

Babylon the Great Revelation 18

I. Identity of Babylon

1. Babylon the Great must fit words of Scripture
2. All nations are involved with Babylon
They all drink of her wine – 14:8
The cities of the nations fall with her – 16:19
3. Harlot is called Babylon the Great – 17:5
Harlot and city are linked together – 17:18
4. Babylon's Judgment is total
She is full measure of evil – 18:2
Comes suddenly and totally – 18:10; 18:21
Widespread results of judgment – 18:22-24
5. More than one literal city
Some believe ancient Babylon to be rebuilt
Some identify with Rome, London, New York etc.
6. God's people urged to flee Babylon – 18:4
This challenge must be applicable to us
7. Believers to be set apart from world system
Satan is "god of this world" system – 2 Cor. 4:4
Believers are to be set apart – Rom. 12:2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Book of Ecclesiastes etc.
8. Concept of a city is self-reliance
Cain departed from God, built city – Gen. 4:16-22
Developed a culture to give meaning to life
9. Man's purpose at tower of Babel – Gen. 11:4
Built a city & a tower with a stated purpose
To reach heaven – man's way to reach his god
To make a name for himself – his glory
To keep from being scattered over the earth
God judged with the confusion of language
10. Lot's choice of city, Sodom – Gen. 13:12-13
Compare Abraham's choice – Hebrews 11:8-10
Earthly city of man – Heavenly City of God

II. City of Babylon – 18:1-8

1. City is doomed–1-3 (Isa.21:9;Jer.51:8;Rev.14:8
City pictures the world system & all it contains
Philosophy, value system, culture
City is contaminated with all that is unclean – 2
Demons and every unclean thing dwells there
City has impacted every nation on earth – 3
Materialistic pleasure seeking culture has
affected many
Rulers and merchants have bought into it – 3
Humans sought satisfaction in what she offers
2. City is to be avoided – 4
God calls His people to separate from system
Jer. 51:6-9; Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:17
Why invest in a system that is doomed?
3. City is to be judged by God – 5-8
God has seen all of her evil and must judge – 5
Justice requires that evil must be judged
Her cup of evil is full and must be rewarded – 6

God will deal with her according to her works
She has elevated herself above judgment – 7
Her pride flaunts itself before the Holy God
Doom will come upon her suddenly, completely–8
In one day she will be totally destroyed
It is the Strong God who will prevail in judgment

III. Cry of the Doomed – 18:9-19

All who buy into system will grieve its demise

1. Rulers of this world – 9, 10
They lived luxuriously but that will all be gone
Were exalted by the system so they suffer loss
2. Merchants of the earth – 11-16
When economy collapses business is dead
List of products are not necessities of life – 12-13
Luxuries, finer things of life dominate this list
Slaves & souls have been oppressed in this
Consumers of luxuries will also feel the loss – 14
Many sought satisfaction in these luxuries of life
Those getting rich selling items grieve – 15-16
They will weep and wail for their personal loss
3. Shippers & Transporters grieve – 17-19
No more commodities to transport
When system collapses all involved suffer

IV. Condemnation of City – 18:20-24

1. Heaven rejoices when system is judged – 20
World's system is under Satan's control
Has seduced people & turned them from God
Has provided idols for humans to worship
Has persecuted those who followed God
God must avenge His suffering people
Chapter 19 will expand on this celebration
2. Destruction of world's system complete – 21
Like a millstone, cast into the sea to be no more
3. World's culture is brought to an end – 23
World's music, crafts and industry are gone
Things used to find satisfaction apart from God
Bright lights & celebrations will also cease – 23
4. World's system is worthy of judgment – 23-24
Materialistic system brings envy and greed
Elevates the wealthy to the place of honor
Greed leads to murder & acts of violence
Those opposed to system are persecuted
The system has promoted injustice
A just God must deal with such evil