describes how the industry and commerce of Babylon will come to an end.
- k. **For by your sorcery all the nations were deceived**: **Sorcery** is the Greek word *pharmakia*, which means, "to prepare drugs." The lure of commercial Babylon is like a drug addiction, fed by deceptive promises.
- l. **(v 24) The ultimate reason for commercial Babylon's judgment: She has killed the prophets and saints**.

- m. ***“The blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth”***: The extent of this charge is an indication that this great city is symbolic of the world system at large.
- n. God takes the persecution of His people as a personal offense. Those who attack His people really attack Him.