

REVELATION: Lesson 157
Chapter 18:4-7, When God Brings Judgment

10 May 2021

Vs 4 Here is God's call for His people to separate themselves from the wicked. He gives the warning and an opportunity to escape before judgment falls (as in the days of Noah and Lot).

Vs 5 The sins of Babylon reached unto heaven. Why does this verse sound like God didn't know about it?

Genesis 18:21 God went down to see if the people of Sodom had sinned as bad as was reported.

Genesis 4:9-10 God heard the blood of Abel crying from the ground and visited Cain to inquire.

- God has the power to limit his knowledge as He pleases (Mt. 7:23, Heb 8:12, 10:17).

Daniel 4:13, 17 There is a "watcher" watching Nebuchadnezzar on behalf of God.

Zechariah 1:7-12 Zechariah saw men on horses scouting the earth and reporting to the Lord.

Habakkuk 1:12 Here is the key: God is not watching the evil in this world. He is too pure and holy to behold it with His eyes. God has servants bring the report to Him so that He will not be defiled.

- When the sins of the world were placed on God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Father turned His eyes away (Mt 27:46).
- God established the same sort of order in the Church. Those men who were to give themselves wholly to the word of God and spiritual things were not to involve themselves in carnal matters. So, God established a system whereby deacons would handle the carnal matters (Acts 6:3).

"God hath remembered her iniquities." God gave the warning in His word. Babylon the Great had centuries to repent.

- By God's grace and mercy, all men are given space to repent before judgment falls.
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Vs 6 **"Reward her...according to her works...double!"** Wicked works may gradually fill God's cup of wrath, but it is not poured out gradually. When it is poured out, it is doubled.

Imprecatory prayers in the Psalms: prayers in which someone is praying for evil to fall upon somebody. (See **Psalm 137**).

- Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth was Jewish Law (Mt 5:38, Lev 24:20, Deut. 19:19).
 - The double judgment upon Babylon is for vengeance against a wicked enemy that did horrible things to the children of Israel (Psalm 137:8-9).
 - Note that Christians do not pray and ask God to harm anyone (Luke 9:54-55).
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Vs 7 How much you spend your life glorifying yourself and living to please yourself, God will match that with **“so much torment and sorrow.”** But He doesn’t necessarily send judgment immediately.

- **Ecclesiastes 8:11** When we sin and notice that God doesn’t send judgment, in our heart we determine that God doesn’t care if we do evil. So, we continue living a wicked life instead of repenting in the space that God gives us.
- Don’t abuse God’s grace and mercy. Even that will condemn you in the end.

“She hath glorified herself.” That is the theme of society today, even in the church house. *“Glorify yourself.”* It will bring sorrow and torment.

- **Hebrews 5:5** Jesus Christ did NOT glorify Himself and He was exalted.
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