



*In Revelation 18, John hears both the death announcement and the funeral wailings for “Babylon” – the final stance for human civilization in a wicked but prosperous city. The city’s complete doom is symbolized by a huge boulder thrown into the sea.*

## Outline

- **Chapter Preview** ..... *Introduction*
- **The Fall of Babylon the Great** ..... *Revelation 18:1-8*
- **The World Mourns Babylon’s Fall** . *Revelation 18:9-20*
- **Finality of Babylon’s Fall** ..... *Revelation 18:21-24*



## Truths & Principles

- ✓ While wealth and luxury are not inherently evil, they often come at too high a price: human slavery and hostility to God’s ways.
- ✓ Boasting and arrogance are sure indicators of a coming downfall.
- ✓ When God finally judges sinful human civilization, the condemnation will be total and eternal.

## Preview

The final aspects of the fall of Babylon are given in detail. The great commercial center of the global economy is destroyed and burned up in “one hour”. Sailor and merchants mourn over the “smoke of her burning.” But the revelator announces: “Rejoice over her! Babylon falls that the New Jerusalem may come.



## Applications

- ✓ Determine the ways in which you must “come out of” any close alliance with culture and civilization.
- ✓ Enjoy the fine things of life only if you are sure they do not come to you through immoral or unjust means.
- ✓ Be willing to pay the price of martyrdom if “Babylon” requires it of you.
- ✓ Rejoice that God will someday judge “Babylon” for all her crimes.



*Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21*

1. When the angel cried that Babylon had fallen, what had Babylon become (18:2)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. John heard a voice saying not be partakers of sin so that they may avoid (18:4)? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did the judgment of Babylon take (18:8)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What would you find no more (18:14)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What had the great city been clothed in (18:16)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did those who were weeping and mourning throw on their heads (18:19)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the strong angel throw in the sea (18:21) \_\_\_\_\_
8. By what were all nations deceived (18:23) \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Questions

1. Read Isaiah 24:1-10.
  - ❖ What key to the prophetic significance of Revelation 18 do you find in these verses?
2. Consider how the various parties react to the fall of Babylon.
  - ❖ Why do they mourn?
  - ❖ What do they miss most about Babylon?
3. If you had been one of the people spoken of in 18:4,
  - ❖ What would have been your reaction?
    - ☐ "I'm so surprised."
    - ☐ "Wait a minute, let me pack."
    - ☐ "Well, it's about time."
    - ☐ "Oh, those poor people – if they'd only listened!"
4. Compare this message of judgment with the message to and reaction of the people of Nineveh in the book of Jonah.
5. Read some of the other episodes in the Bible where God destroyed evil cities: Genesis 19; Isaiah 13-14; Jeremiah 50-51; Ezekiel 26-28; Matthew 11:21.
  - ❖ Which city is in view in each of the passages?
  - ❖ What was it about these cities that deserved God's wrath?
  - ❖ How does each one serve as a mirror for what God will do to the whole world?
  - ❖ What sort of message does each destruction deliver?