

Behold the Lamb of God

The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18

Lesson 18

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
May 1, 2011

Revelation – overview

I II III

1	2-3	4	22
C H R I S T	Letters to Seven Churches	Prophecy of Things to Come	

III Prophecy of Things to Come				
4	18	19	20	21-22
Great Tribulation – 7 Years		Return of Christ	1000 Year Reign	Eternal State

4	Great Tribulation – 7 Years		18	
Seals 1-6		7 th Seal		
		Trumpets 1-6	7 th Trumpet	
		Bowls 1-7		
Parenteses:	①	②	③	④
Chapter:	7	10-11a	12-14	17-18

- ① – the elect of God preserved
- ② – John and the 2 witnesses
- ③ – Spiritual realities
- ④ – Babylon the Great

The Judgment of Babylon the Great and the Great Prostitute

▶ The judgment

- 16:19 – “God remembered Babylon the great”
- 17:1 – “I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute”
- 18:8 – “. . . for mighty is the Lord God Who has judged her.”
- 19:2 – “He has judged the great prostitute”

▶ The sin

- 17:2; 18:23b; 19:2 – corruption of the earth
- 17:6; 18:24; 19:2 – killing the saints

Two Images – One Entity

- ▶ The great prostitute – beautiful and evil
- ▶ Babylon the great – power and prosperity
- ▶ Note: the common description (17:4; 18:16)
- ▶ Revelation 17:18 – the woman is the great city

Babylon in Scripture

▶ Three actual cities

- Babel (Babylon) (Genesis 10-11)
- Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel)
- Babylon at the end of the age (Revelation 17-18)

▶ Three Divine interventions

- Genesis 11:1-9 – confusion of language
- Daniel 5 – “God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end”
- Revelation 18 – the judgment of the great city

The Figurehead of Folly

- ▶ Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . .
- ▶ Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 – A way that seems right unto man – its end is the way of death
- ▶ The head of gold in Nebuchadnezzar's image
 - Great city – capital of world-wide empire
 - Dominated all aspects of life – political, commercial, social, religious
 - The way of the fool – “No God” (Psalm 14:1-3)
 - Hostile to God and the saints
 - The mind that dominates the kingdom of man

Two Babylons

- ▶ The world – an “alternative” to God
 - James 4:4-5
 - 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ A city at the end of the age
 - Dominant in prestige and glory and influence
 - A visible representation of man’s way.
- ▶ Anticipates a City to come

The Scarlet Beast

- ▶ The prostitute's mount
- ▶ Distinct from the prostitute
- ▶ Supports the prostitute
- ▶ Leads a final revolt against the Lamb
- ▶ Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- ▶ Exposes the power and purpose of the prostitute

The End of Babylon

- ▶ Revelation 17:16-17 – summary statement
- ▶ The Beast against the Lamb (17:12-14)
- ▶ The great battle of Armageddon (19:17-21)

The Fall of Babylon – Revelation 18

- ▶ The judgment of the great prostitute (Rev. 18:1-19:5)
- ▶ The fall of a great city
 - By the Beast and 10 kings (17:16-17)
 - In preparation for the final Battle of Armageddon
- ▶ Destruction of the “way that seems right to man”
 - Figurative – the city is destroyed
 - Actual – world-wide impact of destruction of Babylon

Revelation 18

- ▶ The announcement of the end of Babylon (18:1-3)
- ▶ The call to the people of God (18:4-8)
- ▶ The destruction of Babylon (18:9-20)
- ▶ The description of the end of Babylon (18:21-24)

Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

Revelation 18:1-3

- ▶ Another angel
- ▶ Inevitable end: Isaiah 21:9-10; Revelation 14:8
- ▶ The influence of Babylon
 - A dwelling place for demons
 - The wine of the passion of her sexual immorality
 - The power of luxurious living
 - Universal corruption

A call to the people of God

Revelation 18:4-8

- ▶ Come out of her
 - Jeremiah 51:6-8 – flee from the midst of Babylon
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 – come out from among them
- ▶ Sins are heaped as high as heaven
- ▶ God has remembered her iniquities

Sins of Babylon - Revelation 18:7

- ▶ Self-glorification
- ▶ Satisfaction in luxury
- ▶ Haughty self-confidence
- ▶ Denial of discipline or wrath

Judgment in a single day

- ▶ Death, mourning, famine, fire
- ▶ Mighty is the LORD God – the Judge

The destruction of Babylon

Revelation 18:9-20

- ▶ Weeping and mourning
- ▶ Alas for the great city! Gone in a single hour!
 - Revelation 18:10; 18:16-17; 18:19
 - Kings: great power – pleasures
 - Merchants: wealth – materialism without morality
 - Shipmasters: No other city!
 - 1 John 2:15-16 – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life
 - Genesis 3:1-6 – the original temptation

The destruction of Babylon

- ▶ Heaven's perspective
- ▶ Rejoice, saints, apostles, prophets
- ▶ God's judgment "for you against her."

The end of Babylon

Revelation 18:21-24

- ▶ Babylon in the Old Testament
 - Isaiah 13; 14:11; 21:9; 34; 47; Jeremiah 50-51
- ▶ A millstone in the sea
- ▶ No Musicians or craftsmen
- ▶ No mills
- ▶ No lamps
- ▶ No marriage
- ▶ All nations deceived by sorcery
- ▶ Blood of the prophets

Babylon is fallen!

- ▶ Judgment of the prostitute - Babylon the Great
 - Destruction of a great city
 - The end of the way of man
- ▶ A present challenge for the people of God
 - Two alternatives: Christ or the prostitute; wisdom or folly
 - The examples of Daniel and Joseph
 - In the world but not of the world
- ▶ Revelation 17-18 give God's view of the world
 - A prostitute – a golden cup full of abominations
 - A great city – a deceptive luxury
 - The certain pathway to death

**“Am I a Soldier of the Cross”
Trinity Hymnal #481**

Is this vile world a friend to grace,
To help me on to God?