

The book of Revelation

Chapter 18

1. *The pronouncement of judgment from Heaven against Babylon (18:1-8)*

-John now sees another angel coming from heaven. This angel is said to have great authority and to be so bright that the earth was made bright with his glory. This angel calls out with a mighty voice declaring the fall of Babylon. "Here Babylon's fall is announced as if it had already occurred; so _____ is its fall." (191)

-Babylon will be destroyed and will be left _____. Only demons and unclean things will be found when Babylon is destroyed. "The great city's fall will make her an uninhabitable ruin, no longer a metropolis full of human life and culture but a ghost town where only demons, unclean spirits, and unclean birds live." (Johnson, 254)

-The reason for her destruction is that she has led the nations _____ to drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality. We must remember that Babylon here pictures "the world as the center of seduction in any age." (191) She has led kings and merchants astray ("these merchants represent all those who have set their hearts on the wares of the world").

-John then hears a voice from heaven calling for the people of God to come out from her. God's people are to _____ themselves from her. If people do not come out from her, they will take part in her sins and will be swept away with her in judgment. "The admonition to leave Babylon is addressed to God's people in all ages...to depart from Babylon means not to have fellowship with her sins and not to be ensnared by her allurements and enticements. Those who set their hearts on the world shall also receive of her plagues." (192)

-The Lord remembers her sins and they are great in number. "The new covenant promise that God will 'remember no more' the sins of His people assures us of both forgiveness and release from punishment (Jer. 31:34). By contrast, the assurance that God 'remembers' Babylon's sins means that He holds her _____ accountable, so that her punishment is inescapable." (Johnson, 255)

-Babylon will be repaid for her wicked deeds and the judgment brought against her will be righteous and _____. The punishment will fit the crime.

2. *The world's response & the saint's response to the fall of Babylon (18:9-20)*

-The kings of the earth (rulers of men) lament over Babylon's fall expressing shock at how _____ her total devastation came. These kings of men had "yielded to her temptations and enjoyed her luxuries."

-The next group of people that lament her fall are the merchants. The merchants (“those who set their hearts on the good and luxuries of the world) cry first for their _____ loss because with Babylon being destroyed they will suffer financially as there is no one to buy their goods anymore. The list of goods here mentioned is meant to show the luxuries of life. These merchants then weep for Babylon recounting her _____ splendor and also taking notice of how quick her downfall was.

-Notice that the kings and merchants both are said to being standing far off, in fear of her torments. There is _____ that men can do to stop the destruction of Babylon, they will witness it and be helpless to stop it.

-The third group that laments the fall of Babylon are the shipmasters and seafaring men. They saw the smoke of her burning and weep and mourn because she made them _____ and she is no more. This group also mentions the swiftness of God’s judgment against Babylon.

-The dwellers of the earth _____ the great harlot for she is what they lived for, she is the one they pursued and seeing their lover destroyed makes the people of earth cry and be overcome with sadness.

-However, not everyone mourns over her demise. The saints, apostles, and prophets are called to rejoice over her destruction for God has punished her for what she had done to the people of God. “For Babylon’s fall is God’s just _____ that is visited upon the world because it persecuted the Church.” (194)

3. *A picture of the finality of Babylon’s judgement (18:21-24)*

-A mighty angel pikes up stone, like a great millstone, and throws it into the sea to picture the _____ and finality of Babylon’s fall. Just as a great millstone could never be dragged up from the bottom of the sea so too Babylon’s fall will never be undone. “So thoroughgoing and complete will be Babylon’s fall. Never will the great millstone be retrieved. Thus, this wicked world, as the center of seduction, will perish forever.” (194)

-The phrase “no more” is repeated six times in this section highlighting the finality of Babylon’s destruction. Babylon will be _____. There will be no more music, no work and workmen, no more daily provisions to be had, no more light, no more love. Only darkness, sadness, and loneliness remain. “Utter darkness reigns supreme, a darkness that can be felt, a darkness that symbolizes the final and complete effusion of God’s wrath upon this wicked, pleasure-loving, seductive world! And that condition lasts throughout eternity.” (195)

-She and her great ones will be destroyed because of her _____ of the nations and her _____ of the saints. “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.” (16:5)