

The Apocalypse

Chapter 18, part 2

I. Introduction

- a. In our previous lesson, we dealt with the first 8 verses of chapter 18
 - i. It was sufficiently proven that the city of Babylon has never been completely destroyed as the Scripture says she will
 1. Therefore, this chapter deals with a future event
- b. Today's lesson deals with the reaction of different people to the destruction of the city of Babylon

II. Commentary

a. **Verses 9-10**

- i. The kings of the Earth will mourn over the destruction of the city of Babylon
 1. This attitude of the kings is to be distinguished from their attitude towards the destruction of religious Babylon in chapter 17
 - a. This alone proves that the Babylon in chapter 17 is not the same as the Babylon before us today
- ii. The kings of the Earth will mourn over her because she has supplied them with much wealth and power
 1. The people of this world have a "god" – money
 - a. When the source of this "god" is taken away, they will mourn
 - b. We need to make sure we are laying up treasures in Heaven rather than on Earth as these had done (**Mat. 6:19-20**)
 2. The terms "*weep*" and "*lament*" describe uncontrollable mourning
 3. They will watch her destruction from a distance
 - a. Perhaps they will see it from Armageddon
 - b. Perhaps they will watch it on television
- iii. The destruction of Babylon will come in one hour

b. **Verses 11-16**

- i. Not only will the kings mourn over her destruction, but the businessmen who prospered by her will mourn as well
 1. Apparently, Babylon will be a storehouse of the world's goods
 - a. When she is destroyed, the goods will be destroyed as well
 2. These should be mourning for their sins
 - a. However, they will not repent as we have seen others that have not
 3. These served the god of materialism and it has been taken away (**vs. 12-14**)
- ii. The actual merchants that traded with those in Babylon will weep and mourn
 1. The connection between materialism and false religion is seen in the similar descriptions of religious and commercial Babylon

c. **Verses 17-19**

- i. Those involved in shipping to and from Babylon will see their supply destroyed in one hour

1. How quickly riches can be lost!!
2. These are involved in great uncontrollable mourning
3. These see what sounds like a mushroom cloud from an atomic bomb
4. These mourned as though everything in their lives is now lost
 - a. No doubt, all their riches and many of their family members will be lost in this judgment

d. **Verse 20**

- i. This verse introduces us to a group of saints that will be seen in future passages
 1. No doubt, the Bride of Christ is among this group
- ii. Babylon, both religious and the city, had murdered many of these saints
 1. Through laws enacted by the Antichrist and his government
 2. As a result, she is executed
- iii. Notice the contrast between Heaven and Earth
 1. As the world mourns, Heaven rejoices
 - a. Similarly, the desires of Christians and the world should be entirely different

e. **Verse 21**

- i. This stone is a picture of how Babylon will be utterly destroyed
 1. Babylon is to be covered by the sea (**Jer. 51:41-42**)
- ii. This could follow the earthquake that will occur when Jesus returns to Earth at the glorious appearing to end the Tribulation period
- iii. This may be the symbolic stone kingdom that Daniel speaks of destroying the Revived Roman Empire (**Dan. 2:45**)

f. **Verses 22-24**

- i. These verses show that the former life enjoyed by the Babylonians is gone
- ii. Notice, "*sorcery*" will be used by the merchants of Babylon to deceive the world
 1. This is the Greek word, *pharmakeia*
 - a. This refers to mind altering drugs
 - i. Apparently, Babylon will be the world's epicenter for drug use
- iii. The pagan system which was started by Nimrod has murdered many of the Lord's people
 1. They will be avenged by the Lord