

37. The Description of the Fall of Commercial Babylon

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how Christ will allow the antichrist to completely destroy organized religion before he is judged. In this topic, we will see that godless materialism (commercial Babylon) is the other god of the people and so we will see the judgment of commercial and political Babylon.

We saw that false religion by a large group of people began at Babel. We also see that Babel became the first city to seek to make a name for itself. Genesis 11:3-4 says, “Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’” Here, we see the attitude of pride as they determined to build a city that would make a name for itself. Throughout history, that attitude has produced commercial Babylon.

Revelation 18:1-3 says, “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 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! 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.” Here, we see that a sudden change comes to the earth. In Revelation 16:10, we read, “Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.” This darkness is suddenly turned to light as this angel causes the earth to be illuminated with his glory.

We see that this angel has been given great authority. The angel is then given an announcement about the event that will happen soon. We see the first words of the message of the angel, as he cries out with a very loud voice, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.” This is an announcement of what will soon happen as God tells His people to come out of the city before this destruction comes in verse 8. We read what Babylon will become once this destruction happens. This destruction will mean that no people will remain because of the complete destruction. Instead, the only things left to live there will be the demons, the foul spirits, the unclean birds, and the hated birds.

We see that the destruction of Babylon will affect all of the nations of the world. We saw, in the previous two topics, that Babylon has committed religious fornication with its false religion. A big part of many false religions is sinful living. This sinful living is often a part of a drunken stupor. This is illustrated by the drunken celebration of Belshazzar the king of Babylon when it was conquered by Medo-Persia. Daniel 5:3-4 says, “Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone.” Here, we see that, in their drunken state, they mocked God by using the gold vessels taken from the temple as they praised their gods of

gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. We see that commercial Babylon will invite the nations, the kings of the earth, and the merchants of the earth to join them in their godless lifestyle. Then, we see the merchants from throughout the earth have become rich through their business. God also gives a warning for the saints to separate themselves from commercial Babylon before the judgment of Babylon comes. Revelation 18:4-5 says, “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. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.’” Here, we see that God gives His saints two reasons to separate themselves from commercial Babylon. First, God says to come out of Babylon so the saints do not share in their sins. We see how the sins of Sodom affected Lot in 2 Peter 2:7-8, where we read: “And delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds).” We see that Lot was oppressed and tormented daily as he saw and heard about their lawless deeds.

Second, God tells his people to come out of Babylon and its godless commercial system so they will not receive her plagues. In Genesis 19:22-26, we read, “‘Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.’ Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.” God gave Lot time to escape, but there will be no time to escape when the judgment of Babylon comes. We also see that Lot lost his wife, even though he himself escaped.

God goes on to say that the sins of commercial Babylon have reached to heaven. He also says that He has remembered her iniquities. Hebrews 10:17 quotes Jeremiah 31:34 when it says, “Then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’” God does not remember the sins of His saints, but here, we see that He does remember the sins of those who are in rebellion against Him. In fact, all who do not come to the Lord in repentance and faith will one day be judged by their works. Revelation 20:13 says, “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” We go on to read what God will do to commercial Babylon because of her sin.

Revelation 18:6-8 says, “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. 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.’ Therefore 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.” Then, Revelation 16:19 adds, “Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.” Here, we see that God is going to complete the judgment of Babylon in one day.

God said that Babylon will reap what she has sown. Galatians 6:7-8 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” We saw the description of Babylon in Revelation 17:4-5, where we read: “The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” Here, we see that Babylon is a city with great riches, and great evil, and the time has come for her judgment.

The evil works of Babylon will be repaid with evil. In fact, we see that this repayment of evil to Babylon will be double. First, she will be repaid for her pride. We read that Babylon has glorified herself. The pride of Babylon is compared to the pride of Satan in Isaiah 14:4, and 12-15, where we read: “That you will take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say: ‘How the oppressor has ceased, the golden city ceased!’...How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” This shows the tremendous danger of pride.

Second, Babylon will be judged for her luxurious living because she gained that wealth by destroying others. God said that he will give Babylon torment and sorrow. We also see the heart attitude of Babylon when that city said, “I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.” Babylon, and those who follow the pattern of Babylon, have lived in luxury throughout history. Now, we see that God says the time has come for judgment: for Babylon, and all those who have the attitude of Babylon. Just as the original city of Babylon fell in one day, we see that the judgment of commercial Babylon will happen in one day. It will be a day of death and mourning. We see that it will also be a day of total and complete destruction. Babylon will be so completely burned with fire, there will be nothing left. Babylon will experience the fact that the Lord God who judges her is strong. In the next topic, we will see how the rest of the world will respond to the complete destruction of commercial Babylon.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain that, in the tribulation, the spiritual and commercial Babylon which both got their start at the tower of Babel will be so completely destroyed, they will never recover. This judgment of Babylon will affect people throughout the world, as the city of Babylon and all that it stands for will be completely destroyed and never rise again. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain how complete this judgment will be.