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

CHRIST
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

Great Tribulation – 7 Years

4

Seals 1-6  7th Seal

Trumpets 1-6  7th Trumpet

Bowls 1-7

Parentheses: 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?