

THE FALL OF BABYLON

Introduction

The religious and political life of Babylon was started in an act of rebellion against God (Gen 10-11). Babylon is credited with starting the worship of Semiramis, known as the "queen of heaven" (Jer 7:18; 44:17-19, 25), and the worship of her son, Tammuz (Ezk 8:14). Babylon was the mother of many mystery religions which corrupted Israel's walk with God so that she disregarded the Word of God, disdained His way of salvation and deplored his command to be separated from the world. This religious Babylon is the harlot that will strongly influence Antichrist at the beginning of the Tribulation, but Antichrist and his ten kings will destroy her in the middle of the Tribulation and will demand all people worship him or be killed.

In addition to Babylon's spiritual influence for evil in the world, her political influence for evil was equally bad. At the beginning she defied God's command to scatter into all parts of the earth to replenish it after the flood (Gen 9:1). Nimrod gathered the people together to form a city, lest they be scattered abroad to all parts of the earth (Gen 11:4). So God divided their single language into many languages to scatter them to various parts of the earth. Even so, sinful men have determined not to obey God's command and have followed Babylon's example. They have built large cities where sin and crime flourish. Nations are largely defined by the character of their large cities. Now nations are uniting into a one world government. This unity of sinful people is fostered by Satan to promote rebellion against God. This political rebellion against God will end in Babylon in the very place where it all started. At the end of the Tribulation, He will destroy Babylon and cast its leaders, Antichrist and the False Prophet, into the Lake of Fire.

Aim of the Lesson: Be separated from the sins of the world so God can receive you.

God tells believers to come out from the world where the influences of Babylon prevail and be separated from it, not being involved in the unclean things of the world; then He will receive them (2 Cor 6:17).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. Destruction of Religious Babylon (17:1-18)

A. Her Defilement Described (17:1-6)

1. Since she is unfaithful to God and seeks the wealth of ungodly kings, what is she called? 17:1, 4
2. What does it mean when it says she sits upon many waters? 17:1, 15
3. What does it mean when it says she sits upon a scarlet beast with 7 heads and 10 horns? 17:3, 18
4. Who is the mother of false religions in the world? 17:5
5. How does this false religion treat true believers? 17:6

B. Her Destroyers Defined (17:7-18)

6. What is said about the beast (Antichrist)? 17:8
9. What is said about the 7 heads on the beast? 17:9-10
10. What is said about the 7th head? 17:10-11:1
11. What is said about the 10 horns? 17:12-13
12. What will happen when they make war with the Lamb (Christ)? 17:14
13. What will happen to the religious harlot Babylon? 17:16-17

II. Destruction of Political/Economical /Babylon (18:1-24)

A. Her Destruction Deserved (18:1-8)

14. What does the angel say about Babylon? 18:1-2
15. How do nations and kings commit fornication with Babylon and Antichrist? 18:3; see 13:14-17
16. Why should God's people come out of Babylon?? 18:4-8

B. Her Destruction Deplored (18:9-19)

17. Who will cry when Babylon is destroyed because the source of their riches is gone? 18:9 11, 17

C. Her Destruction Described (18:20-24)

18. How did the mighty angel dramatize the destruction of Babylon? 18:21

COME OUT FROM THE WORLD AND BE UNITED WITH GOD.