

July 30, 2023

The Fall of Babylon Revelation 18 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will look at Chapter 18 of the book of Revelation. The beginning of 18 declares the fall of Babylon the great city. The city is described as being full of sexual immorality and great trade. Babylon has many sins and the wrath of God will be poured out on her, holding her accountable for all her evil. The nations and the kings of the world will mourn over the fall of Babylon. They have lost their source of wealth and it will never return. Join us this week as we talk about what Babylon is and how we can protect ourselves from her deceit.



Babylon Is Fallen

18 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated from his glory. ² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all the nations have fallen because of the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of sexual immorality* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich from the excessive wealth of her luxury."

⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive *any* of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her offenses. ⁶ Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her. ⁷ To the extent that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, to the same extent give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, 'I sit *as* a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.' ⁸ For this reason in one day her plagues will come, plague and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Grief over Babylon

⁹ "And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of sexual immorality* and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and mourn 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 cargo any more— ¹² cargo of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; every *kind of* citron wood, every article of ivory, and every article *made* from very valuable wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, and *cargo* of horses, carriages, slaves, and human lives. ¹⁴ The fruit you long for has left you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and *people* 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, 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 all who 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 from her prosperity, 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."

²¹ Then a strong angel picked up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will never be found again. ²² And the sound of harpists, musicians, flute players, and trumpeters will never be heard in you again; and no craftsman of any craft will ever be found in you again; and the sound of a mill will never be heard in you again; ²³ and the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of the groom and bride will never be heard in you again; for your merchants were the powerful people of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your witchcraft. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

1. What has Babylon become?
2. What is the reason given for the fall of the nations?
3. What do you think Babylon represents?
4. Why do they mourn over Babylon?
5. What is the condition of the heart of Babylon that is described in this passage?
6. Why do they all stand at a distance?
7. As Babylon burns what is counted as the major loss?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

8. What does this passage tell us about putting faith in the things of this world?

9. What is the temptation that lures in the kings of the world?

10. How do we guard ourselves against falling to the same temptation as the kings of the world?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes