

STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 31 – The Fall of Babylon - Revelation 18:1-24

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

REV 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. [2] With a mighty voice he shouted:

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
She has become a home for demons
and a haunt for every evil* spirit,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

REV 18:3 For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.
The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

REV 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

"Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

REV 18:5 for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

REV 18:6 Give back to her as she has given;
pay her back double for what she has done.
Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

REV 18:7 Give her as much torture and grief
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.
In her heart she boasts,
'I sit as queen; I am not a widow,
and I will never mourn.'

REV 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:
death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

REV 18:9 "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. [10] Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

" `Woe! Woe, O great city,
O Babylon, city of power!
In one hour your doom has come!"

REV 18:11 "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more-- [12] cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; [13] cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

REV 18:14 "They will say, `The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' [15] The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn [16] and cry out:

" `Woe! Woe, O great city,
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!"

REV 18:17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!"

"Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. [18] When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, `Was there ever a city like this great city?' [19] They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

" `Woe! Woe, O great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
became rich through her wealth!
In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"

REV 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven!
Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets!
God has judged her for the way she treated you.' "

REV 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

"With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,
never to be found again.

REV 18:22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters,
will never be heard in you again.
No workman of any trade
will ever be found in you again.
The sound of a millstone
will never be heard in you again.

REV 18:23 The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again.
The voice of bridegroom and bride
will never be heard in you again.
Your merchants were the world's great men.
By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

REV 18:24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints,
and of all who have been killed on the earth."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 31 – The Fall of Babylon - Revelation 18:1-24

419. What amazing sight did John see? (18:1)
420. How did John describe the angel he saw coming down from heaven? (18:1)
421. What pronouncement did the angel bring? (18:2)
422. Why did the angel say that Babylon was being judged? (18:3)
423. What did a voice from heaven urge? (18:4)
424. What specific message of judgment did the angel bring concerning Babylon's sins? (18:5, 8)
425. How will the fall of Babylon affect rulers and merchants all over the earth? (18:9, 11, 15)
426. What will happen to Babylon's wealth? (18:10-19)
427. Why will the merchants be upset? (18:11-13, 15)
428. Why will the sea captains and sailors be upset over the destruction of Babylon? (18:17-19)
429. Why will Babylon be judged? (18:20)

430. What instructions did the angel give for heaven and its inhabitants? (18:20)
431. Near the end of the vision of Babylon's fall, what did a mighty angel do? (18:21)
432. What did the mighty angel's action illustrate? (18:21)
433. How will Babylon be judged? (18:22-23)
434. What symbol of violence was found in Babylon? (18:24)
435. What do you think Babylon symbolizes or represents?
436. What is one step you can take today to put things and money in proper perspective?