

**REVELATION: Lesson 154**  
**Chapter 18: Babylon the Great City**

12 April 2021

In this lesson we will compare Mystery Babylon in chapter 17 with Babylon the Great in chapter 18 and determine whether we are looking at two visions of the same city or two separate cities altogether.

**Rev 19:1** The words “**After these things**” mark a definite change in location and subject matter.

**Rev 18:1** “**After these things**” ought to shift the subject from Mystery Babylon in chapter 17 to something different in chapter 18.

“**After these things**” occurs 10 times in Revelation and always refers to a chronological sequence of events or visions. Why should Revelation 18:1 be an exception?

**Rev 14:8-10** “Babylon is fallen, is fallen... don’t take the mark of the beast.” This announcement takes place around the midpoint of the Tribulation.

**Rev 16:19** This judgment upon Babylon takes place under the 7<sup>th</sup> vial right before the Second Coming.

- If one fall of Babylon is mid-Tribulation, and the other one is at the end of the Tribulation, they can’t be the same thing, or it would be a contradiction in the Bible.
  - Religious Babylon falls at the midpoint.
  - Commercial Babylon falls at the end.

**Rev 17:16-17** Mystery Babylon is destroyed by the kings of the earth fulfilling God’s will.

- In Chapter 18, Babylon the Great is destroyed by God personally (18:8).

**Psalms 2:1-3** The kings of the earth get rid of every remnant or suggestion of religion at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

**Rev 17:16** “**These shall hate the whore.**” The kings of the earth despise this Babylon (religion).

**Rev 18:19** “**They cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city....**” The same people who hated Mystery Babylon are weeping over the destruction of Babylon the Great (economic collapse). They couldn’t possibly be the same.

**Rev 17:5** This is “**Mystery, Babylon the Great.**” Rev 18:2 is “**Babylon the great.**” No mystery.

Because there is no city today called “Babylon the Great” sitting on the Euphrates River, commentators feel the need to make the city of Babylon in Revelation 18 a symbolic city rather than a literal city.

- This ignores the fact that great cities can be built very quickly.
- It also ignores the possibility that the Second coming could be hundreds of years away.

**Why I believe Babylon will be rebuilt during the Tribulation:**

1. There are numerous prophecies regarding Babylon that have not yet been fulfilled (Isa 13:9-20, Jer 50:1-4, Jer 50:40-46, Isa 25:12, Rev 18:10). These must still be fulfilled.
2. Babylon in Jeremiah 51 matches Babylon in Revelation 18, but not Revelation 17.
3. Babylon is to be destroyed in the day of the Lord (Tribulation). The Tribulation is yet future. Babylon must be rebuilt so it can be destroyed in the day of the Lord.

4. According to the Bible (Isaiah 14), Israel will enter into God's rest after Babylon is destroyed. Israel has not seen any rest yet.
  5. After Babylon is finally destroyed by the Lord, there will not be one brick that will be reused for building purposes (Jer 51:26). This has not been true of the previous destructions of Babylon.
  6. Babylon will be the last kingdom on earth to drink the cup of the wrath of God (Jer 25:17-26). Babylon was destroyed before and many other kingdoms since then have drunk of the cup of God's wrath.
  7. In Zechariah 5, the woman in the midst of the ephah is headed for the Plain of Shinar (in Babylon).
  8. Revelation 18, as described, is easier to understand if taken literally.
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#### **Assumptions that cause commentators to combine the two Babylons in Revelation 17 and 18:**

1. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (2 Pet 3:8), and there are 7 dispensations so, they assume there must be 7,000 years from Adam to New Jerusalem.
2. Even though the first six dispensations are NOT 1,000 years each, they assume the last one must certainly be 1,000 years.
3. They assume that God operates according to a Gentile Roman calendar.
4. They disregard the fact that God didn't count the years in the Old Testament during the times when Israel lost possession of the land.

By trying to force prophecy into a 7,000-year period on a Roman calendar, the commentators come against a problem when they realize the city of Babylon must be destroyed by God in one hour before Jesus Christ returns at the Second Coming. It is a problem because there IS no city of Babylon to destroy. So, they make Rome Babylon. Why? Because it's already built.

We need to interpret the Bible literally. We ought to expect that Babylon will certainly be rebuilt so that God can destroy it. Then, every Christian should simply live in the anticipation that Jesus Christ could come today at any moment.

There is no reason not to believe that men could unite together in the end of days and build the greatest city on earth so that God can knock it down. (See Genesis 11:6).

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