

4

God's Chooses Relationship With You (18:20-24)

1. Rather than responding in horror to the judgments and suffering in the fall of Babylon the Great, God's followers rejoice (18:20) at God's perfect justice and expression of righteousness in destroying Babylon!
2. The call to rejoice is also Babylon's final moment, as a mighty angel (is there any other type?) throws a millstone (heavy stone for grinding seed into powder) into the sea (18:21), illustrating Babylon's fall from extreme excess to total dead silence.
3. Babylon's fall is accentuated by the loss of all things, both the enticing/tempting goodness of Babylon (18:22-23) and the demonic and wicked underbelly of evil which Babylon celebrated (18:24).
4. The driving reason for Babylon's fall (18:24), the justice for those who have given everything for the Kingdom of God (martyrs, especially Jesus Christ), calls for every Christ-follower to respond in both rejoicing (cf. 18:20), and holy living (cf. 18:4).

Revelation 18:1-24

You Should Run!

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust destroy
and where thieves break in and steal,

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust destroys
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where
your **treasure** is,
there your **heart** will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

Revelation 18:1-24

1

Judgment Against Babylon (18:1-3)

1. The sixth and seventh bowl judgments (Revelation 16:12-21) are expanded in Revelation 17, with special emphasis on "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations" (Revelation 17:5). Babylon is a symbol for the cultural, political, and sociological centers of the world throughout history.
2. The expansion of the Bowl Judgments in Revelation 17 focuses on the geopolitical powers of earth rising up in war against Jesus Christ (17:13), resulting in the destruction of Babylon the Great by the people of earth who are under the influence of "the Beast" (17:16) and the strategic judgment purposes of God (17:17).
3. In a final 3D-View of Babylon's fall, a Christ-like angel from Heaven authoritatively declares Babylon's fate (18:1-2). Babylon is depicted as a collecting point of demonic death, and the location of sexual, political, and economic idolatry (18:2-3).

2

You Don't Have To Tell Me Twice! (18:4-8)

1. Another voice, speaking with tremendous Heavenly authority, urgently calls God's people to evacuate Babylon so as to avoid both the sin and the judgment which grips the city (18:4).
2. Following the call for all Christ-followers to flee Babylon, is the judicial scene of the judge (God) passing a guilty verdict against Babylon (18:5-6) for her sin.
3. The sin of Babylon (those who construct a life separate from God's Kingdom) is more specifically described as living a life of arrogant self-sufficiency (18:7).
4. The process of calling out the true believer and passing a guilty verdict against arrogant Babylon comes swiftly and with great destructive force, Babylon falls without warning and in spectacular fashion (18:8)!

3

Responses Of Shock & Awe (18:9:19)

1. The central point of the chapter comes more clearly into view through the next sections as we see the shocked and overwhelmed responses to Babylon's fall from three groups of people (18:9).
2. The first response is one of personal loss from the "kings of earth" (18:9-10). They mourn the loss of their immoral lover and their lives of "sensuous luxury," lived at the expense of their people. Fearing personal judgment, they cower from responsibility, disassociating themselves with Babylon.
3. The second response is one of economic loss from the "merchants of the earth" (18:11-17a). In tremendous detail, they mourn their loss of wealth, devastated by their loss of luxury and excess. They cower from judgment of their consumerist lifestyle of consumption, wailing loudly.
4. The third response is one of economic loss from the "working class" of the earth (18:17b-19). Mourning their loss of personal wealth, they writhe in anxiety and misery, unable to comprehend a world without dependence on Babylon.