
The Book of Revelation: Session 23

Revelation 18

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 18 | Gary Hamrick”
(on January 6, 2021 | 31:16 minutes)

Notes:

Revelation 18: God judges “Commercial Babylon,” the centre of the world’s political/economic system

- 18:2 – Babylon will become desolate
- 18:3 – The nations will become intoxicated with Babylon’s materialism and greed
- 18:4 – A call for God’s people to separate themselves from this system
- 18:8,21 – God will judge/destroy Babylon
- 18:9,11,19 – Mourning over material loss, not spiritual destitution

“Whether much has been given to you, or little has been given to you, be good stewards of what you have.”

- “We have to make sure our identity is in the Lord, and not in material things.”
- “We should never live beyond our means. We should be responsible to live within our means.”
- “We should be at peace and content (tranquility) with what we have.”
- “There’s nothing wrong with having (owning) stuff, but just make sure that stuff doesn’t have (own) you.”

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 18:1-8. If you think the world is materialistic and money-driven now, during the latter half of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist rules, this focus will seemingly increase dramatically. John MacArthur comments: ““Piled” (v. 5 NIV) literally means “glued together” or “joined.” Babylon’s sins will pile up like a new Tower of Babel, but unlike the ancient tower, her sins *will* reach as high as heaven.” Give examples of how greed and covetousness hurts people and our world.

2. Read Revelation 18:9-20. Three times, during this “hour” of judgment, those watching cry out, “Woe, woe, O great city!” MacArthur once again comments: “This is an expression of pain, suffering, and grief, *but not of repentance*.” And likely, they go to the grave grieving their economic, but not their spiritual destitution. Read Luke 12:16-21. How can we cultivate a “rich-toward-God” spirit in ourselves, keeping us from becoming – even a little bit – like this man?

3. Read Revelation 18:21-24. At the end of John’s first letter to the church, he writes, “Dear children, keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:21 NIV). Thus far, in the book of Revelation, what idols has God judged? Read 1 John 2:15-17. How do we best cultivate a love for the things of God, and a hatred of the evil things of this world? How can we best be *in* the world, but not *of* the world (John 17:15-16)?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1994:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-63/babylon-is-fallen-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-64/babylon-is-fallen-part-2>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-65/babylon-is-fallen-part-3>