

A STUDY OF REVELATION

W. A. Dillard

PART XXIV THE FALL OF BABYLON Revelation 18:1-24

Introduction: In chapter 17 Babylon is portrayed as a woman riding the scarlet colored beast of seven heads and ten horns. The mystery of the woman, representative of apostate religion, is explained by an angel. She is to be judged and destroyed. God does this by using human instrumentality, namely the ten kings. This chapter relates the fall of Babylon, and the various reactions to her fall.

- I. THE FALL ANNOUNCED, V. 1-3.
 - A. The fall of Babylon is announced by an angel.
 - 1. It came down from heaven.
 - 2. It had great power.
 - 3. The earth was lighted by his glory.
 - B. The cry, "Babylon the Great is fallen, is fallen."
 - 1. It becomes the habitation of devils.
 - 2. The hold of every foul spirit.
 - 3. A cage of every unclean and hateful bird.
 - C. A reason for the fall.
 - 1. All nations drank of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
 - 2. Kings committed fornication with her.
 - 3. Merchants became rich through her.
- II. A WARNING TO CHRISTIANS, V. 4-5
 - A. Another voice from heaven was heard saying:
 - 1. Come out of her, my people.
 - 2. Otherwise Christians will be partakers of her sins.
 - 3. They will also receive of her plagues.
 - B. God has remembered her iniquities and will judge her.
- III. THE JUDGMENT OF BABYLON, V. 6-8.
 - A. She is to reap a double portion.
 - 1. She has lived in luxury, ill-gotten gain and perpetuated much evil.
 - 2. A double portion of grief and torment will be her payment.
 - B. She sees herself a queen and no widow and one protected against sorrow.
 - C. Her judgment comes suddenly.
 - 1. In one day.
 - 2. A judgment of death, mourning, famine.
 - 3. She shall be burned with fire.
 - 4. Her judgment will be of God.
- IV. VARIOUS REACTIONS TO HER JUDGMENT
 - A. The reaction of kings of the earth.
 - 1. They shall bewail her and lament for her.

- a. Because they committed fornication with her and thereby lived deliciously with her.
 - b. They see the smoke of her burning.
 - 2. They stand afar off for fear of her torment.
 - 3. They lament the suddenness of her judgment.
- B. The reaction of merchants.
 - 1. They weep and mourn over her.
 - a. Because commerce is stopped.
 - b. Merchandizing of every sort is destroyed.
 - 2. They bewail the loss of great wealth & the suddenness of her judgment.
- C. The reaction of seamen.
 - 1. They bewail her, casting dust on their heads.
 - 2. They lament her greatness and unparalleled loss of wealth.
 - 3. They lament her because she made them rich. Now it is gone.
- D. The reaction of heaven and of saints.
 - 1. It is rejoicing.
 - 2. Holy apostles and prophets are called upon to rejoice.
 - 3. Because they are at last revenged.

V. THE RESULT OF THE JUDGMENT ON BABYLON

- A. It shall be no more at all.
 - 1. It is cast down with violence.
 - 2. It is as a great millstone cast into the sea.
- B. Music shall never sound in it again.
- C. Craftsmen shall never practice in it again.
- D. Light shall not shine in it again.
- E. The gladness of marriage shall not sound in it again.
- F. This has happened because.
 - 1. Her merchants were made rich at the expense of others.
 - 2. She deceived the nations of earth.
 - 3. She is guilty of the blood of prophets and of saints and of all those slain.

VI. GENERAL COMMENTS

- A. On Babylon.
 - 1. What it is . . .
 - a. It is apostate religion.
 - b. It is also the combined forms of powers at work in empire.
 - (1) Political.
 - (2) Religious
 - (3) Economic
 - c. It is represented here as a city.
 - (1) Perhaps Rome is literally indicated.
 - (2) Perhaps "city" is used for system.
 - (3) Perhaps both city and system are meant.
 - 2. What Babylon thinks of itself.
 - a. She says she is a wealthy queen and not a widow.
 - b. She says so by falsely pointing to Jesus as her husband.
 - c. She believes she is so well entrenched in world society that it is impossible to remove her.

3. Babylon's position in world affairs.
 - a. She rides the crest of the beast of empire.
 - b. Her pollutions extend over kings, rulers, commerce and spiritual channels.
 4. Babylon's interdependence in world affairs.
 - a. She is protected politically by kings.
 - b. She makes and receives wealth by merchantmen.
 - c. She turns from the principles of Christ which would rebuke the world to foster every evil in order to maintain her favor with kings and merchants and by her evil favors she maintains her superior position.
 5. Babylon's judgment.
 - a. It is very sudden, "In one hour."
 - b. It is of God, but by human instrumentality: the ten kings.
 - (1) Though harbored by kings, they deeply resent the authority with which she speaks in political affairs.
 - (2) This resentment is unleashed in her judgment of destruction
- B. On Babylon's mourners.
1. She is mourned by kings, merchantmen, seamen.
 2. If kings destroy her, why do they lament her?
 3. She is so well entrenched they destroy themselves also in her destruction.
 4. If antichrist reconstructs the remains for his final form of Babylon, why do kings and merchants mourn?
 5. Probably the redistribution of centralizing of wealth leaves them out.
- C. Warning to saints.
1. The warning of verse 4-5 is general in nature for the saints of every century not to ally themselves with the world, especially the false churches of this world.
 2. The result will be reaping Babylon's judgment with her.