

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

Thursday, 10/13 at 7 + Sunday, 10/16 at 8:00 & 10:45

18th Sunday after Pentecost / 17th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, today we are continuing with Revelation chapter 18. Last week we heard the angelic announcement: “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**” *Her fall is coming!* (Who is she? See the Revelation chapter 17 sermon for a possible answer.) We also learned about ♦her sinful interaction with the kings and merchants of the earth, ♦the double payment she will receive for her sins, ♦the swiftness of her destruction (“**in one day**”), and the fear of the kings who witnessed her torment – *what will happen to us!*

Now, *in the second half of Revelation 18*, we learn about the reaction of ♦the merchants, ♦the shippers, and ♦God’s people; we also learn about the *eternal consequences of unforgiven sin*.

1. **The Reaction of the Merchants:**

- a. **11** “**And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her [not for her, but for themselves], because no one buys their cargo any more--** **12** **cargo of gold and [of] silver and [of] precious stone and [of] pearls and [of] fine linen and [of] purple [cloth] and [of] silk and scarlet, and every...citron wood and every article of ivory and every article of costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,** **13** **and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and**

olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargo* of horses and [of] chariots and [of bodies] and [souls of men]. // Dr. Becker made this comment: “The detailed listing of the things which contributed to the wealth and luxury of Babylon sets before us in a very concrete way the great prosperity of the apostate church [which includes all churches and individuals who have abandoned Christ alone as the only way of salvation].” (275) In Jesus’ day the temple functioned as *a den of robbers* rather than *a house of prayer* (Mt. 21:13)! In Luther’s day, *the sale of indulgences greatly enriched the church!*¹

- b. ¹⁴ [And] the fruit you [Babylon the great] long for has gone from you, and all [the] things that were luxurious and splendid have [perished] from you, and [they] will [never ever be found] [a rare and strong triple negative – οὐκέτι οὐ μῆ].” // Those who prefer worldly [temporal] things over the saving truth [eternal things] have abandoned Jesus Christ as Savior (See Mark 8:35-37; 1 John 2:15-16)!
- c. ¹⁵ “The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, ‘Woe, woe [expressing great sorrow], the great city, [the one having been] clothed [with] fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stone and pearl; ¹⁷ [because] in one hour such great wealth ¹⁸ was laid waste [gone]!’” // Earlier, in verse 10, the kings stood away in fear, so now the merchants!

2. **The Reaction of the Shippers:** “And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, ¹⁸ and were crying

¹ More on indulgences: <http://www.catholic-pages.com/penance/indulgences.asp>

out as they saw the smoke of her burning [that is, *Babylon the great*], saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’¹⁹ And they threw dust on their heads [to show their inward sorrow] and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, [because] in one hour she [was] laid waste [gone]!’” // All who became rich from Babylon the great – the kings and merchants, and now those who transported her goods mourn *her fall* and *the source of their riches!* May our riches be in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21)!

3. **The Reaction of God’s People:**²⁰ “Rejoice over her, heaven, [even the] saints and [the] apostles and [the] prophets, because God [judged the] judgment [of] you [by] her.” // In other words, Babylon the great judged the true children of God by killing some who opposed her; therefore, *the inhabitants of heaven should rejoice in the just judgment which God will finally bring upon Babylon!*
4. **The Eternal Consequences of Unforgiven Sin:** God wants us to know that eternal punishment is certain; therefore, the *Greek double negative* [οὐ μὴ] appears more times in Revelation 18 than in any other chapter in the Greek NT, eight times in this chapter and seven times in today’s sermon text, and *six of those times in the next three verses:*
 - a. A powerful symbol –²¹ [And] a strong 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 [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] be found any longer.” // Imagine being on a ship and

dropping a rock overboard, it would certainly be gone forever – *so also Babylon the great!*

- b. The removal of every blessing – ²² “And the sound of harpists and [of] musicians and [of] flute-players and [of] trumpeters will [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] be heard in you [Babylon the great] any longer; and [every] craftsman of [every] craft will [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] be heard in you any longer; ²³ and the light of a lamp will [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will [surely] not [οὐ μὴ] be heard in you any longer; [because] your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.” // Finally, *when the time is right*, the LORD will remove every blessing – *music, work, food, light, and joy*; surely all such things will be gone forevermore *for all who reject Jesus alone!*
- c. Move evidence for her judgment – ²⁴ “And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.” // Babylon the great brings destruction in two ways: ♦By teaching what is false AND ♦by silencing those who teach what is true (Mt. 23:29-36)!

Please join us next week as God is praised in heaven (19:1-10)!

Conclusion: Now, *being more aware of the evils of this world*, let us → put on the full armor of God, → trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and → know that our sins are forgiven! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: www.blc7500.com

Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!

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