

Revelation 18

Mystery of the Harlot and the Sea Beast

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The key to understanding the revelation is enhanced by several things John tells us in the first three verses of chapter 1.
1. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ. 1:1
 2. It is a book involving symbols and signs. 1:1
 3. It is concerning things that would “shortly come to pass.” 1:1
 4. The time, during John’s day, was “at hand.” 1:3

BABYLON’S (ROME’S) DOOM ANNOUNCED

Verse 1

- A. Another messenger with great authority comes down out of Heaven (Rome was on earth—down!), and brightens the earth with his glory.

Verse 2

- A. His bright message of encouragement to the recipients of Revelation is that Babylon (ROME) is FALLEN, and is now only a place for the evil, sinful, and unclean.

Verse 3

- A. By ROME’S influence all the nations were corrupted AND the business people (merchants) and commercial traders were enriched by her sins and bloodthirstiness.

Verse :4 -

- A. Another voice from Heaven exhorts God’s people who have been faithful not to have any fellowship with Rome so that they receive not the punishment of her plagues.

Verses 5-6

- A. God is going to judge her sins, and the request is to DOUBLE her punishment.

Verses 7-8

- A. This Harlot was confident and conceited, but in ONE DAY (SHORT TIME) God would judge her and utterly destroy her.

THE WORLD LAMENTS HER PASSING

Verses 9-10

- A. Those nations that had cooperated with her in sin shall witness her destruction and express WOE over her fall.
1. This is the Harlot, here also called the great city and Babylon, all of which are figurative terms for the Roman Empire.
 2. NOW THE TIME FOR JUDGMENT IS NOT ONE DAY, BUT ONE HOUR! Things have changed! Her judgment will be swift—"quickly."

Note: The next part of this chapter (18:11-19) is a laundry list of things that were going to be taken away with the fall of Rome, and also the weeping and sadness of those who trafficked (did business) with her.

Verse 11

- A. Merchants everywhere weep because there is no more business.

Verses 12-13

- A. Because of Rome's fall, all kinds of luxuries and necessities would disappear as well as the evil Rome promoted—including slavery and bondage.

Verses 14-19

- A. Again more woe and more weeping for the absence of Rome's merchandise, and all shall come swiftly (one hour).

THE RIGHTEOUS REJOICE

Verse 20

- A. JOY comes to Heaven, and all those who died rejoice because God has judged Rome for them. B. What is really interesting and an important point (of Revelation) is that these people were dead (Revelation 6:9-11; 20:4), and yet living and REJOICING.
1. **Revelation reveals to us the great GOOD NEWS THAT THOUGH WE DIE, yet shall we LIVE.**
 2. Regardless of what Rome would do to the Christians, they would continue to live forever. "Be faithful Unto death, and I will give you a the crown of life." **Revelation 2:10**
- C. BABYLON (Rome) WOULD FALL Because She Shed Too Much Blood of the Saints

Verse 21

A. Next we have a visual aid.

1. A strong angel casts a huge millstone into the sea illustrating Babylon's sure and quick fall—and she shall be found no more at all.

Verses 22-23 -

A. No more music (joy) . . . no more craftsmen; no more productivity (mills) . . . no more light of a lamp (knowledge) . . . no more weddings, because Rome (the great city, Babylon, the Harlot) had seduced the nations of the earth.

B. Indeed, "Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."
(Proverbs 14:34)

Verse 24

A. And in her (Rome) was found the blood of dead Christians (the evidence that she had caused it). B. Rome is judged by God because she killed the Christians.