

Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgement for you against her!
(Revelations 18:20)

I. The Fall of the Spiritually Corrupt Babylon

- a. *Babylon* symbolizes the world system organized by *the beast*. Remember that *the harlot* (world religion) and *the antichrist* (economic/political) cooperate during the first half of the tribulation (3 ½ years). However, *the antichrist* will destroy the world religion so that Satan can be worshipped.
- b. *Babylon* was also used as a "reference" for corrupt Rome. In John's day, the readers/hearers of *Revelation* would have been familiar with this reference. (1 Peter 5:13)
- c. John described the Babylon system as a place "for every unclean and detestable beast." (v.3)
 1. Idolatrous and blasphemous worship was encouraged. (v.3)
 2. Both Jews and Christians were persecuted. (v.24)
 3. Babylon engaged in self-glorification of wealth and world influence. (v.7)
 4. Worship of their own economic status. (vv.11-19)
- d. The poor will desire status, the privileged will want more of it. Nations will be seduced, but God's people will see it for what it really is, a vehicle to ensnare people.
- e. Satan will use false religion and business to persecute and kill God's people, but God will avenge.

II. Several Voices are Heard Concerning Babylon's Fall (18:1-24)

- a. Voice of a mighty angel says, *Fallen, Fallen* announcing Babylon's collapse. (vv.1-3)
- b. A heavenly voice calls for God's people to *come out* of Babylon. (v.4)
 1. This writing was heard by the churches of Asia, not Roman-Christians.
 2. *Come out* is not about geographical location but of spiritual reorientation.
 3. God's people are to resist the values of the corrupt world.
- c. Voices of lamentation come from earth dwellers who cry over the fall of Babylon.
 1. *The kings of the earth* – they *committed fornication* (rejected the true God) and sold their souls for wealth. (vv.9-10)
 2. *The merchants* – their control of the mercantile system (buying and selling of goods). (vv.11-17a)
 3. Satanic influences will fuel mankind's greed and desire for selfish gain. *Self-first, others last*.
- d. Heavenly voices of rejoicing about God's judgment of Babylon, from God's point of view.
 1. All heaven rejoices that God has avenged the blood of His people. (vv.20-24) (Rev. 6:9-11)
 2. Note the phrase *no more* appears six times, which means God's judgment is final and binding there is nothing man can do to change it.
 3. The saints are rejoicing at the righteous judgment of God and not over revenge.
- e. Babylon was not built in a *day*, but it will be judged in *one day* and *one hour*. (vv.8, 10, 19)
- f. The throwing down of the millstone indicates the suddenness of God's judgment.

III. What Shall We Say About These Things?

- a. Notice throughout *Revelation* Christ does not tell any of the Churches, 144,000, the two messengers, or any of the saints to bear arms in order *to fight* against Satan and the evil system.
- b. As Christians, the Bible directs us to see the *enemy* from God's viewpoint and not our own.
 1. Satan will use these world systems to pit mankind against themselves.
- c. We are not to remain spiritually inactive while we wait, because we are called *Christian soldiers* and *more than conquerors*.
- d. How might we personally apply Ephesians 6:10-18 in overcoming corrupt world systems and avoiding the desire to take revenge over the injustice we see around us?