

The Fall of Babylon

An angel announces the fall of Babylon the Great, that great city representing worldly corruption and persecution of God's people. Heaven rejoices at God's righteous judgment.

Revelation 17:1-18 • Revelation 18:1-24

CHARACTERS: The prostitute Babylon, The beast, Kings and merchants, God's people

THEMES: God's judgment, Worldly corruption, Justice, Separation from evil

ONE OF THE seven angels showed John a great prostitute seated on many waters—the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth. She was clothed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls, holding a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. On her forehead was written a name of mystery: 'Babylon the Great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations.' She was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

The angel explained that the woman represented a great city that rides on the beast—temporarily aligned with evil powers but ultimately to be destroyed by them. Her name, Babylon, evoked the ancient city that opposed God and persecuted His people. She symbolized worldly systems built on pride, materialism, and persecution of believers.

Then another angel came down from heaven with great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. He called out with a mighty voice: 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the

merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.'

Another voice from heaven said, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins and share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.'

In a single day her plagues would come—death, mourning, and famine—and she would be burned up with fire. The kings who committed immorality with her wept and wailed when they saw the smoke of her burning. The merchants mourned because no one bought their cargo anymore—gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, spices, wine, oil, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, and human slaves and souls.

But a mighty angel took up a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more. The sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more. No craftsman of any craft will be found in you anymore, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more. The light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.'

After this, John heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for His judgments are true and just; He has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of His servants.'

The fall of Babylon represented God's final judgment on all systems of oppression, materialism, and rebellion against Him. It was a call to God's

people to remain separate from worldly corruption and to trust that God would ultimately vindicate His name and reward faithfulness.

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