

# **THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

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# Revelation 18:1–24

- 1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with 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.

## Revelation 18:1–24

- 3 “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of immorality* with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”
- 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 of her plagues;

## Revelation 18:1–24

- 5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
- 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.

## Revelation 18:1–24

- 7 “To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree 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, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

## Revelation 18:1–24

- 9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament 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.’



## Revelation 18:1–24

- 11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—
- 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every *kind of* citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

## Revelation 18:1–24

13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargoes* of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

14 “The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and *men* will no longer find them.



## Revelation 18:1–24

- 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 and precious stones and pearls;

## Revelation 18:1–24

17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as 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?'

## Revelation 18:1–24

- 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 by her wealth, 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.”

## **Revelation 18:1–24**

**21 Then a strong angel took 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 not be found any longer.**

**22 “And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;**

## Revelation 18:1–24

**23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.**

**24 “And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”**



# FIRES OF BABYLON







# Place in the Book of Revelation

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III.** What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
  - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
  - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
  - C. The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
  - D. The Seven Bowls (15:1–16:21)
  - E. The Great Harlot (17:1–18)
  - F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)

## **F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)**

### **1. Declaration of Judgment (18:1–3)**

#### **a. The Glorious Angel (v. 1)**

- “another” (cf. 17:1 and 14:8)
- Divinely delegated authority
- Lit up the earth with his glory (cp. 16:10)

## **F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)**

### **1. Declaration of Judgment (18:1–3)**

#### **b. The Angel's Proclamation (vv. 2–3)**

- **Babylon the great is fallen (v. 2a; cf. Isa 21:9)**
- **Babylon becomes dwelling of demons (v. 2b; cp. Isa 13:21–22; Rev 9:1–14)**
- **Babylon caused all nations to commit idolatry (v. 3a)**
- **By her luxurious immoralities Babylon enriched the merchants (v. 3b)**

## **Question for Discussion**

**What are the evidences  
in Revelation 18  
that Babylon is a literal city?**



# Babylon—a literal city

- v. 4—God's people called out of her.
- v. 8—Subject to plagues, pestilence, mourning, famine.
- v. 8—Burned with fire.
- v. 9—Smoke from her burning.
- v. 10—Called a city; a great city.
- v. 11—Bought merchants' cargo.
- v. 12—Used material goods.



# Babylon—a literal city

- v. 13—Used spices, food, and livestock.
- v. 13—Had armaments and slaves.
- v. 17—Shipmasters brought goods and passengers to and from Babylon.
- v. 22—Musicians, craftsmen, and millers were in Babylon.
- v. 23—Weddings were conducted in Babylon.
- v. 24—Believers were killed in Babylon.

## **F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)**

- 2. Description of Judgment (18:4–24)**
  - a. God Calls His People out of Babylon (v. 4; cf. Isa 48:20; Jer 50:8; 51:6, 9, 45; 2 Cor 6:14–18)**
  - b. God Remembers Her Iniquities (v. 5; cf. Hos 8:13; 9:9; Jer 14:10)**
  - c. God Repays Babylon Double Recompense (v. 6; cf. Ps 137:8; Isa 40:2; Jer 50:15, 29)**

## **F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)**

### **2. Description of Judgment (18:4–24)**

**d. God Destroys Babylon for Her Pride  
(vv. 7–8; cf. Prov 6:16–17; 16:18; Isa  
14:12–21; 47:5–11; Jer 50:29–32)**

**e. Witnesses Lament Babylon's Judgment  
(vv. 9–19)**

- **Kings (vv. 9–10; cp. 17:16–17)**
- **Merchants (vv. 11–17a)**
- **Shipmasters (vv. 17b–19)**

## **F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)**

### **2. Description of Judgment (18:4–24)**

#### **f. Rejoicing in Heaven (v. 20)**

- All of heaven's citizens, including prophets and apostles
- Saints will receive just recompense for their martyrdom
- Contrast the three woes (vv. 10, 16, 19) with the summons to heaven's inhabitants to "Rejoice!"

## F. The Judgment of Babylon (18:1–24)

### 2. Description of Judgment (18:4–24)

#### g. Final Pronouncement of Judgment (vv. 21–24)

- A millstone cast into the sea (v. 21a; cf. Jer 51:61–64; Matt 18:6)
- Total desolation (vv. 21b–23a; cf. Jer 25:10; Ezek 26:13)
- Babylon's sorcery (v. 23b)—*pharmakeia*
- Babylon's blood guilt (v. 24; cf. 6:10; 11:7; 13:7, 15; 16:6; 17:6)

## **Question for Discussion**

**Why has God given  
so much space in the Bible  
to prophecies  
concerning Babylon?**



# Babylon in the Bible

- After the Flood, Babylon (Babel) became the archenemy of God's kingdom (Gen 10:6–10).
- Babel's tower represented mankind's rebellion against God's authority (Gen 11:1–9).
- The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, taking Israel into exile.
- Babylon is a temple to wickedness (Zech 5:5–11).
- Babylon is the last world kingdom standing against the kingdom of Messiah (Rev 17–18).

# Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- **Jesus is Babylon's enemy.**
- **Jesus is Babylon's judge.**
- **Jesus (the Lord God; 1:8) is strong/mighty.**
- **Jesus' kingdom will replace the kingdoms of this world.**