

dropping a rock overboard, it would certainly be gone forever – *so also Babylon the great!*

- b. The removal of every blessing – <sup>22</sup> “And the sound of harpists and <sub>of</sub> musicians and <sub>of</sub> flute-players and <sub>of</sub> trumpeters will surely not <sub>[οὐ μὴ]</sub> be heard in you *[Babylon the great]* any longer; and <sub>every</sub> craftsman of <sub>every</sub> craft will surely not <sub>[οὐ μὴ]</sub> be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will surely not <sub>[οὐ μὴ]</sub> be heard in you any longer; <sup>23</sup> and the light of a lamp will surely not <sub>[οὐ μὴ]</sub> shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will surely not <sub>[οὐ μὴ]</sub> be heard in you any longer; <sub>because</sub> your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. // Finally, *when the time is right*, the LORD will remove every blessing – *music, work, food, light, and joy*; surely all such things will be gone forevermore *for all who reject Jesus alone!*
- c. Move evidence for her judgment – <sup>24</sup> “And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.” // Babylon the great brings destruction in two ways: ♦By teaching what is false AND ♦by silencing those who teach what is true (*Mt. 23:29-36*)!

Please join us next week as God is praised in heaven (19:1-10)!

**Conclusion:** Now, *being more aware of the evils of this world*, let us → put on the full armor of God, → trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and → know that our sins are forgiven! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

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# More Details of *The Judgment of Babylon the Great*

## Part 2 of 2

Based on Revelation 18:11-24 NAU

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Thursday, 10/13 → 7:00 † Sunday, 10/16 → 8:00 & 10:45

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, today we are continuing with Revelation chapter 18. Last week we heard the angelic announcement: “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!” *Her fall is definitely coming!* (Who is she? See the Revelation chapter 17 sermon for a possible answer.) We also learned about ♦her sinful interaction with the kings and merchants of the earth, ♦the double payment she will receive for her sins, ♦the swiftness of her destruction (“*in one day*”), and the fear of the kings who witnessed her torment – *what will happen to us!*

Now, *in the second half of Revelation 18*, we learn about the reaction of ♦the merchants, ♦the shippers, and ♦God’s people; we also learn about the *eternal consequences* of *unforgiven sin*.

### 1. **The Reaction of the Merchants:**

- a. <sup>11</sup> “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her *[not for her, but for themselves]*, because no one buys their cargo any more-- <sup>12</sup> cargo of gold and <sub>of</sub> silver and <sub>of</sub> precious stone and <sub>of</sub> pearls and <sub>of</sub> fine linen and <sub>of</sub> purple <sub>cloth</sub> and <sub>of</sub> silk and scarlet, and every...citron wood and every article of ivory and every article of costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, <sup>13</sup> and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and

olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and *cargo* of horses and <sub>1</sub>of<sub>1</sub> chariots and <sub>1</sub>of<sub>1</sub> bodies<sub>1</sub> and <sub>1</sub>souls of men<sub>1</sub>. // Dr. Becker made this comment: “The detailed listing of the things which contributed to the wealth and luxury of Babylon sets before us in a very concrete way the great prosperity of the apostate church [which includes all churches and individuals who have abandoned Christ alone as the only way of salvation].” (275) In Jesus’ day the temple functioned as a *den of robbers* rather than a *house of prayer* (Mt. 21:13)! In Luther’s day, *the sale of indulgences greatly enriched the church!*<sup>1</sup>

b. <sup>14</sup> <sub>1</sub>And<sub>1</sub> the fruit you [Babylon the great] long for has gone from you, and all <sub>1</sub>the<sub>1</sub> things that were luxurious and splendid have <sub>1</sub>perished<sub>1</sub> from you, and <sub>1</sub>they<sub>1</sub> will never ever be found<sub>1</sub> [a rare and strong triple negative – οὐκέτι οὐ μὴ].” // Those who prefer worldly [temporal] things over the saving truth [eternal things] have abandoned Jesus Christ as Savior (See Mark 8:35-37; 1 John 2:15-16)!

c. <sup>15</sup> “The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, <sup>16</sup> saying, ‘Woe, woe [expressing great sorrow], the great city, <sub>1</sub>the<sub>1</sub> one having been<sub>1</sub> clothed <sub>1</sub>with<sub>1</sub> fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stone and pearl; <sup>17</sup> <sub>1</sub>because<sub>1</sub> in one hour such great wealth <sub>1</sub>was<sub>1</sub> laid waste [gone]!’” // Earlier, in verse 10, the kings stood away in fear, so now the merchants!

2. **The Reaction of the Shippers:** “And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make

their living by the sea, stood at a distance, <sup>18</sup> and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning [that is, Babylon the great], saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’ <sup>19</sup> And they threw dust on their heads [to show their inward sorrow] and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, <sub>1</sub>because<sub>1</sub> in one hour she <sub>1</sub>was<sub>1</sub> laid waste [gone]!’” // All who became rich from Babylon the great – the kings and merchants, and now those who transported her goods mourn *her fall* and *the source of their riches!* May our riches be in heaven (Mt. 6:19-21)!

3. **The Reaction of God’s People:** <sup>20</sup> “Rejoice over her, heaven, <sub>1</sub>even the<sub>1</sub> saints and <sub>1</sub>the<sub>1</sub> apostles and <sub>1</sub>the<sub>1</sub> prophets, because God <sub>1</sub>judged the<sub>1</sub> judgment <sub>1</sub>of<sub>1</sub> you <sub>1</sub>by<sub>1</sub> her.” // In other words, Babylon the great judged the true children of God by killing some who opposed her; therefore, *the inhabitants of heaven should rejoice in the just judgment which God will finally bring upon Babylon!*

4. **The Eternal Consequences of Unforgiven Sin:** God wants us to know that eternal punishment is absolutely certain; therefore, the *Greek double negative* [οὐ μὴ] appears more times in Revelation 18 than in any other chapter in the Greek NT, eight times in this chapter and seven times in today’s sermon text, and *six of those times in the next three verses:*

a. A powerful symbol – <sup>21</sup> <sub>1</sub>And<sub>1</sub> a strong 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, and will <sub>1</sub>surely<sub>1</sub> not [οὐ μὴ] be found any longer.” // Imagine being on a ship and

<sup>1</sup> More on indulgences: <http://www.catholic-pages.com/penance/indulgences.asp>