

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.
Rev. 1:3

Verse by Verse Through the Book of Revelation

Seminar by Ellie Green

Created in
Microsoft Publisher

REVELATION CHAPTER 18

This chapter speaks of Babylon's corruption and of the collapse of the global economy. Revelation 18 points to a time when, as the result of rejecting the threefold warning of Revelation 14:6-12, the church will have fully reached the condition foretold by the second angel, and the people of God still in Babylon will be called upon to separate from her communion. In other words, people in the protestant and Catholic churches will leave them and unite with those who are keeping the commandments of God—including the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment.



This message will be the last that will ever be given to the world; and it will accomplish its work. God's judgments are about to fall in the seven last plagues, and all who refuse to separate from Babylon and her sins will suffer destruction with her. "Flee out of the midst of Babylon," was God's message to Israel when ancient Babylon was about to fall. Jeremiah 51:6.

In Revelation 14 John announced the fall of Babylon. Here again an angel announces the fall of Babylon.

1. **And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven,** Other angels were seen 'flying' and 'crying' with a loud voice but this angel comes directly down from heaven with a more pointed and direct message. No such description of a message from heaven to man is found anywhere else in the bible.
-

having great power: Despite Satanic efforts to shroud the earth in darkness, God now sets it ablaze with the glorious light of saving truth

and the earth was lightened with his glory. We are living in this great time of awakening! Just think of how our church is reaching the world with the gospel through television, radio and through the laity's personal efforts all over the world. Consider that we baptized one million people last year into the Seventh-day Adventist Church! Just look at the plans for millions of pastors and lay people within our church to "finish the work." Truly, the earth is being lighted with His glory.

2. **And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,** Her spiritual fall is now to be demonstrated and confirmed and her punishment is sure. This fall is a spiritual fall. She will be punished at the end of the world.

and is become the habitation of devils, Babylon is now wholly demon possessed. Spiritualism in religious garb has now fully entered the churches. Immorality of the soul is now a creed in almost every church in the world. To give up that vile doctrine will be unthinkable to most people who have become "drunk" on it. (Remember to become "drunk" with the "wine" means to fully and completely believe the false doctrine to the point of no reasoning with you.)

and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. This illustrates the utter perversion and apostasy of Babylon. A dove is the emblem of the Holy Spirit, but the emblem of Babylon is unclean, hateful scavenger birds.

3. **For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication,** They are now drunk, living in unholy alliance while the merchants are being made rich by her commerce. Her patterns of carrying out the work of the church bear the stamp of Satan—the churches have fully surrendered to false doctrines that do not have a basis in the word of God.

and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. The merchants are those who advocate the teachings and policies of Babylon the great and the kings who committed fornication with her are those who corrupted and substituted Biblical teachings a few of which are: a) Imposing Sunday sacredness instead of the Biblical Sabbath, b) Teaching Immortality of the soul instead of sleeping until Jesus comes, c) The mediation of Mary instead of Christ alone as our Savior/Redeemer, d) Evolution instead of the literal creation week, e) Sprinkling instead of baptism by immersion, f) Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.

4. **And I heard another** This shows a new agency being introduced. We now have five angels engaged in reformation: 1,2,3 angels of Revelation 14; the 4th angel of verse 1 of Revelation 18 and now the 5th in this verse.

voice from heaven saying, The voice coming from heaven denotes the power of the message

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. This indicates a gigantic “push” of the gospel message to the world. The world lives in denial of its true condition.

Ellen White says, “Notwithstanding the spiritual darkness and alienation from God that exists in the churches which constitute Babylon, the great body of Christ’s true followers are still to be found in their communion. There are many of these who have never seen the special truths for this time. Not a few are dissatisfied with their present condition and are longing for clearer light.

This voice represents the call of the second angel of Rev. 14 that has now grown louder and is more insistent.

5. **For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.** God’s long-suffering is about to end and his judgments are about to be executed.
6. **Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works; in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double.** Babylon is to be paid in full for her deeds. The punishment will fit the crime and she will receive double measure what she has meted out for centuries on this earth.
- In the same cup in which she had mixed an evil potion for others to drink God will now mix a terrible mixture and compel her to drink it. (Rev. 14:8; 17:4) The church of God on earth started out pure and simple by the apostles after Christ returned to heaven. Then through the devil’s instigation, men began tampering with the truths preached by the apostles until they, at last, will join hands with the persecuting Roman Power.
7. **How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.** She is proud of her wealth and popularity and power. Inordinate conceit has spawned utter confidence in her evil scheme to rule the world. As a widow she would have no legal status upon the allegiance of the people of earth (Compare Isa. 47:8, 10). (You have only to read “The Keys of this blood” by Malachi Martin, Published by Touchstone, New York, 1990, to understand that the Pope intends to become a world ruler!)

8. **Therefore, shall her plagues come in one day,** Some take this to be prophetic time, and therefore represent one literal year. Others consider that the angel here stresses suddenness and unexpectedness. In view of the fact that the same event is also said to take place in “one hour” (vs. 10, 17, 19), I personally believe that the plagues will take place in one literal year because Romans 9:28 says “For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth.” If the plagues of God lasted very long, the entire earth and everyone on it would be destroyed. So, it would seem that the plagues will be horrible, brief and decisive.

death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. For a description of events foretold here see GC 653-657)

9. **And kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning.** Anticipating their own fate, the kings of earth join in a dirge of death for haughty Babylon now in torment.
10. **Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.** They had just recently collaborated with Babylon and were involved in her sins and were destined to share in her plagues. They realize that they are destined to share her fate.

Chapter 17 dealt with the sentence pronounced on Babylon. Chapter 18 deals with the execution of the sentence.

11. **And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:** According to one interpretation, these merchants are the literal commercial and business leaders of earth whose financial and material support have contributed so much to the luxury, splendor and success of Babylon. However, I believe the second interpretation which is “No man buyeth” when the kings and peoples of earth are disillusioned and refuse to have anything to do with Babylon. This will be right before Jesus comes when they realize they have been deceived.
12. **The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble.** Attempts to draw some meaning and/or to classify the 28 items of trade listed in vs. 12, 12 and to draw some hidden meaning from them are without exegetical value. The text stresses the comprehensiveness of her corrupt doctrines and policies.
-

-
13. **And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.** The souls of men is used here to refer to the spiritual nature of the human beings under consideration.
14. **And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.** The harlot looked forward to the time when she could enjoy the fruits of her lusts. The “dainty and goodly” contributed to her life of luxury and wantonness. The finality of the fate that has overtaken Babylon is repeated in similar words six times in vs. 21-23. Babylon now descends into the perdition described in ch. 17:8, 11, never to rise again.
15. **The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.** They mourn but want no part of her now!
16. **And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!** See verse 9 and 10.
17. **For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,** If the “sea” represents people, perhaps the shipmaster, ships and sailors represent those who do business with the multitude of peoples of the earth—and control their merchandise, etc.
18. **And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!** Her fate is affecting commerce of the world and every body mourns their own personal lack of business and/or comfort that was made possible by trade with Babylon. Think of how we would react if all oil of the world were cut off (for example) . What difference would this make in our lives?
19. **And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in one hour is she made desolate.**
Casting dust on their heads is an ancient sign of extreme shame or grief.
Babylon’s extravagant requirements brought wealth to those who traded in the goods in which she was interested.
-

-
20. **Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.** She had decreed the death of God's people but now suffers the very fate to which she had consigned them. This event takes place under the seventh plague.
21. **And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.** With one tremendous throw the millstone is hurled into the depths of the sea. Thus, with finality will Babylon sink into oblivion or "perdition". (We don't know what this symbolism means.)
22. **And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found anymore in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee.** This describes total desolation!
23. **And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee; for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.** Sorceries were the false doctrines that were perpetrated by Babylon upon the world. There is a growing interest in the occult's beliefs and practices such as fortune-telling, witchcraft, and astrology. Among the practices that Deut. 18:10-12 calls an abomination to the Lord are child sacrifices, witchcraft, soothsaying (like reading tea leaves) interpreting omens, sorcery, conjuring spells, consulting mediums, spiritualism, calling up the dead and so forth.
24. **And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all that were slain upon the earth.** Babylon represents apostate religion since the beginning of time. However, chs 13-18 are concerned most particularly with the culmination of apostasy at the end of time.
-