

# REVELATION 18 - LESSON 23

## REVELATION 18

Babylon - the most mentioned city other than Jerusalem.

404 verses in Revelation, 42 of them about Babylon (1 out of every 10).

Currently Babylon is in ruins. It's a place of great Archaeological Excavation.

The Babylonian empire fell to the Medes and Persians on Oct 12, 539 B C.

There is a great debate about this.

Some see this as being way more symbolic than literal.

Some even say “Babylon” is a code John was using to refer to Rome.

Therefore, some see this as a reference to a system and not necessarily a city.

There are others to which (I am in this camp), I think Babylon is actually Babylon (literal city).

There are over 300 references to Babylon in Bible and all but one refer to it as a city.

In Rev 17, there was a reference to spiritual Babylon.

Center of False World Religions System

Represents a false, World Religion that rises on the back of the Antichrist and seduces the Nations.

Remember when the Antichrist appears, the Church has already been raptured and so Christians are gone. Now there are some coming to Christ during tribulation but being martyred.

If you will recall, I showed you that at the tower of “Babel” - all the Occult practices started there.

That is where the occult worship started and they were literally trying to build a stairway to heaven.

So the “Woman” in Ch 17, represents this False Religious system that will dominate the world at some point in the future.

17:1 - She “sits on many waters”

17:2 - “Inhabitants of earth are made drunk with the wine of her fornication”.

It's spiritual adultery because people are turning their hearts away from God and turning to False Religion.

Vs 4 - "arrayed in purple and scarlet"

It means she is associated with wealth & royalty.

Vs 6 - "Drunk with blood of saints".

Promotes violence against believers.

9 & 10 - Sits on "Seven Mountains" which are "Seven Kings" or "Kingdoms".

It's an association with a political system.

Some people think the “Seven Mountains” refers to Rome and the Seven Hills of Rome.

But I think it’s more than that . . . that is why some connect this to Catholicism.

Vs 16 - 17 - The beast and 10 horns will “hate the Harlot” and bring her to ruin and “give their kingdom to the beast”.

So this 10 Nation Confederation that governs the world will hand their power over to the Antichrist.

Ch 17 - seems to all be taking place in the first part of the tribulation.

Ch 17 - Spiritual Babylon - Center of False World Religious System.

Rev 18 - Commercial Babylon - Center of world political/  
Economic System.

Vs 1 - Some think this is a reference to Jesus but another =  
“Allos” = of the same kind.

Vs 2 - “Babylon the great has fallen, is fallen”. He repeats this for  
emphasis's sake.

Basically saying it will become desolate.

He predicts its collapse and destruction.

Vs 3 - “All the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her  
fornications”.

Nations are intoxicated with materialism and greed.

When Babylon becomes the center of the World Economic System, it becomes the trophy for greed and materialism.

World is obsessed with greed and materialism and it's all around us and we are influenced by it.

We define success by how much you have.

All of us are prone to covetousness and greedy for things we don't have.

Deut 8:18 - "He gives us power to get wealth".

But in a Biblical World view, God entrusts us with things and some use it wisely and others do not.

Make sure, if He has given you material blessings, then be a funnel not a bowl.

Luke 12:48 - "To whom much is given, much will be required".

There are some cautions that we must be aware of.

### 3 CAUTIONS

- 1) Identity - Make sure our identity is in the Lord and not in material things.
  
- 2) Responsibility - We should never live about our means.
  
- 3) Tranquility - We should be at peace and content with what we have. We shouldn't be stressed and coveting what we don't have but rather be satisfied and content.

300,000 items in the average American home.

Average American home has tripled in size in 50 years.

2 in 10 Americans use off site storage.

25% folks that have garages can't park inside them.

32% only have room for 1 vehicle.

3.1% of world's children live in America but own 40% of world's toys.

Average American woman owns 30 outfits.

In 1930 it was about 8.

Average American throws away 65 lbs. of clothing per year.

We spend 100 billion a year on shoes, jewelry - that's more than kids in college getting a higher education.

Vs 4

He gives a call out to His people to "come out, lest you share in her sins and receive her plaques".

He is saying if you come to Christ during this time, don't fall into this world's system.

God is constantly telling and asking His people to come out.

We are told to live in the world, but don't be a part of the world. "Seperate yourself".

Vs 8 - "For strong is the Lord who judges her".

Vs 9

Vs 10 - It's going to be swift and all of this seems literal and not figurative.

Vs 11 - Domino effect in commercial industry.

VS 12 -List of commodities

Vs 13 -

Vs 14 - It's a list of things that are going to lose their value. All of this will come trembling down and come to an end.

Vs 15

Vs 16

Vs 17

Vs 18

Vs 19

Between all this we see Kings, Merchants, Captains and Sailors will “weep” and “lament”, “mourn” and “wail”.

They lament material loss not spiritual loss.

They are lamenting their fortune being gone but not that they don't know God.

What's going on here?

God ultimately knocks down every idol in our lives.

You see God is only One that should be exalted but the whole world is going to turn to this system.

Whether it's a - Religious System or Economic System.

Vs 20 - Notice what's happening in Heaven.

There is great rejoicing in heaven while weeping and wailing going on the earth.

Vs 21

God is going to destroy Babylon.

Now is it a city or a system or both? I think it's both!

Vs 22 - 24

So God brings an end to Spiritual Babylon and Commercial Babylon.

Paul says, II Thes 2:8 - tells us that the "Lawless One" = Antichrist, "will be overthrown by breath of the Lord and the splendor of His coming".