

Revelation 18

Review:

What beatitudes have we read thus far in the book of Revelation?

1. *Rev. 1.3*
2. *Rev. 14.13*
3. *Rev. 16.15*

Revelation 18.1-3

(*Rev. 18* is a more detailed description of the fall of Rome)

V1 – Description of the angel? Illumined (much light)

-Other examples of the light of God?

1. Creation – sun = fourth day; God was the light until then
2. Moses on Mt. Sinai – had to veil his face when he came down from the mountain, because he had been in the presence of God and was blinding the people
3. Description of heaven (see *Rev. 21.2-3*)

What do we associate with darkness? Evil, sin, etc.

V2 – Message of the angel? Babylon is fallen

-What happens to a deserted city? Wild animals, etc.; the desert begins to take over in the Middle East

V3 – The reason Rome fell? Its immorality

Revelation 18.4-8

V4 – Message of the other voice? Come out of Babylon (in other words, don't participate in her sins)

-Read Romans 12.1-2 – In what way are we not to be conformed to this world?

-Amish clothing? Black and white, no buttons, no cars, etc. – No, but we not to conform to the world in the sense of immorality

V5 – How many sins did Rome have? They were piled high to heaven

V6 – Remember *Gal. 6.7-8* – we reap what we sow

-Basic principle of life: the harvest is always much greater than the seeds that have been sown

-Sin is always that way, and the Roman Empire was about to reap much more destruction on themselves than they dealt out to the 7 churches of Asia

V7-8 – The sin of Rome? Arrogance

-What contributed to their arrogance in the first century? World domination and the attitude: "The word of God doesn't apply to us."

Revelation 18.9-13 – Weeping over the fall of Rome

V 9 – **Why do the kings of the earth weep?** They hate to see Rome burning, because their fortunes and business will be lost

V 10 – **Punishment came "in one hour"?** Swift destruction

V 11 – **Next group of people to weep over the fall of Rome?** Merchants

-**Why?** They were going out of business

-**What does this tell us about how so many people in the first century viewed Rome?** No love for them whatsoever

-We know that at one of Nero's banquets, he ordered fresh roses from Egypt – the cost: \$100,000

-We know that Emperor Vitellius liked to eat peacocks' brains and nightingales' tongues

-he spent \$20,000,000 a year on food

-See the two scanned copies from the *New International Commentary, Rev.*, for details of the extravagance of the Roman emperors and their lifestyle

V 12-13 – Goods from all over the world

-Notice the last two items in the list: slaves and human lives

-**Significance to the book of *Revelation*?** The Roman government had no compassion for other human beings

Revelation 18.14-20

V 14 – **What has now happened?** All gone

V 15-16 – **Why are they standing at a distance?** Afraid of being swept away with the Empire

-**Why are they weeping?** Business lost, but also maybe some sympathy for the people who were being swept away in the destruction

V 17 – **Third group to mourn?** Ship captains, sailors

-**Why?** Great loss of money from shipping

V 18 – **What were the sea captains saying?** "What city is like the great city?"

V 19 – **What did they do?** Threw dust on their heads

V 20 – **Reasons for rejoicing?** The death of the saints has been revealed – (See *Rev. 6.9-11*)

Revelation 18.21-24

V 21 – **What does the angel do?** Throw (not just drop!) a big rock into the sea

-**The message?** Colossal fall of the Empire

V 22 – **What sounds will no longer be heard from the city?** Sounds of amusements and of

business

V 23 – **Also absent from Rome?** The voices of the bridegroom and the bride

V 24 – **Final reason for the destruction of Rome?** The persecution of the saints

-At the end of *Rev. 18*, the book jumps forward to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – this too would have greatly encouraged the 7 churches of Asia, just as it encourages us today

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