Steve Greenberg's Handout: October 1, 2025 (Wed p.m.) Week 32: Rev 18:21-19:6 Babylon, the Mother of Harlots Destroyed

Review: see notes at end

#### Intro:

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God (Father) gave Him (Jesus) to show His servants (believers)--things which must shortly take place. And He (Jesus) sent and signified it (made known through a variety of ways pictures visons and symbols) by His angel to His servant John (Apostle),

Rev 1:2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

The Father gave this revelation to Jesus, showing a divine order: Father  $\rightarrow$  Jesus  $\rightarrow$  angel  $\rightarrow$  John  $\rightarrow$  believers.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy (entire book of Revelation), and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Prophecy comes from Jesus (Rev 1:1), Prophecy reveals Jesus (Rev 1:12–18), Prophecy testifies of Jesus (Rev 19:10), Prophecy ends with Jesus reigning (Rev 22).

Rev 1:19 (Jesus said to John who was on the Island of Patmos v9) "Write the things which you have seen (Ch 1), and the things which are (Ch 2-3), and the things which will take place after this (Ch 4-22). (Jesus gave John a divine outline of the book of Revelation)

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 <u>one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls</u> came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, <u>I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters</u>,

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

1-7 Seal judgments, 1-7 Trumpet judgments, 1-7 Bowl judgments

Five times in the book we have <u>chronology stops</u> 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

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

In Revelation 17, we saw the Babylon's religious side destroyed by God putting His purpose in the heart of the beast to destroy the city of Babylon (Mother of Harlots).

Now in Revelation 18 we will see the political and the commercial side of the <u>same city</u>, 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.

Previously 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 18:2 And he(Angel) cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,

## **Review from last week:**

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?)

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 (and put judgement) on her (God has pronounced righteous judgment against her, on your behalf!)"

Heaven is rejoicing because Babylon has falling, but the leaders and merchants on the earth are weeping. Whose side are you on?

# The world system is opposed to God and Gods system

James 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.

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

# But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD

Jos 24:14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! Jos 24:15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Jos 24:16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him? Who are you following? 1Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

# Rev 18:21-24 Babylon's Total Destruction Described (The Divine Sentence upon Babylon, the Mother of Harlots)

Rev 18:21 Then a (Lit: one) mighty (strong) angel took up a stone (large stone, boulder) "like" a great (or huge) millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence (or a sudden violent force) the great city Babylon (the Mother of Harlots) shall be thrown down (hurled down according to the judgment of God), and shall not be found anymore (this speaks of a fast permanent destruction of Babylon, repeated at least 5 times in different ways in verses 21–23 in the Greek text it is a double negation, echoing and intensifying OT judgments)

<u>Millstone:</u> animal driven or commercial is a large, heavy stone used for grinding grain into flour. It can measure about four or six feet in diameter and about one foot thick and weighs a thousand or more pounds. It would sink quickly.

Mar 9:42 (Jesus said) "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a <u>millstone</u> were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

Jeremiah 51:49 foretold years ago, "Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel Jer 51:49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall (Babylon, treated my servants on the earth at the time of the tribulation period with violence, sometimes used as an analogy comparing a millstone sinking into the waters quickly).

# **Cross-Reference from Jeremiah:**

Jer 51:63 "Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates (River).

Jer 51:64 "Then you shall say, 'Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.' " Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Theme: Key Parallels
A stone thrown into water
Symbol of Babylon's fall
Judgment from God
Final conclusion

Revelation 18:21

Angel throws a boulder into the sea Babylon hurled down, never rise again With violence... Babylon thrown down Shall not be found anymore Jeremiah 51:63-64

Scroll tied to a stone, thrown in the river Babylon sinks, never to rise again The catastrophe I will bring upon Babylon Shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe Neh 9:11 And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; <u>And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.</u>

Exo 15:5 The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.

# Shall not be found anymore (this speaks of permanent destruction of Babylon)

Isa 13:19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Is a 13:20 It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

### **Old Testament Prophecies of Babylon's Permanent Destruction**

<b>Scripture</b>	Key Phrase or Summary	<b>Theme / Connection</b>
Jer 50:3	A nation shall make her land desolate, and no one shall dwell therein.	Total desolation
Jer 50:10-13	Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited.	Judgment Babylon uninhabitable
Jer 50:23	How the hammer of the whole earth is cut apart and broken!	Fall of a global oppressor
Jer 50:26	Come against her destroy her utterly; let nothing of her be left.	Total annihilation
Jer 50:39-40	Never again shall she be inhabited like Sodom and Gomorrah	Eternal desolation
Jer 51:8-9	Babylon suddenly fallen, destroyed her judgment reaches the skies.	Sudden, catastrophic fall
Jer 51:26	They shall not take from you a stone but you shall be desolate forever.	Not even useful rubble remains
Jer 51:29	To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.	Emptiness, no return
Jer 51:37	Babylon shall become a heap, a dwelling place for jackals	Wild animals replace civilization
Jer 51:43	Her cities are a desolation where no son of man passes.	Lifeless ruins
Jer 51:58	Her broad walls shall be utterly broken the nations labor in vain.	Futility of Babylon's strength
Jer 51:62	None shall remain in it desolate forever.	Desolate forever
Jer 51:63-64	Thus shall Babylon sink and not rise I will bring upon her.	Symbolic act judgment Rev 18:21
Isa 14:4-23	The oppressor has ceased! I will cut off from Babylon name and remnant	Removes Babylon's legacy
forever		

Rev 18:22 "The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists (flute-players, pipers), and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft (or trade) shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone (grinding grain) shall <u>not</u> be heard in you anymore (commercialism and its evil have ceased never to reappear).

Rev 18:23 "The light of a lamp (or candle) shall not shine in you (your systems opposed to God), anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride (marriage ceremonies won't be held any longer) shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your <u>sorcery</u> (Gk: pharmakeia, abuse of drugs, opens the doors to demonic activity and addictions) (speaking of Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, not the merchants) all the nations were deceived (led astray).

# Why is God going to bring destruction because of her sorcery? God hates sorcery

Isa 47:9 But these two things shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments (spells).

Isa 47:10 "For you have trusted in your wickedness; You have said, 'No one sees me'; Your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; And you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'

Isa 47:11 Therefore evil shall come upon you; You shall not know from where it arises. And trouble shall fall upon you; You will not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come upon you suddenly, Which you shall not know.

Isa 47:12 "Stand now with your enchantments (spells) And the multitude of your sorceries, In which you have labored from your youth--Perhaps you will be able to profit, Perhaps you will prevail.

Isa 47:13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you.

Beware of the counterfeit supernatural. She used deception, lust, greed, luxury, materialism, and spiritual corruption to lead the nations astray. The great men, merchants became rich through her, but she is the one ultimately held responsible for the deception of the nations.

# The Holy Scriptures will make us wise

2Tim 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

2Tim 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# The early church many believed and burned up their magic stuff

Act 19:18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

Act 19:19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.

# **Cross-References:**

Jer 7:34 "Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land shall be desolate.

Jer 16:9 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will cause to <u>cease</u> from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the <u>bridegroom and the voice of the bride</u>.

Jer 25:10 'Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

#### Theme

No marriage, bridegroom and bride Light of the lamp Sound of millstones, grinding grain Loss of joy and daily life Reason for judgment

# **Revelation 18:23**

Removed from Babylon
Light shines no more in Babylon
Removed or unusable v22
Total collapse of worldly pleasures
Babylon judged: sorcery/deception

# **Jeremiah 16:9 / 25:10**

Removed from Judah/Jerusalem Removed from Jerusalem Removed in Jer 25:10 Judgment and removal of normal life Judah judged for idolatry, rebellion

Just as God judged Judah/Jerusalem in the Old Testament, He will judge the in the last days Babylon (the Mother of Harlots) the global, seductive system of materialism, luxury, spiritual fornication, sorcery and everything that opposes Christ.

Rev 18:24 "And in her (Babylon, the Mother of Harlots) was found the blood of prophets and saints (God's people), and of all who were slain on the earth (people killed or slaughtered by her, all over the world)."

Jer 51:49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel, to fall (they must fall), So at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall.

# God will judge Babylon and the Beast for shedding the blood of his prophets and saints.

Rev 6:9 When He (Lamb, Jesus) opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev 6:11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city (Jerusalem) which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

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 <u>woman</u>, <u>drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus</u>. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Rev 19:2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He(God) has judged the great harlot (Babylon, the Mother of Harlots) who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He(God) has avenged on her (the final penalty for), the blood of His servants, shed by her."

# **Rev 19:1-6 Heaven Exults over Babylon ()**

Rev 19:1 After these things I heard a loud (mighty) voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! (or Hallelujah-Praise the Lord) Salvation and glory and honor and power (dominion, might) belong to the Lord our God!

"Alleluia" (or "Hallelujah") is from the Hebrew phrase הַּלְלֵּוּ יָה (hal'lu Yah) hal'lu = you all praise (imperative plural form of "praise")
Yah = short form of Yahweh, the name of God

# Back in Rev 6 and 7 we saw the cry of the martyrs and a great multitude saved out of the Great Tribulation

Rev 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Rev 7:10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Rev 7:11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

Rev 7:12 saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

Rev 7:14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 19:2 "For true and righteous are His judgments, because He(God) has judged (convicted and sentenced to death) the great harlot (great prostitute, idolatress) who corrupted the earth with her fornication (spiritual adultery, immoral alliances, idol worship); and He(God) has avenged on her (imposed on her the penalty for) the blood (murder) of His servants, shed by her."

# Whatever God does is right. He is a God of love and Truth

The judgments are God's righteous acts, against her evil (Babylon, the great harlot). This false religious system that has suppressed the gospel, that has held people in bondage by sorcery.

God is praised for avenging the blood of His people (martyrs, prophets, and saints)

Rev 19:3 Again they said (crowd shouted second time), "Alleluia! (Hallelujah! Praise the LORD)" Her smoke rises up forever and ever! (Symbolizing permanent judgment, for her evil as the great prostitute, spiritual adultery).

Babylon's friends mourned her fall; but here, God's people celebrate it.

Rev 19:4 And the twenty-four elders (representative of the church, CS quote), and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia! (Hallelujah! Praise the Lord)!"

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

Rev 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

<u>Rev 19:5</u> Then a voice (angelic or heavenly being) came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you, His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great (common, least to the distinguished, greatest)!"

Rev 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound (roar) of many waters and as the sound of mighty thundering's, saying, "Alleluia! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord)! For the Lord God Om-nip-potent (All-Powerful, Ruler of all) reigns!

## **Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith, 3,000 series**

The time has come. The earth has been languishing under the reign of Satan for almost six thousand years. It was approximately six thousand years ago when Adam forfeited the right and the title to the earth over to Satan, where Satan began his deadly rule over the earth, his destructive rule. And the world has suffered all of the sickness, all of the maladies, all of the suffering that we see in the world you can trace back to Satan's reign, his ruling other the earth. All of the wars, all of the bloodshed, all of the strife, all of the jealousies, all of these things that make life miserable trace back to the rule of Satan. No wonder they are saying praise the Lord because the Lord God, Omnipotent, reigneth! The time has come when He is going to establish now His kingdom upon the earth. The time has come when He is going to rule over the earth, and thus the rejoicing in heaven because the time has come when the Lord God omnipotent will again reign over all, over the earth.

Num 6:24 The LORD bless you and keep you;

Num 6:25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

# Old Testament Descriptions of Babylon in Revelation 17-18

Revelation OT Reference Connection / Explanation

Waters (17:1)

Psalm 137:1

Babylon the Great (17:5)

Psalm 137:1

By the rivers of Babylon, waters, captivity / peoples (also Jer 51:13)

Nebuchadnezzar: "Is this not Babylon the Great...?" Prideful statement

Mother of Harlots (17:5)	<b>Genesis 11:1–9</b>	Tower of Babel, the origin of rebellious human unity, pride, and confusion
Fallen, fallen is Babylon (18:2)	Isaiah 21:9	Prophetic cry: "Babylon is fallen" quoted in Revelation
Will not see widowhood (18:7)	Isaiah 47:7–9	Babylon arrogantly says: I shall not sit as a widowGod promises judgment
<b>Colorful attire (17:4; 18:16)</b>	Dan 5:7, 16, 29	Babylonian kings adorn with purple, scarlet, gold symbols of luxury, status
Sorcery (18:23)	Isaiah 47:9-13	Babylon's sorceries and enchantments cannot save her, tied to deception
Destroyed in a day (18:8, 10)	Dan 5:30	Sudden fall of Belshazzar's Babylon — judgment came in one night
Drunk: blood of saints (17:6)	Jer 51:49	Babylon's fall for the slain of Israel and shedding innocent blood
Merchants mourn her (18:11-19)	Eze 27–28	Lament over Tyre, another trading city, parallel structure to Revelation 18
No sound; bridegroom (18:23)	Jer 7:34; 16:9	End of joy and life, prophetic sign of judgment and desolation
Millstone imagery (18:21)	Jer 51:63-64	Babylon symbolically sinks with a stone — irreversible judgment

Ancient Babylon was a real empire that opposed God and oppressed His people, just as it is today. John speaks what he sees and uses Old Testament language to show that God judged Babylon before, He will judge it again — completely and finally.

People from the Babylonian region were present at Pentecost.

Act 2:9 "Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia (Includes Babylon), Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

According to the scriptures when Babylon falls the fall will be so severe that the city throughout the ages of time will never be inhabited again. That has never happened.

## Hitchcock and Ice, The Truth Behind Left Behind, 109

## Babylon's History After 539 B.C

Herodotus gives Babylon's measurements (450 B.C.)

Alexander the Great visits and dies in Babylon (323 B.C.)

Seleucus seizes Babylon (312 B.C.)

Strabo pronounces Babylon's hanging gardens as one of "seven wonders of the world" (25 B.C)

Babylonians (Mesopotamia) present on Pentecost (Acts 2:9)

Talmud promulgated from Babylon (A.D. 500)

Haukal mentions Babylonian village (A.D. 917)

Babylon known as "Two Mosques" and "Hilah" (A.D 1100)

Babylon still referenced, but largely in ruins, 1st-7th c. AD, Mixed local population

#### John F. Walvoord, *The Nations in Prophecy*, 63-64

"As far as the historic fulfillment is concerned, it is obvious from both Scripture and history that these verses have not been literally fulfilled. The city of Babylon continued to flourish after the Medes conquered it, and though its glory dwindled, especially after the control of the Medes and the Persians ended in 323 B.C., the city continued in some form or substance until A.D. 1000 and did not experience a sudden termination such as anticipated in this prophecy."