

## When Babylon Falls

**Revelation 18:1-2: After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird."**

The bible has a lot to say about Babylon. The only city mentioned more frequently in the Bible is Jerusalem. There was a time in antiquity when the whole world looked in wonder at Babylon--that is going to happen again.

The question you must ask yourself is whether or not the angel is speaking symbolically or literally about Babylon?

The names of places in prophecy often speak of something more than just a geographical location. For example:

- Wall Street and Madison Avenue have become code words for commerce and merchandising.
- When the bible speaks of "the world" it may be referring to the planet or, more often than not, the world's ungodly philosophy.

Some people think that the ancient city of Babylon itself will be rebuilt and become the headquarters of the antichrist. Saddam Hussein imagined himself to be an incarnation of Nebuchadnezzar who he admired for destroying and enslaving Israel. Saddam tried to rebuild the ancient city and imprinted his name on every brick; but all of that has come to a pitiful failure.

Revelation 17 and 18 speaks of "mystery Babylon." There is a mysterious connection between ancient Babylon with all its false religions and the powerful dominion and today's world--and the coming world of the antichrist.

Doubtless the antichrist will have a strategic headquarters somewhere but looking at prophecy there is no way to be certain about the exact geographical location—some even say Rome.

We do know that empire of the antichrist it will be **Rome politically** and **Babylon religiously**.

So how should we interpret the phrase "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great**"?

I believe we need to see that it is a double fall. It is the fall of a false religion which is an ecclesiastical Babylon. It will also be the fall of the Antichrist government—a political and commercial fall.

Today I want us to learn four things about this diabolical empire called Babylon.

## 1. Babylon is dominated by demons

**Revelation 18:2-6: And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. <sup>3</sup> For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.” <sup>4</sup> I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; <sup>5</sup> for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. <sup>6</sup> Pay her back even as she has paid and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.**

These demons are the devil’s “dirty birds” that defile the landscape. Babylon will rise from the dust of history and become Babylon the Great when the Antichrist takes his throne.

During the Great Tribulation, the world will be infested and led by demonic spirits who have nested in ancient Babylon. Throughout history Satan has been building a Babylonian system of iniquity in this world because he sees this as his greatest triumph over Israel. Revelation 18:6 says that Babylon will be paid back double for the evil she has done--twice the punishment.

What does that mean to us? As we get closer to the second coming of Jesus Christ, the rapture of the church, and the rule of the beast, we can expect to see a tidal wave of sin, debauchery, and demonism.

## 2. Babylon is Arrogant in its Depravity

**Revelation 18:7: To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.’**

Remember Muammar Gaddafi and Sadaam Hussein. Their arrogant attitude toward the world, and America. They were about as evil as anyone could get but they are only a faint picture of the defiance of the beast who is coming and rule. Why will he be so defiant?

Babylon has its own system of government, and the beast antichrist doesn't like competition. He confiscates the world's wealth and become immensely rich. Every luxury known to man will pour into his Babylonian empire. The beast will become a law unto himself as the earthly powers will subjugate themselves to him. Global corporations will make their headquarters near his headquarters, and the beast will rule over the system. He will seem absolutely invincible.

### 3. Babylon is Destined for Destruction

God's word reminds us that despite of all the arrogance of the beast he cannot hold back the judgment of Almighty God.

**Revelation 18:8-10:** For this reason, in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.<sup>9</sup> “And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,<sup>10</sup> standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

Unlike the child of God, Satan is sailing on a sinking ship. His doom is announced, and it will be carried out. **Sin cannot win, and faith will not fail.** Babylon will be destroyed by a devastating collapse, and it will happen cataclysmically fast-its destruction will be utterly complete.

**Revelation 18:10** tells us that its destruction will come in one hour. **How?** One possible way could be an atomic blast, and the people who stand afar off will see the mushroom cloud and fear the radiation.

This could be what the angel is illustrating in Revelation 18:21: **Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer.”**

**Imagine.** If you could throw a huge stone into the ocean you would see, at first, a hole where the stone fell in and just around the edges of that circle the water would shoot up into the air and you would see shock waves emanating from the point of entry and sweeping everything away in its path—that's what an atomic explosion looks like.

*No one knows for sure exactly how this will happen because of the symbolism. Many of the things we simply will not know until they are literally fulfilled.*

Whatever happens, it will be absolutely devastating. In an hour, God will judge the sin of Babylon that has been piling up for centuries.

#### 4. Babylon will experience absolute desolation.

**Revelation 18:10-23:** standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’<sup>11</sup> “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more--<sup>12</sup> cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,<sup>13</sup> and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.<sup>14</sup> The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.<sup>15</sup> The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,<sup>16</sup> saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;<sup>17</sup> for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,<sup>18</sup> and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’<sup>19</sup> And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’<sup>20</sup> **Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets,** because God has pronounced judgment **for you against her.**<sup>21</sup> Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found **any longer.**<sup>22</sup> And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you **any longer;** and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you **any longer;** and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you **any longer;**<sup>23</sup> and the light of a lamp will not shine in you **any longer;** and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you **any longer;** for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.<sup>24</sup> And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

All the wealth of former **ecclesiastical Babylon** and **political Rome** will belong to the beast, because no one will be able to buy or sell without his mark. He will get his cut on every transaction and will control the world economy. Money will flow into this city. But notice that a part of the merchandise will be the souls of men. There will be a great trade in human trafficking, iniquity and sin.

*U.S. News and World Report recently produced an investing guide. Inside was an article entitled “Stock Up on Sin, “which contained an article for those who are worried about their investments: “A portfolio that panders to humankind’s moral weaknesses might redeem investors’ fortunes. Unseemly perhaps, but the fact is that in a year of exploding corporate scandal and retribution it has been good to be bad. Not legally bad, just a little sinful. Profit, so fleeting on much of Wall Street, has come easily to firms catering to humanity’s weaknesses and carnal passions.”*

Basically, what it was saying was: “Do you want to get rich? Invest in vice.”

Online gambling is coming to North Carolina. Yesterday an article in Daily Mail stated that half of all sports betters in the state of Connecticut are problem gamblers. Nearly 71% of all gambling revenue in CT come from 7 % of their residents. They legalized sports betting 2 years ago.

Legalizing drugs might have removed the “taboo” nature of recreational drug use, but it has caused a flood of drug abuse unlike anything America has ever seen.

### **This is the kingdom of the Antichrist.**

Do those who make profit off of evil care whose life is hurt or whose home is ruined? No! In fact, when their opportunity to make profit off of evil is gone--that is when they will cry and feel sorrow. They will stand in their executive suites and watch as the sin market of Babylon crashes and burns and the controllers of the world’s commerce will dive into pools of panic.

**The repetition** of “any longer” in this passage sound almost like a funeral bell tolling. I believe that this will be the very thing that triggers Armageddon.

What can we learn from Revelation 18?

- **Come out of Her!**

**Revelation 18:4 says, I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;**

The spirit of Babylon is already in the world. **Second Corinthians 6:17 says, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”**

When God’s judgment falls, you will not be able to escape. If you don’t want to feel the judgments of Babylon, don’t keep company with Babylon.

- **Don’t Envy Her!**

Perhaps you see people wheeling and dealing and getting rich and you want some of it too. Don’t envy Babylon.

- **Rejoice over Her!**

The Bible teaches that the world is headed toward a climax. Revelation 18:20 says, "**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.**"

**<sup>5</sup> The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. <sup>6</sup> Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face. (Ps. 11:5-7)**

Never let the devil get you to thinking negatively about God. We are on the winning side.

Those in heaven will see God's righteous judgment on sin and Satan's system and when this day comes all of God's children will see it: At last Satan will be vanquished!

**We can celebrate now over what God is going to do then.**