

THE REVELATION

LESSON 27: THE FALL OF BABYLON (18)

Intro:

“Someone shouted ‘Fair Warning’,
Lord, strike that poor boy down.”¹¹²

Isaiah 52

Jeremiah 50-51

Ezekiel 27

BIG IDEA: All _____ comes to an end, especially immoral pleasure which bears the judgment of God.

Words of Warning

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. ² And he called out with a mighty voice,

“Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!

She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.

³ For all nations have drunk

the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

⁴ 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;

⁵ for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.

⁶ Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.

⁷ As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,
since in her heart she says,

‘I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.’

⁸ For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

¹¹² Van Halen, “Mean Street”

THE REVELATION

- John sees a glorious angel with great _____ and a mighty _____.
- Babylon is a good as destroyed, using common prophetic language for _____
_____ (Is. 13:21-22).
- It is the home for the _____: spirits, birds and beasts.
- The kings of the earth enjoyed her and became _____ from all that she offered.
- He hears another voice from one who is _____.
- It is the warning to _____ the coming judgment, addressed to “my
_____” (Is. 48:20; Jer. 51:6, 45).
- “Remember Lot’s wife.” She _____ the luxury of Sodom and was turned to
a pillar of _____!
- He remembered her _____ => was about to _____ upon them. To
remember ours no more => _____ act on them.
- She will receive a just penalty for her sin. It is “*the double*”, payment equal to its sin
(Hebraic idiom- Jer. 16:18).
- Her _____ will now be matched by her _____ - “*a like measure*”.
- It is the Lord God who is _____. No one can _____ Him
from bringing this judgment on her.
- Though done by others (Rev. 17), it is _____ by God Himself.

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
It is the use of the prophetic past to indicate the certainty of judgment. Papal Babylon will experience utter desolation like the real Babylon. Christians were to flee the Church of Rome.	Again, divided as to whether this is the Fall of Jerusalem (70) or Rome (476). Jerusalem was desolate for quite some time, but Rome never was. Allusions to previous judgments on wicked nations include God’s preservation of His people by calling them out. This matches the Olivet Discourse regarding	Oddly, they argue that it falls in stages. The Babylon here differs from that in 17 (Walvoord). This takes place late in the Great Tribulation. “My people” seems to refer to those who converted during the Tribulation (how?). Many of the OT prophecies about Babylon were not fulfilled so some	This is a picture of patterns of economic collapse that will culminate in the great final economic collapse at the end of time. The call is to leave, not the world, but to be morally separate from the world.

THE REVELATION

	Jerusalem. Many of the other allusions seem to point us to Jerusalem.	expect Babylon to be rebuilt so they can be fulfilled literally.	
--	---	--	--

“To leave Babylon means not to have fellowship with her sins and not to be ensnared by her allurements and enticements.” **William Hendriksen**¹¹³

“The world is powerful, its message is attractive, and we know what it is like to be the bird held by the glittering eye of the snake.” **Michael Wilcock**¹¹⁴

How can we sort out whether or not we have left “Babylon”? What are the various ways we can deceive ourselves (ei. What extremes can we go to)?

In what ways do we give pleasure or luxury a gateway into our lives?

How do gov'ts use pleasure or luxury to gain our allegiance?

Covetousness, or lust: the consuming _____ for what we don't have. How does our culture feed covetousness?

Words of Lament

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

“Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!

For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

¹¹ And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, ¹² cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, ¹³ cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

¹⁴ “The fruit for which your soul longed
has gone from you,
and all your delicacies and your splendors
are lost to you,
never to be found again!”

¹⁵ The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

¹¹³ Hendriksen, pp. 174.

¹¹⁴ Wilcock, pp. 166.

THE REVELATION

¹⁶“Alas, alas, for the great city
that was clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!

¹⁷For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off

¹⁸and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,
“‘What city was like the great city?’”

¹⁹And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,
“‘Alas, alas, for the great city
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!

For in a single hour she has been laid waste.

- This section is heavily dependent on the fall of _____ recorded in Ezekiel 27-28.
- Those who benefited from her will _____ over her _____: kings, merchants, sailors etc.
- Repetition: fire & smoke, in a single hour (3 more times). Thorough destruction, not partial.
- The cargo includes precious _____ and gems, expensive cloth, _____, building materials, food and livestock. They trafficked in _____!
- It was sudden and unexpected. They are _____ for their loss.

“The trade goods listed were selected because they represented the kind of luxury products in which Rome overindulged in an extravagantly sinful and idolatrous manner.” **Greg Beale**¹¹⁵
What goods would be listed today?

Historicist	Preterist	Futurist	Idealist
Papal Rome is likened to Tyre in its opulence. The Roman Church, it is argued, is inextricably linked to the economies of the EU. They argue that Papal Rome has shed the blood of more true Christians than any other false religion.	Both Jerusalem and Rome fit the descriptions here. Jerusalem killed the prophets, but Rome killed far more of the apostles. Jerusalem was not nearly the center of commerce as Rome and did not demand any such allegiance like Rome.	Many believe Babylon will be rebuilt and attain its former glory. Some are open to using Babylon as a symbol for pagan culture.	Rome can be identified through the sex and human trafficking, which was not prominent in Jerusalem. We see Rome’s insatiable thirst for pleasure, entertainment and luxury. She was also guilty of the blood of the saints. She stands

¹¹⁵ Beale, pp. 909.

THE REVELATION

			as a symbol for the anti-Christian system that engulfs many parts of the world.
--	--	--	---

“Even when people know that they are sinning, and when they know that destruction follows, they cannot bear to give up their sins.” **Vern Poythress**¹¹⁶

“... human flesh is the last of Babylon’s imports, the culmination of a decadent culture’s ruthless pursuit of pleasure, whatever the cost to others.” **Dennis Johnson**¹¹⁷

What is the danger of putting all of this into the future?

How do you think you’d feel if there was an economic collapse, as part of God’s judgment?

Are you getting feel for how prevalent the seduction of Prostitute is? Do you see how far reaching her grasp?

Words of Rejoicing

²⁰ Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!”
²¹ 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,
and will be found no more;
²² and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters,
will be heard in you no more,
and a craftsman of any craft
will be found in you no more,
and the sound of the mill
will be heard in you no more,
²³ and the light of a lamp
will shine in you no more,
and the voice of bridegroom and bride
will be heard in you no more,
for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.
²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,
and of all who have been slain on earth.”

- Earth _____ but heaven _____ !

¹¹⁶ Poythress, pp. 169.

¹¹⁷ Johnson, pp.

THE REVELATION

- The time for the gospel has ended. We no longer weep with those who weep, but rejoice in justice.
- The angel is powerful enough to toss a _____ far into the ocean, never to be found again.
- _____ has seemingly ended.
- The charge: _____ and the murder of the _____.

“Babylon, who removed the joys of life from the saints, will have her own pleasures taken away.” **Greg Beale**¹¹⁸

How does this strike you? Does it feel right to rejoice at such utter destruction?

Why is it not right now, but will be right then?

Conclusion:

“Possession of wealth is not the reason for God’s judgment of Babylon. The cause lies, rather, in ‘the arrogant use of it’ and trust in the security that it brings, which is tantamount to idolatry.”

Greg Beale¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ Beale, pp. 920.

¹¹⁹ Beale, pp. 924.