

REVELATION Chapter 18

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INTRODUCTION: Chapter 18 is a continuation of chapter 17 – the fall of *THE HARLOT* (Rome) because of God's wrath poured out upon her! Remember the setting:

- 1) *TRIUMPH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS*, chapters 15-16
- 2) **JUDGMENT OF WICKED BABYLON**, chapters 17-18 [Fall of the Empire]
- 3) *JUDGMENT OF EMPEROR WORSHIPPERS*, chapters 19-20 [Fall of the Dragon]
- 4) *REWARD FOR THE SAINTS*, chapters 21-22

I. THE ANGEL ANNOUNCES THAT BABYLON IS FALLEN!, 18:1-5

A. The authoritative and glorious message: Babylon is fallen! vv. 1-2

1. "Babylon" = ROME (see 17:5, 9-11; 1 Peter 5:13).
2. "Fallen" (*compare Isaiah 13:20-22; 14:22-23; Jeremiah 13:9-22; 51:37,42*)
3. The doom of the fallen: *she has become the habitation of devils* (see *Matthew 13:31-32; Ephesians 2:2; 1 John 4:6*).
4. Babylon is the hold of every foul spirit and the cage of every unclean, hateful bird.

B. The influence of the harlot on others, v. 3

1. All nations have drunk the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
2. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with her (*cf. Isaiah 10:12-14; Nahum 3:4*).
3. The merchants of the earth are rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

C. God's people are to come out from her! vv. 4-5

1. The reason to come out: to not partake of her sins or receive her plagues.
NOTE: *God has always required His people to be separate from evil*
(*compare Isaiah 18:4-8; Jeremiah 50:8; Zechariah 2:7; 1 Corinthians 5:9, 11-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 11:2-4; Ephesians 5:11; 1 John 2:15-17*).
2. Her sins have reached God in heaven, and He will remember her iniquities.

II. THE JUDGMENT AGAINST THE HARLOT, 18:6-22

A. The judgment is a repayment! *Rendered as rendered, and doubled! Severe mourning!*, v. 6

B. The reason for the Harlot's severe judgment: **PRIDE!** vv. 7-8

1. She glorified herself, she lived deliciously, and she brags.
2. But what is coming to her is torment, sorrow, plagues, mourning, famine, burning.
3. She will fall in one day – *quickly, suddenly!* (*compare Daniel 5:1, 3-5, 30*).

***Note:** **PRIDE vs. GOD** is an age-old problem (*see Daniel 4:30-32; 5:17-28; 8:8, 25; Amos 6:8; James 4:6, 10; Proverbs 3:34*).

C. The Harlot's allies will be judged, vv. 9-19

1. Kings, allies, merchants fear, wail, mourn – *these shall no longer be able to satisfy the pleasure of the flesh she has offered, for the days of prosperity are over!*, vv. 9-16
2. Shipmasters and sea workers (mariners) also mourn, vv. 17-19: “Alas, alas...”

D. All mourn except the HEAVENLY, v. 20

1. Message: ***Rejoice, for God has avenged you!*** That is, God had judged Babylon for her treatment of His people (*compare 2:26-27; 6:9-10; 8:3-5; 11:18; 12:10-11; 14:13; 16:7; 17:14*).
2. The saints rule the nations through the judgment of God on the ungodly! (*see Matthew 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:2-4; cf. 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:26-27*).
3. In this scenario, God had avenged the “holy apostles and prophets.”

E. This judgment will be complete! vv. 21-22

1. The picture is of a mighty fall, complete destruction – violence!
2. The great city is not found anymore (*cf. 18:10; Isaiah 13:19ff*).
3. No more merriment (musicians) or craftsmen: *social and economic desolation*.
4. A millstone is hanged around her neck and she is cast into the sea (*cf. Matt. 18:6*).

III. THE REASON FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE HARLOT, 18:23-24

A. The harlot caused other nations to be deceived.

1. Social and economic upheaval – the light had gone out!
1. The harlot controlled the “great men” of the day, and sorcery.

B. The harlot persecuted and killed the righteous.

1. Compare *Revelation 12:13-17; 13:3-8; 16:6*
2. In her was found the blood of the prophets and saints (*cf. Matthew 23:29-36*).
3. She had killed Christians (*cf. Rev. 17:6*).

CONCLUSION: *The Harlot had been responsible for killing God's people, bringing great death and destruction upon them. But their blood and sacrifice was avenged when God's wrath was poured out. The great Harlot is brought low!*

In chapters 19 and 20 we will see God's wrath then turned against the Dragon. Just as the harlot met defeat, so must Satan as well, as God's people are vindicated!