

The Fall of Babylon
Revelation 18
Bible Study Notes

*'So, Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon **Babylon**, all these words that are written against Babylon. And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, "When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, then you shall say, **'O LORD, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.'***

Jeremiah 51:60-62

In our last study together, we looked at the *'great prostitute who sits upon the beast'* in **Revelation 17**, and how when her mortal wound shall be healed, she shall once again rule the nations of the world and cause them to worship the dragon, or satan; *all those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life*. We identified this harlot as *'Mystery Babylon'* which Bible prophecy reveals to be **the Roman Papacy** in conjunction with the political leaders of the world and apostate Christianity in America. We saw that this alliance shall reach its peak just before the Second Coming of Jesus, however, at the end of our study, we saw that the *'kings of the earth'* shall come to hate the harlot and shall turn against her along with the deceived masses and the *'waters of the Euphrates shall be dried up'*, that is, we shall see the fall of end time Babylon as we know it, as the people of the earth shall take away their support from the beast and shall no longer wonder after it but shall seek to destroy it.

As we therefore, go into our study on **Revelation 18**, we shall go in-depth into the fall of Babylon just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus. We shall also compare the fall of literal Babylon in the days of the Old Testament Prophets and compare it to the fall of Spiritual Babylon at the end of time.

What was literal and local in the days of Ancient Israel, becomes symbolic and global in the days of Spiritual Israel, as Israel, according to the Apostle Paul **[Galatians 3:26-29]**, has now become global, that is, all God's people all across the world; they, *'are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise'*.

It would be helpful to mention that in studying **Revelation 18**, it would also be beneficial for the student of Bible prophecy to compare the parallel scriptures in **Isaiah 13**, **Jeremiah 50** and **Jeremiah 51**.

vs.1

*'After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, **having great authority**, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.'*

After the angel gives John the explanation of the vision which he received in **Revelation 17**, John then sees another vision, where an angel is descending from the Heavens in power and glory, *'having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory'*.

This seems to be Christ himself, coming to shed abroad the light of his gospel to all nations just before His Second Coming, in the person of his Remnant Church; *those faithful Bible believing Christians living during the mark of the beast crisis, who will preach Bible truth regardless of the consequences.*

*'And behold, **the glory of the God of Israel** came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and **the earth shone with His glory.**' Ezekiel 43:2*

*'Arise, shine; For your light has come! And **the glory of the LORD** is risen upon you. For behold, **the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people;** But the LORD will arise over you, And **His glory will be seen upon you.**' Isaiah 60:1-2
vs.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!"*

Here goes out the Loud Cry message to all the earth, for **'the earth was illuminated with his glory'** says the Apostle John. This is a world-wide message which goes out with great power.

The proclamation of the 3 angel's messages of **Revelation 14:6-12**, go out with mighty power *invigorated by the latter rain* which shall befall the sealed saints of God before the harvest of the earth, **Revelation 14:14-20**. It would be good to study my notes on **The early and the latter rain**, for a better understanding of this and the harvest.

The sins of Babylon, *'that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth', 'have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.'* [**Revelation 17:18;18:5**]. She is a dwelling place of demons, an apostate and fallen form of Christianity mingled with the influence of the world governments, of which, *'the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.'* "Babylon" is a term which embraces not only paganism and the Roman Catholic Church, but religious bodies which have withdrawn from that church, but bringing many of her errors and traditions with them.

*"Since the fall here introduced is **a spiritual one**, it must apply to some branch of Babylon outside of the pagan or papal divisions; for from the beginning of their history paganism has been a false religion, and the papacy an apostate one. Further as **this fall is said to occur but a short period before Babylon's final destruction**, certainly this side of the rise and predicted triumph of the papal church, this testimony cannot apply to **any religious organizations but such as have sprung from that church**. These started out on reform. They ran well for a season, and had the approbation of God; but bringing some of her erroneous doctrines with them, and fencing themselves about with creeds of their own, they have failed to keep pace with the advancing light of prophetic truth. This has left them where they will finally develop a character as odious in the sight of God as that of the church from which they withdrew.... The term Babylon, as applied to them [The Fallen Protestant Churches], is not a term of reproach, but is simply expressive of the confusion and diversity of sentiment that exists among them. Babylon need not have fallen. She might have been healed (Jeremiah 51: 9) by receiving the truth, but **she rejected it**. In not accepting the truth of the Second Coming of Christ and in rejecting the first angel's message (Revelation 14:6-7), **the churches failed to walk in the advanced light shining on their pathway from the throne of God**. As a result, confusion and dissension reign within their borders. Worldliness and pride are fast choking every plant of heavenly growth."* Uriah Smith

Says the apostle Paul to the Church in Thessaloniki, *'Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day** will not come unless **the falling away** comes first...'* **2nd Thessalonians 2:3**

The word in the original Greek for the phrase *'falling way'* is **APOSTASIA**, from which we get the English word, *apostasy*, which is a *'falling away'* from the truth, from true Bible based Christianity, to the apostate teachings and doctrines of the harlot of Babylon. Paul tells us that, *that Day*, which is the 2nd Coming of Jesus, shall not

come until the Christian Church has apostatized from the truth and have been *made 'drunk with the wine'* of Babylon. The false teachings of the Roman Church have become so deeply embedded in Church teachings, that self-professed Christians, take them for doctrine rather than what the Bible has to say, the Living Word of God has been cast to the ground and the commandments of man have been placed on a pedestal.

vs.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.'*

All people of the world have drunk the wine of Babylon's fornications, **[Revelation 17:2]**. **The multitudes, nations, tribes and people have all been led astray along the path which leads to destruction.**

The governments and leaders of the world have committed fornication with her, they have all engaged in illicit activity and have given over their power and authority to her, **[Revelation 17:2, Revelation 17:13]**. The Church has united with the State, and she has used the state to execute her will.

The great businessmen and business leaders, the important men of the world have grown wealthy through Babylon and her sinful acts. They have all amassed their riches through fornicating with Babylon, the mother of harlots. *The love of money truly is the root of all evil.*

*'Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunk. **The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations are deranged.**' **Jeremiah 51:7***

Notice the words of the Prophet Jeremiah about the kingdom of Babylon before the Babylonian conquest of the Israelites in the Old Testament. What we see taking place in the literal, is a direct parallel to what shall take place at the end of time in the spiritual sense. God's people in these last days, *True Israel*, God's faithful remnant of believers, shall be persecuted by the followers of Satan, here referred to as Babylon.

As it was in the days of Jacob and Esau so shall it be in the days before the Coming of Jesus. The world shall be polarised into two groups of people, those have received the seal of the living God, and those who have received the mark of the beast, there is no middle ground as many falsely believe. Read **Ezekiel 8 & 9, Revelation 7 & 13.**

Those who have received God's seal are referred to as *the remnant of Jacob*, **Micah 5:7**, and those who receive the mark of the beast are referred to as *the house of Esau*, **Obadiah 1:18**. Knowing and understanding this, we can learn many things from the account of Jacob and Esau in the Book of Genesis.

*'For **violence against your brother Jacob**, Shame shall cover you and **you [Esau] shall be cut off forever.** In the day that you stood on the other side— In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem—Even you [Esau] were as one of them.'* **Obadiah 1:10-11**

*'And the house of Jacob shall be a fire and the house of Joseph a flame and **the house of Esau for stubble**, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them and **there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken it.**' **Obadiah 1:18***

vs.4-5

*'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.'*

Immediately we see here that God has many people still left in Babylon whom He is pleading with to come out of her, *'for her sins have reached to heaven and God has remembered her iniquities.'*

God has many people still in Babylon, faithful servants who worship Him to the best of their knowledge but are ignorant of many biblical truths, He is therefore calling His people out of Babylon before it is too late. Should we stay in Babylon wilfully and resist the voice of God pleading with us, we will continue to partake of her sins and as a result will receive the mark of the beast and will ultimately receive of her plagues and be destroyed by the wrath of God. We must heed the voice of God and not grieve the Holy Spirit with which we are sealed *unto the day of redemption*. **Ephesians 4:30**

We see here that if we do not come out of the false systems of Christianity and the pagan religions of the world, then ultimately, we shall continue to partake of the sins of Babylon. There is no neutrality as some wrongfully believe.

We are either fully for Christ or fully for Satan. The Great Controversy has only two sides.

Said Jesus, *'He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.'*

Matthew 12:30

The Tower of Babel in the Old Testament was to reach to the heavens according to its builders. **Genesis 11:4**

It is interesting to note that the sins of Babylon (*Modern day Babel*) have reached to the heavens in these last days, **Revelation 18:5**. Babylon has indeed made a name for herself, but God has never forgotten any of her sins.

Her destruction shall surely come, it will not delay.

vs.6-8

*'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.'*

Compare with **Psalms 137:8** & **Jeremiah 50:15,29** which speaks about literal Babylon.

Babylon will be a widow because she will lose the support of her lovers, ***the kings***, and she will lose the support of her children, ***the Protestant denominations***. Both her lovers and her children & the multitudes of people of the earth who have been deceived, will turn against her, and the *waters shall dry up*. She will come to her end with none to help her **[Daniel 11:45]**.

'Therefore, hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely, who say in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children'. But these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments. Isaiah 47:8-9

When we compare the punishment of the Harlot in Revelation 18, we see some striking resemblances to that found in the Old Testament.

'And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore, she is with child by harlotry. "So, Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!" Genesis 38:24

'The daughter of any priest [Jesus, our Great High Priest], if she profanes herself by playing the harlot, she profanes her father. She shall be burned with fire.' Leviticus 21:9

What we notice here is that, in the Old Testament, a woman, who was convicted of harlotry [prostitution] was to be put to death and burned by fire.

She has defiled her body in the sight of God and as a result must be burned. This was a type of the Great Harlot of Revelation 18, who we see, because of her abominations, and harlotries, she shall be burned with fire from on high.

How did she commit harlotry you may ask?

As we have already mentioned earlier, a woman in Bible prophecy represents a Church, that is, God's Covenant keeping people. A harlot would then represent an apostate Church, one who has transgressed the Law of God and has turned to apostasy.

She, who is deemed to be the bride of Christ, Ephesians 5:25,-27,32, has committed adultery against her Husband and turned to many lovers, the kings of the earth, Revelation 17:1-2. She has turned herself over to harlotry and has even conceived many daughters who hold to her teachings and doctrines, Revelation 17:5, and as a result her plagues shall come upon her in one day [one prophetic day is one literal year], and she shall be burned with fire unto destruction.

vs.9-11

'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, 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. And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore'

"Whereas chapter 17 deals primarily with the sentence against Babylon, chapter 18 is concerned with the execution of that sentence." Ellen G. White, The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 864

'The infliction of the first plague, Revelation 16:2, must result in a complete suspension of traffic in those articles of luxury for which Babylon is noted. When the merchants of these things, who are to a great extent citizens of this symbolic city, and who have been made rich by their traffic in these things, suddenly find themselves and their neighbours smitten with putrefying sores, their traffic suspended, and vast stores of merchandise on hand, but

none to buy them, **they lift up their voices in lamentation for the fate of this great city.** If there is anything which will draw from the men of this generation a sincere cry of distress, it is that which touches their treasures. There is a fitness in this retribution. They who but a short time before had issued a decree that the saints of God should **neither buy nor sell, Revelation 13:16,17,** now find themselves put under the same restriction in a far more effectual way. The figure the apostle uses would not be complete without a feature of this kind, and he uses it, not to imply that people would literally flee from the symbolic city, which would be impossible, but to denote their terror and amazement at the descending judgments. ' **Uriah Smith, Daniel & the Revelation**

Here we see that the great political & capitalist leaders of the world who were committing fornication with the harlot shall weep and wail at the falling of this system of Babylon.

The plagues have begun to fall, **Revelation 16,** noisome sores have covered all of the wicked, the oceans and all the fresh water of the earth have been turned to blood, and the oppressive system of Babylon, headed by the Papacy is now falling to ruins.

It was decreed that all who refuse the mark of the beast shall not be able to buy or sell, now, as God recompenses upon the inhabitants of Babylon, they themselves can neither buy nor sell of the merchandise of which they put their hope and trust in.

vs.12-16

'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; 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. 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. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 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!'

Notice the extent of the treasures of the merchants, they represent all the industries of the world. They were made rich by fornicating with the harlot and gained by her wealth and trade, they trafficked for her indulgences, pardons and honours, but all this wealth shall come to nought.

*These verses describe the reaction of the merchants of the earth when Babylon falls apart. These who weep and wail are **'the great men of the earth'** (Revelation 18:23). In that day the Amazons, the Facebooks, and the Googles of the world will see that the accumulation of wealth at the expense of the poor has cost them eternal life. The wicked do not lament because they have sinned, they lament because they have lost their riches and with their riches, eternal life. Time and again as the plagues are being poured out, we are told that the wicked refused to repent (Revelation 16:9-11) **Pastor Stephen Bhor***

Here are fulfilled the words of the Apostle Paul where he says, *'The love of money is the root of all evil'* **1st Timothy 6:10,** the fruit that the souls of these 'great men of the earth' longed after shall be the cause of their destruction. They shall lose their wealth and also lose their souls.

Notice that the great city, Babylon, 'was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls', this is the same description we see of the harlot in **Revelation 17:4**, further confirming that the Harlot and Babylon are one in the same.

vs.17-19

*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?'*

*"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.'*

Here we see that in 'one hour' Babylon's judgement has come upon her, this can either represent 15 literal days using the 'day for a year' principle', or the fact that Babylon's judgements came upon here with rapid succession.

Also notice the lament of those who trade & travel upon the sea as Babylon is falling into eternal destruction.

*'Imagine the plague of sores preying upon men, the rivers turned to blood, the sea like the blood of a dead man, the sun scorching men with fire [**Revelation 16:1-9**], the traders' traffic gone, and their silver and gold unable to deliver them, and we need not wonder at their exclamations of distress, nor that shipmasters and sailors join in the general wail.' **Uriah Smith, Daniel & the Revelation***

It was previously asked by the wicked, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' **Revelation 13:4**, now darkness has come over the throne of the beast, **Revelation 16:10**, and the wicked 'blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and did not repent of their deeds.' **Revelation 16:11**

Despite the events that shall come upon God's people during these last days of earth's history, let us remember that God is in control and let us exclaim like the Israelites of old, 'Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?' **Exodus 15:11**

vs.20-24

*'**Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!**' 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. 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. 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.'*

The righteous saints and the angels in Heaven are here called upon to rejoice over the fall and destruction of the wicked city of Babylon, *the great harlot who sits upon the beast*, for God has rewarded her double, *'for her sins have reached unto Heaven.'*

Like a great millstone thrown into the sea, so shall Babylon sink, never to rise again, *'she is fallen is fallen.'* The great musicians and their worldly & pompous music shall no longer be found, the great artists, actors and entertainers of the world shall no longer be found, total economic collapse shall take place and all earthly riches shall be vanity.

"In her was found the blood" of "all that were slain upon the earth." From this it is evident that ever since the introduction of a false religion into the world, Babylon has existed. In her has been found, all along, opposition to the work of God, and persecution of His people.

Read the words spoken by the Prophet Jeremiah pertaining the literal kingdom of Babylon and compare with end time Spiritual Babylon.

*'Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates. Then you shall say, **Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her.** And they shall be weary.'* **Jeremiah 51:63-64**

The great sin of Babylon is that she persecutes God's people and sheds their blood. This is the picture that we find in every one of the antichrist passages and for this she shall suffer the wrath of God, unmixed without mercy. **(Matthew 24:14, 15 Daniel 7:21, 25; Daniel 8:24; Daniel 11:44, 45; Revelation 13:7; Revelation 17:6; Revelation 18:20, 24).**

'Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; Sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate... "Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called the Lady of Kingdoms.'
Isaiah 47:1,5