

Revelation 18

Table 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.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 476-483 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1104-1105, 1663. See also www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Revelation 17 remarks on Revelation 17:1-2, 6, 15, 18, 3-5 and **Rome - Additional Resources**.

Note that while focusing on how *"...Babylon the great is fallen..."* Revelation 18:2 this study has sought to emphasise related applications by means of cross-referencing *"the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual"* 1 Corinthians 2:13.

1. **Revelation 18:1-3.** John's testimony in Revelation 18:1 is as Ezekiel's in Ezekiel 1:1 *"...that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God"* after the manner of Ezekiel 43:2 *"And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory."*

It is therefore reassuring to today's believer to have the Lord's promise of Numbers 14:21 *"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."*

Revelation 18:2-3 bear out the Lord's warning, which today's believer should certainly heed, of Mark 10:23-25 *"And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God"* because as King Solomon warns *"There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt."* Ecclesiastes 5:3.

That hurt is to become one of the pathetic idolatrous victims *"...of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"* 2 Timothy 2:26 like he who is recorded as follows in Acts 19:24-27 *"For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye*

see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.”

As Isaiah declares for each of the lamenting idolaters of Revelation 18:3, 9-11, 15-16, 17-19 **“He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?”** Isaiah 44:20 because as today’s believer should carefully note they ignored Matthew 6:20-21 **“...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

2. **Revelation 18:4-7.** Revelation 18:4-7 are God’s exhortation to End Times saints doctrinally, particularly *Jewish* saints, and today’s believer devotionally, practically, spiritually in effect to apply Proverbs 4:14-15, 20-23 **“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away...My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”**
3. **Revelation 18:7-8.** Revelation 18:7-8 are a stark reminder, encouraging to today’s believer, that **“...evildoers shall be cut off; but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be...For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous”** Psalm 37:9-10, 17.
4. **Revelation 18:9-20.** Revelation 18:9-11 with Revelation 18:20 **“Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her”** indicate God’s pay-back time on Rome and Roman Catholicism and all her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her because they exemplify what today’s believer should always remember with respect to those the Lord rebuked in Luke 16:13-15 **“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”**

In particular, the lament of the most powerful worldly echelons voiced in Revelation 18:9-10 **“And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her...saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come”** is indicative of Paul’s declaration of God’s decisive judgement on Rome and Roman Catholicism and all her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her in Romans 9:28 **“For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.”**

Revelation 18:11, 15-19 **“And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more...The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 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! 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, 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”** is a further extended lament that business has collapsed under the onslaught of God’s judgement because Rome and Roman Catholicism and all

her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her heeded not James' warning that today's believer of course should *wholeheartedly* heed in James 4:13, 15-16 **"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain...For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil."**

Revelation 18:12-14 reveal that Rome and Roman Catholicism and all her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her are like **"...Tyrus, O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles..."** Ezekiel 27:2 especially insofar as **"...the king of Tyrus...the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so...upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire"** Ezekiel 28:12, 14 and **"...a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns...the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns"** Revelation 17:3, 7 **"her"** being **"...MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"** Revelation 17:5, are effectively the same person. Note again www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Mystery of Iniquity – Summary Overview* pp 7-8 and these extracts.

John confirms that **"the beast"** is a man in Revelation 13:18 **"...Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six."** However **"that man of sin...revealed, the son of perdition"** 2 Thessalonians 2:3 **"the beast"** is a man who is *the devil incarnate* as these scriptures show. As shown below **"the beast which I saw...like unto a leopard"** is coloured *red* after his death and resurrection to become **"that man of sin...revealed, the son of perdition"** 2 Thessalonians 2:3 showing that he is Satan incarnate just as Judas **"the son of perdition"** John 17:12, though himself **"a devil"** John 6:70, was later *literally indwelt* by Satan according to the description applied only to Judas Iscariot in scripture...

"Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot... And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly" Luke 22:3, John 13:27.

By inspection, Ezekiel 27 and Revelation 18:12-14 match very closely except that Rome and Roman Catholicism and all her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her deal in **"...slaves, and souls of men...for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived"** Revelation 18:13, 23 the only occurrence of the term **"slaves"** in scripture, because as the Lord rebuked apostate Israel through Ezekiel **"There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof...Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain"** Ezekiel 22:25, 27. See James 4:13, 15-16 above for a description of elements of that deception that destroys souls such that **"There is no fear of God before their eyes"** Romans 3:18.

The fate of **"...that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!"** Revelation 18:16 and the lamentations over her obliteration, Revelation 18:15-19, 21-23, closely match the end of Tyrus for whom God had said to Ezekiel **"Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus"** Ezekiel 27:2. The lesson for all saints, including today's believer, is that God had set it all out beforehand **"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"** Isaiah 46:10, 55:11 as His words through Ezekiel reveal.

“Thy rowers have brought thee into great waters: the east wind hath broken thee in the midst of the seas. Thy riches, and thy fairs, thy merchandise, thy mariners, and thy pilots, thy calkers, and the occupiers of thy merchandise, and all thy men of war, that are in thee, and in all thy company which is in the midst of thee, shall fall into the midst of the seas in the day of thy ruin...And all that handle the oar, the mariners, and all the pilots of the sea, shall come down from their ships, they shall stand upon the land; And shall cause their voice to be heard against thee, and shall cry bitterly, and shall cast up dust upon their heads, they shall wallow themselves in the ashes: And they shall make themselves utterly bald for thee, and gird them with sackcloth, and they shall weep for thee with bitterness of heart and bitter wailing. And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?...In the time when thou shalt be broken by the seas in the depths of the waters thy merchandise and all thy company in the midst of thee shall fall. All the inhabitants of the isles shall be astonished at thee, and their kings shall be sore afraid, they shall be troubled in their countenance. The merchants among the people shall hiss at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt be any more” Ezekiel 27:26-27, 29-32, 34-36. Note that hissing can be an expression of astonishment at God’s judgement applicable to both Tyrus and Rome, 1 Kings 9:8, 2 Chronicles 29:8, Jeremiah 18:16, 19:8, 25:9, 18, 29:18, 49:17, 50:13, 51:37.

In particular note that **“...that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!”** will as part of God’s judgement upon her suffer Psalm 109:29 **“Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.”**

In sum, as King David astutely declares **“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches...I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors”** Psalm 73:12, 17-19.

5. **Revelation 18:21-24.** Revelation 18:21-24 are starkly clear of how in graphic detail in all aspects against defiant, godless, *murderous* Rome and Roman Catholicism and all her abominations including godless business tycoons and shipping magnates allied to her i.e. **“that great city Babylon”** Revelation 18:21 and all her acolytes God will bring to pass these scriptures listed below.

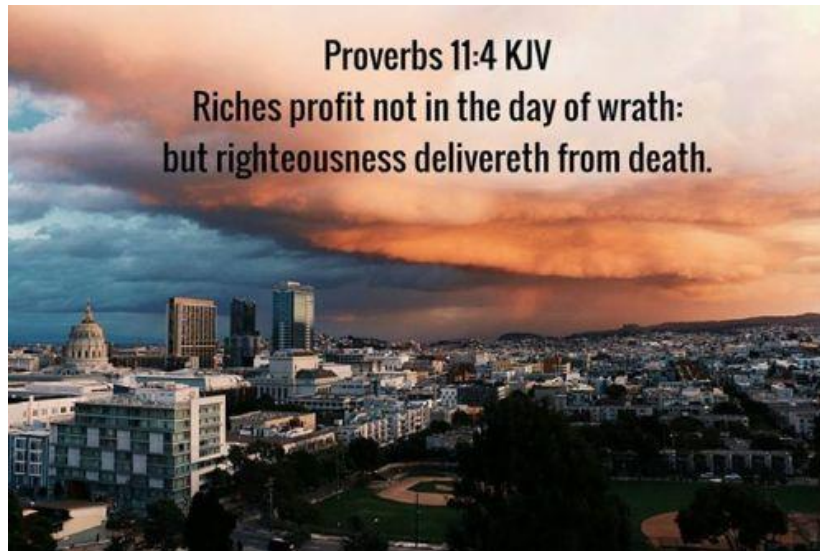
Note from God’s declarations through Ezekiel listed below that God’s judgement that He pronounced on apostate Israel will in the End Times be inflicted on virtually a global scale because **“...we know that...the whole world lieth in wickedness”** 1 John 5:19.

Deuteronomy 7:9-10 **“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which...repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face”**

Ezekiel 7:3-4, 8-9 **“Now is the end come upon thee, and I will send mine anger upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense upon thee all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare thee, neither will I have pity: but I will recompense thy ways upon thee, and thine abominations shall be in the midst of thee: and ye shall know that I am the LORD...Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations. And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the LORD that smiteth.”**

Today’s believer should therefore abide devotionally, practically, spiritually by Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. **“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”**

Conclusion



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Revelation 18 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. What do Revelation 18:1-3 reveal about the end of the man glorying in riches, Jeremiah 9:23?
2. What do Revelation 18:5-6 reveal about the right stance of God's people versus **"Babylon the great"** Revelation 18:2 a city like **"Gilead...a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood"** Hosea 6:8?
3. What do Revelation 18:7-8 reveal about the notion of Psalm 30:6 **"And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved"**?
4. What do Revelation 18:9-11, 15-19 show about what God has in store for **"...them that are rich in this world, that...trust in uncertain riches"** 1 Timothy 6:17?
5. What do Revelation 18:12-14 reveal about **"...an house of merchandise"** John 2:16 that is evil?
6. What do Revelation 18:20-24 reveal in principle about the end of **"Babylon the great"** Revelation 18:2?
7. What should be today's believer's mindset in the light of Revelation 18?

Sample Answers

1. **"I am a brother to dragons, and a companion to owls"** Job 30:29.
2. **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you...And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"** 2 Corinthians 6:17, Ephesians 5:11.
3. **"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall"** Proverbs 16:18.
4. **"Render unto them a recompence, O LORD, according to the work of their hands. Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them"** Lamentations 3:64-65.
5. **"For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?"** Proverbs 27:24.
6. **"I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found"** Psalm 37:35-36.
7. **"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever"** 1 John 2:17.