Revelation 18

Babylon Has Fallen

1. **Final Judgment: verses 1-8**
   1. Reminder
      1. The harlot and the beast comprise Babylon.
         1. The begging of Babylon’s downfall is Revelation 17:15-8 in which the beast turns on the harlot.
            1. Harlot = false religions including apostate Christianity.
            2. Beast = governments/economies/society/philosophies hostile to the truth, i.e. Jesus Christ.
   2. Another angel: verse 1
      1. This angel has great authority. His presence lights up the entire earth with his glory.
         1. The angel from chapter 10 is described in similar ways.
      2. This angel comes from the presence of God and thus reflect the glory of God.
         1. Moses, while not an angel, did reflect the glory of God (Exodus 34:29-35).
      3. This angel stands in for God by announcing the final judgment of the enemies of the church.
         1. The angel of God’s presence
            1. Isaiah 63:9; Exodus 14:19
   3. The fall of Babylon: verse 2
      1. Isaiah announced the fall of Babylon: Isaiah 21:6-9
         1. This prophecy came to pass about 150 years after his death.
            1. A “Babylon” will exist to torment the church until her final destruction.
      2. The reason for her overthrow and judgment: verse 3
         1. Sexual immorality
         2. Love of money
   4. The voice from heaven: verse 4
      1. In the Old Testament both Isaiah and Jermeiah called upon God’s people to come out from ancient Babylon.
         1. Is. 48:20; Jer. 50:8; 51:6,45.
      2. Before Jesus was crucified he warned his followers to flee when they saw the abomination of desolation standing where it ought not to be.
         1. Matthew 24:15-18
      3. Paul warns Christians not to be in fellowship with unbelievers in their pagan idolatry and manner of living.
         1. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17. He cites Isaiah 52:11.
      4. Today, we should come out of any association/fellowship that denies the truth of Jesus Christ.
   5. God’s vengeance and wrath: verse 5
      1. Christians don’t pay Babylon back.
         1. Romans 12:19
         2. Hebrews 10:29-31
   6. The time interval: verse 8
      1. A Single day/a single hour (verses 10, 17, 19) emphasizes the suddenness and completeness of Babylon’s destruction.
2. **Crying over Fallen Babylon: verses 9-19**
   1. People (not Christians) mourning over the judgement and destructions of Babylon includes:
      1. Those mourning over political rulers (vv 9,10)
      2. Mourning over merchants (vv 11-17)
      3. Mourning over the seafarers (vv 17b-19)
         1. Babylon’s end is their end.
   2. Political rulers: verses 9 and 10
      1. These are different than the kings mentioned in Revelation 17:8-17 which were symbolized by the horns of the beast.
   3. The merchant’s cry verses 11-17a
      1. Hopeless sorrow.
         1. No one buys their merchandise.
            1. James 5:1-13
      2. The goods: verses 12 and 13
         1. Slaves (bodies in Greek)
            1. It is estimated that there were 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire.

One third of Rome’s population may have been slaves (a century before Christ).

The economy of Rome was dependant upon slavery.

Slavery was not based on race.

Those who were conquered.

* + - * 1. Side note:

Deuteronomy 15:12-15 shows Hebrew slaves among the Hebrews.

* + - 1. Modern day slavery
         1. Human trafficking. It is estimated human trafficking generations $150 billion worldwide.
         2. The open air slave markets of Libya.
  1. The seafarers mourn: 17b-19
  2. Celebration: verse 20
     1. The command is to rejoice.
        1. “Rejoice in celebration”
     2. A feast is in view when this verb is used.
        1. Luke 15:23, 24, 29, 32.
           1. A feast will come in Revelation 19:6-9

1. **The Mighty Angel: verses 21-24**
   1. “One particular mighty angel”
      1. There was a mighty angel in 5:2
         1. This angel introduced the victorious Lamb in the vision of God’s heavenly glory.
      2. The mighty angel in 10:1
         1. This angel commissioned John to proclaim the message of Christ to all people (10:11).
   2. Into the Sea: verse 21
      1. Jeremiah’s casting of a scroll into the river Euphrates
         1. Jeremiah 51:61-64
   3. Reasons for the judgment and devastation of Babylon: verses 23 and 24
      1. The love of wealth sanctioned by the apostate church.
      2. Sorcery
         1. Witchcraft, magic, the use of drugs and spells; occult practices.
      3. The blood of the saints cry out for vengeance
         1. Rev. 6:9-10