

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 18

Lesson 19

God is not done with His judgments of Babylon. We saw much judgment in Revelation 17. It continues in Revelation 18 as we see her political and economic systems fail. *Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore* (Revelation 18:22). *Strong is the Lord God who judges her* (Revelation 18:8). Amen!

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 18

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns.
Key Words: *God, angel, and Babylon*
3. Using the text of Revelation 18, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John saw.
 - a. What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 18, that you had not noticed before drawing the chapter?

Read Revelation 18:1-3

1. From Revelation 18:1, record what John saw *after these things*.
 - a. What does this description of the *angel* indicate about his words and actions?

2. What did the *angel* announce concerning *Babylon* in Revelation 18:2a?
 - a. According to Revelation 18:2b, *Babylon* had become a *dwelling place* for three types of inhabitants. List them here.
 - 1.) Compare this with the description of *Babylon* in Isaiah 34:11-15. What do you see?

3. How does the declaration of Revelation 18:3 differ from that of Revelation 17:2?
 - a. Revelation 17 dealt with judgment on spiritual *Babylon*. What does the inclusion of the *merchants* in Revelation 18:3 suggest about this judgment?
 - b. Comment on the contrast between *Babylon's luxury* and its true condition according to Revelation 18:2-3.
 - c. Note the graphic way the sins of *all the nations, kings of the earth, and the merchants* are portrayed. What does this suggest to you about their actions?

4. As you consider the doom of *Babylon*, how does Matthew 6:19-21 minister to you?
 - a. Share a way you are securing eternal *treasure*.

Read Revelation 18:4-8

1. What did the *voice* in Revelation 18:4 say?
2. Revelation 18:4 is a call to the Jews living in *Babylon* during the tribulation. What does God call them to do?
 - a. Record a similar command given in Jeremiah 50:8.
 - b. What will happen if God's *people* do not heed His call? Revelation 18:4b
3. According to Revelation 18:5, why did God's *people* need to *come out*?
4. Describe the judgment called down on *Babylon* in Revelation 18:6-7a.
 - a. How does such a strong verdict suggest evil should be regarded?
5. According to Revelation 18:7b-8, how had *Babylon* been deceived?
6. Note and comment on the suddenness of God's judgment in Revelation 18:8.
 - a. What does Revelation 18:8c testify concerning the Lord?
 - 1.) Link this reality with Jeremiah 50:34. Share your thoughts.
7. Genesis 19:15-25 relates another instance in which God removed the righteous before judgment fell on a city. Read this passage and record your observations.
 - a. What does this teach us concerning the character of God? See also Genesis 18:25.
 - 1.) How does this aspect of God's character minister to you?
 - b. How are these events a warning to you? See also 2 Corinthians 6:17.
 - 1.) How would you encourage someone struggling with sin to *separate* from it?

Read Revelation 18:9-19

1. Record the reaction of the *kings of the earth* to the destruction of *Babylon*. Revelation 18:9
 - a. Why do you suppose they reacted this way?
2. Where were they *standing* when this happened and why? Revelation 18:10a
3. What did the *kings* cry out? Revelation 18:10b
 - a. Comment on the swiftness of God's judgment. See also Luke 18:7-8a.
4. From Revelation 18:11-13, summarize the predicament of the *merchants*.
 - a. What do you think is suggested by the selling of the *bodies and souls of men*?
 - 1.) How does this reveal the utter depravity of *Babylon*?
5. According to Revelation 18:14, what is the result of their loss of *merchandise*?
 - a. With this in mind, consider Proverbs 23:5 and share your thoughts.
6. Use Revelation 18:15-19 to cite the response of the *merchants* and *every shipmaster* to this economic disaster.
 - a. From the following Scriptures, remark on the plight of those who depend on financial gain:
Proverbs 1:19

Luke 12:20-21

1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - b. Contrast the result of dependency on earthly riches with Jesus' statement in Matthew 6:33. What do you see?
 - 1.) Relate a way in which the truth of Matthew 6:33 has been realized in your life.

Read Revelation 18:20-24

1. What is the response of *heaven* to these events? Revelation 18:20
 - a. Comment on the difference between the reaction of those on earth with the reaction of those in heaven.
 - b. How do you respond when faced with economic difficulty or crisis?
2. According to Revelation 18:21a, what did the *mighty angel* do?
 - a. In your own words, write the angel's pronouncement from Revelation 18:21b.
 - 1.) Compare this with Jeremiah 51:63-64 and note your observations.
3. Read Revelation 18:22-23a and record the things that would not happen *anymore*.
 - a. What does this finality indicate?
4. How are the *merchants* described in Revelation 18:23b?
 - a. Consider those in the world today who might fit this description. What is your reaction as you see their fate in this passage?
5. What was the reason for such great devastation? Revelation 18:23b-24
 - a. How is this actually a demonstration of God's love for His people? See also Zechariah 2:8-9.
 - 1.) How are you blessed by God's mindfulness toward His own?

Review Revelation 18

1. Use your study of Revelation 18 to comment on the following issues:

a. Suddenness of God's judgment – Revelation 18:8, 10, 11, 17, 19

b. Strength of the Lord – Revelation 18:8b

c. Folly of storing up treasure only on earth – Revelation 18:17

d. Righteous judgment of God – Revelation 18:20

*God has spoken once, twice I have heard this:
That power belongs to God.
- Psalm 62:11*

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 18

¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!" ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' her plagues will come in one day--death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong *is* the Lord God who judges her. ⁹ "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' ¹¹ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹² merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. ¹⁴ The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷ For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What *is* like this great city?' ¹⁹ They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' ²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and *you* holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" ²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw *it* into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³ The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."