

Things to Come #22 Babylon Part 2

I. Introduction

- A. Chapter 17 depicts the judgment planned for the great false religion, Babylon. Chapter 18 describes the destruction of the great "satanic system of evil." Some believe that this system is an actual city, rebuilt during the end times and destroyed in a sudden and catastrophic manner.

I continue to see Babylon as the total governmental system, not just an isolated single city. In essence, this is a funeral dirge for all of humanity that has aligned itself with the Antichrist.

- B. Remember, the word for "judgment" can be translated "punishment." This evil system is finally getting the destruction or punishment it deserves. Satan and His crowd have systematically (since the dawn of time) corrupted the earth and its people. He and they deserve the coming punishment.

II. An Overview of the chapter:

Vs. 1-3 The scope of judgment is proclaimed

Vs. 4-8 Christians are urged to ignore the charms of this evil system

Vs. 9-19 The three laments

1. For the kings of the earth
2. For the merchants
3. For the sea captains

III. There are two reasons for Babylon's impending doom

- A. She became the dwelling place for demons and unclean spirits

Note the release of demons in 9:13-16

- B. All the nations bought into ("drank") her immorality

IV. This judgment can be avoided by the tribulation saints

Remember: the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses and the martyred will all be preaching the gospel and seeing a spiritual harvest.

This message (avoid the judgment) is the same one that was delivered to Lot- See Gen. 19:12-13

There is a message for modern Christians as well-See II Cor. 6:14-17, James 1:27 and I John 2:15

V. A word about the Old Testament principle of “lex talionis”-the law of retaliation or “an eye for an eye” See Jer. 50:14-15, 29; 51:56

- A. “Double”: this is the sense of fullness or completeness
- B. “Torment and Mourning”; “torment” literally means torture and “mourning” refers to all the grief associated with that torture.
- C. “The kings of the earth”
- D. “The merchants”
- E. “The sailors”

VI. The view from heaven (vs. 20)

“Saints”

“Apostles”

“Prophets”

VII. The judgment is competed (21-23\4)

“Millstone”: 4-5 ft. in diameter, a foot thick, very heavy

No music makers, no special craftsmen at work, no sound of vitality, no lights, and no normal relationships (falling in love). The rhythm of life stops.

Final reasons for the judgment are listed:

1. Those in positions of power and influence used it for evil
2. There was a significant occult influence (“sorcery” comes from the word for pharmacy or drugs)
3. The slaughter of God’s people

VIII. So What?