

Fall of Babylon the Great - Part II

18:1-24

Introductory Notes

- Chapters 17 and 18 tell of the fate of “Babylon”
- Opinions differ, but it appears that Babylon represents the unholy alliance of (false) religion and government under the control of Satan during the Tribulation.
- Of everything we’ve covered thus far, I personally feel most confused by these two chapters.
- Chapter 18 deals mainly with the fall of political Babylon

Outline

- The Angel’s Proclamation - vs. 1-3
- The Voice’s Message - vs. 4-8
- The Kings’ and Merchant’s Lament - vs. 9-19
- The Destruction of Babylon - vs. 20-24

Notes

- vs. 1 - another angel - not Christ, but a mighty angel nonetheless
- vs. 2 - devils, spirits, birds - representations of demons
- vs. 3 - note how people profited by the religious Babylon
- vs. 4 - command the righteous to leave before judgment falls is common in the Bible, as in the case of Lot at Sodom in Genesis 19:15-22
- vs. 5 - literally, the sins are massed and joined unto heaven, an allusion to the Tower of Babel maybe (Genesis 11:5-9)?
- vs. 6 - the punishment is doubled due to the enormity of the sins
- vs. 8 - one day - just as Babylon of old fell (Daniel 5). God’s judgment is swift and severe, and even the mightiest fall.
- vs. 9-11 - I think that it is interesting to note that nobody seems to mourn the passing of religious Babylon (see vs. 3), but they do mourn the fall of political Babylon.
- vs. 11 - Ever notice how people don’t care until it hits them in the pocket book???
- vs. 12-13 - the items mentioned are of great value and luxury.
- vs. 12 - thyine wood - “fragrant wood corresponding to cypress and was used for expensive furniture in Roman times” - Walvoord
- vs. 13 - “slaves, and souls of men” - literally owning them body and soul.
- vs. 14 - laments the loss of the Babylonian market.
- vs. 19 - “wherein were made rich” - another fatal blow to the pocket book.
- vs. 20 - avenged - justice has been surfaced
- vs. 21 - a vivid illustration of the judgment on Babylon
- vs. 22-23 - a once thriving, prosperous city/system is laid waste, basically a ghost town.