

The Fall of Babylon

The fall of the system, Revelation 17

In the book of Revelation, the figure of a woman is used to symbolize a system of religious belief.

Jezebel represents the pagan idolatry of the past, Rev 2:20

The sun-clothed woman represents Israel and the Jewish system, Revelation 12:1

The bride of Christ represents the church, Rev 21:9; 19:7-8

The great prostitute represents the false religious system of the tribulation, Rev 19:2

“...she stands for a dominant world system based on seduction for personal gain...”¹

The fall of the city and its power base, Revelation 18

Another angel, 18:1 marks a different angel and a subsequent event

17 speaks of destruction from the 10 horns, 17:16

This event is the direct intervention of God, 18:8

“Fallen, Fallen,” may refer to

“two separate parts or stages of the fall,” one being Rev 17 and the other Rev 18.

This event has already been previewed, Rev 14:8; 16:19. These verses seem to speak of the latter event.

The proclamation of judgment, 18:1-3

The glory of the other angel, 18:1

The destruction pictured as utterly complete, 18:2

The reason for this destruction, 18:3

A “nuclear winter”

The call to leave the city, 18:4-5

¹ Mounce, *the Book of Revelation*, NICNT, p. 307.

There may be some believers living in it, forced to work there or hiding there

The clear indictment of the city, 18:6-8

Normally the law of *lex talionis* would apply but because of her wickedness, she is to get twice the punishment.

The phrase "an eye for an eye", is a quotation from Exodus 21:23–27 that expresses a principle of retributive justice also known as lex talionis (Latin for "law of retaliation").

She will be consumed with fire:" the fiery wrath of God, 18:8

This judgment will be quick and swift, 18:8, cf. 10

The sorrowful cries of the kings of the land, 18:9-10

They "weep and mourn" over her

A great source of goods is removed

The sorrowful cries of the merchants of the land; 18:11-17a.

They "weep and mourn" over her

The sorrowful cries of the sea merchants, 18:17b-19

In a short time, the significant financial power of the world it dried up

The joyful cries of God's people, Rev 18:20

The complete destruction of Babylon, 18:21-25

The roar of the great crowd in heaven, 19:1-3

So what?

The destruction of Babylon is complete. Its utter ruin is a source of great joy for God's people on heaven and earth.

Don't love the things of this earth. They will all go up in smoke someday.