

A Study in the Book of Revelation – Lesson 18

We have come to Revelation 17 and 18 at this point in our study. These two chapters are not in chronological sequence between the bowl judgments and the Second Coming of Christ. Rather, these two chapters are informational to the Tribulation timeframe.

Revelation 17 deals with “Religious Babylon.” The context of the chapter seems to point to the first half of the Tribulation. Chapter 18 deals with “Political and Economic Babylon.” This chapter seems to point to the second half.

The destruction of “Religious Babylon” is fulfilled right at the very end of the first half or at the midpoint of the Tribulation when the antichrist sets himself up to be worshipped as a god.

Chapter 18 deals with the “Political and Economic Babylon.” As this is also an aspect of the ungodly _____ system, it too will be destroyed as part of God’s judgment. It appears that this destruction will take place at the very end of the second half of the Tribulation.

Revelation 18:1-3 – The Announcement of Judgment on “Babylon”

Here we have “another angel coming down from heaven.” In Revelation 17:1, it was “one of the seven angels” involved with the bowl judgments in chapter 16. This is just another angel dispatched by God to deliver the announcement in John’s vision.

This angel is said to have great authority. We know from our studies of the Bible that angels are powerful beings. We are not told what this angel's authority is in this context. However, we can see that his _____ shone brightly upon the earth!

While it is possible that the religious Babylon (Rev. 17) is a potential reference to the city of Rome where the one world religious system is centered, it seems that this chapter is pointing toward being Babylon near the Euphrates River.

This is a highly debated question. It is possible that the political and economic "Babylon" could be centered in the same location. There are some who hold that the ancient city of Babylon will be _____. So, this is a debatable question.

Notice the effect that political and economic Babylon had on the nations as stated in 18:3. What was the effect on business? They became_____!

Revelation 18:4-8 – God's Appeal to the Saved that are in "Babylon."

Here we have another voice from heaven. This is evidently the voice of _____. Notice the phrase "my people." God is commanding the saved of that time to _____ from the worldly system. How do you think the saved of today should react?

What are the reasons that God tells the saved of that time to separate?

In verse 6, the Scriptures give the extent that God will judge this Babylon. God's judgment will always be _____ and _____. Babylon's judgment will be in accordance to the level of her sinfulness.

Notice how long God's judgment will take upon this city and its economic system (18:8).

Revelation 18:9-19 – The Lamentations Over Babylon's Destruction

The fact that Babylon will be destroyed brings great anguish to the unsaved world of the second half of the Tribulation.

Revelation 18:9-10 – The World Political System

Revelation 18:11-16 – The World Industrial System

Revelation 18:17-19 – The World Ocean Transportation System

Revelation 18:20-24 – Heavenly Rejoicing Over the Destruction of Babylon

18:20 – Here we see God’s heart and desire for His people over righteous judgment! God _____ heaven and the saved to rejoice. Notice the reason: because God has pronounced judgment on their behalf!

18:21-23 – Here a strong angel provides an illustration. The angel takes a stone like a great millstone and casts it into the sea. What happens when you throw a large rock into water? Do you see the rock anymore?

Just like a rock thrown into the deep ocean that cannot be seen again, Babylon will be completely removed from existence! Notice the descriptions of what will not be in that city after judgment:

1. The sounds of music and celebration.
2. Workers and craftsmen of any kind.
3. The sound of industry.
4. Lights of the city.
5. Normal life activities.

The judgment and destruction of Babylon will be _____!

This final destruction of Babylon brings about the end of the “Times of the Gentiles.” This began when the Babylonians first conquered Israel in the

book of Daniel. It ends with the destruction of Babylon here in Revelation 18. Compare Luke 21:24.

John has given us the last description of the end of the Tribulation. Chapter 17 described for the reader the end of the religious system of the unsaved world. Chapter 18 gives the reader the end of the political and economic system of the unsaved world. The stage is now set for that which the Bible has predicted for thousands of years. The Second Coming of Christ to the earth!