

CMBC Bible Study



CMBC Bible Study Revelation 18:1-24

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. **2** And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. **3** For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. **4** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. **5** For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. **6** Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. **7** How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. **8** Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. **9** And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, **10** Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. **11** And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: **12** The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, **13** And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. **14** And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. **15** The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, **16** And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! **17** For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, **18** And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! **19** And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. **20** Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. **21** And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. **22** And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; **23** And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. **24** And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.



Revelation of Jesus Christ – The wrath of the Lamb, and the fate of Babylon

Read verses 1 - 5:

As John continues his journey in the spirit, he says that he saw another angel, so powerful, that his glory lit up the whole earth. What is the significance of this vision at this junction in the Revelation narrative?

The angel makes a declaration concerning Babylon. How does this declaration complement what we have learned thus far concerning God's judgment of Babylon?

What is the significance of the following labels associated with Babylon:

- Habitation of devils; _____
- Hold of every foul spirit; _____
- Cage of every unclean and hateful bird; _____

What does the above tell us about the world, and what God thinks of it?

What reasons does God give for his anger and judgment of Babylon? (refer to V3) What does the universal nature of God's judgment teach us about Babylon's realm and influence?

What does God want us to learn from the above? (see V4 – 5)

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Read V5 – 9:

How does God's summon to his people to "come out from among them" relate to his "remembering" Babylon's sins? What is the significance of this contrast for the church?

The voice of the angel says of God to "double" his retribution and judgment against Babylon. What does "pay her back double" mean in the context of God's final justice and retribution against the world?

The world – Babylon – is portrayed as "glorifying herself". What does the contrast between the world's self-glorification (i.e. "I sit as a queen") and her sudden doom teach us about the world and its influence? (refer to 1John 2:15-16)

What does the judgment in "one day" upon Babylon's sins tell us about God's intentions towards vengeance for His people, and the nature of His timing?

How does knowing that God keeps a precise record of injustice affect how you handle mistreatment or suffering today?

Read V10 – 14:

The kings of the earth are said to "have committed fornication, and lived deliciously" with Babylon. What does this mean? Why are they now described as "standing afar off, bewailing and lamenting for her"?

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What does the phrase "in one hour is thy judgment come" teach us about the certainty and suddenness of God's judgment? How should the certainty of God's judgment influence the way believers live and trust in God's justice today?

What does the merchants' grief reveal about their priorities and dependence upon Babylon's prosperity? If this is God's judgment to bankrupt them, How can Christians guard against placing greater value on material wealth than on their relationship with God?

In V12-14, What kinds of merchandises are listed? Why does John include such a detailed list of luxurious goods in relation to Babylon – the world? How does this conflict with what God desires for us, knowing his judgment against it?

What things have departed from Babylon, and what finality is expressed here?

Where is your greatest treasure today? And what steps can you take to invest more fully in eternal riches that cannot be taken away?

Read V15 – 19:

Why are the merchants, and every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, described as standing far off in disbelief, crying, weeping and wailing, and casting dust upon their heads?

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What does the reaction of these merchants tell us about their relationship with Babylon?

World trade and commerce is a very present and significant part of our lives and sustenance. That God would choose to relate it to Babylon, and to judge it with such cruelty is defiant to our sense of right and wrong. What message and lesson(s) is God sending to the Church?

How does the sudden and total destruction of Babylon reflect on the nature of God's judgment against Babylon and the world?

Read V20-24:

There are several groups of people in John's vision who were named between v9 and v19: can you recount them, and what is common in how God describes them?

How does the response in v20 differ from that of the groups above, and why?

God is described as the avenger of his holy apostles and prophets, against "...that great city, wherein were made rich all those that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness...and now is suddenly made desolate." Why such targeted focus of God's wrath on worldliness?

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What is the significance of the angel casting a stone like a great millstone into the ocean?

What does Babylon's final condition say about God's Judgment?

In V22-24, the fate of Babylon and worldliness is sealed and summarized. Explain your understanding of the following judgment closing statements, and the lesson(s) for the church (please do not 'spiritualize' or 'allegorize'):

And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; _____

and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; _____

and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; _____

And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; _____

and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee:

for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; _____

for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. _____

And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

If the world is so despised by God, why should the world become a friend to the church?

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1John 1:15-17