

# Revelation 16:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

## Analysis

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**And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wra...** This verse from Revelation's vision of seven bowls of wrath - final judgments, battle of armageddon, babylon's fall announced employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 16:19 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?

2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?
3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἐγένετο	ἡ	πόλεις	ἡ	μεγάλη	εἰς	τρία	μέρη	καὶ
<b>And</b>	<b>was divided</b>		<b>city</b>		<b>great</b>	<b>into</b>	<b>three</b>	<b>parts</b>	<b>And</b>
G2532	G1096	G3588	G4172	G3588	G3173	G1519	G5140	G3313	G2532
αἱ	πόλεις	τῶν	ἐθνῶν	ἔπεσον·	καὶ	Βαβυλῶν	ἡ		
G3588	<b>city</b>	G3588	<b>of the nations</b>	<b>fell</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>Babylon</b>	G3588		
	G4172		G1484	G4098	G2532	G897			
μεγάλη	ἐμνήσθη	ἐνώπιον	τοῦ	θεοῦ	δοῦναι	αὐτοῦ			
<b>great</b>	<b>came in remembrance</b>	<b>before</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>to give</b>	<b>unto her</b>			
G3173	G3415	G1799		G2316	G1325	G846			
τὸ	ποτήριον	τοῦ	οἴνου	τοῦ	θυμοῦ	τῆς	ὀργῆς		
G3588	<b>the cup</b>	G3588	<b>of the wine</b>	G3588	<b>of the fierceness</b>	G3588	<b>wrath</b>		
	G4221		G3631		G2372		G3709		
αὐτοῦ									
<b>unto her</b>									
G846									

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 18:5** (References God): For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

**Revelation 18:10** (Judgment): Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

**Revelation 17:18** (Parallel theme): And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

**Revelation 18:21** (References Babylon): And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

**Revelation 17:5** (References Babylon): And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

**Revelation 18:2** (References Babylon): And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

**Jeremiah 25:26** (Parallel theme): And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

**Daniel 4:30** (References Babylon): The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?