

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

Psalms 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	ἑαυτήν,	καὶ	ἐστρηνίασεν	τοσοῦτον			
How much	she hath glorified	herself	and	lived deliciously	so much			
G3745	G1392	G1438	G2532	G4763	G5118			
δοῦτε	αὐτῆς	βασανισμὸν	καὶ	πένθος	ὅτι	ἐν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ
give	her	torment	and	sorrow	for	in	G3588	heart
G1325	G846	G929	G2532	G3997	G3754	G1722		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	ἴδω					
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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