

knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.”

- ii. Pride filled her attitude: I “will never see mourning.” But Jesus said: ^{NAU} **Luke 14:11** “... everyone who exalts himself will be humbled...”
 - c. **8** For this reason [literally, “therefore”] in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and hunger, and she will be burned up in fire [2 Peter 3:10]; because the Lord God who judges her is strong. // Think about it: Unbelievable prosperity; then, *IN ONE DAY*, destruction will come!
3. **The Reaction to Babylon’s Fall:** **9** “And the kings of the earth, who committed fornication and lived sensuously with her, will weep and mourn over her whenever they see the smoke of her burning, **10** standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! Because in one hour your judgment has come.’ // Judgment will also come upon the kings of the earth, but here we see ♦their fear, ♦their shock, ♦their wondering – if this is happening to her, *what will happen to us!*

Conclusion: Whenever life seems out of order – *unbelievers prospering and Christians struggling*, remember that the day is coming when God will set all things right – →bringing unbelievable wrath upon all who have rejected Jesus, but also →bringing unbelievable blessing to all who know Jesus as Savior. Between now and then, may God keep us ♦using His Word, ♦trusting in Jesus, and ♦filled with His peace! *Amen!*

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More Details of The Judgment of *Babylon the Great* Part 1 of 2

Based on Revelation 18:1-10 NAU

17th Sunday after Pentecost / 16th Sunday after Trinity – 2011
Thursday, 10/6 → 7:00 † Sunday, 10/9 → 8:00 & 10:45

Introduction: Dear friend in Jesus Christ, do you see a conflict between *your life* and *your expectations as a forgiven child of God*? In other words, *as a Christian*, you may expect a life of *ease*, yet you may be experiencing a life of *trouble*.

Since God is almighty in power, *we know He is able to give us a life of ease*; however, He also loves us so much that He allows certain trials to come in order to prove (1 Peter 1:3-9) and grow (James 1:2-4) our faith!

Even though today’s world can seem backwards – *where the evil prosper and the righteous struggle*, God wants us to remember ♦*His coming judgment* upon all who continue in their sins AND ♦*His coming bliss* for all who continue in Jesus!

This sermon is part 1 of 2 on chapter 18 of Revelation, which identifies: “...*the end of all the pleasures, cares, and riches by which Satan had led believers to abandon Christ.*” (Becker, 272) Earlier in the book the fall of Babylon the Great was *promised* (14:8); then in chapter 17 it was *executed* (vv. 16-17); now in 18 we see more of the *details and consequences* of her fall:

1. **The Announcement of Babylon’s Fall:**
 - a. **1** After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was enlightened from his glory. // In chapter 17 John’s escort was one of the angels who held one of

the seven bowls of God's wrath (chapter 16); now we see yet another angel – *with great authority and glory* – by which the earth was enlightened, *thus he revealed the truth about Babylon the Great!* Even though many are now deceived, *a time is coming when all will see clearly!*

- b. ² **And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [spoken twice to assure us of her coming fall]! She has become a dwelling place of demons [those who have sided with the devil] and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean bird, and a prison of every unclean and hated wild beast.** // A prison is a place a person goes to *voluntarily – in a sense*; when he chooses to do the crime, *he is also choosing to do the time!* However, once there, he cannot leave, he is trapped! Whenever people turn away from the saving truth, they cut themselves off from Christ and enter a spiritual prison; they – *of themselves* – cannot escape! Their only hope is God coming to their rescue: ^{NAU} **1 Corinthians 1:30** “But by ¹God’s¹ doing you are in Christ Jesus...” Such rescue missions take place *by the Spirit working through the Word!*
- c. How has Babylon become such a horrible place?
³ **Because¹ all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her¹ fornication¹, and the kings of the earth have committed¹ fornication¹ with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich¹ from the power¹ of her sensuality [desire for physical pleasure].” // In other words, ♦Babylon, ♦the kings, and ♦the merchants engaged in sin with each other for the purpose of physical, worldly gain. Whenever we are**

tempted to do the same, let us remember that “...a man’s life does **not** consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15 NIV)

2. **The Judgment of Babylon:**

- a. ⁴ **And¹ I heard another voice from heaven [maybe Jesus], saying, “Come out of her, my people, ¹in order that¹ you will not participate in her sins and ¹in order that you will not¹ receive of her plagues; ⁵because¹ her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities [wrongs, injuries, misdeeds].”** // If you are part of a gang, you will be led to participate in its crimes, so COME OUT, GET AWAY *while you can!* Also notice: “Come out...**my people**” indicating that some Christians have a connection with Babylon the Great! It’s okay to be a *Martin Luther* for a time – by working toward reformation; however, *there is also a time to GET OUT!*
- b. ⁶ **“Pay her back even as she has paid, and [literally] ¹double the double¹ according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix...for her ¹double.** ⁷ **To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously [desiring physical pleasure], to the same degree give her torment and mourning; ¹because¹ she says in her heart, ‘I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning [ὀν μὴ - the strongest way to indicate “no” in Greek].”** //
- i. Double goes against “an eye for an eye” – *equality between crime and punishment*; however, it could tie-in with this passage about those who teach in the Church: ^{NAU} **James 3:1** “Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren,