

Understanding Revelation – Topic 30

God's final call and Babylon's final fall

Seven songs of destruction

**An exposition of
Revelation Chapters 18 and 19:1-6**

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Background

We have shown in previous topics that the fortunes of the great apostate religious system of Babylon have risen and fallen throughout history. Revelation Chapters 17 and 18 depict Babylon's final fall as well as God's final call to those of His people who still remain within her false system of belief. These chapters then are closely linked.

And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. Revelation 17:18

Here we see a woman and a city, each of which symbolises a religious system. This is a double symbolism. (We also saw a double symbolism in Revelation 17:9 with the seven heads representing seven mountains which in turn represented kingdoms or political entities).

In Chapter 17 the focus was on the *harlot* representing Babylon's corruption, and why she is ripe for destruction. But in Chapter 18 the focus changes to the *great city*, representing Babylon's oppressive, dominant power. The use of this symbol in Chapter 18 is fitting because it enables a graphic depiction of the destruction of spiritual Babylon.

Introduction

It is essential to understand the structure and purpose of Revelation Chapter 18. This chapter aptly portrays the utter and final destruction of Babylon in the form of seven songs, the first six of which are mournful dirges or laments. The seventh is a song of praise. Much space is devoted to describing Babylon's end. It is emphasized that her destruction comes suddenly and quickly.

Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. Revelation 18:8

Three times in this chapter it is stated that *in one hour* her destruction comes.

The extensive amount of Scripture applied to the fall and destruction of Babylon indicates just how significant Babylon is in the sight of heaven. Babylon is a greater threat than most of us believe, more deceptive, more dangerous than we can imagine. Babylon is the great enemy of God and humanity.

The natural inclination of the human heart is to compromise with Babylon. This has been the experience of many throughout history, because Babylon is the expression of the sinful nature of man. Babylon, after all, is in effect the natural outworking of the sinful human nature. Consequently it has a powerful appeal to human norms. The religion of Babylon temporarily satisfies the human heart's spiritual longings. However her principles are unacceptable to God, nor do her machinations meet mankind's ultimate spiritual needs.

The seven songs are structured into three groups: a pair, then three and finally two verses respectively. The first and last pairs are heaven-inspired. The central trio of verses is earthly inspired. The first pair relates why Babylon must be destroyed and the source from which that destruction will come. The central trio explains how Babylon will be destroyed and the totality of her destruction. The final duo of songs describes the

permanency and the justice of Babylon's destruction. (For a summary of the seven songs, see Appendix A).

A duo of songs

The first song

Introduction

After these things I saw...

This expression denotes that here we have a new vision. The word *after* does not mean after the events of Chapter 17 but rather after the vision therein. Revelation Chapter 18 is then a second vision concerning the fall of Babylon.

Once more we see an example of repetition and enlargement - a method prevalent throughout Hebrew Scripture. Revelation Chapter 17 is a repetition and enlargement of Revelation 16:19 which states

Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Revelation 16:19

Revelation Chapter 18 is an enlargement of Revelation Chapter 17, especially verse 16:

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Revelation 17:16

***... another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice...
Revelation 18:1-2a***

The angel of Revelation 17:1 was one of the plague-angels. The expression *another angel* indicates a new angel, distinct and superior in both his authority and in his message. Three features reveal this:

1. *...having great authority* (or power) - he commands attention and respect.
2. *...the earth was illuminated with his glory* - indicating that his message is worldwide.
3. *He cried mightily with a strong voice* - it has a powerful effect. There is no escape from it.

When we compare this angel with the angel of Revelation Chapter 10 we find the following similarities.

Comparison between the angels in Revelation Chapters 10 and 18	
Revelation Chapter 10	Revelation Chapter 18
<i>another mighty angel</i>	<i>another angel...having great authority</i>
<i>His face was like the sun</i>	<i>The earth was illuminated with his glory</i>
<i>cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars</i>	<i>cried mightily with a loud voice</i>

These similarities could suggest a similar type of message. However the message of Revelation 10 was the first angel's message of Revelation 14:6-7 which was fulfilled in the Great Second Advent Movement of 1840 -1844.¹

A second angel's message proclaiming the fall of Babylon followed the first angel's message, and commenced in 1844. The following similarities between this message and the message of Revelation 18:1-2 indicate that Revelation 18:1-2 could be a repetition of the second angel's message of Revelation 14:8.

Comparison between the messages of Revelation 14:8 and 18:1-3	
Revelation 14:8	Revelation 18:1-3
<i>Babylon is fallen, is fallen</i>	<i>Babylon...is fallen, is fallen (v2)</i>
<i>that great city</i>	<i>that great city (v3)</i>
<i>all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication</i>	<i>all the nations <u>have</u> drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (v3)</i>

On the other hand, the following contrasts between the two messages reveal that the message of Revelation Chapter 18 comes later.

¹ A.P. Cooke, *Time No Longer*, 2nd ed. (Sydney: Self-published, 1985)

Contrasts between the messages of Revelation 14:8 and 18:1-3	
Revelation 14:8	Revelation 18:1-3
Proclaimed in 1844	Proclaimed prior to the seven last plagues
No mention of Babylon's supremacy	Babylon is supreme
No mention of kings, merchants, etc supporting Babylon.	Babylon receives universal support including kings and merchants
No mention of the depth of Babylon's fall	Babylon has fallen into deep apostasy and is under Satanic control
No mention of the extent of her guilt	Babylon's guilt is as high as heaven
No mention of Babylon's destruction	Babylon is fully ripe for destruction
Fulfilled in the Protestant churches of the USA who in 1844 rejected the first Angel's message of Revelation 14:6-7	Fulfilled when Christendom is fully apostate and corrupt – yet future.

Further analysis reveals the time setting of the message of Revelation Chapter 18:

1. Babylon is called *Babylon the great*. In the Old Testament, from which this term is borrowed, Babylon was called *great* when she gained universal sway. (See Appendix B for a list of all Old Testament borrowings found in Revelation 18).

Is not this great Babylon that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty? Daniel 4:30

Similarly, spiritual Babylon will be called *great* when she gains an overarching global influence.

2. The extent of Babylon's fall from grace relates to the Protestant component of Babylon. That fall began in 1844 when, in general, the Protestant churches in the USA began to reject the truth of God. Since that time they have been sliding deeper into apostasy. At the very time when they are making lofty claims, God reveals that these churches are coming under the control of occult powers and are supporting the mother church.

Babylon's spiritual condition

Babylon...has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! Revelation 18:2.

The condition of the churches of spiritual Babylon is described in three different ways.

*... by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
Matthew 18:16*

1. Babylon becomes *the habitation of demons*. This term is used only twice in the New Testament. Paul declared of believers:

*...in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:22*

The Christian church is to be the dwelling place of God the Holy Spirit. But if the church disobeys or apostatizes and grieves the Holy Spirit, His place is taken by another type of spirit - *the spirits of demons*. This will become the situation with the churches of Babylon. It is a serious warning to all churches and all individual Christians. Christian individuals who were once the dwelling place of God are fast becoming the dwelling place of devils: what is true of a church may also be true of an individual.

2. Babylon becomes *a prison for every foul spirit*, that is, of every unclean angel. Unclean spirits are spiritually and morally unclean. They are *foul*. They defile those who do not shun them.

Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:31

Spiritism defiles. Evil spirits defile and today the churches are in the process of becoming the *prison* or holders of these spirits, and once they have gained entrance, it will be impossible to be rid of them.

3. Babylon becomes *a cage for every unclean and hated bird*. John draws on the Old Testament descriptions of ancient Babylon, Nineveh and Edom in their desolate, ruinous state, in which they were the abode of *unclean birds*.² This represents the spiritual desolation that modern Babylon will ultimately reach.

Babylon's pre-eminence

For all the nations...

This indicates that Babylon finally gains world pre-eminence. It is a repetition of Revelation 14:8:

Babylon...is fallen...because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

² Isaiah 13:19-22; 34:5-15; Zephaniah 2:14.

...have drunk of the wine...

Revelation Chapter 18 reveals the final result of Babylon leading the nations to drink of her wine. Wine represents teachings or doctrines. Intoxicating wine denotes false or erroneous doctrines.

As a result of the nations absorbing the false teachings of spiritual Babylon, they have become spiritually insensitive. Just as intoxicating wine benumbs the senses and paralyses the brain, so the wine of Babylon benumbs the spiritual faculties. It prevents people from discerning truth from error and right from wrong. False teaching enables leaders of spurious religion to manipulate their followers, to deceive them and secure their support. Through these strategies they will achieve their goal – the domination of humankind.

...of the wrath of her fornication...

This wine is spoken of as *the wine of the wrath of her fornication* because Babylon's doctrines lead those who assimilate them to become intolerant and aggressive toward those who differ with their views. Babylon fosters intolerance.

...the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her...

The word *fornication* indicates unlawful or illicit union. This constitutes spiritual adultery. Scripture associates fornication with three practices:

1. Idolatry - spiritual unfaithfulness to God. The prophet Ezekiel declares:

You have also ... made for yourself male images (idols) and played the harlot with them. Ezekiel 16:17

2. Friendship with the degenerate world is classed as spiritual adultery.

Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4.

3. The union of church and state. This is what is emphasized in Revelation Chapters 17 and 18.

The first type of spiritual adultery has been exhibited through the centuries in Roman Catholic forms of worship by the use of idolatrous statues and pictures; the adoration of the wafer in the Mass, and so on. The second type has been exhibited by the papacy in its worldly practices. The third type - the union of church and state - has been practiced by the Church of Rome through the ages with her collaboration with civil governments. Today the apostate Protestant churches also seek political support for their policies.³

The commercial, economic and financial world will also support Babylon in the final conflict:

... and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance (power or influence) of her luxury. Revelation 18:3

³ A.P. Cooke, *When Religious Persecution Returns*, (Sydney: Self-published, 1985)

*The reference is to spiritual wares, indulgences, idolatries, superstitions, worldly compromises, wherewith the apostate church has made merchandise of men. This applies especially to Rome, but the Greek and even in a less degree the Protestant churches are not guiltless.*⁴

Undoubtedly this part of Verse 3 has a literal application in the enrichment of financiers, multinationals and other entities through their co-operation with spiritual Babylon. The well-known author Avro Manhattan declared:

*The Catholic church is the biggest financial power, wealth accumulator and property owner in existence. She is a greater possessor of material riches than any other single institution, corporation, bank, giant trust, government or state, of the whole globe. The pope as the visible ruler of this immense amassment of wealth is consequently the richest individual of the twentieth century. No one can realistically assess how much he is worth in terms of billions of dollars.*⁵

The Church of Rome is the largest multi-national in the world. Her tentacles spread through nearly all other multi-nationals as a result of her astute financial investments. This means that she influences perhaps the majority of global economics. By their co-operation with Babylon, the world's merchants are being enriched, and in this way - as predicted in Revelation 13:17 - Babylon will be able to boycott all who do not comply with her policies.

We have already established from Revelation 18:2-3 that this passage depicts the end time when Babylon will have gained pre-eminence and Christendom will be enveloped in dense spiritual darkness. Satanic powers will then be in full control of most religious bodies. However if we go back to Verse 1, we find that the setting is still prior to the close of probation and the outpouring of the seven last plagues.

The latter rain

...the earth was illuminated with His glory... Revelation 18:1

The key to the heavenly message found in this portion of Revelation 18:1 may be found in the Old Testament. The imagery of the message is drawn from two sources - Isaiah 60 and Ezekiel 43:2. Initially these two predictions applied to literal Israel but they were not fulfilled. They can now be applied to spiritual Israel.⁶

Isaiah Chapter 60 describes a time of worldwide spiritual darkness. But God's people will receive spiritual light and glory in such a measure that it will enlighten the world. The result will be a tremendous ingathering of converts to Christ and the remnant of the woman's seed will be fully made up.

The prophet Ezekiel - the second source from which John draws - predicted:

And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. Ezekiel 43:2

⁴ Robert Jamieson et al., *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1871) on Revelation 18:3.

⁵ Avro Manhattan, *The Vatican Billions* (Los Angeles: Chick Publications, 1983) 197.

⁶ F.D. Nichol, ed. *Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Washington DC: Review and Herald Publishing Assn, 1957), 4:311-313.

This prediction would have been fulfilled with relation to literal Israel if she had been faithful. Revelation 18:1 foretells its application now to spiritual Israel. This fulfillment is still in the future. It indicates that the spiritual temple of the Church will be fully restored. The glory of God will flow into it, and this glory – the spiritual glory of character - will shine throughout the earth. As a result the voice of God - the message of God - will resonate throughout the world like *the sound of many waters*. The symbolism of this indicates that it will sound with great power. In other words, this will be the Loud Cry.

Other Scriptures confirm the above conclusions. The prophet Joel predicted that at the time of *the day of the Lord* - the close of probation - dramatic events will occur to complete the work of the gospel to the world.

Initially Joel's prediction applied to the invasion of the Babylonians and the desolation they wrought on Israel. God's promise to Israel was that if they repented He would restore their land and prosperity. Instead of drought there would have been abundant rain – both the former and the latter rain⁷. The *rain* represents the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28). Consequently the Holy Spirit would have been poured out in great measure, and as a result there would have been deliverance from the forces of Babylon.

This prediction was not fulfilled. It therefore applies in the New Testament in a spiritual sense to spiritual Israel - particularly in the last days. There was a partial fulfillment at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out in great measure on the early church, as described in Acts 2:16-21. The final and complete fulfillment will be in the last days, for Peter declared at Pentecost:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh... before the coming of the great and notable day of the LORD.
Acts 2:17, 20.

Prior to the close of probation and the Second Advent of Christ there will be a final Pentecost. This is the significance of Revelation 18:1b.

There are more than ten parallels between the first Pentecost and the final Pentecost. The first Pentecost is an illustration of what the final Pentecost will be, when the final gospel message, earth's last religious revival, will be proclaimed with great power to the whole world.

⁷ In the latter rain, generally double the amount of rain would be expected to fall.

Parallels between the two Pentecosts	
First Pentecost	Final Pentecost
Fulfilled at commencement of the Christian era.	Will be fulfilled at the conclusion of the Christian era.
The Holy Spirit was likened to the early rain of the natural world.	The Holy Spirit is likened to the latter rain of the natural world.
The Holy Spirit fell upon a purified people.	The Latter Rain will fall upon a purified people.
The Holy Spirit manifested Himself in spiritual glory in the lives of believers.	The Spirit will manifest Himself in spiritual glory in the lives of those comprising the remnant.
The Gospel was proclaimed with power and speed to the Jews and the world of that day – multitudes were converted to Christ.	The final gospel message will also be proclaimed with power and speed to the whole world and multitudes will be converted to Christ.
The believers sold or shared their possessions and they had all things common	Believers' possessions will be sold or shared and they also will have all things common.
Wonders and miracles were wrought among the people by the power of the Spirit.	Wonders and miracles will be wrought among the people under the power of the Latter Rain.
Fierce persecution fell upon the believers.	Fierce persecution will come to true believers under the Latter Rain.
The Gospel among the Jewish people was completed and the probation of the Jewish nation closed.	The <i>everlasting gospel</i> to the world will be completed and the probation of the world will close.
The judgments of God fell upon and ended the Jewish nation that had rejected Christ.	The judgments of God will fall upon and end the civilization of this world which has rejected Christ.

The second song

Introduction

The second song of the first duo gives the reason for, and the source of, Babylon's destruction:

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix for her double.

In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.
Revelation 18:4-8

God's final call

...another voice...

This denotes a distinctive call that blends with the message exposing Babylon.

...Come out of her, my people...

This indicates that almost to the close of probation some of God's people will still be in Babylon, in the false churches. But we might ask, "Are not God's people being called out of Babylon prior to the end of time?" Yes, all through history God has been calling his people out of apostasy and spiritual corruption. The apostle Paul declared:

*Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?...
"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord."
2 Corinthians 6:14, 17*

This call is the final call to come out of spiritual Babylon. It commenced in 1844, when the Protestant churches as a whole rejected the first and second angels' messages. At that time thousands came out of the apostate churches. The call to come out of Babylon will reach its climax during the message of Revelation Chapter 18.

There are two reasons why some true believers are still in Babylon almost until the close of probation.

1. These people have not received the light which reveals to them the errors and the true status of Babylon.
2. While in Babylon they may have found Christ and become children of God. Therefore they will need to be called out.

The reason why such people must be called out is given:

...lest you share in her sins...

Individuals who are aware of Babylon's sins and remain with her become partakers of Babylon's sins. They are judged as sharing the responsibility for those sins. This is why God has called His people out of apostasy through the centuries. A person's example influences other people. If an individual, after having been enlightened as to Babylon's significance remains within it and supports it, they are publicly declaring their support for that organization's goals and methods. On the other hand if a person withdraws from Babylon, they declare their rejection of that organization. Such individuals bear witness to others of the truth of God within the world.

This call of God is in contradistinction to that of the natural trends of the world's current global civilizing trends today. The calls that are sounding today tell us to unite as a common humanity, to override our differences, to find an accord, to end the divisions and conflicts that separate mankind. The call for the unification is the order of the day and this is apparent in almost every sphere of modern life. Yet God's call is the direct opposite – to come out from the ordinary, to be separate from the status quo, to seek division from the world, to polarize opinion: in place of fellowship with the global trend to conformity, a separation from anything that is ordained by a solely human quest. Instead of forgetting our differences with errant belief, God wants us to protect and defend our differences - if they are Bible based. Unity with error leads to apostasy. God calls for unity only in truth. Instead of superficial sentiment, it must be based on principled love.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5:3

True love for Christ involves obedience to Him; however this is not a popular concept.

In the end time Babylon's sins will be so evident that to remain in her will mean that the individual is equally guilty of her transgressions. To remain in Babylon means that one loves popularity rather than Christ, that one accepts convenient error more than truth, that one conforms to the tradition's of men rather than the commandments of God, that one enjoys the shallow praise of men more than the heartfelt praise of God.

This final call also means escape from Babylon's punishment.

Come out of her...lest you receive of her plagues. Revelation 18:4

The seven last plagues are targeted at Babylon.

Therefore her (Babylon's) plagues will come in one day... Revelation 18:8

Finally the whole world will comprise Babylon, because Scripture tells us that

....all the world marveled and followed the beast.... All who dwell on the earth shall worship him. Revelation 13:3, 8

For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication... Revelation 18:3

This is why all the plagues, even though not universal, must be worldwide.

For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Revelation 18:5

This verse reveals the extent of Babylon's sins. The word *reached* means *to amass together in a great pile*. The RSV renders this as *her sins are heaped high as heaven*.

This is how God regards the sins of Babylon. What further reason does a sincere person need to withdraw from her influence?

The imagery here may allude to the Tower of Babel of Genesis Chapter 11. There are four parallels between the building of the Tower of Babel and the building of spiritual Babylon:

1. The ancient Tower of Babel was a literal structure. In these last days a spiritual tower is being built.
2. The Tower of Babel was built as an act of defiance against God. Today a vast spiritual tower is being built in defiance of the truths of the true God.
3. The Tower of Babel was inspired by Lucifer. The great tower of Spiritual Babylon in the end time is also inspired by Lucifer.
4. The Tower of Babel was destroyed by the judgments of God. The tower of Spiritual Babylon will also be destroyed by the judgments of God.

The call to come out of Babylon is typified in the Old Testament by the call to Lot and his family to come out of Sodom. There are several parallels in that experience which apply to our day.

Parallels between the calls out of Sodom and Babylon	
The sin of Sodom was <i>very grievous</i> .	The sins of Spiritual Babylon are grievous - <i>her sins have reached to heaven</i> .
God decreed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:13).	God decrees the destruction of spiritual Babylon.
A remnant of believers was in Sodom.	A remnant of believers is in Babylon.
The remnant from Sodom was protected by angels.	Angels will again protect the remnant in Babylon.
The remnant was called out of Sodom.	God also calls the remnant in Babylon to come out.
Three angels were involved in the deliverance of Lot from Sodom	Three angels are involved in the call to come out of Spiritual Babylon
There were three calls to leave Sodom. (Genesis 19:12,15,17)	Three messages are given in calling the remnant out of Babylon.
Three individuals were rescued from Sodom.	Those who are rescued from Babylon will be those who have accepted the three angels' messages

When God's people finally come out of Babylon there will only be two groups on earth – Babylon and the Remnant - the majority and the minority - the worshippers of the Beast and the worshippers of the Lamb - those who have the mark of the beast and those who have the seal of God - those who have the character of Satan and those who have the character of Christ.

When the remnant which remains in Babylon finally removes itself they will join God's final remnant, bringing it to its full complement. This will be a repetition of the experience of the early church. At that time Jesus said:

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold (the early church); them also I must bring (out of the Gentiles), and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. John 10:16

Parallels between the early church and the final Remnant	
The early church	The final Remnant
There are other sheep - the Gentiles	Today there are other sheep in Babylon
which are not of this fold (the early church)	Today there are other sheep which are not of God's final Remnant
<i>them also I must bring</i> into the Christian faith	Today God's people who are still in Babylon are to be brought into the faith of the final Remnant
they shall hear my voice in the gospel	In the end time Christ's scattered sheep will hear the voice of Christ in the special message of Revelation Chapter 18.
<i>there will be one flock</i> (or one fold) - the early Christian church	In the end there will be one remnant, the final flock of Revelation 12:17, the <i>remnant of her seed</i> on whom the dragon makes war, the remnant <i>which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.</i>
Jesus finally said of his day, <i>There will be one flock and <u>one shepherd</u></i> - Himself	In the end there will be only one shepherd - no earthly leaders claiming to be divine, but the Lord Jesus Christ alone. His people will be gathered together in a final union with Christ alone as their Shepherd.

Babylon's punishment

The call to come out of Babylon completely separates the righteous from the wicked and prepares the way for the punishment of Babylon:

Her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix for her double. Revelation 18:5-6

God recalls the crimes of Babylon in order to render just retribution. Generally God punishes according to one's works, but the degree of Babylon's punishment is to be double that which Babylon has meted out to the saints. Jeremiah declared of literal Babylon's punishment, *as she hath done, so do to her* (Jeremiah 50:15) but with spiritual Babylon it will be double measure.

Other versions read as follows:

As she glorified herself and played the wanton... RSV

Metes out grief and torment to match her voluptuous pomp. NEB

Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Revelation 18:8

In response to Babylon's secret boast, God metes out *death, mourning and famine*.

Death here probably denotes the loss of a husband. Babylon's husband comprises the political rulers of the earth who will finally turn upon her. Thus, instead of seeing *no sorrow*, Babylon mourns because of her loss.

As a result of the loss of those who have provided support for her, she suffers *famine* – that is, great want. This corresponds with Revelation 17:16:

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. Revelation 17:16⁸

...And she will be utterly burned with fire...

Babylon burning with fire refers to the destruction of the *harlot* of Babylon for she says, *I sit a queen*. This is the religious element of Babylon - because a woman represents a church. The harlot represents the religious leaders, the clergy, who will be destroyed by their followers⁹. This is essentially the same as the drying up of the Euphrates, but in this chapter it is symbolized by spiritual fire.

Consequently the burning here is not the burning of Vatican City. The Vatican, in Revelation is represented by the *seat* or the *throne of the beast* (Revelation 16:10). This burning is a spiritual burning, rather than a literal burning. Babylon's punishment lies in the plagues: these do not include literal fire.

Babylon consists of three main parts.

Now the great city was divided into three parts... Revelation 16:19

These three parts consist of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 16:13). The dragon represents *kings, rulers and governors under the brand of antichrist*.¹⁰ The beast represents the Papacy. The false prophet represents the apostate Protestants allied with the civil power. In addition there is the *River Euphrates* (Revelation 16:12) which represents the multitudes who support Babylon around the globe and who therefore constitute a part of Babylon.

Therefore her plagues will come in one day...

Some question the application of the year/day principle here, because verses 10, 17 and 19 speak of Babylon's punishment as coming in *one hour*, not in a day or a year. We suggest that *one hour* could apply to a particular aspect of punishment in the plagues.

⁸ A.P. Cooke, *The Riddle of Revelation 17* (Self published, 1985)

⁹ A.P. Cooke, *The Drying up of the River Euphrates* (Sydney: Self-published, 1985)

¹⁰ Ellen G. White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, 3rd ed. (Boise, ID.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1962) 39.

Notice the three statements:

...in one hour your judgment has come. v10

For in one hour such great riches came to nothing... v17

For in one hour she is made desolate... v19

This will likely be fulfilled during the sixth and seventh plagues. The seven plagues are poured upon the Babylonian world, meaning they will encompass the whole world, except for the saints. Thus the plagues are not universal but worldwide. Nevertheless, the punishment of those comprising Babylon occurs in the seventh plague.

Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Revelation 16:19

It is in the period of the sixth and seventh plagues that the punishment of Babylon's leaders is meted out, the riches of Babylon come to nothing and she is made desolate.¹¹ It appears that the seventh plague lasts for a few days only. If so, the passage does not mean a literal hour or a literal day. When one studies the purpose of the plagues, it is quite clear that more time is required than a single literal day. Given this, a symbolic day, or a literal year, is completely justified in this verse.¹²

The central trio of songs

Introduction

The central section of Revelation Chapter 18 consists of three songs. These are earthly songs sung by Babylon's three main supporters - the kings or political rulers, the merchants, and the maritime world.

The third song

The third song is sung by the kings or political rulers:

The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' Revelation 18:9 -10

The kings lament the suddenness of Babylon's doom. This is a symbolic picture. It is borrowed from Jeremiah's description of the destruction of ancient Babylon and also of Ezekiel's description of the destruction of ancient Tyre.¹³ It illustrates the sudden and total destruction of Spiritual Babylon.

¹¹ A.P.Cooke, *God's Strange Act* (Sydney: Self-published, 1985)

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Jeremiah 50:46; 51:8; Ezekiel 26:16-17;27:35. See Appendix A

The fourth song

And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'
Revelation 18:11-17a

The merchants of the earth will wail, because with the destruction of Spiritual Babylon, their lucrative trade, their livelihood, no longer exists. This description is drawn from Ezekiel's prediction of the destruction of ancient Tyre (refer Appendix A). The merchants supporting Babylon trade in thirty commodities – the same commodities as ancient Tyre. Thirty is a multiple of six (6x5) which is Babylon's number.¹⁴

The list of thirty commodities commences with gold and concludes with the *souls* (persons) *of men* (vv12-13). This reveals how Babylon - and those who are influenced by her doctrines - evaluates human beings. Their estimation is exactly the opposite to that of Heaven.

What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Matthew 16:26

The fifth song

Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'
Revelation 18:17b -19

The maritime world has also been enriched by its support of spiritual Babylon. Here they are pictured bewailing the destruction of their trade. This description is again borrowed from Ezekiel's description of the destruction of ancient Tyre (refer Appendix A). It presents another picture symbolising the complete destruction of spiritual Babylon.

¹⁴ Murl Vance, *666 - the Mysterious Number* (Sydney: Waymarks)

Destruction in one hour

Each of these three songs declares that Babylon's doom will come *in one hour* (refer verses 10, 17, 19).

In Revelation Chapter 17 we saw that Babylon's supporters unite with her against the Lamb and the saints *for one hour* (v12). In Revelation Chapter 18 God's response to Babylon's attack upon the saints is that *in one hour* her punishment and desolation comes. The three references to this timeframe could indicate completeness in God's dealings with Babylon.

Heaven rejoices

Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her. Revelation 18:20

We may wonder how saints and angels could rejoice over Babylon's destruction and death. Ellicott responds:

*The fall of Babylon is the removal of one vast hindrance to holiness... Thus do all holy men, whether on earth or in heaven, joy when any giant evil is swept away.*¹⁵

A final duo of songs

Introduction

These two songs are of heavenly origin and declare the finality and justice of Babylon's punishment.

The sixth song

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth." Revelation 18:20-24

In this dramatic description, the Revelator draws from the Old Testament descriptions of four different cities which were all destroyed for their persistent rebellion against heaven.

¹⁵ Charles J. Ellicott, *Ellicott's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, 8 vols. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981)

Old Testament cities destroyed because of their rebellion		
Revelation 18	City	Old Testament references
Verse 20, 21, 24	Babylon	Jeremiah 51:28, 49, 63, 64; Isaiah 44:23
Verse 22	Jerusalem	Jeremiah 25:10
Verse 22, 23	Tyre	Ezekiel 26:13; Isaiah 23:8
Verse 23	Nineveh	Nahum 3:4, 7

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore." Revelation 18:21

The doom pronounced in this verse coincides with the doom Jesus threatened upon anyone who would cause his children to fall.

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Matthew 18:6

Six is Babylon's number. The expression *no more at all* is used six times in vv21-23. Like a funeral knell this expression is repeated, emphasizing the departed greatness of Babylon.

The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. Revelation 18:22

These six features of Babylon will never be found there again.

Babylon's destruction emphasized

In the Book of Revelation two chapters, a total of forty-two verses, are used to describe Babylon's destruction. We suggest two reasons for this emphasis:

1. The Babylonian system of religion is Sun worship - Satan's masterpiece of deception. Sun worship originated in ancient Babylon under Nimrod and Semiramis, his wife. That first manifestation was overthrown by Shem and the Shemites. While Sun worship has frequently been overthrown throughout the four thousand years of its existence, it has always risen again.

There appear to have been six major revivals of Babylonian sun worship:

- a. Sun worship revived and was established in Egypt under the Pharaohs.
- b. It developed in Babylonia under the Assyrians and Chaldeans, but was overthrown by the Medes and Persians.
- c. It was revived in a different form by the Persians under the name of Zoroastrianism and Mithraism.

- d. Sun worship was also revived in Greece, expressing itself in the form of Greek philosophy, Gnosticism etc.
- e. It revived in Imperial Rome in the form of Mithraism.
- f. It survived in the Papacy under the guise of Christianity and claiming to be the true Christian church.

...for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. Revelation 18:23

The word *sorcery* originates from the Greek word *pharmakeia*, from which we derive our word pharmacy or pharmaceutical. According to Dr. Young it means *enchantment with drugs*.¹⁶ This probably refers to the use of drugs by the pagan priests to prepare their minds for communication with the powers of the occult.

There is evidence that drug use is often associated with involvement in the occult today.¹⁷ By paralyzing the mental faculties, people can be manipulated by the powers of evil. Sorcery is the occult. It is the practice of consulting with and using Satanic powers. This has been the diabolical secret of Babylon's success through history. It is a repetition of the prediction:

I saw three unclean spirits, like frogs, come out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet (the three entities which compose modern Babylon). For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather (unite) them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:13-14

Babylon's guilt is measured by the blood she has shed.

And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth. Revelation 18:24

This is meant in a symbolic rather than a literal sense. It is the same principle enunciated by Jesus in the gospels.

...that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Matthew 23:35

Jerusalem did not shed all the blood that has been spilt from the time of Abel but she possessed the same hateful spirit against the saints of God. So it is with Babylon.

2. The second reason for the emphasis placed on describing Babylon's destruction is to try and convince the saints of the unseen dangers associated with her. Babylon is the sworn enemy of God and His people. But she is a masterly deception and is therefore a continual threat to the Church of God.

While the Christian's responsibility is to love everyone, there are some things we must learn to hate: the most important being Babylon and the wine of her doctrine. Babylon's inspirer and king is Lucifer. Therefore any support for, or compromise with Babylon is support of Lucifer and tantamount to disloyalty to

¹⁶ Dr. Robert Young, *Young's Analytical Concordance* (Peabody MS: Hendrickson Publishers, 1980).

¹⁷ Dr. Rebecca Brown, *He Came to Set the Captives Free* (New Kensington PA: Anchor Distributors, 1993).

Christ. The sad truth of the matter is that the general tendency throughout the centuries has been for God's people to compromise with Babylon. The call to *come out of Babylon* is therefore a call that needs to be continually sounded and obeyed, especially in the end time.

The seventh song

Antiphonal structure

The seventh and final song is structured as an antiphony, that is, it is a responsive recital consisting of two anthems and two responses.

Verses 1-3 are an anthem celebrating Babylon's destruction.

...“Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!”

Verse 4 is the response of the twenty-four elders and the four cherubim.

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”

Verse 5 is an anthem calling for universal praise of God.

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

In Verse 6 we read the response from the entire universe.

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”

Timing

After these things...

The final song is sung after the destruction of Babylon and after the Second Advent. It is at this time that Babylon has been completely destroyed with all who supported her. As the apostle Paul declared:

... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

A peon of praise

...I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying... V1

According to Revelation 8:1, during the events of the Second Advent *there is silence in heaven*.¹⁸ This is because all the heavenly hosts escort Christ on His return to this world to witness the final destruction of Babylon. However after the Second Advent the heavenly hosts, with the translated saints, return to heaven. The saints are guests at the marriage supper of the Lamb (v9) in fulfillment of Jesus' promise:

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

The saints sing a peon of praise:

...Alleluia! Salvation and glory [and honor] and power to the Lord our God. V1

In the original, the word *honour* is missing.

A similar peon of praise sounded in heaven at Calvary.

Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come... Revelation 12:10

At Calvary the fearful price for the salvation of sinners was paid. At the Second Advent this salvation is concluded. The great plan to save the human race has been accomplished.

...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. Hebrews 9:28

The reason for praise

Here is the reason for heavenly praise after the Second Advent:

For true and righteous are His judgments (punishments), for he has judged (punished) the great harlot who corrupted the earth... Revelation 19:2

We may be tempted to wonder if it is righteous for God to punish wrongdoers. But if God allowed the guilty to remain unpunished, He would in fact prove to be unjust. Thus it is righteous for God to punish. Therefore the destruction of Babylon is an exhibition of God's justice.

The reason for Babylon's punishment

...who corrupted the earth with her fornication...

This refers to Babylon's illicit union with the degenerate world, including its political powers.

¹⁸ A.P.Cooke, *The Three Sealings of the Saints* (Sydney: Self published, 1985)

Here is Heaven's estimate of Babylon's influence:

- No matter her appearance - She corrupts.
- No matter her claims - She corrupts.
- No matter her teachings - She corrupts.
- No matter her performances - She corrupts.
- No matter the people within her - She corrupts.

This is the reason why God calls His people out of Babylon and then destroys her.

...He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her. V2

This refers to God's servants who suffered under Babylon's oppression in the end-time. It is not the fulfillment of Revelation 6:9-11, because those who shed the blood of the martyrs during the Dark Ages are dead. They will not rise to receive their punishment until the final judgment at the conclusion of the one thousand years of Revelation Chapter 20.

This statement alludes to the many martyrs who died in the period just before the Close of Probation, as well as the saints who will be under the threat of death after the Close of Probation, yet who will be delivered.¹⁹ The intention to murder the saints is therefore taken to be as heinous as the actual deed.

It is God who avenges, not the saints. This is an important principle. The believers themselves are never to seek revenge. Revenge, as applied to humankind, is an expression of the sinful nature. It is satanic in its origin. Jesus' instruction is to...

Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to them who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. Matthew 5:44

This behaviour is not typical of the unconverted person, yet the Christ-centered person can leave the dealing out of justice with God. When they reach this state of mind they are not far from the kingdom of God. Vengeance belongs to God alone.

"Vengeance is Mine. I will repay," says the Lord. Hebrews 10:30

The reason it is satanic for man to seek revenge, yet is appropriate for God to take vengeance resides in the fact that God alone knows all the facts. Only He can read the heart and motives of the perpetrator. He is both dispassionate and impartial and only He can justly administer punishment

Finality of Babylon's destruction

...And her smoke rises up forever and ever. V3

This expression is similar to that found in Revelation 14:11:

And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever...

¹⁹ A.P.Cooke, *God's Strange Act* ; A.P.Cooke, *The Three Sealings of the Saints*

It is a symbolic expression drawn from Isaiah's description of the destruction of Edom:

It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever. Isaiah 34:10

The expression confirms that Babylon's destruction is everlasting.

Sets of three and their significance

Revelation 19:1-6 is composed of sets of three.

There are three groups of people:

1. a great multitude (v1)
2. twenty-four elders (v4)
3. His servants and those who fear Him, both great and small (v5).

There are three voices – a voice from the throne (v5), the voice of a great multitude (v6) and a third voice in verse 6 which expresses itself in three ways, as:

1. a great multitude
2. sound of many waters
3. sound of mighty thundering.

Verse 1 has three items of praise:

1. salvation
2. glory
3. power (*honor* is not included in the original)

The number *three* represents divine completion, and this song tells of:

4. The complete restoration of the saints
5. The complete destruction of *the mystery of iniquity*
6. The completion of the Plan of Salvation.

The song concludes with the words of the great multitude in verse 6:

...Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns.

Appendix A - The seven songs summarised

2 Songs	3 Songs	2 Songs
Verses 1-3; and 4-8	Verses 9 -10, 11-17a; 17b -19	Verses 20 - 24 and 19:1- 6
Heaven inspired	Earth inspired	Heaven inspired
Reason for Babylon's destruction	Manner of Babylon's destruction	Duration of Babylon's destruction
Source of Babylon's destruction	Totality of Babylon's destruction	Justice of Babylon's destruction
Babylon: Morally and spiritually corrupt Demon possessed Her enormous guilt	Three groups lament The expression <i>in one hour</i> indicates the suddenness of Babylon's destruction.	Babylon will never revive - statement <i>no more at all</i> repeated 6 times. Universal celebration of God's justice in destroying Babylon

Appendix B - Old Testament imagery found in Revelation Chapter 18

Quote from Revelation 18	Old Testament source
V1 <i>The earth was illuminated with his glory</i>	<i>Ezekiel 43:2 The earth shined with his glory.</i>
V2 <i>Babylon is fallen, is fallen.</i> <i>...has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird.</i>	<i>Isaiah 21:9 Babylon is fallen is fallen.</i> <i>Isaiah 13:21 Wild beasts...will lie there...and will be full of howling creatures (margin).</i> <i>34:15 There also shall the hawks (vultures) be gathered everyone with her mate.</i> <i>Jeremiah 51:37 <u>Babylon</u> shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment ...</i>
V3 <i>For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, ...and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury</i>	<i>Jeremiah 51:7 The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.</i> <i>Ezekiel 27:33 When your wares went out by sea, you satisfied many people; you enriched the kings of the earth with your many luxury goods and your merchandise.</i>
V4 <i>And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues</i> <i>...her plagues....</i>	<i>Isaiah 48:20 Go forth from Babylon, flee from the Chaldeans</i> <i>Jeremiah 50:8 Move from the midst of Babylon, go out of the land of the Chaldeans.</i> <i>Jeremiah 51:6 Flee from the midst of Babylon and everyone save his life: Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance, He shall recompense her.</i> <i>Jeremiah 51:45 My people go out of the midst of her and let every one deliver himself from the fierce anger of the Lord.</i> <i>Jeremiah 50:13 Everyone who goes by Babylon shall...hiss at all her plagues.</i>
V5 <i>For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.</i>	<i>Jeremiah 51:9 For her judgment reaches to heaven, and is lifted up to the skies.</i>
V6 <i>Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her</i>	<i>Jeremiah 50:15 Take vengeance on her; as she has done, so do to her.</i> <i>Jeremiah 51:49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon all the slain of earth shall fall</i>

Quote from Revelation 18	Old Testament source
<p>V7 <i>In the measure that she glorified herself...</i></p> <p><i>...and lived luxuriously....</i></p> <p><i>For she says in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow.</i></p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 28:2-7 Say to the prince of Tyre...because your heart is lifted up and you say, 'I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet you are a man and not a god, though you set your heart as the heart of a god.</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 47:8 ...you (Babylon) who are given to pleasures, who dwells securely....</i></p> <p><i>Isa.47:7-8 ...I shall be a lady forever.... I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children.</i></p>
<p>V8 <i>Therefore her plagues will come in one day - death and mourning and famine</i></p> <p><i>...She will be utterly burned with fire.</i></p>	<p><i>Isaiah 47:9 These two things shall come to thee in one day: the loss of children and widowhood.</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 47:14 The fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame.</i></p>
<p>V8 <i>...for strong is the Lord God who judges her.</i></p>	<p><i>Jeremiah 50:34 Their Redeemer is strong... he shall...disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.</i></p>
<p>V9 <i>The kings of the earth... will weep and lament for her.</i></p>	<p><i>Jeremiah 50:46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth trembles and the cry is heard among the nations.</i></p> <p><i>Jeremiah 51:8 Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her.</i></p>
<p>V10 <i>Saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.</i></p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 26:16-17 "All the princes... shall take up a lamentation for you and say... How you have perished...O renowned city who was strong in the sea....</i></p> <p><i>Ezekiel 27:35 Their kings will be greatly afraid and... will be troubled</i></p>
<p>V11-21 <i>Merchants of land and sea lament the destruction of Babylon.</i></p> <p><i>Babylon's trades in 30 commodities (5x6)</i></p> <p><i>Babylon trades in the souls of men</i></p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 27:27-36 Merchants of land and sea lament the destruction of Tyre</i></p> <p><i>Tyre trades in 36 commodities (6x6)</i></p> <p><i>Ezekiel 27:13 Tyre bartered in human lives</i></p>
<p>V18 <i>What is like this great city?</i></p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 27:32 What city is like Tyre, destroyed in the midst of the sea.</i></p>
<p>V19 <i>They threw dust on their heads and cried out weeping and wailing.</i></p>	<p><i>Ezekiel 27:30-31 They will cry bitterly and cast dust on their heads.... They will weep for you with bitterness of heart.</i></p>

Quote from Revelation 18	Old Testament source
<p>V20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!</p>	<p>Jeremiah 51:48 Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in them shall sing joyously over Babylon: for the plunderers shall come to her from the north, says the Lord</p> <p>Isaiah 44:23 "Sing O heavens.. shout the... earth, break forth into singing... for the Lord has redeemed Jacob...."</p>
<p>V21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."</p>	<p>Jeremiah 51:63-64 ...you shall tie a stone to it (the book) and throw it out into the Euphrates. Then you shall say, "Thus shall Babylon sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her."</p>
<p>V22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.</p>	<p>Jeremiah 25:10 "I will take from thee (Judah and surrounding nations) the voice of mirth... the voice of the bridegroom... the bride, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp."</p>
<p>V23 ...for your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.</p>	<p>Isaiah 23:8 ...Tyre the crowning city, whose merchants are princes, whose traders are the honorable of the earth.</p> <p>Nahum 3:4 ...the seductive harlot (Nineveh), the mistress of sorceries, who sells nations through her harlotries and families through her sorceries.</p>
<p>V24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth</p>	<p>Jeremiah 51:49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall.</p>

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