

Part 6 - JET TOUR THROUGH REVELATION

Destruction of Babylon (Rev. 17-18)

INTRO: End Times Chart . . . Trib. Chart . . . Judgment is done! (16:17)
The seals have been broken. Trumpets blown. Bowls poured out.
Awaiting return of Christ (19:11-21). Chapters 17-18 explain worldwide conditions in the tribulation period under the rule of Antichrist. These two chapters describe “Babylon,” the final system (politically, militarily, economically, commercially, religiously) and its ultimate destruction. Chapter 17 examines spiritual Babylon, the world’s religious system. Chapter 18 the commercial Babylon, world’s economic system.

“BABYLON” is both a city (50 miles S of Bagdad) and a system. The only city mentioned more in the Bible than Babylon (287) is Jerusalem (800+). Mentioned 44 times in Revelation (once every ten verses) and 6 times in Chapters 17-18. 3 slides on city . . . Originally, Babylon, built and led by Nimrod, was the seat of man’s rebellion against God and the mother (Semiramis) that birthed all false religions (Gen. 10:6-11; 11:1-9) – Tower of Babel slide. It is an evil city and system controlled by the Antichrist and energized by Satan that is opposed to God and His people (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Babylon is the world system of “the beast,” the entire religious, political, military and commercial system he rules during the tribulation period.

CHAPTER 17 – FALL OF *SPIRITUAL* BABYLON (mostly first half)

- THE WOMAN ON THE BEAST (17:1-6)
 - Announcement of the Judgment of the “great harlot” – the Woman (vv. 1-2) – a false world religion that rises on the back of the Antichrist and deceives the nations. Vast spiritual vacuum after Rapture. She has vast global influence (“sits on many waters”). Fosters false religion and spiritual adultery.
 - Authority of the Woman (v. 3) – supported by the Beast and False Prophet.
 - Appearance of the Woman (v. 4) - her adornment (v. 4a) wealth and royalty; her abominations (v. 4b)
 - Association of the Woman with Babylon (v. 5) - she is a mystery; she is the great mother of harlots (Semiramis)
 - Accusation against the Woman (v. 6) – She promotes violence against all Jews and believers
- THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAST (17:7-14) - PIC

- Impact of the Beast (vv. 7-8)
- Identity of the “Seven heads and ten horns” (vv. 9-10) – Successive Gentile empires – The “mountains” are kings or kingdoms (v. 15). Consistent with Daniel’s empires. “5 have fallen” “One is . . .” “other to come” (PPT 2 slides for details)
- Introduction of the eighth head (v. 11) – Antichrist (Beast) takes over mid-tribulation
- Involvement of the ten horns (vv. 12-14a) – Ten-nation confederacy of Revived Roman Empire (USA?)
- Impossibility the ten horns will face (v. 14b) – Lamb will conquer

• THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WOMAN (17:15-18)

- Meaning of “the waters” (v. 15; cp. v.1) – many Gentile nations
- Means by which she is destroyed (v. 16) – the Beast (Antichrist) – mid-tribulation (2 Thess. 2:3-4). The 10 kings submit and the “harlot church” is overthrown and replaced with the rule and worship of the Antichrist, around mid-Trib.
- Motivation behind her destruction (v. 17) – God is sovereign
- Meaning of the woman (v. 18) – “the great city” (Babylon is a city and a system)

CHAPTER 18 – FALL OF *COMMERCIAL* BABYLON - Materialism and greed old as time (Lk. 12:15). Pay attention to: identity, responsibility and tranquility. STATS . . . (John heard four voices each giving an important announcement:)

Voice 1: Voice of *Condemnation* (vv. 1-3)

Voice 2: Voice of *Separation* (vv. 4-8)

Voice 3: Voice of *Lamentation* (vv. 9-19) - by the kings of the earth (vv. 9-10) and by the merchants of the earth (vv. 11-19). They lament their material loss not their spiritual loss!

Voice 4: Voice of *Celebration* (vv. 20-24)

Call to rejoice (v. 20)

Babylon is fallen (vv. 21-23) – end of tribulation (14:8; 16:19)

Justification for destruction (v. 24)

CONC: “Chaos, devastation and death” are words that describe the world in the tribulation period—and now. In every realm—politically, racially, socially, economically, religiously—all in turmoil. Reason? Psalm 2 world living in rebellion to God—chaos every where. Only solution? Jesus Christ! His return is next!