



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

The Fall of Babylon
Revelation 18:1-24

Summary

In Revelation 18, God pulls back the curtain on Babylon, a symbol of the city of man where wealth and consumption are treated as the answers to every human need. The chapter is structured like a giant V, with its central lesson found in the responses of kings, earth merchants, and sea merchants to Babylon's sudden destruction. Rather than asking why Babylon was judged or how they might escape God's wrath, these witnesses simply mourn the loss of their markets and profits. Their grief reveals how deeply Babylon had deceived them into believing that money could meet every need. The sermon draws out two key applications. First, money is exposed as a false Savior. It can buy clothes, food, security, and comfort, but it cannot cure anxiety, forgive sin, or provide the deep relational love every human heart craves. Only God, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, can meet those deepest needs. Second, God's call in verse 4 to "come out of her, my people" is directed at Christians who have been quietly seduced back into Babylon's way of thinking, living as though money and consumption are life's highest priorities. The sermon challenges believers to unmask Babylon's lies in their own hearts, in their families, and in their witness to their neighbors and city.

Questions

1. The sermon describes Babylon as a 'beguiling Spirit' that has been present since the beginning of human history. In your own words, what does Babylon represent, and where do you see its influence in everyday life today?
2. When Babylon is destroyed in Revelation 18, the kings and merchants do not ask why it was judged. They only mourn the loss of their profits. What does that response reveal about what they truly valued, and do you ever catch yourself responding to life's disruptions in a similar way?
3. The sermon lists 28 items of cargo in Revelation 18:12-13, representing everything money can buy, including clothes, food, health, security, and even human labor. Which of those categories do you find yourself most tempted to over-rely on money to provide?
4. The preacher said that money is like a local anesthetic whose effects wear off. What are some needs or longings in your life that money has temporarily numbed but never actually resolved?
5. The Harvard Grant Study found that the single greatest predictor of human well-being is the quality of a person's relationships. How does that finding

connect to the gospel message that God sacrificed His Son because He so eagerly wants to be in relationship with us?

6. God's call in Revelation 18:4 is directed at His own people: 'Come out of her, my people.' What does it look like practically for a Christian living in a modern city to 'come out' of Babylon's way of thinking without withdrawing from the world entirely?
7. The sermon challenged Christians to ask why their neighbors would not know from watching their lives that there is something more important than money and consumption. What would it look like for your daily habits, conversations, or priorities to reflect that conviction?
8. The preacher said the cross can be seen as God's arms wide open, eager to embrace us and meet our deepest needs. How does meditating on the cross change the way you approach your anxieties, your desires, and your sense of worth this week?

Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you have been trusting money or material comfort to meet a need that only God can truly meet. It might be anxiety about finances, a purchase you are hoping will bring happiness, or a career goal you are counting on for your sense of worth. Write it down, bring it to God in prayer each day this week, and share it with one person in your group so they can pray with you and follow up with you.

Key Takeaways

1. Babylon represents the Spirit of the city of man, a pervasive and ancient deception that tells us money and consumption can meet every human need. This Spirit is alive and active in every culture and city today.
2. The central lesson of Revelation 18 is found in the grief of the kings and merchants. When the greatest city ever built is destroyed in a single hour, they do not ask spiritual questions. They only mourn lost profits, revealing how completely Babylon had blinded them to what truly matters.
3. Money can address many surface-level problems, but it cannot cure anxiety, forgive sin, provide unconditional love, or satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart. Only God, through Jesus Christ, can do that.

4. The cross is the proof of God's eagerness to meet our deepest needs. He removed every obstacle between himself and us by giving his Son, so that he could freely offer us the love, peace, and forgiveness we truly want.
5. God's call to 'come out of her, my people' in Revelation 18:4 is a direct word to Christians. Believers are warned not to live as though money and consumption are life's highest priorities, and are called to preach and embody the good news that Jesus alone can do what Babylon only promises.