

02-01-26 He Reigns: “Babylon Must Fall: God’s Final Verdict on a Corrupt World”

Week 12

Text: Revelation 17-18

Big Idea: God will destroy the seductive, powerful, and counterfeit world system known as Babylon. Its judgment is swift, final, and deserved. The Church must be alert to its influence and loyal only to the Lamb.

"Breaking News: Sinful World System Crashes!"

Have you ever seen someone post online, “I’m done with social media” ...but they post it on social media?

Or someone says, “I’m off the grid”—but they use 13 hashtags and geotag their smoothie?

Let’s be honest—we’re all a little too hooked on the system.

But in **Revelation 17–18**, God doesn’t just unfollow the system...He burns it down.

Babylon isn’t just a city, it’s a spirit, it’s a mindset, an attitude, a way of life.

It’s the system of man without God. It’s the religion of self, the economy of greed, and the politics of rebellion.

It’s everything the world builds to replace God and glorify man.

And spoiler alert? It collapses!

So, here’s the question:

Are you building your life in Babylon, or fleeing it before it falls?

I. **Babylon Exposed – The Mystery of the Mother of All Corruption**

- **Read Revelation 17:1-6.**

A. **Babylon Is More Than a city—It’s a Global System**

- **“The great prostitute”** = symbolic of spiritual adultery, false religion, and worldly seduction.
- She sits on many waters = universal influence (**cf. Rev. 17:15**)
- She rides the Beast = religious power supported by political power.

John Walvoord: *“Babylon here is a religious system—ecumenical, idolatrous, unfaithful—and completely hostile to true Christianity.”*

B. The World Is Drunk with Her Delusions

- **“Drunk with the blood of the saints”** – religious persecution cloaked in tolerance and unity
- Babylon's motto: All god’s welcome... except the One true God.

Application:

Babylon still whispers today: “Follow YOUR heart. Believe YOUR truth. Worship YOUR way.”

Ask yourself: Are you flirting with Babylon’s values while claiming to follow the Lamb?

II. The Beast and the Harlot – The Marriage of Power and Idolatry

- **Read Revelation 17:7-18**
- A. The Beast’s Rise (vv. 8–13)**
 - **Read verses 8-13.**
 - The Beast = Antichrist and his revived empire (**cf. Daniel 7**).
 - **“Was, is not, and is to come”** – a demonic imitation of Christ’s resurrection.

MacArthur: *“Satan never creates—he only counterfeits.”*

B. Babylon’s Religion Is a Tool—Then a Target (vv. 16–17)

- **Read verses 16-17.**
- The Beast uses the harlot, then devours her.
- False religion is eliminated when Antichrist demands worship of himself alone (**cf. 2 Thess. 2:4**).

Warren Wiersbe: *“The devil is a murderer and a liar. First, he deceives. Then, he destroys—even his own allies.”*

Application:

The world uses religion when it’s convenient and throws it away when it’s not.

Don’t be seduced by spiritual systems that make you comfortable without conviction.

III. Babylon Falls – The Final Crash of a Godless Civilization

Revelation 18:1–24.

A. City of Sin Becomes a Ghost Town

- **“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great!”** – doubled for emphasis and certainty.
- Described as a habitation of demons, unclean spirits, and moral filth (**v. 2**).

G.K. Beale: *“Babylon is the city where human sin—economic, political, religious—reaches its climactic expression. And God burns it down.”*

B. The World Weeps – But Only for Its Losses (vv. 9–19)

- **Read verses 9-19.**
- Kings, merchants, and sea captains mourn—not for Babylon’s evil, but for their profits.
- **“In one hour”** – sudden collapse, total loss.

Spurgeon: *“The world’s religion is a convenient cloak for gain. When the profits end, so does the loyalty.”*

C. Heaven Rejoices While Earth Mourns (vv. 20–24)

- **Read verses 20-24.**
- While the world cries over its economy, heaven rejoices over justice (**v. 20**).
- Babylon’s crimes: murder, idolatry, deception, and persecution of the saints.

Robert Thomas: *“The rejoicing of heaven is not callous, but celebratory of God’s righteous judgment and vindication.”*

Application:

We need to be careful that we don’t become more upset about stock market losses than spiritual deception, Babylon might have your heart.

Are you living for something that can be burned in an hour?

God doesn’t just want us to leave Babylon...He wants Babylon out of us.

IV. God’s Call to His People – “Come Out of Her!”

- **Read Revelation 18:4–5.**

A. The Call to Separation

- **“Come out of her, My people”** = urgent command for spiritual separation.
- This echoes Lot fleeing Sodom, Israel leaving Egypt, and Christ calling us to be in the world but not of it.

B. The Call to Purity

- Don’t **“share in her sins”** - you can’t live like Babylon and love like Jesus.
- Judgment is contagious. Get out while there’s time.

James Montgomery Boice: *“You cannot live with Babylon in your heart and expect to walk with Christ. One kingdom will conquer the other.”*

Application:

What attitudes, values, habits, or priorities in your life smell like Babylon?

You don't need to move out of a city—you need to move into surrender.

You can't escape what you're still entertaining.

FINAL CHALLENGE:

1. Babylon Rarely Looks Evil - It Looks Successful.

- Babylon isn't ugly at first glance. She's wealthy, influential, admired, and persuasive.
- If it's popular, profitable, and praised, we assume it must be right.
- We confuse success with blessing and influence with approval.
- Don't ask, "Is this working?" Ask, "Is this honoring Christ?"
- Not everything that thrives is from God.

2. You can follow Jesus and still flirt with Babylon.

- Babylon doesn't demand abandonment of faith, just dilution of it.
- "Believe whatever you want... just don't be exclusive."
- "Follow Jesus... but don't let Him affect your lifestyle, money, or morality."
- If your faith never creates tension with culture, you may be serving Babylon with Christian language.

3. Where you place your resource, reveal what you prioritize (worship).

- We grieve financial loss more than spiritual deception.
- We stress more about the economy than eternity.
- Look at what upsets you most when it's threatened, that's where your heart is anchored.

4. The world loves religion – until it demands obedience.

- Babylon uses religion when it's convenient, then discards it when it becomes costly.
- Faith is welcome until it confronts sin.
- Spirituality is celebrated until it claims truth.
- If your version of Christianity never offends your own sin, it won't offend the world either.
- True faith always comes with a cost.

5. What you tolerate today can become what you'll defend tomorrow.

- Babylon doesn't conquer hearts overnight - it seduces them gradually.
- Small compromises reshape convictions.
- Repeated exposure normalizes what once disturbed you.

- Ask yourself: “What used to bother me spiritually that no longer does?”
- That may be Babylon settling in.

6. God’s call isn’t just ‘Leave Babylon’ ... it’s ‘Get Babylon out of you!’

- **Revelation 18:4** isn’t about geography, it’s about allegiance.
- You can leave sinful environments and still carry sinful desires.
- External separation without internal surrender changes nothing.
- You don’t need a new city, you need a new heart posture.
- You can’t escape what you’re still entertaining.

7. What you’re building must survive the fire.

- Babylon falls “in one hour.” Everything she promised vanishes instantly.
- Careers end. Platforms fade. Systems collapse. Trends expire.
- If what you’re living for can be burned, shaken, or repossessed, it’s not worth your soul.

8. Heaven and earth celebrate different things.

- Earth weeps over loss. Heaven rejoices over justice.
- What devastates the world may delight heaven.
- What heaven values may look foolish on earth.
- If heaven’s priorities rarely excite you, your loyalty may be misaligned.
- Ask: “Would heaven celebrate what I’m pursuing?”

Take Aways:

“Babylon always falls—only the timing changes.”

“What seduces you will eventually enslave you.”

“The world loves religion without repentance.”

“You can’t hold hands with Babylon and follow the Lamb.”

“If it can burn, don’t build your life on it.”

ALTAR CALL:

To the not yet believer: This world system is temporary - don’t go down with it.

To the religiously comfortable: If your “Christianity” has no cross, no cost, and no conviction, you might be sitting in Babylon’s lap.

To the church: Come out. Speak up. Live Holy. Love boldly. The world needs to see people who belong to a different kingdom.

PRAYER:

“Lord Jesus, tear Babylon out of our hearts. We don’t want to be citizens of a system that You will burn. Make us faithful, holy, and awake. Give us courage to come out, boldness to speak up, and discernment to stay clean. Let us live as those who know the end— and still plead with others while there’s time. In Your name, Amen.”