

Revelation 17:1-18

The Fall of Babylon

Introduction:

When we think of the fall of nations and empires our theological minds go back to the first fall when Adam and Eve had disobeyed the clear command of God. (Gen. 2:17) The consequence of their disobedience brought about not merely physical death, but worse than that, spiritual death and separation from the favorable presence of God. God had ordained even before the fall of man into sin a way of redemption through the Son of God who came into this world conceived by the Holy Spirit to live a righteous life keeping the Holy Law of God perfectly dying a substitutionary death for the sins of believers only and being raised from the dead conquering death, the punishment due to sin.

The promise to escape the fall is found only in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord who is coming back to take us unto a perfect state in the new heavens and new earth.

I. The Character of Babylon – v.1-6

A. The hermeneutics of the book

1. Recapitulation or a repetition
2. Some examples of repetition – Rev. 16:19; 14:8; 18:2
3. John interprets the book – I John 2:15-17

B. The great prostitute

1. Intoxicates the kings of the earth
2. Her drunkenness is filled with the blood of the saints - v.6
3. What does this symbolism refer to? Dan. 4:28-37; Jer. 51:13
4. Babylon stands for the world with all its seductions and charms – Gen. 10:10; 11:4

C. Spiritual Immorality – Turn To: Matthew 12:38-45

II. The History of Babylon – v.7-18

A. Getting the picture in our minds – Rev. 13:1-7

1. The beast once was, but now is not around – v.8
2. The beast (Antichrist) is the eighth King who belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction v.11 (There is a succession of kings)
3. The beast has 10 horns which represents 10 kings. The beast has not yet received authority but will receive authority v.12-18

B. The attempt to wage war against the Christ and His church will prove to be futile.

1. The saints have their names engraved into the book of life – v.8
2. The saints have been chosen from the very beginning – v. II Thess. 2:13

C. Where will the saints be at this time?

Ans. They will be with the Christ in the air at His return to fight against the enemies of Christ and His Church – Turn To: Rev. 19:11-16 (cf. I Thess. 4:17)

D. Pivotal verse – 8

1. History of the fallen nations and empires – v.10
2. Old Babylon, Assyrian, New Babylon, Medo Persian, Grecian, and Roman empires.

E. The Home of Satan – the abyss

1. Satan's power before the gospel and after – See Rev. 20:1-3
2. The ugly beast turns on the prostitute – v.16 cf. Mark 3:23-24

F. God's Sovereignty – v.17

1. Application in today's world – Isa. 10:5-11
2. Two cities diametrically opposed – v.18 Babylon – (Rev. 11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2; 10) Jerusalem – (Rev. 3:12; 21:22,10; 22:2-3)

