

# Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

## Lesson #17: Revelation Chapter 18

### Review

#### **Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)**

A glorified Jesus who is "standing among the lampstands" (in the midst of the church), sends letters of encouragement, exhortation, and correction to seven in Asia Minor.

#### **Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)**

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

#### **Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)**

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

The Background of Opposition

Featured in Chapter 13:

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Land (666)

Featured in Chapter 14:

The victory experienced by those who overcome

The judgment experienced by those who oppose God

#### **Act IV: Understanding God's Wrath and God's Righteousness (Revelation 15-22)**

Chapters 15 & 16 - The Sevenfold Wrath of God

God's wrath is pictured as seven bowls being poured out by angels on the wicked. The wrath of God is sure. The wrath of God is terrible. The wrath of God is only for the wicked.

Chapter 17 – The 'Doomed Wicked' of Babylon

(Babylon is sometimes used in Scripture as a symbol of a seemingly overwhelming power causing harm to the people of God.)

Viewed from God's Vantage Point: God is Just

Babylon is described figuratively as a 'great prostitute' riding on a great beast.

Seeing Through Her Sham

Even though she has the appearance of royalty, the cup she holds is 'filled with abominable things.'

The beast she rides on is a \_\_\_\_\_.

The Viewer Profits from this Vision

The Threat: The attractive but deceitful woman (prostitute), the seven-headed-ten-horned, and all those who have been involved with the prostitute unite to show the kind of opposition that Christians face.

The Reality: The Lamb of God triumphs over them all.

Chapter 18 shows the fall of Babylon from a different perspective.

## Revelation 18:1-24

### Viewed from Man's Vantage Point: Loss for the Wicked

#### Verses 1-2a

*down from heaven* - The angel is coming 'down from heaven' as opposed to 'out of the abyss.'  
*great authority/earth illuminated/mighty voice* - The 'rules of thumb' mentioned in previous lessons tell us that these things point to a message coming from God.

#### Verse 2

*Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!* - Babylon's glory is gone.

*haunt* - dwelling place

*demons/impure spirit/unclean bird, animal* - This is simply pointing out the 'unclean' spiritual condition of this great city.

#### Verse 3

*kings of earth* - a phrase used to describe the wicked

*maddening wine of her adulteries* - Many on earth were 'seduced' by Babylon.

*merchants of the earth/excessive luxuries* - The city was also a home to greed and excess

#### Verses 4-5

*come out of her, my people* - This is a plea for the people of God not to compromise with the sins of the 'great city'.

*her sins are piled up to heaven* - This is in contrast to the prayers of the saints reaching heaven in Revelation 8:4.

Just as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints make their way before God, so do the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked.

#### Verses 6-8

*pour her a double portion from her own cup* - This is a parallel to Revelation 17:16 where the 'beast' turns against the 'prostitute'.

*in one day* - These plagues will come with \_\_\_\_\_.

### **The Threefold Lament**

The Kings of the Earth

#### Verses 9-10

*shared in her luxury* - As they shared in the luxury of the great city, so will they share in her judgment.

The Merchants

#### Verses 11-17a

*list of cargo* - In the end, all the wealth, all the cargo, all they had traded adds up to nothing. (Mark 8:36-37)

*in one hour* - All wealth could be gone 'in a moment.'

The Sea Captains

#### Verses 17b-19

*every sea captain* - They have profited from Babylon, transporting goods to and from the great city.

*in one hour* - Sin is both selfish and near-sighted. Its power is deceitful, and its doom is sure.

Putting one's trust in anything other than the \_\_\_\_\_ will ultimately lead to

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## **A Celebration**

### Verse 20

*rejoice...people of God* - Again, this serves as an answer to the question found in Revelation 6:9-10. God is giving his suffering church a strong reassurance that suffering is temporary, and judgment is absolutely certain.

## **Never Again!**

### Verses 21-24

*millstone thrown into the sea* - This is a picture of judgment and echoes back to Jesus' statement found in Mark 9:42.

List of the Never-Agains

music/entertainment, workers of any trades, sound of a millstone (industry), light of lamp, weddings, merchants, world's important people (VIP) - It is all exposed, laid bare and made desolate.

The remaining chapters build to the climactic scenes in God's picture book.