

Babylon now means every nation and religion that is against God. What will happen to Babylon?

Revelation 18:9-10

Why will the kings cry for Babylon? (Think of what would happen if Las Vegas closed.)

Why would they be frightened (verse 10)?

Revelation 18:11-19

Why will merchants cry for Babylon? (vs. 11-17)

Why will all sailors and everyone who made their living from the sea cry for Babylon? (vs. 17-19)

Revelation 18:20-24

Will anything from this sinful world enter heaven? Read Matthew 6:19-24 (1216). What will happen to the kingdom of this world (Rev. 18)?

According to Rev. 18:24, why will God punish all nations and religions that are against Him?

To Think About...

A popular song from some years ago has the line, "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints, the sinners are much more fun. You know that only the good die young." How does that show the idea of Babylon that we saw in this study?

The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 15, Revelation 17 & 18

To Begin...

Think of some well-known or popular people, such as actors, athletes, or politicians. Can you name several who have reputations for being Christians who live very good lives? Can you name several who have reputations for sin, as wild partiers, adulterers, etc.? Which list is easier to make? Why?

The Woman, Babylon

We are now coming to the last parts of the book of Revelation. In chapters 17 and 18, we see a detailed picture of the political beast and religious beast as the beast and the woman, Babylon. We will see a description of what God's enemies have done, but we will also see God judge and punish His enemies. Even though evil governments and false religions seem powerful, their time is limited. Their time will end, and God will judge them.

John Sees the Woman on the Beast

Revelation 17:1-6

An angel showed John a prostitute. Look at verse 4 to see how he is dressed and described. Does this woman look like the world hates her, or honors her?

The woman is full of sin and shame. Does the world reject her actions, or copy them? (verses 2 and 5).

The prostitution and sexual sins are a picture of worshipping idols instead of the true God. Read Isaiah 1:21 (851) to see what God said about Israel when they were not faithful.

The beast from the sea is always called “the beast.” That is the beast the woman is sitting on. But the “false religion” beast has several different names in the book of Revelation. Write down all the names. They all talk about the same false religion.

Rev. 13:11 The beast from the _____.

Rev. 13:18 Has the number _____.

Rev. 16:13 The false _____.

Rev. 17:1 The _____.

Rev. 17:5 _____ the Great.

Many people today talk about “peace” and “tolerance” and “acceptance.” They say all religions should accept each other and not criticize each other. Is that a right thing to do? Will false religion ever accept Christians? Read what false religion does to God’s people (verse 6).

What Will Happen to the Woman

Revelation 17:7-18

The angel told John about the beast. The beast “was, is no longer, and will come again.” This shows that nations rise and fall. One country has power, then another country, then another. One country doesn’t rule the world forever.

The beast has seven heads. Read Rev. 17:9-10. The seven heads mean seven _____ or seven _____.

Rome is known as the city built on seven hills. Many people have tried to figure out who the seven kings are. Truly, many kings and rulers in history have been wicked and hated God’s people. The 7 kings mean all of those rulers. The beast is the 8th king, and that also means all rulers who follow Satan and try to destroy the church.

The ten horns are ten _____. These are like the seven kings, because they also rule. But we can explain this difference: The seven kings ARE the beast. The ten kings SERVE the beast. In other words, one nation is most powerful and fights against God’s church. Other nations are less powerful, but follow the one powerful nation and help them fight against the church. Who will win in the end (verse 14)?

During much of history, the prostitute (false religion) and the beast (wicked government) will work together. But they don’t always work together. What happens in the end? Who makes that happen? Read Rev. 17:16-17.

Babylon Is Destroyed

Revelation 18:1-8

Where do God’s people live until the end of the world (verse 4)? Why does God pull us out at the end?