

Revelation

Chapter 18

Lesson 19



Revelation 18:1-2

- ◆ ¹ After these things I saw, another angel descending out of heaven having great authority; and the earth was lit up from his glory. ² And he cried out in a mighty voice saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and she has become the dwelling place of demons and a prison for all unclean spirits and a prison for unclean birds [and a prison for unclean] and hateful [beasts],

Revelation 18:3

- ◆ ³ for from the wine of the wrath of her sexual immorality all of the nations, and the kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with with her, and the merchants of the earth from the power, from her sensuality, have drunk.”

Revelation 18:4-5

- ◆ ⁴ And I heard another voice out of heaven saying, "Come out of her my people in order that you do not take part in her sins, and in order that you do not receive from her plagues, ⁵ because her sins are built up to heaven and God has remembered her sins.

Revelation 18:6-7

- ◆ ⁶ Pay her as she paid others, pay back double according to her works. In the cup which she mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ As much as she venerated herself and lived sensually, give her the same measure of torture and mourning. Because in her heart she says, "I sit as queen and I am no widow and I will never see grief."

Revelation 18:8-9

- ◆ ⁸ Therefore, in a single day her plagues will come, death and torture and famine and she will be burned with fire; because mighty is the Lord God who judges her. ⁹ And the kings of the earth who committed sexual acts and lived in sensual luxury with her will weep and mourn, when they see the smoke from her burning.

Attitude Toward Rome

- ◆ The attitude toward Rome expressed in Revelation is exactly opposite that expressed by a 2d-century ^{AD} writer Aelius Aristides, who in his Oration to Rome in 109 wrote, “Let all the gods and the children of the gods be invoked to grant that this empire and this city flourish forever and never cease until stones [float] upon the sea and trees cease to put forth shoots in spring, and that the great governor and his sons be preserved and obtain blessings for all.”

Quoted in Erich S. Gruen, ed., *The Image of Rome* (Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1969), 149.

Revelation 18:10

- ◆ ¹⁰ From afar they will stand because of the fear of her torture saying, "Woe, woe, O great city, Babylon the mighty city, because in a single hour your judgment came."

Revelation 18:11-12

- ◆ ¹¹ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargo. ¹² Cargo of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every scented wood and every object of ivory and every object of costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

Revelation 18:13

- ◆ ¹³ and cinnamon and amomum and incense and myrrh and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep and horses and carriages and slaves, and the souls of men.

Slaves

- ◆ According to one estimate, during the 1st century ^{AD} slaves comprised a third of the population of most urban centers in the Greco-Roman world. Prisoners of war and people kidnapped by pirates were two sources of slaves in the ancient world, although the latter had diminished by the time of the New Testament. Children born of women slaves constituted a large portion of the slave population. People could also become slaves by being sold into slavery by their creditors to whom they were in debt, or people could sell themselves into slavery in order to raise money.

S. Scott Bartchy, "Slavery (Greco-Roman)," *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, ed. David Noel Freedman, 6 vols. (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1992), 6:66-67.

Revelation 8:14

- ◆ ¹⁴ And the fruit which your soul longed for has departed from you, and all the luxurious things and the bright things they are ruined for you and they will never be found again.

Revelation 8:15-16

- ◆ ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, the ones who became rich from her, from afar will stand because of the fear of her torture weeping and mourning, ¹⁶ saying, "woe, woe, O great city, the one dressed in fine linen and purple and scarlet and covered in gold and precious stones and pearls,

Revelation 18:17-18

- ◆ ¹⁷ because in one hour such great wealth has been made desolate! And every shipmaster and every seafarer and sailors and as many as work at sea, from far away they will stand ¹⁸ and cry out seeing the smoke of her burning saying, "What was like the great city?"

Revelation 18:19-20

- ◆ ¹⁹ And they cast dust upon their heads and cried out weeping and mourning saying, "Woe, Woe, O great city, in which all the ones having ships on the sea became rich from her abundance, because in a single hour she has been made desolate. ²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven and the holy ones and the apostles and the prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you, against her.

Revelation 18:21-22

- ◆ ²¹ And one strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and cast (it) into the sea saying, “with violence like this Babylon the great city will be thrown down and will never be found again. ²² And the sound of harpists and musicians and flutists and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again, and every craftsman of skill will not be found in you again, and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you again.”

Jeremiah 51:63-64

- ⁶³ “When you finish reading this scroll, tie a stone to it, and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates, ⁶⁴ and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disasters that I am bringing on her.’”

Revelation 18:23-24

- ◆ ²³ and the light of a lamp will not shine in you again, and the sound of the bridegroom and the bride will not be heard in you again; because your merchants were the people of greatness upon the earth, because in sorcery you deceived all the nations, ²⁴ and in it the blood of prophets and holy ones was found and all the ones who had been slain upon the earth.