

Steve Greenberg's Handout: September 24, 2025 (Wed p.m.)
Week 31: Rev 18:9-20 World Leaders Mourn As Babylon Falls
Review: also see notes at end

Intro:

Rev 16:19 Now the great city (**Jerusalem**) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations (**gentile nations**) fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath (**Gods wrath**).

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Five times in the book we have chronology stops or pauses to give us insights into something that is related or happening in the section. These pauses are often called "interludes" or "parenthetical sections" moments when the narrative "stops" to explain something important before continuing.

We are now in the fifth and final pause which started at Rev 17

<u># Scripture</u>	<u>Five Pauses</u>	<u>Summary</u>
1. Rev 7	144,000 Sealed	God can preserve and protect His people during judgment
2. Rev 10-11:14	Two Witnesses	God continuous call for repentance, no more delays
3. Rev 12-14	Woman-Satan-Beast	Satan's role in history and end times, Israel's flight, two beast
4. Rev 16:13-16	Nations Gathering	Gathering the nations to war at Armageddon
5. Rev 17-19:6	Fall of Babylon	Collapse and judgement of world systems, before Christ returns

In Revelation 17, we saw the Babylon's religious side destroyed.

Now in Revelation 18 we will see the political and the commercial side of the same city, destroyed. I believe that both are the same literal city that is destroyed at the end of the tribulation period. Which means the literal city of Babylon will rise one day soon on the Euphrates River.

Last week we covered the predicted fall of Babylon the Great and a call from a voice in heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people (quote from Jer. 51:45), lest you share (participate) in her sins, and lest you receive (joint punishment) of her plagues.

Rev 18:9-20 The World Mourns As Babylon Falls (Threefold Woe Over Babylon's Fall)

Rev 18:9 "The kings (**leaders**) of the earth who committed fornication (**immoral acts**) and lived luxuriously (**lavishly and boasting in sinful activities**) with her, will weep (**cry**) and lament (**mourn**) for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

Notice kings and leaders of the earth, committed immoral acts and partnered with her in sinful activities.

Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Hos 3:1 Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover (husband) and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans."

1John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1John 2:16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.

1John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

A correlation passage in Ezek 26:12-27. Tells us the kings (Rev 18:9, 10), merchants (Rev 18:11-16), and sailors (Rev 18:17-19) mourn the fall of Babylon, just as the same three groups mourn the fall of wicked Tyre.

Notice kings and leaders of the earth, committed immoral acts and partnered with her, in sinful activities.

What does this mean to live for the desires of the sin nature, also known as the flesh? Party time get drunk, do drugs, have sex make love outside marriage, take advantage of people to gain money, ...

Rom 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Reminder temporary pleasure associated with sin, is death and sinful it separates a person from God, removes the true life available in Christ.

1Tim 5:6 But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

Dangerous times are coming and are here, people will practice sinful acts for example.

2Tim 3:2 For men (and women) will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2Tim 3:3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2Tim 3:4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
2Tim 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

1Tim 6:5 useless wranglings (constant bickering and disputing) of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

1Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Why weep (**cry**) and lament (**mourn**) for her?
Because she, Babylon made them rich v15

Cont. Rev 18:9 "The kings (**leaders**) of the earth who committed fornication (**immoral acts**) and lived luxuriously (**lavishly and boasting in sinful activities**) with her, will weep (**cry**) and lament (**mourn**) for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

Jeremiah predicted the destruction of the city (Babylon) with fire.
Jer 51:30 The mighty men of Babylon have ceased fighting, They have remained in their strongholds; Their might has failed, They became like women; They have burned her dwelling places (Babylon), The bars of her gate are broken.

Notice in both chapters Rev 17 & 18 the city (Babylon) is destroyed by fire, they are not different events.

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Rev 18:9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,

Rev 18:10 "standing at a distance (**or a long way off**) for fear (**terrified**) of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas (**Woe, woe, how terrible**) that great city Babylon, that mighty (**powerful**) city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'

Great City Babylon

Dan 4:30 The king (King Nebuchadnezzar) spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

Dan 4:31 While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!"

Dan 4:34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation.

Dan 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

Used the vessels of God to get drunk and party and loss the kingdom quickly, in one night.

Dan 5:30 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain.

Dan 5:31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Rev 18:11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep (cry**) and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise (**cargo, goods**) anymore:**

Rev 18:12 "merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron (fragrant or scented**) wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious (**or expensive**) wood, bronze (**or brass**), iron, and marble;**

Rev 18:13 "and cinnamon (spices**) and incense, fragrant oil (**perfumed ointment**) and frankincense, wine and oil (**olive oil**), fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots (**four-wheeled carriages**), and bodies (**human slaves**) and souls of men(**people**). (**Human beings sold as slaves and sex slaves**)**

These things have become idols, little gods, how much is enough?

Jer 51:13 O you who dwell by many waters, Abundant in treasures, Your end has come, The measure of your covetousness.

You lust, you murder and covet and cannot obtain.

James 4:2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Rich Oppressors Will Be Judged

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you!

James 5:2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten.

James 5:3 Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days.

James 5:4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

James 5:5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter.

As Christians we understand resources God has entrusted to us are for His glory. The problem comes when we think these things are ours, and we hold onto them tightly and

don't share when we have enough. To have an overabundance is not good, especially when others are in need.

1Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Remember her description

Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Cont Rev 18:13 "and cinnamon (**spices**) and incense, fragrant oil (**perfumed ointment**) and frankincense, wine and oil (**olive oil**), fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots (**four-wheeled carriages**), and bodies (**human slaves**) and souls of men(**people**). (**Human beings sold as slaves and sex slaves**)

Wealth acquired from slave labor? Babylon has become rich; she's become rich through enslaving human lives, sex trafficking and sex slavery.

God never approves the acquisition of wealth or gain through the abuse of human lives.

Quote from Chuck Smith

And the slaves and the souls of men, the merchandising of people. The souls of men. The money that is being made in prostitution, the money that is being made in the selling of children, many times being sold for sexual purposes. A tremendous problem exists in Thailand where the merchants will go in through the back country where the poverty is so great, and they'll buy the little girls from the families who are nine, ten, eleven years old, and they will bring them into Bangkok for purposes of making money off of them

Rev 18:14 "The fruit (**sweet and ripe**) that your soul longed for (**or Lit: your soul's desire**) has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid (**or luxurious and extravagant**) have gone from you (**vanished forever**), and you shall find them no more, at all (**never to be recovered or found again**).

The pleasures, luxuries, and wealth, disappear in a day, an hour. The love of things blinds a person because it is pride.

1Pet 5:5c "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Phl 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

Heb 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Quote from Chuck Smith

God is going to wipe out this whole system. In the Kingdom Age when Jesus comes to reign, we read in Isaiah 55:1, "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come to the waters. Come, buy without money." Take it. It's yours. It's free. Commercialism will be gone. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. And it will be there for men. Buy without money, it says. That whole commercial system will be gone and there will be that glorious Kingdom of God where there will be an abundance for everyone and no one will be enslaved to debt.

Rev 18:15 "The merchants (sellers) of these things, who became rich by her (grew wealthy doing business with her), will stand at a distance for fear of her torment (terrified because of her potential revilement), weeping and wailing (loudly),

Sin of lust for more money, love of money

1Cor 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

Rev 18:16 "and saying, 'Alas, alas (woe, woe), that great city that was clothed (dressed) in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned (Lit: gilded) with gold and precious stones and pearls!

Rev 18:17 'For in one hour such great riches (extreme wealth) came to nothing (became waste, destroyed).' Every shipmaster (captain), all who travel by ship (seafaring men), sailors, and as many as trade on the sea (make their living from or traveling on the sea), stood at a distance (or a long way off)

Rev 18:18 "and cried out (shouted) when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city (or who can be compared to this great city?)

Quote from Chuck Smith

Many are not controlled by their minds, but they are controlled by their emotions and by their lusts. So the advertisers create within you a lust for fancy jewelry, verse 12, the gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fancy clothes, fine linen, silk. The fancy furniture's made of the thyine wood and manner of vessels of ivory, precious woods, brass, iron, and marble. The perfumes, you know, it always amazes me when they come out with these statistics, I never remember them, but of how much money is annually spent in the United States on perfume, deodorants and that kind of thing. The gourmet foods, the fancy cars, the horses and chariots, and the chariots were the sports cars of those days.

Rev 18:19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas (**wow, how terrible**), alas, that great city (**destroyed**), in which, all who had ships on the sea, became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate (**destroyed!**)."

Rev 18:20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles (**people of God**) and prophets (**all who were martyred**), for God has avenged you on her (**God has pronounced righteous judgment against her, on your behalf!**)"

The earthly view weeping, wailing. Why? Because it's over. All of the tremendous riches and commercial system, is over. But from the heavenly scene it says, rejoice.

Remember what Jesus said when He taught them how to pray

Mat 6:9 "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed (Holy) be Your name.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

That is to be our prayer and that is our hope, your kingdom come

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Review:

Rapture, Church in Heaven, Promised Exemption, Tribulation Period and Divine Wrath

Rapture has happened, church in heaven (1 Thes 4:13–18, 1 Cor 15:50–54, Jhn 14:1–3)

The church promised exemption (1 Thes 1:10; 5:9; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Rev 3:10)

Tribulation on earth, divine wrath (Rev 6:16–17; 11:18; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19)

Seven Bowls of Wrath with Comparison of Old Testament Scriptures

<u>Bowl #</u>	<u>Poured Into</u>	<u>Result / Judgment</u>	<u>OT Comparison</u>	<u>NT Reference</u>	
Bowl 1	Into the earth	Boils on people, beast's mark	Exo 9:8–12; Boils on Egyptians; Deut 28:27, 35	Curse sore and boils Rev 16:2	
Bowl 2	Into the sea	Sea to blood, living things die	Exo 7:17–21 Nile to blood, fish died; Ezek 32:6	water land with blood Rev 16:3	
Bowl 3	Into rivers/springs	Fresh waters become blood	Exo 7:19 Water throughout Egypt turns to blood	Rev 16:4	
Bowl 4	On the sun	Scorches man, blaspheme God	Isa 24:6, Earth scorched by sin; Mal 4:1	Day, burning like an oven Rev 16:8–9	
Bowl 5	Throne of the beast	Darkness and pain	Ex 10:21–23 Plague darkness; Joel 2:2	Day darkness; Isa 8:22	Distress Rev 16:10–11
Bowl 6	Euphrates River	Dries up; demons, kings east	Exo 14 Red Sea parted; Isa 11:15	Lord dries rivers; Rev 16:12–16	
Bowl 7	Into the air, Greatest Earthquake, hail, cities flatten	Exo 9:23–26 – Hail and fire; Ezek 38:22	Hail, earthquake Rev 16:17–21		

Rev 16:17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

Rev 16:19 Now the great city (**Jerusalem**) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations (**gentile nations**) fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Rev 16:18a lightning & thunder and the worst earthquake since people were placed on the earth.

Rev 16:19a Jerusalem destroyed?

Rev 16:19b Babylon destroyed

Rev 16:20 every island fled away (**disappeared**), and the mountains were not found (**leveled**)

Rev 16:21 hailstones (**70+ pounds**) destroying the earth, people blaspheme God, will not repent?

Rev 10:7b the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.
 Rev 11:15 the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ forever
 Rev 15:1 seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

We have seen the chronological judgements (3 sets), which has increased intensity.

1-7 Seal judgments

1-7 Trumpet judgments

1-7 Bowl judgments

We notice that there is an order: first set 1-7, second set 1-7 and third set 1-7 and increase in intensity with each group. We also notice that when we hit a six, between a six and a seven, there is a pause (**break in chronology, known as an interlude**).

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<u># Scripture</u>	<u>Five Pauses</u>	<u>Summary</u>
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Jeremiah 50–51 describes the literal fall of ancient Babylon (in modern-day Iraq)

Parallels between Jeremiah 50–51 & Revelation 17–18

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Jeremiah 50–51 (OT Babylon)</u>	<u>Revelation 17–18 (NT Babylon)</u>
Babylon object of judgment	Jer. 50:1 Against Babylon...	Rev. 17:5 mystery, Babylon the Great...
Babylon’s sins reach heaven	Jer. 51:9 Her judgment reaches unto heaven	Rev. 18:5 Her sins reach to heaven
God's vengeance/judgment	Jer. 51:6 Take vengeance... for it is the time	Rev. 18:20 God has avenged you on her
Call to God’s people to flee	Jer. 51:6 Flee from Babylon!	Rev. 18:4 Come out of her, my people!
Babylon described as proud	Jer. 50:31 O most proud... your day has come	Rev. 18:7 She glorified herself as queen
Sudden, catastrophic fall	Jer. 51:8 Babylon is suddenly fallen, destroyed	Rev. 18:10 One hour judgment has come
Babylon destroyed by fire	Jer. 51:30 They have burned her dwelling places	Rev. 18:8 She utterly burned with fire
No inhabitant left	Jer. 50:39 It shall be no more inhabited forever	Rev. 18:21–23 No more bridegroom
Nations intoxicated, deceived	Jer. 51:7 Babylon... made all the earth drunk	Rev. 17:2, 18:3 Nations drunk, her wine
Babylon’s fall, merchants mourn	Jer. 51:8–9 Sudden destruction,	Rev. 18:11 Merchants loss, cry over her
Babylon golden cup	Jer. 51:7 Golden cup in the Lord’s hand	Rev. 17:4 Golden cup of abominations
Destroyed foreign kings/nations	Jer. 50:9 Nation from the north	Rev. 17:16–17 Ten kings will burn her
Permanent desolation	Jer. 51:26 You shall be desolate forever	Rev. 18:21 Shall not be found anymore
Habitation of evil/demons	Jer. 50:39 Wild beasts... shall dwell there	Rev. 18:2 A dwelling place of demon
Blood of saints found in her	Jer. 51:49 Babylon must fall for the slain of Israel	Rev. 18:24 In her blood of prophets
Millstone imagery of destruction	Jer. 51:63–64 Thus shall Babylon sink and not rise	Rev. 18:21 Millstone thrown into sea
Destruction as divine retribution	Jer. 51:24 I will repay Babylon...	Rev. 18:6 Repay her double

Conclusion of God's Wrath and Final Judgement

<u>Steps</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
Wrath Complete	It is done! 7th bowl poured out, finalized	Rev 16:17
Babylon Falls	Judgment on the evil world system	Rev 17–18
Christ Returns	Gods enemies defeated, beast cast into fire	Rev 19:20-21
Final Judgment	Millennium, rebellion, wicked cast into fire	Rev 20:11–15