

Revelation 18 "The Fall of Babylon"

18:1-3 is a description of the character of the city Babylon and its use of the word pictures of foul birds and hateful beasts and the extreme popularity of this city among the nations of the earth for the words to describe their number was that ALL the nations have drunk of the wine of her fornication, and all the kings of the earth have participated in this, and the merchants have grown rich from the power of her luxury. This kind of seduction has not changed for among our laws both good and bad is the unspoken one which would lead you to believe that there is no sin as long as the vice can produce profit!"

ERLING W. HANSEN, REVELATION LECTURE #7, pp3

Read Revelation 18:1-3

1. Just because it's interesting, note the description of the angel.
2. What haunts Babylon in the Angel's proclamation?
3. What are some ways the Kings of the earth have engaged in "prostitution?"
4. What might be the "power (or resources) of her luxury?"

In this chapter we have a form of prophetic literature common in the prophetic books of the Old Testament. This is what is called "A Doom Song," the doom song of the city of Rome. John drew heavily on his scripture for language to explain the visions from heaven. Note the similarities.

Read the following scriptures:

Isaiah 13: 19-22 The doom song of ancient Babylon

In Isaiah 34: 11-15 The doom song of Edom

Jeremiah 50: 39 and 51: 7, 37 Part of doom songs of Babylon

In Zephaniah 2: 13-15 The doom song of Nineveh

Read Revelation 18:4-9

5. Compare the old testament phrases with those in Revelation

There is a sin which the Greek called hubris, which is that arrogance, that comes to feel that it has no need of God. The punishment for that sin is ultimate humiliation.

REVELATION 18 “THE FALL OF BABYLON”

THE REVELATION OF JOHN, W.M. BARCLAY © 1976, WESTMINSTER PRESS p.154

READ REVELATION 18:9-10

6. Who is the subject of these verses?
7. What is their sin with Babylon?
8. Where does it say they are?

READ REVELATION 18:11 - 17a

9. Who is the subject of these verses?
10. What was their sin with Babylon?
11. Where does it say they are?

READ REVELATION 18:17b - 19

12. Who is the subject of these verses?
13. What was their sin with Babylon?
14. Where does it say they are?

READ REVELATION 18:20

15. Ruminant on this verse. What does it say to you about God, about condemnation?

READ REVELATION 18:21 - 24

16. List the people who are silenced.
17. Verses 23b & 24; how widespread is Babylon's reach?
18. Besides the prophets and the saints, who else is being avenged by Babylon's punishment?