

**The Book of Revelation: “The Fall of Babylon and the Call of God”**  
Revelation 18:1-24

*What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Jesus of Nazareth)*

**A Call to See Through**

- John’s closing argument is a vision of two cities:
  - Babylon the Great, which he calls the prostitute (17:1)...
  - And the new Jerusalem, which he call the Bride of the Lamb. (21:9)
- In chapter 17, John previews the destruction of Babylon, backed by but abandoned by the beast.
  - Chapter 17 is the world’s future.
  - Chapter 18 is the world’s funeral.

*In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 25:30)*

- Jesus wants us to be see past the veneer of this world.

*“He who has ears to hear, let him hear what Spirit says.”*

- Jesus wants us to learn the lesson of loss before we lose it all.

*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. (Ecclesiastes 7:2)*

- We should see the vanity of the world. (v. 7)
  - Babylon is a thoroughly godless city, ignoring God’s reality.

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:18-21)*

- Babylon is a thoroughly arrogant city, ignoring God’s rule.
- We see the greed of this world.
  - Revelation is warning against *any* unfaithfulness to God.
  - Most prominent in Revelation 17-18 is the luxury afforded by worldly living.

*But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Timothy 6:9-10)*

- Possessions are not inherently sinful...

*For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. (1 Timothy 4:4-5)*

- But possessing by any means necessary is sinful.
- Do you see how tempting riches can be?

*But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13)*

- We see the folly of this world.
  - All that's impressive will be removed "in an hour."
  - Note well the distinction between worldly grief and godly sorrow.
    - Are you marked by regret over worldly loss?
    - Or are you marked by repentance before a holy God?

### **A Call to Come Out**

- Don't delay your departure from Babylon.

*Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' (Mark 9:42-48)*

- Do look to a better city.

*For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:10)*