REVELATION

Chapter 18

Overview

John witnesses the destruction of the city of Babylon.

2 Babylons?

- Chapter 17 Ecclesiastical
 - Religious apostate church
 - The apostate church is hated by the kings of the earth.
 - Destroyed by the kings of the earth
 - Destroyed first during the Great Tribulation
- Chapter 18 Economic
 - Political and Commercial
 - Loved by the kings of the earth
 - Destroyed by the judgment of God
 - Destroyed at the Second Coming of Christ
- These 2 Baylons are not one and the same city. It actually reveals 2 systems to be destroyed and to watch for. WATCH AND PRAY!

I. THE REVELATION (18:1):

 An angel with great authority and splendor announces Babylon's destruction. II. THE REASONS (18:2-3, 5, 7, 13b, 23c-24): The city is destroyed for its many sins.

- A. It has become a den of demons (18:2).
- B. It is filled with immorality (18:3a).
- C. It is materialistic to the core (18:3b).
- D. Its sins are as high as the heavens (18:5).
- E. It is totally proud and arrogant (18:7).
- F. It has deceived the nations and killed the saints (18:23-24).
- G. It is buying and selling human slaves (18:13b).

GET OUT!

- III. THE REMOVAL (18:4): God orders his people to leave this corrupt city.
 - Why?
 - Lest you share in her sins
 - Lest you receive of her plagues
 - Don't hang around. Lot's wife is a reminder. The Laodicean church is a call.
 - The faithful are encouraged to stay strong in their stance and persevere in their witness, even if this means they must go without numerous privileges.
 - We are called to live in the world but not be of the world.
 - DISCLAIMER: Although the call is the leave the city, some use this as an example of not leaving in a city. NO! Sin is everywhere.

IV. THE RETRIBUTION (18:6, 8, 10b, 17a, 19b): The city is destroyed by God himself.

- A. The severity of the destruction (18:6): She is given double punishment for all her evil deeds.
- B. The suddenness of the destruction (18:8, 10b, 17a, 19b): Fire from heaven consumes the city in a single moment.

V. THE REACTION (18:9, 10a, 11-16, 17b-19a, 20)

- A. Great remorse by the unsaved (18:9-10a, 11-19a)
- 1. What the merchants of the world cry out (18:10a, 16, 19a):
- "How terrible, how terrible for Babylon, that great city!"
- 2. Why they cry out (18:9, 11-15, 17b-18): Because there is no one left to buy their cargoes of precious metals, clothing, wood, ivory, brass, iron, marble, perfume, food, cattle, and even human slaves.
- B. Great rejoicing by the saved (18:20)

Who's weeping?

- There are three classes of people who weep over Babylon. They are:
 - Monarchs (18:9)
 - Merchants (18:11)
 - Mariners (18:17)

Who's Rejoicing?

- God's people
- 3 times of rejoicing:
 - When Satan is cast out (12:12)
 - When Babylon is destroyed (18:20)
 - When the Lamb is married to the church (19:7)
- How can they rejoice in a terrible event of destruction?
 - Joy is not for the ruin of Babylon; it is rather the successful divine intervention against evil and the establishment of justice. God is just and throughout the times where it felt evil was winning it shows a God who has intervened. God has been showing his grace and allowing the world to come for hope. God has now shown his power in justice.

VI. THE RESULTS (18:21-23b): The city disappears from the face of the earth, resulting in:

- A. No sound of music in Babylon (18:21-22a)
 - This will be the end of pleasure in the city.
- B. No industry in Babylon (18:22b)
 - The most basic services will be unavailable
 - Basic foods will not be found
- C. No light in Babylon (18:23a)
 - The city will be dark
- D. No joyous weddings in Babylon (18:23b)
 - Love will be gone forever

DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

The Description of the City

- Hotbed of demons and false doctrine (18:2)
- Capital of godless materialism (18:3; 11-17)
- Filled with both iniquity and arrogance (18:5-7)
- Center of drug activities and blood shedding (18:23,24)

The Destruction of the City

- The source of its destruction:
 God himself (18:8, 20)
- The means of destruction:
 Perhaps via nuclear or chemical power (18:9,10, 15, 17, 19)
- The reaction to its destruction:
 - Despair on earth (18:19)
 - Delight in heaven (18:20)

Why is it that God's judgment so terribly falls upon this city?

- Verse 5
- Verse 7
- Verses 12-13
- Verse 24
 - Babylon will have killed the prophets, saints, and all the men that were slain upon the earth.
 - The system and the demonic power of Babylon would have done away with the blood of all of those who would not receive the mark of the beast.

GET READY FOR THE NEW CITY! THE NEW JERUSALEM (Revelation 21 and 22)

A total contrast to Babylon, where there will be complete joy in God's presence.

High Points

- Be aware that Babylon and what it represents will fall!
- Avoid it and its temptations (18:1-2)
- Come out of it (18:4)
- Count on God's justice (18:5-8)
- Make sure you are among those who rejoice and not among those who mourn (18:9-20)