

# Book of Revelation

Chapter 18 – Babylon’s Fall, Part 3

Chapter 19 -

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## Revelation 18:21-24 - Overview

- Finality of Babylon’s Doom – vv 21-24
- It’s a done deal!

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## Revelation 18:21-24 NKJV

- 21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. 22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. 23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

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## Revelation 18:21

- The mighty angel throws a giant millstone into the sea, symbolizing:
  - Babylon’s sure death
  - That Babylon will never rise again
  - Millstones during John’s day often weighed thousands of pounds
  - The angel uses this symbol as assurance that under no circumstances would Babylon ever rise again
  - Babylon was the source of violence against prophets and believers
  - With violence, Babylon will be thrown down, suddenly and permanently

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## Revelation 18:22-23

- Many things that were normal in Babylon will end
  - Rejoicing of unbelievers
  - Music
  - Production of goods
  - No industry at all
  - No activity
- Babylon's success was based totally on DECEIT ("sorcery")

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## Revelation 18:23-24

- Three reasons why Babylon is destroyed
  - Men who enriched themselves due to their pride in Babylon (v23)
  - Pride stemmed from being deceived (v23)
    - Babylon deceived all the nations into thinking that joy, security, honor, and meaning in life (i.e., "success") come through the accumulation of material wealth. (Constable)
    - Babylon used SORcery (Greek: *\*pharmakeia*)
  - Blood of the saints (v24)
    - *"Blood violently shed cries out for vengeance until it is rewarded by the punishment of the murderers. The destruction of Babylon answers to that punishment."* [Note: Thomas, Revelation 8-22, p. 347. Cf. Genesis 4:10.]
- \* from where we get the word *pharmaceutical*

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## Revelation 18:24

- Believers have always lived within the Babylon system
- However, it is one thing to *live* within the system...
- Another thing to adopt that system's attitude
  - Self-centeredness
  - Living only to fulfill selfish pleasures
  - Using and/or stepping on others to get what is wanted
- Christians must not lay up treasures here on earth

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## Revelation 18:24

- This effectively is the final aspect of the Tribulation period
- It will officially end with the physical return of Jesus in chapter 19

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## Revelation 19:1-10

After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her." 3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!" 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!" 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." 10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

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## Revelation 19

- Two parts to this chapter:
  - Heavenly hosts rejoicing at the complete destruction of Babylon, and
  - Events surrounding our Lord's physical return to the earth

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## Revelation 19:1

- Praise rises because of Babylon's destruction
- Babylon represents the latter day Tyre & Egypt
- Antichrist is the ultimate Pharaoh of the Exodus and King of Tyre combined
- *“The four songs in Revelation 19:1-5 look back to the judgment of Babylon, and the song in Revelation 19:9-10 looks forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb. The harlot dies, but the bride begins to enjoy new life.”* [Note: Thomas, Revelation 8-22, p. 355.]

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## Revelation 19:2

- Heavenly residents praise God for His:
  - Truth
  - Judgment
  - Righteousness
  - *“It is only right that Babylon, which brought moral ruin on the earth, should lie in ruins.”* (Constable)
  - All people will have made their decision to follow God or Satan at this point
  - There is no changing sides

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## Revelation 19:3

- Again, those in heaven rejoice at what God has done!
- Babylon is dead forever
- No longer will she deceive through
  - Immorality, and
  - Spiritual adultery by leading people away from God

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## Revelation 19:4-5

- The 24 elders raise their voices in praise to the One who sits on the throne – God the Father
- An angel calls out from near the throne
  - For continual praise to God
  - To fear the Living God for His righteous judgments

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## Next Time:

- Revelation 19:6-16
  - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
  - Preparation of Christ's physical return to the earth