

# The Fall Of Babylon

Long Beach Alliance Church • September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.” And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.**

**When I saw her, I marveled greatly.**

**~Revelation 17:5-6 (ESV)**

## **1) The Judgment And Fall Of Babylon The Great**

- A) The ‘Bowl Judgments’ (Revelation 16) are the most severe in the entirety of the Apocalypse (heavenly secrets revealed through visions, summarily called ‘revelation’).
- B) The Bowl Judgments are the pinnacle of God’s wrath being poured out onto the earth for mankind’s sin, the rightful justice for God’s faithful martyrs/people, and a call to repentance from sin for all “earth dwellers.”
- C) Significantly, the Bowl Judgments are the zenith of the battle between God and Satan (16:13-16), which leads to all of heaven and earth assembling at Armageddon for battle.
- D) Prototypically, Babylon is a symbol for “all the world’s cultural, political, economic, and sociological centers” (Beale, 843) through human history (16:19).
- E) Babylon’s judgment is the death-blow to the world system of dragon/beast/false prophet (anti-trinity, 16:13-14) and godless world leaders.

## **2) Sleeping With The Enemy**

- A) The remaining chapters of Revelation (17-22) develop the outcomes of Armageddon, beginning with Babylon “no-longer” Great (Revelation 17:1).
- B) The gripping symbol of “prostitution” vividly describes sin (17:1-2). Life without God (for any reason) is the spiritual equivalent of being sexually adulterous (intimacy with anyone who is not your spouse).
- C) Thus, “dwelling” in Babylon is the spiritual equivalent of adultery, personified by the deviantly sinful prostitute who is drunkenly gorged on the blood of God’s faithful (17:3-6).

## **3) A Beastly And Deadly Pimp Battles With God**

- A) The “scarlet beast” with “7 heads and 10 horns” (powerful kingdoms/rulers attained through death) is explained by the angel responding to John’s shocked revulsion (17:6-7).
- B) The beast from the “bottomless pit” (cf. 11:7-12), part of the anti-trinity of the world, is described (mockingly) with three descriptions (was, is not, going to destruction).
- C) All of the world rulers and powers within the world are unified (17:13) against Jesus Christ, who directs their destruction (17:14; and previous judgments, 16:12-21).
- D) The prostitute is positioned over the people of the world (17:15), but the judgments of God (16:12) usher in mankind’s rebellious devotion to the anti-trinity, bringing exposure/destruction to the “security” of mankind (17:16).
- E) Quite suddenly, the “opiate” of Babylon is replaced by raw demonic authority (17:16, 16:12-16). Rather than follow God, the world assembles to battle Him (17:17-18).
- F) Despite all of this, don’t miss the “Lord of lords and King of kings” (17:14). Who will you stand with in the final days, when Babylon falls? The battle has already begun!