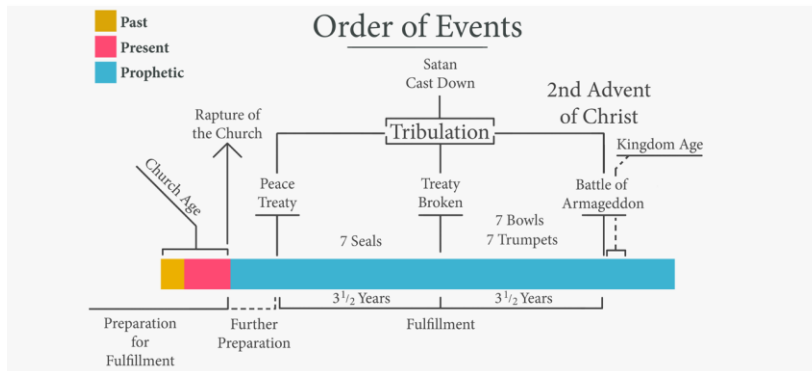


Revelation 18:4-19:5 – Judgment On Babylon, Rejoicing In Heaven



Rev. 18:4-8: *“Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are...”*

- Vs. 4 tells us that this is a warning from heaven.
- Whether we see Babylon as a particular rebuilt city, a city designated as such, or a city and system (political, religious, economic), the judgment does not change.
- The people noted in vs. 4, God’s people, has various interpretations. Some believe this takes place before the seven bowl judgments of Rev. 15-16. So, it may be the gathering of the 144,000 just before God’s final judgment on Babylon.
- It could be the gathering of Israel as a nation or it is the final call, as noted earlier, for those who would come to faith in Christ.
- Vss. 5-8 is descriptive of the judgment to fall on Babylon. God will pour out His wrath on this city and/or system.
- We must keep in mind that God has given man a chance during the tribulation, those who had not constantly rejected the Gospel, the opportunity to be saved.
- The idolatry (vs. 3), arrogance and pride of Babylon, noted in Rev. 18:6-7 will be dealt with. Babylon sees itself as indestructible, but God will deal with them.

** We must not think that if God has blessed us with material things that it is necessarily wrong. It is if those things control us, and we do not put God in His proper place, then we, whether we realize it or not, are having a Babylonian moment. For the coming world empire, it is about luxury, false worship, idolatry, pride.

Rev. 18:9-14: *“And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning...”*

- In vss. 4-8 the judgment noted comes from heaven. In vss. 9-20 it is the people here on earth who note the judgment and its repercussions on the world.
- In vs. 9 we see how the other leaders of nations will be devastated by the fall of Babylon. They seem to know that judgment has come (vs. 10).
- Babylon is an economic trade center (vss. 11-13), and its fall affects the economy worldwide. The merchants are weeping for themselves more than

anything (vs. 11). They have no one to buy their cargo. They are so dependent upon Babylon that when judgment comes, they have nowhere else to go.

- Note some of the things mentioned in these verses. Slavery will be a part of what is happening in the world.
- The collapse of the antichrist and his system has massive repercussions.
- The nations who were so dependent upon this world empire will mourn because all they enjoyed is coming to an end. See Rev. 18:14.

Rev. 18:15-20: *“The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, “Alas, alas, for the great...”*

- The merchants of the items noted in the previous verses stand in awe and fear as this great city and its leader come to their ruin (vss. 15-17).
- When judgment hits it will be swift.
- Note vss. 18-19. As the city burns, the ships and sailors weep over Babylon. Their dependence on it has now ended and they are watching their world collapse. They cannot change what is happening.
- Vs. 20 is clear – this is judgment from God and in this case, it is irreversible. Those who have been martyred will see justice done.

Rev. 18:21-24: *“Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence...”*

- These verses describe the absolute destruction of the city and system. Whether a literal rebuilt Babylon or another city and political system, God will deal with it.
- Note vs. 21. Babylon “will be found no more.” In vss. 22-23 we see two words that describe the end of Babylon – “no more.” God’s dealings are complete.
- The false religious system will end, and there is judgment for the taking of the lives of followers of Christ.
- Babylon had deceived the nations and she had to be dealt with.

** As Chuck Swindoll notes, there is, *“the total destruction of every facet of society, from fine arts to night life, from fine craftsmanship to common labor.”*

Warren Wiersbe, while noting that at the right time God will deal with those who have opposed God and His people, writes,

“We must not think that this voice of celebration calls us to be glad because sinners are judged. The fact of divine judgment ought always to break our hearts, knowing that lost sinners are condemned to eternal punishment. The joy in this section centers on God’s righteous judgment, the fact that justice has been done. It is easy for comfortable Bible students to discuss these things in their homes. If you and I were with John on Patmos, or with the suffering saints to whom he wrote, we might have a different perspective. We must never cultivate personal revenge (Rom. 12:17–21), but we must rejoice at the righteous judgments of God.”

Rev. 19:1-5: *“After this I heard what seemed to be a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God...”*

- The scene shifts to heaven in Rev. 19. There is rejoicing in heaven over what has taken place in Rev. 18.
- The enemy has been defeated, and God’s people are rejoicing.
- The church, martyred believers from all ages, believers from all of history, are rejoicing before God’s throne.

** The MacArthur Study Bible notes five reasons for the praise we read here in Rev. 19: **(1)** God’s deliverance of His people from their enemies (vs. 1); **(2)** God’s meting out of justice (vs. 2); **(3)** God’s permanent crushing of man’s rebellion (vs. 3); **(4)** God’s Sovereignty (vs. 6); **(5)** God’s communion with His people (vs. 7).

There are, in looking at Rev. 18-19, two reactions to the destruction of Babylon shown in the following from Mark Hitchcock,

Two Reactions to the Destruction of Babylon

Earth	Heaven
Woe	Worship
Grief	Glory
Mourning	Delight

Practical Application:

- All of God’s attributes encompass Who He is. He is gracious, giving people time to repent. He is just and righteous, seen in His judgment on a world that has opposed Him and His people.
- As we see the end of the reign of Babylon, it needs to remind us of the fact that we know people who need Christ, who have no future hope outside of a relationship with Jesus. We must be diligent in sharing the message of the Gospel with a lost and dying world.