

Revelation 18:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Analysis

Babylon's self-glorification and sensual living contrast her claim 'I sit a queen, and am no widow' with coming judgment. Her denial of widowhood represents presumed security and permanent prosperity. The boast 'shall see no sorrow' reveals pride and false confidence. This echoes Isaiah 47:7-9's judgment on historical Babylon. Reformed theology recognizes pride as the root sin—Babylon exalts herself, denying dependence on God. The punishment 'in one day' (v. 8) demonstrates sudden judgment despite apparent security. Self-glorification invites divine opposition; humility finds grace (James 4:6).

Historical Context

Rome's military might, economic dominance, and cultural influence created an illusion of permanence. The 'eternal city' claimed perpetual glory. Imperial propaganda portrayed Rome as invincible queen of nations. This vision warned that human empires, however impressive, face certain judgment for pride. The widow imagery recalled vulnerable status—what Rome denied became her reality.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Babylon's pride ('I sit a queen... shall see no sorrow') parallel modern secular confidence in human achievement and progress?
2. What warnings does this give against personal pride and false security based on present prosperity?

Interlinear Text

ὅσα ἐδόξασεν ἐαυτὴν, καὶ ἐστρηνίασεν τοσοῦτον
How much she hath glorified herself and lived deliciously so much
G3745 G1392 G1438 G2532 G4763 G5118

δότε αὐτῆς βασανισμὸν καὶ πένθος ὅτι ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ
give her torment and sorrow for in heart
G1325 G846 G929 G2532 G3997 G3754 G1722 G3588 G2588

αὐτῆς λέγει Κάθημαι βασίλισσα καὶ χήρα οὐ εἰμί καὶ
her she saith I sit a queen and widow no am and
G846 G3004 G2521 G938 G2532 G5503 G3756 G1510 G2532

πένθος οὐ μὴ ἵδω
sorrow no G3361 shall see
G3997 G3756 G1492

Additional Cross-References

Zephaniah 2:15 (Parallel theme): This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.

Lamentations 1:1 (Parallel theme): How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

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