

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class
Revelation 18:9-24

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Revelation 18:9-24.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

- 9 “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,
 - 10 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.’
- 11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her,
 - because no one buys their cargoes any more —
 - 12 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,
 - 13 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.
 - 14 “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.
- 15 “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,
 - 16 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;

- 17 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,
 - 18 and were crying out
 - as they saw the smoke of her burning,
 - saying, 'What city is like the great city?'
- 19 "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!
- 20 "Rejoice over her,
 - O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets,
 - because God has pronounced judgment
 - for you
 - against her."
- 21a Then a strong angel took up a stone
 - like a great millstone
 - and threw it into the sea,
 - saying,
 - 21b "So will Babylon, the great city,
 - be thrown down with violence,
 - and will not be found any longer.
- 22 "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;
- 23 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.
- 24 "And in her was found the blood
 - of prophets
 - and of saints
 - and of all who have been slain on the earth."

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1. Briefly summarize the prior context of Revelation 18 in 2-3 sentences.

2. List each of the groups of people in Revelation 18:9-19.

3. What is the event that each of these groups is responding to?

4. Which kings are these and how do they respond?

5. Why are the kings responding this way according to the text?

6. Who are the merchants and how do they respond?

7. Why do the merchants respond as they do according to the text?
8. What is unique about the merchants description compared to every other group identified? What is the importance of this detail for the angel to describe it to John for him to write it down?

❖ Day 2

Read Revelation 18:9-24 again.

9. Try to categorize the cargoes of the merchants into groups. What is significant regarding these groups of cargo in relation to the merchants and the great city?
10. Who are the people listed in verse 17? What is the difference between them and the merchants?
11. Why are these “sea-people” in verse 17 lamenting according to the immediate context?

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12. Where were all the groups who were “mourning” over the destruction of Babylon located? Viewing it from a different perspective, what were they not doing in response to Babylon's destruction?

13. What does “woe, woe” mean here in these verses? How is it used elsewhere in Revelation? (Rev 8:13, 9:12, 11:14, 12:12) Briefly describe any similarities or differences between their usage.

❖ Day 3

Read Revelation 18:9-24 again.

14. Where is the location of the people group found in verse 20?

15. Why is heaven to rejoice according to verse 20?

16. Can you identify the strong angel?

17. Why does the angel throw the great millstone into the sea according to verse 21? Is this literal or symbolic?
18. List the groups of people found in verse 22 that are being described. Why would these groups of people be specified for being with the city?
19. What will not be found any longer with all of these groups? List each item not found and then try to summarize them in just a few words.
20. What was found in the city according to verse 24?
21. Summarize the entire passage in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, praise the Lord Jesus for his righteous judgments that are perfect in every way: timing, power, and purpose. Let us find ourselves able to rejoice with heaven over our goodness, rightly view our utter dependence on Christ for salvation, and strive with our whole heart, mind, and body to pursue Christlikeness – in truth and deed while on the earth.