

Revelation 18 - Fallen is Babylon the Great

Fallen is Babylon the Great

Rev 18:1-24 ESV After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!** She has become **a dwelling place for demons**, a haunt for every **unclean spirit**, a haunt for every **unclean bird**, a haunt for every **unclean and detestable beast**. 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her **sexual immorality**, and the kings of the earth have **committed immorality** with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her **luxurious living**."

As we discussed in chapter 17 -- the fall of Babylon seems to speak of the LORD's judgement against every system of mankind

- **It is a religious system** - Rev 14:8 ESV Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."
- **It is a governmental system** - Rev 17:18 ESV And the woman that you saw is the great **city that has dominion over the kings of the earth**."
- **And in vs 3 of this chapter it describes economic relationships** - Rev 18:2-3 ESV "and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her **luxurious living**."

Come out of her my people

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "**Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues**; 5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. 7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.' 8 For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."

Babylon as we have seen represents elements of the world's systems

- **The whole world lies in the power of the evil one** - 1Jn 5:19 ESV We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- **When we are saved we are set free** - Eph 2:1-6 ESV And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 **in which you once walked, following the course of this world**, following the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience**-- 3

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- **Though we are set free - the cares of this life CAN choke the word** - Mat 13:22 ESV As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but **the cares of the world** and the deceitfulness of riches **choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.**
 - 2Ti 4:10 ESV For Demas, **in love with this present world**, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
- **Yet we are LEFT in the world and SENT into the world** - Joh 17:14-18 ESV *I have given them your word*, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 **I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.** 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.* 18 As you sent me into the world, **so I have sent them into the world.**
- **Don't be conformed to the world** - Rom 12:2 ESV **Do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **I am crucified to the world** - Gal 6:14 ESV But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which **the world has been crucified to me**, and I to the world.
- **Friendship with the world is enmity with God** - Jas 4:4 ESV You adulterous people! Do you not know that **friendship with the world is enmity with God**? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- **The world is passing away** - 1Jn 2:16-17 ESV For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life--is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

All those who grew rich from her will mourn

9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will **weep and wail** over her when they see the smoke of her burning. 10 They will stand far off, in **fear** of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come." 11 And the merchants of the earth **weep and mourn** for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine

flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. 14 "***The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you***, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!" 15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in **fear** of her torment, **weeping and mourning aloud**, 16 "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! 17 For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" 19 And they threw dust on their heads as they **wept and mourned**, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste."

Their sorrow is because of what they have lost

- Mar 8:35-37 ESV For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?

Yet the heavens, the saints, the apostles and prophets REJOICE

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!"

You can see here two perspectives on the same event.

- Fear and sorrow with some
- Rejoicing with others

1Co 3:18-20 ESV Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

Like a great millstone thrown into the sea

21 Then a mighty angel **took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea**, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; 22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, 23 and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and **all nations were deceived by your sorcery**. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

Thrown into the sea with a millstone

- Mat 18:6-7 ESV but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the

depth of the sea. 7 "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

All nations were deceived by your sorcery

- **Like Simon the Sorcerer - she deceived all** - Act 8:9-11 KJV But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.