

Revelation 18

Fallen is Babylon the Great

Becoming Closer

Fallen, Fallen

(Rev 18:1-3 NIV) *After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. {2} With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. {3} For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."*

Becoming Closer

"Doom Song"

- Poetry
- Who is this angel?
- How many Babylons?



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Stage direction: exit!

(Rev 18:4-5 NIV) *Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; {5} for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes."*

Becoming Closer

The Call to Leave



- Tension of the Remnant
- Called Out
 - Sodom
 - Korah
 - Matthew 24:15-16
 - 2 Corinthians 6:17
- Holiness
 - Romans 12:2

Becoming Closer

Vengeance is Mine

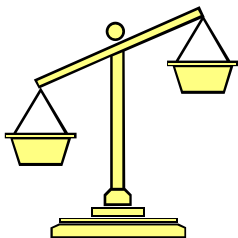
(Rev 18:6-8 NIV) *Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. {7} Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' {8} Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."*

Becoming Closer

Double, Double

- "from her own cup"
- Double, double
- "in one day:

- How fulfilled?
 - Lindsey
 - Smith



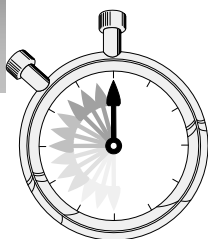
Becoming Closer

Dirge of the kings

(Rev 18:9-10 NIV) "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. {10} Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!'

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One hour



- Not just "economic"
- No help; just mourning
- Extravagance of kings; terror of example
- Beast and kings
- What have you done for me lately?

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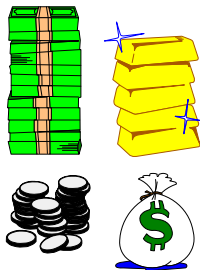
Dirge of the merchants

(Rev 18:11-16 NIV) "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more-- {12} cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; {13} cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. {14} They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' {15} The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn {16} and cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!

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Longed for, and gone

- 6-fold woe
- Look at this list!
- bodies and souls
- selfishness
- longed for, and gone
- Christian response:
 - Matthew 16:26-27
 - Philippians 4:12-13



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Dirge of the workers

(Rev 18:17-19 NIV) In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin! "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. {18} When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' {19} They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

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Where is my security?



- *Emphasis on workers*
- *Who is the lament for?*
- *Where is my security?*

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Parenthesis

(Rev 18:20 NIV) Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you."

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Rejoice!

- *Rejoice - who?*
- *Rejoice - why?*
 - *Old and New Testament views*
- *Would God do this?*
 - *can hell veto heaven?*
 - *the innocence of the victim*



Becoming Closer

...never shine again...

(Rev 18:21-24 NIV) Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. (22) The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. (23) The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. (24) In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

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No more



- *An acted parable*
 - *parallel Jeremiah 51:63-64*
- *No more*
 - *pleasure*
 - *work*
 - *light*
 - *marriage*
- *City as image*

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