



Today's Message

Date: June 22, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great!***

Text: Revelation 18 (ESV)

¹After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. ²And 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.”

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,

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!

¹⁷ For 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 ¹⁸ and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

“What city was like the great city?”

¹⁹ And 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.

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.”

Introduction: In chapter 16 we saw the outpouring of God’s final judgments that will occur during the Tribulation Period. Then we saw that John’s vision pauses to reveal the true nature of the spiritual conflict that unfolds in chapters 6-16. He characterizes humanity’s rebellion against God as “Babylon”—a city symbolizing religious perversity (chapter 17) and political/economic perversity (chapter 18). The great rebellion will centralize in a city our text calls *Babylon*. In the end, this rebellion will come to swift and complete destruction.

- I. An angel announces Babylon’s destruction. 1-3**
- II. The Lamb calls God’s people to flee Babylon. 4-8**
- III. The people of the earth lament their loss of Babylon. 9-19**
- IV. The angel calls God’s people to rejoice at the judgment of Babylon. 20**
- V. Another angel describes the utter destruction of Babylon. 21-24**

Today’s take-home truth: The world’s rebellion against God will come to a swift and complete end, bringing joy to those who love God and grief to those who despise him.

Implications: