

## Revelation 18 - Mystery Babylon is Fallen

Good morning church and welcome to another “Mizpah” service as the Lord watches between you and me as we are absent from one another. We are in Rev. 18 today as we continue to look at what is revealed to us about Christ’s enemies. This chapter focuses on the enemy of Mystery Babylon, i.e. the Great Prostitute, and her destruction. In our study through Rev. I have tried not to be too sensational (book is dramatic enough) but today I am going to add a little conjecture of my own. Rev. is for us (church) but is it for the US? Is America in Bible prophecy? The view that I have heard most often is – NO...our nation is wiped out or so diminished that it doesn’t register on prophecy scale. Pose another possibility.... Could we be Babylon? Does Rev. 17-18 mirror my country?

### The Identity and Iniquity of Babylon

1. HISTORICAL Babylon (a real city that was located on Euphrates in modern day Iraq)
  - a. Gen. 10 - Nimrod was its founder/builder Gen. 11 – Tower of Babel
  - b. Nebuchadnezzar – greatest King (Gods servant- Jer. 25:9) 7 wonders – hanging gardens
    - i. Dan. 3 - Babylon was the head of Gold (preeminent of world empires)
    - ii. Dan. 4 - Nebs pride brought him low (pride comes before a fall)
  - c. Many prophecies about Babylon in OT...God make desolate (Isaiah 13:19-33; Jer. 50-51)
  - d. Conquered in one day Dan. 5 Handwriting on the wall
  - e. Alexander the Great tried to rebuild Babylon....died there
    - i. Saddam Hussein wanted to rebuild Babylon....hid in hole and executed
2. SPIRITUAL Babylon 1 Peter 5:13 = Rome
  - a. Babylon as a symbol (or label) for a seat of power, wealth and persecution
  - b. Rev. 11:8 – Jerusalem is figuratively called “Sodom and Egypt” (name as descriptor)
3. MYSTERY Babylon 14:8 16:19 17&18
  - a. “Mystery” – 17:5 Babylon like Mystery Babylon will resemble ancient Babylon
    - i. Unveiled/revealed but not fully mysterious identity
  - b. Great Prostitute who sits on many waters (17:1)
    - i. Uniquely positioned geographically (like ancient Babylon – Euphrates river)
    - ii. Melting pot of peoples - 17:15 (SIN PILED UP – 18:5) tower of Babel
  - c. In bed with the world for economic gain 18:3 Prostitute 17:2
    - i. Nations, kings, merchants, inhabitants - anything for money
    - ii. Adulterous - implies special relationship with God but unfaithful ????
  - d. Superpower 17:18 Great city that rules over earth
    - i. Great - Called great -*megas* 13 x’s most influential and powerful
    - ii. Influence over Beast/Anti-christ 17:3 mighty city – 18:10
  - e. Abundance and luxury - 18:3 18:7a extravagance was her negligence 18:16
    - i. Wealth was her wickedness (Mark 8:36) economic superpower
    - ii. Kings/merchants dependant on her imports/exports 18:9, 11, 15, 19

- f. Persecutor of church/bloodshed 18:20 18:24 17:6 (fiery furnace)
- g. Prideful - 18:7 she boasts "I sit enthroned as Queen"
  - i. Full of self full of wealth full of pride glorified selfie
  - ii. Self deluded about her perpetual prosperity "not a widow, I will never mourn"
  - iii. Like Nebuchadnezzar of old - pride before a fall (Dan. 4)
- h. Love/hate relationship with the world
  - i. kings /merchants/captains/sailors in bed with her - love her...made rich by her
  - ii. the Beast/anti-christ and the 10 kings turns on her and hates her 17:16
    - 1. the Beast eventually turns on Beauty and tramples her

## The Judgment of Mystery Babylon

- God is the ONE that judges Mystery Babylon 18:8 (God uses nations to judge nations -war)
  - o God uses the Beast to bring judgment on Babylon-17:15-18 (2 separate entities)
- Comes in one day/one hour 18:8a 18:10c 18:16-17a 18:19c
  - o Falls in one day just like ancient Babylon (1 John 2:17; 1 Cor. 7:31b)
  - o Penthouse to outhouse real quick Rich fool - Luke 12:15-21
    - Babylon is fallen and cant get up
- Some mourn her downfall - kings - 18-9-10 merchants - 18:11-17 sailors - 18:17-19
- Some rejoice - heaven/apostles/prophets - 18:20 (19:1-5 - 4 creatures, 24 elders, multitudes)

## Are We Babylon?

The world always has a "Babylon" ( city of power and seduction) USA a Babylon, yes...The Babylon-???

Like the anti-christ - Idea, entity and institution throughout time...culminating in individual at end time

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many Waters -uniquely positioned (oceans) Melting pot of people</li> <li>2. Adulterous - had a special relationship with God that was forsaken</li> <li>3. Superpower politically- most influential</li> <li>4. Superpower economically - "great city" Rev. 18 reads like list on Stock market</li> <li>5. Wealthiest nation - our poor=rich</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Persecutor? Not yet but financing it</li> <li>7. Prideful best/ Exceptional invincible attitude 'we sit as queen"</li> <li>8. Love/hate relationship with world. Golden toilet named America -museum are we the "head" of gold ☺</li> <li>9. Babylon, NY (long island -new babylon)</li> </ul> |
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## Being Separate from Babylon

- 18:4 (Lot and wife) 2 Cor. 6:14 - 7:1 Holy= separate/different
  - o We are a peculiar people strangers weird
- Be aware of seduction of our society (Chinese Christians feeling sorry for US Christians...wealth)
  - o Luxurious and seductive intoxicating/addicting - 18:23c *pharmakeia* - spells/drugs
- Be separate and come out of Babylon in the world but not of the world (John 17:14-18)
  - o 1 John 2:15-17 James 4:4 Rom. 12:1-2
- Daniel in Babylon