

More Details of The Judgment of *Babylon the Great* Part 1 of 2

Thursday, 10/6 at 7 + Sunday, 10/9 at 8:00 & 10:45
17th Sunday after Pentecost / 16th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friend in Jesus Christ, do you see a conflict between *your life* and *your expectations as a forgiven child of God*? In other words, *as a Christian*, you may expect a life of *ease*, yet you may be experiencing a life of *trouble*. Since God is almighty in power, *we know He can give us a life of ease*; however, He also loves us so much that He allows certain trials to come in order to prove (1 Peter 1:3-9) and grow (James 1:2-4) our faith!

Even though today's world can seem backwards – *where the evil prosper and the righteous struggle*, God wants us to remember ♦ *His coming judgment* upon all who continue in their sins AND ♦ *His coming bliss* for all who continue in Jesus! This sermon is part 1 of 2 on chapter 18 of Revelation, which identifies: “...**the end of all the pleasures, cares, and riches by which Satan had led believers to abandon Christ**” (Becker, 272). Earlier in the book the fall of Babylon the Great was *promised* (14:8); then in chapter 17 it was *executed* (vv. 16-17); now in 18 we see more of the *details and consequences* of her fall:

1. **The Announcement of Babylon's Fall:**

- a. **1** After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was [enlightened from] his glory. // In chapter 17

John's escort was one of the angels who held one of the seven bowls of God's wrath (chapter 16); now we see yet another angel – *with great authority and glory* – by which the earth was enlightened, *thus he revealed the truth about Babylon the Great! Even though many are now deceived, a time is coming when all will see clearly!*

- b. **2** **And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [*spoken twice to assure us of her coming fall*]! She has become a dwelling place of demons [*those who have sided with the devil*] and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean [*bird*, and a prison of every unclean and hated wild beast]. // A prison is a place a person goes to *voluntarily* – *in a sense*; when he chooses to do the crime, *he is also choosing to do the time!* However, once there, he cannot leave, he is trapped! Whenever people turn away from the saving truth, they cut themselves off from Christ and enter a spiritual prison; they – *of themselves* – cannot escape! Their only hope is God coming to their rescue: ^{NAU} **1 Corinthians 1:30** “**But by [God’s] doing you are in Christ Jesus...**” Such rescue missions take place *by the Spirit working through the Word!***
- c. How has Babylon become such a horrible place?
3 [Because] **all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her** [*fornication*], **and the kings of the earth have committed** [*fornication*] **with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich** [*from the power*] **of her sensuality** [*desire for physical pleasure*].” // In other words, ♦Babylon, ♦the kings, and ♦the merchants engaged in sin with each other for the

purpose of physical, worldly gain. Whenever we are tempted to do the same, let us remember that “...a man’s life does **not** consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15 NIV)

2. **The Judgment of Babylon:**

- a. ⁴ [And] I heard another voice from heaven [*maybe Jesus*], saying, “Come out of her, my people, [in order that] you will not participate in her sins and [in order that you will not] receive of her plagues; ⁵ [because] her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities [*wrongs, injuries, misdeeds*].”
// If you are part of a gang, you will be led to participate in its crimes, so COME OUT, GET AWAY *while you can!* Also notice: “Come out...**my people**” indicating that some Christians have a connection with Babylon the Great! It’s okay to be a *Martin Luther* for a time – by working toward reformation; however, *there is also a time to GET OUT!*
- b. ⁶ “Pay her back even as she has paid, and [*literally*] [double the double] according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix...for her [double]. ⁷ To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously [*desiring physical pleasure*], to the same degree give her torment and mourning; [because] she says in her heart, ‘I SIT *as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW*, and will never see mourning [*οὐ μὴ* - *the strongest way to indicate “no” in Greek*].’” //
- i. Double goes against “an eye for an eye” – *equality between crime and punishment*; however, it could tie-in with this passage about those who teach in the Church: ^{NAU} **James 3:1** “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren,

knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”

ii. Pride filled her attitude: I “will never see mourning.” But Jesus said: ^{NAU} **Luke 14:11** “... everyone who exalts himself will be humbled...”

c. **8** For this reason [literally, “therefore”] in one day her plagues will come, [death] and mourning and [hunger], and she will be burned up [in] fire [2 Peter 3:10]; [because] the Lord God who judges her is strong.” // Think about it: Unbelievable prosperity; then, *IN ONE DAY*, destruction will come!

3. **The Reaction to Babylon’s Fall:** **9** “And the kings of the earth, who committed [fornication] and lived sensuously with her, will weep and [mourn] over her [whenever] they see the smoke of her burning, **10** standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! [Because] in one hour your judgment has come.’” // Judgment will also come upon the kings of the earth, but here we see ♦their fear, ♦their shock, ♦their wondering – if this is happening to her, *what will happen to us!*

Conclusion: Whenever life seems out of order – *unbelievers prospering and Christians struggling*, remember that the day is coming when God will set all things right – →bringing unbelievable wrath upon all who have rejected Jesus, but also →bringing unbelievable blessing to all who know Jesus as Savior. Between now and then, may God keep us ♦using His Word, ♦trusting in Jesus, and ♦filled with His peace! *Amen!*

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