

THE FALL OF BABYLON

Revelation 18

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Woodland Church

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The Final Fall of Babylon.

After all this I saw another angel come down from heaven with great authority, and the earth grew bright with his splendor. He gave a mighty shout: “Babylon is fallen—that great city is fallen! She has become a home for demons. She is a hideout for every foul spirit, a hideout for every foul vulture and every foul and dreadful animal. For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of her passionate immorality. The kings of the world have committed adultery with her. Because of her desires for extravagant luxury, the merchants of the world have grown rich.” (Revelation 18:1–3)

1. Babylon is the composite of religious, political, and economic world system ruled by anti-Christ.
2. An angel with great authority, splendor, and a mighty voice announces the end.
3. Nothing good remains in Babylon.
4. The nations have gone mad with the wine of her passionate immorality.
5. The kings of the world lust for power.

The people of God look upon her inhabitants with compassion rather than condescension.

*“Then I heard another voice calling from heaven,
“Come away from her, my people. Do not take part in her sins,
or you will be punished with her.
For her sins are piled as high as heaven,
and God remembers her evil deeds.
Do to her as she has done to others.
Double her penalty for all her evil deeds.
She brewed a cup of terror for others,
so brew twice as much for her.
She glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so match it now with torment and sorrow.
She boasted in her heart,
‘I am queen on my throne.
I am no helpless widow,
and I have no reason to mourn.’
Therefore, these plagues will overtake her in a single day—
death and mourning and famine.
She will be completely consumed by fire,
for the Lord God who judges her is mighty.”* (Revelation 18:4–8, NLT)

1. God calls us to separate ourselves to Him, His purposes, and His ways.
2. Our separation is out of love for God and fellowship with Him.
3. Compassion for the world means we do not participate in the world’s ways.
4. Babylon reveals to us the reprehensible sinful web that dominates the world.
5. Babylon has dealt with kings but in the end Babylon, anti-Christ, and Satan will deal with God Almighty.

The investors and transportation industry lament.

“The traders will cry and carry on because the bottom dropped out of business, no more market for their goods: gold, silver, precious gems, pearls; fabrics of fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet; perfumed wood and vessels of ivory, precious woods, bronze, iron, and marble; cinnamon and spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine and oil, flour and wheat; cattle, sheep, horses, and chariots. And slaves—their terrible traffic in human lives.

*Everything you’ve lived for, gone!
All delicate and delectable luxury, lost!
Not a scrap, not a thread to be found!*

“The traders who made millions off her kept their distance for fear of getting burned, and cried and carried on all the more:

*Doom, doom, the great city doomed!
Dressed in the latest fashions,
adorned with the finest jewels,
in one hour such wealth wiped out!*

“All the ship captains and travelers by sea, sailors and toilers of the sea, stood off at a distance and cried their lament when they saw the smoke from her burning: ‘Oh, what a city! There was never a city like her!’ They threw dust on their heads and cried as if the world had come to an end:

*Doom, doom, the great city doomed!
All who owned ships or did business by sea
Got rich on her getting and spending.
And now it’s over—wiped out in one hour!”*
(Revelation 18:11–19, Message)

1. Wealth was created for man and not man for wealth.
2. The investors and transporters wanted commodities.
3. Babylon represents idolatry.
4. Make sure your desires lead you into paths of righteousness.
5. The purpose of people is to know God and enjoy Him forever.

What God says will happen will be!

Gibbons 5 Basic Reasons in 1788 for the Decline and Fall of Rome

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis for human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.
4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy was within—the decay of individual responsibility.
5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

“O Heaven, celebrate! And join in, saints, apostles, and prophets! God has judged her; every wrong you suffered from her has been judged.”

A strong Angel reached for a boulder—huge, like a millstone—and heaved it into the sea, saying,

*Heaved and sunk, the great city Babylon,
sunk in the sea, not a sign of her ever again.
Silent the music of harpists and singers—
you’ll never hear flutes and trumpets again.
Artisans of every kind—gone;
you’ll never see their likes again.
The voice of a millstone grinding falls dumb;
you’ll never hear that sound again.
The light from lamps, never again;
never again laughter of bride and groom.
Her traders robbed the whole earth blind,
and by black-magic arts deceived the nations.
The only thing left of Babylon is blood—
the blood of saints and prophets,
the murdered and the martyred.”*
(Revelation 18:20–24, Message)

Growthwork

- 1. Remember that people are more important than products.**
- 2. Remember God’s Word and will must never be compromised.**
- 3. Do what is right no matter what the cost.**
- 4. Be involved in what provides beneficial services or products.**
- 5. Stay humble in your plans, work, and the successes that God gives you.**