

Revelation: A Vision of the Coming King

The Mounting of Babylon's Sin

Revelation 18:1-8

Introduction

As we return to our walk through the book of Revelation, we are entering some of the last pages and words detailing Christ's final judgments upon the world that has rejected Him for thousands and thousands of years.

The Shift in Messaging

In the text today we will clearly see a shift in the messaging to those who are still alive on the earth during the days of the Tribulation. While one message will still remain quite personal in nature - the other one has nothing personal connected to it, for it is just a pronouncement about them and their soon coming fate of impending judgment.

(1) To the World – nothing personal is said to the inhabitants of the world at this juncture. There is not another call to salvation, but rather a pronouncement of their sin and impending judgment.

(2) To the Tribulation Saints – there is a call to them to not get caught up in the world's system, to not let it taint them with its claws of spiritual and physical immorality and idolatry.

Everything will Collapse

We will also see today, that everything that man has built the world upon, believes and trusts in will finally collapse. The collapse will be worldwide and total!

Everything that man has built and has become so attached to is going to be dealt with in God's final judgment.

Today's Text:

Revelation 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

3 For all nations have drunk^[a] (fallen by) the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’

8 For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

1. Movement of God’s Sovereignty – 18:1ab

18:1ab After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, coming down from heaven,

“After this”

This scene here is the next vision for John as this is a sequential statement. What we are reading is what John actually saw next.

“I saw another angel”

This is another angel that is different from the angel who has been showing John the Great Prostitute and all that will happen to her in the last days in **Revelation 17**.

Some feel that this angel could be the same one that we saw earlier in **Revelation 14:8** who made the proclamation about the falling of Babylon. **Revelation 14:8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.”**

The fact that it says another angel leads me to believe it is indeed another angel that we have not yet met, though it is not fully clear.

We are told here that this angel has great glory and it is most definitely because of the significant role he will play in this new pronouncement from God through this angel.

He has great authority, which we see in more detail in a moment.

“coming down from heaven,”

All through the book of Revelation we have seen the movement of God’s Sovereignty over and over in the affairs of man. Let me remind us of the movement of this book from Jesus words in **Revelation 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.**

- **Things you have seen – Revelation 1** – John’s initial revelation on Patmos
- **Things that are – Church Age – Revelation 2-3**

- Those that are to take place after this – **Revelation 4-22**. The future judgment.

The movement of God's Sovereignty fills every page of Revelation.

- Worship throughout the book from people, creatures, angels, and creation
- Jesus walking amongst the churches and speaking directly to them
- Seals
- Nations as Martyred saints worshipping
- John eating the little scroll
- Trumpets
- Satan being thrown down
- Messages from 3 Angels in **Revelation 14**
- Harvesting of the Earth with the sharp sickle
- Angels with 7 Plagues
- Angels with 7 Bowls
- Fall of the Great Prostitute
- The Second Coming of Jesus

God's movement fills these pages and it gives us great confidence in regard to His rule and authority over our lives. He is never idle and if we ever think this then we don't understand how he works in the world.

Now we see God's final movement in regard to the fall of the political and economic Babylon.

Here in **Revelation 18** God will strike at the very things that man truly worships as god(s) as He will crush every luxury that mankind has loved so much and has made a treasure.

God goes deep after the depravity of man's wicked heart.

We will see Him now begin to crush the politics & economics that rule the world.

2. Made Bright with his Glory – 18:1c

18:1c and the earth was made bright with his glory.

The light from the angel reveals a huge contrast to the utter darkness of Babylon's influence that encompasses the earth. There is no doubt that the contrast revealed in the text is very intentional for us to behold and understand.

We should note that "**the earth was made bright with his glory**", meaning that once again the earth will get another "**message**" or "**reminder**" that **holiness matters and** marks all things connected to God.

As the angel comes down, the whole earth will be made bright with his glory. With his coming, the inhabitants of the earth should know, but once again choose to ignore that there is another place to live - a place of hope, free from the wrath of God. There is a place bigger and other than earth. They should know it is bigger for they can do nothing but in the end cower, curse, and be crushed by God's wrath.

Messengers of the Last Days

We have already clearly seen that in the last days, the world will get these heavenly proclaimers of the Gospel in the midst of the darkest days that will ever be known. In the midst of the darkness, God sends these messengers and let me remind us of them:

- **Revelation 7:4-8** – 144,000 Sealed and Protected Jewish Christ-followers
- **Revelation 7:9-14** – Tribulation saints who will witness and be martyred for it.
- **Revelation 11:3-12** – 2 Witnesses – Prophecy for 1,260 days.
- **Revelation 14:6** – Flying angel proclaiming the Eternal Gospel
- **Revelation 14:8** – Flying angel proclaiming the fall of Babylon
- **Revelation 14:9** – Flying angel telling the world to not worship the beast or take his mark.
- **Revelation 18:1** – Angel coming down from heaven with a glory so bright that the earth is made bright with his glory.

The people of the Great Tribulation will not be without opportunities to see that God is Sovereign and that they should turn and repent to Him for the forgiveness of sin.

God's Amazing Patience and Mercy

3. Message Concerning the World's System – 18:2a

18:2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!"

Mighty Voice

"And he called out with a mighty voice,"

The text does not specifically say, but it is highly probable that his voice will also reach the ears of the people on the earth. They will see and hear him.

mighty voice – This is not a timid proclamation where the angel says, "I am sorry to have to tell you this, hope you are not too offended!" It is Mighty and Strong!

Destruction of Babylon

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

The tense in the Greek is the proleptic, which means “something that happens in the future but when spoken it is as it has already happened”. This will be a sudden event that will mean that it is certainly to be accomplished, though it is a future event.

Many believe that Babylon as a city will rise to prominence in the last days and when it does, it will rise to a great and evil place. The emphasis here though is more than just a city, but it is the entire world system of rejecting God.

The Repetition of the Words

The repetition of the words repeated twice also is an indication of the certainty of its fall.

The 2 Babylons of Revelation 17 & 18

Revelation 17

Religious System
Falls and destroyed in the Middle of Trib
Beast and 10 Kings kill it
No mourning of her death

We have already dealt with religious Babylon!

Revelation 18

Political and Economic System
Falls at the End of Tribulation
Jesus destroys at 2nd Coming
Great Mourning over its demise

World's economy and political arm

4. Movement and Makeup of Babylon – 18:2b-3

18:2b She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. 3 For all nations have drunk [a] (fallen by) the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

The angel now communicates about the movement and makeup of Babylon. Behind Babylon's power is the demonic, therefore it will be the most vile, evil, corrupt and incredibly immoral system.

It will rule and reign in the world in the last days from every corner of the globe!

- **spirits of the System**

Not only will there be great spiritual corruption, but the cities of the world will be filled

with demons, who are evil spirits influencing the people of the world who take the mark of the beast.

Q: What will Babylon become in the future in a much great way?

It will be abandoned to demons, therefore it will naturally become a place of great immorality.

“A Haunt”

Haunt - to visit often ; to continually seek the company of ; to stay around or persist ; to linger somewhere.

All of these references: spirit, bird, beast – all are indicative of the demonic. An example of this is in the parable of the seeds where Jesus uses birds as a symbol of the evil one who steals away the seed(s) of truth.

Matthew 13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

Matthew 13:18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

These demons will dominate the world’s scene and you will not be able to hide from them.

Babylon, the world’s system will be a haunt where the demonic will pervade everything and it will be one that is immoral, idolatrous, sexual, full of luxury, greed, etc.

The world will revel in it all and it will be no longer in secret but every bit of it will be in public for all to see.

The mighty voice of the angel is loud and clear so that all will know that God is not going to let it all continue any longer unbridled.

This will be more than a declaration for He will follow through. God is not about saying things and not following through with them. He will always be true to what He speaks as you can’t separate His words from His nature. After all, Jesus Himself is the Word that become flesh!

• Seduction of the System

The influence of Babylon will only increase in the last days as it will become the biggest sin city the world has ever known. Its influence will become global in scope. It will appeal solely to the flesh, which without Christ the people of the earth will fall prey to with relative ease.

(1) All nations – 18:3

18:3 For all nations have drunk [a] (fallen by) the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,

Babylon's strength will be worldwide and everyone will participate in her ways to the fullest extent. Everyone who takes the mark of the beast will be the very ones who over and over will reject God's offer of salvation in Christ. The whole world will be caught up by it all. The longing for hope, food, jobs, etc. will rest in the mark of the beast and the political arm of Babylon.

(2) Kings – 18:3

18:3 and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,

Not only will the citizens of the nations embrace everything regarding the beast, but the kings of the earth, the leaders will also embrace and push all of the lies. The kings will drink up all of Babylon's philosophy and lead those they are over to embrace it as well.

Immorality and immoral relationships will rule the day in every kind of way.

Everything will be opposed to Jesus and part of the aim of the beast is to ridicule, mock and persecute anything remotely connected to Christianity.

No Longer Able to Recognize Truth

The end of days will be ones where people will no longer be able to recognize right from wrong. The intoxication of her ways will keep people blinded and caught up and it will keep them solely caught up in the unending pursuit of pleasure.

The kings will offer worldly pleasure at every turn.

(3) Merchants/Business World – 18:3

18:3 and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

With the nations and the leaders embracing Babylon, it naturally will be the dominant pathway of the world's economy.

The merchants who are deeply connected to the kings will become incredibly rich as they control the buying and selling of goods. We see this power in...

Revelation 13:16 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, 17 so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. 18 This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

In our previous chapter of **Revelation 17**, we saw the religious system of Babylon was very rich as well. **Revelation 17:4** The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.

Extreme corruption will rule the day and the powerful will get rich off of it all and poverty will also be great as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

This deep desire for wealth will lead to those in power to get rich during these days, and the merchants will want more and more as they will sell themselves out for the treasures of the world.

All of it will be done without any thought toward God, holiness, humility, and the good of others. Exploitation and Oppression will be strong.

No One Thinking Eternally

No one will be thinking of eternity in those days, the focus will be solely on the now. We would say, "well, that is a description of our day!" Yes, it is but the end of days this will dominate the world in an unimaginable manner.

The nations, the kings, and those in power in the economy will all be in the grip of satan as the great lure of the dollar will permeate every corner of the world.

1 Timothy 6:10 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.

Our Culture

This thinking and living is becoming more the norm in our culture as the lines of morality have dramatically moved. People more than ever will continue to pursue what pleases them no matter the harm it may do to society or others.

Summation of the Makeup and Movement behind Babylon

The Babylonian System in the Great Tribulation will offer the people of the world immorality without any kind of moral restraint. It is imperative to remember that the church will be gone in the rapture, there will not be gatherings like this one as Christ-followers will be severely persecuted and most martyred.

All the things that contribute to moral restraint in a society will no longer exist.

With the demonic running and ruining everything in the world, it is only natural that the world will be marked by unbridled evil and immorality.

So Babylon will rise in the last days to a great stature of idolatry and luxury.

5. Message to the Tribulation Saints – 18:4

18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;

We need to remember that the church will be gone, raptured before the Tribulation period begins, so the end of the church age as we know church will in a moment be changed as the Tribulation period will be on the brink of beginning. As millions will come to faith in Jesus during the Tribulation, these words here in **18:4** are addressed to them as to how they are to live and proceed in those dark days.

They are called to not get caught up in the ever deepening and widening of Babylon’s influence in the world.

It will be the most difficult environment in which to live and it is at this moment where these Tribulation Christ-followers get specific instructions as to how they are to live through this period of the last days.

While these words are spoken to them, we must hear and heed them.

- **Separate from the System – 18:4**

“Come out of her, my people,”

The call is two-fold:

(1) Call to get out of the city that is going to be destined as a place of the demonic.

I am so thankful that the Holy Spirit moved Paul to write these words as they give us great insight what goes on behind the scenes of the curtain of the air every day.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. This life in Christ requires us to be equipped for the battle so we can stand, not fall. God has designed it this way! Notice it says “**put on**”, this is an action that we have to take and the strong implication is that when we do this we will be able to stand. **Q: Why is it important to do this daily?** The reason is that the devil is a grand schemer – whose schemes are designed for us.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. This life is a wrestling with spiritual forces “**over this present darkness**” that battle in the heavenly places

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. As Paul finishes these words, he calls us again to now “take up”, again an action that we are to take ourselves. Also again, if we will do this, the strong implication is that we can stand and find our lives not free from the battle for the battle will rage on and on until Jesus comes, but strong in the battle.

Revelation and Spiritual Warfare

Revelation continues to affirm the reality of the spiritual warfare in these ways:

(1) Church Age – in **Revelation 2-3**, the part addressed to the church, Jesus mentions “satan” to 3 of the churches.

(2) Tribulation Period – “satan” **(4x)** ; dragon **(14x)** ; demons **(2x)** ; “bottomless pit” **(6x)** ; “serpent **(4x)**

As we come to **Revelation 18:2** we are told that that the world’s end time system “**has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.**”

This call is similar to Jeremiah’s where he called Israel to flee Babylon before it fell in...

Jeremiah 51:6 “Flee from the midst of Babylon; let every one save his life! Be not cut off in her punishment, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance, the repayment he is rendering her. **7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, making all the earth drunken; the nations drank of her wine; therefore the nations went mad. 8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed. 9 We would have healed Babylon, but she was not healed. Forsake her, and let us go each to his own country, for her judgment has reached up to heaven and has been lifted up even to the skies.**

The Tribulation saints are called to separate because the last days will be filled and fueled by never before known demonic activity. Many believe this call comes before the 7 Bowls in **Revelation 15**.

So God is calling out His followers from it before He destroys it.

(2) Call to live different from world's system.

Q: Why this sharp and distinct call to break from the ways of the world?

(1) Lest You Take Part in the Sin

The call is to abandon the world's ways – to separate for too much time in and around a constant influence of sin will only result in one reality, sin will affect you.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, 18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

The call is for Christ-followers to not get caught up in the sin of the world and to completely reject the world's ways. They and we are to live by God's values.

Convinced of This

We will have the most influence in our culture as Christ-followers when we are different from the world, not the same as. Being different is how we show our uniqueness.

(2) Lest You Share in her Plagues

The plagues will come upon those who do not by faith trust in Jesus.

Very Similar to Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19:12 Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place. 13 For we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it.” 14 So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, “Up! Get out of this place, for the Lord is about to destroy the city.” But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

15 As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, “Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city.” 16 But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

17 And as they brought them out, one said, “Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away.” 18 And Lot said to them, “Oh, no, my lords. 19 Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die. 20 Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there—is it not a little one?—and my life will be saved!” 21 He said to him, “Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken. 22 Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there.”

Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.[a]

God Destroys Sodom

23 The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.

29 So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

6. Mounting of Babylon's Sin – 18:5-7

18:5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. 7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'

This is another reason to separate from the world's system!

- **Mounting of Sin – 18:5**

18:5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven,

The Tower of Babel attempted to reach heaven, but it did not ever get fully there, but here we read that the sins of Babylon will be so many that they will build and mount all the way to heaven. This is a really big deal!

Heaped

Kallao – something piled up like bricks to a building, likely referencing what was going on at the Tower of Babel.

- **Mercy and Memory of God – 18:5b**

18:5b and God has remembered her iniquities.

Escaping His judgment is going to be unavoidable.

God will not wink at sin and when He remembers, He knows and He will not let it go unnoticed.

God knows that Babylon has stood always against everything that He is and speaks.

What we see here is that God's immeasurable patience has now been exhausted because He is righteous and he must judge.

- **Mix a Double Portion – 18:6**

18:6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

It is so awful as to what Babylon is and will do that when God ultimately judges her, she will get a double judgment on her deeds.

Pay her back

Give back what is due – called the Law of Retribution – “eye for eye”.

She has sinned much and will be punished much!

repay

Pay a debt, to return what is due, meaning that this means to pay it all back fully, but double.

mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

She has mixed one cup for the nations to drink, but she will drink two cups of double wrath.

We Don't Get Away with Habitual Sin

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

- **Measure of Torment – 18:7a**

18:7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,

She will make of herself and her ways and she will find it all incredibly exhilarating as she takes great pride in it all. It will be a pride as such the world has never seen.

Just like Nebuchadnezzar's pride in **Daniel 4:28** All this came upon King

Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?”

- **Mouthing of Her Heart – 18:7b**

18:7b since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’

This system lives to glorify itself and it is deceived in that it won't ever be judged. Unfortunately, so many in our culture today live this way as well thinking that they can do whatever they want and they will never be judged or have to give an account for their lives.

7. Might of God's Judgment – 18:8

18:8 For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

- **Momentary – Single Day**

18:8a For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,

All of it will end and Christ will be the one who will end it when He returns to the earth. When He this event happens, it will be swift, in a single day. The idea of suddenness is the emphasis.

All of Babylon's glory, might, influence, wealth, pride, etc. will not enough to save her from God's judgment.

In a single moment, thousands of years of man's building of the world will be brought to nothing at the glorious feet of Jesus. There will be no escape for Babylon.

- **Measure of It**

18:8b death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire;

- **Death**
- **Mourning**
- **Famine**
- **Burned with Fire**

It will be quite extensive in the measure of His judgment upon Babylon.

- **Mighty Is God's Judgment**

18:8c for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

God Promises what He will do, He does not threaten with no real plans to follow through. God is not like us where we threaten what we will do and we don't follow

through.

When He speaks, He will act in accordance with what He says!