



## Revelation 18 Introduction

### Mathew Henry's Concise Commentary on Revelation Chapter 18

#### Overview:

**Verses 1-3:** Another angel from heaven proclaims the fall of mystical Babylon.

**Verses 4-8:** A voice from heaven admonishes the people of God, lest they partake of her plagues.

**Verses 9-19:** The lamentations over her.

**Verses 20-24:** The church called upon to rejoice in her utter ruin.

#### Verses 1-8

The downfall and destruction of the mystical Babylon are determined in the counsels of God. Another angel comes from heaven. This seems to be Christ himself, coming to destroy his enemies, and to shed abroad the light of his gospel through all nations. The wickedness of this Babylon was very great; she had forsaken the true God, and set up idols, and had drawn all sorts of men into spiritual adultery, and by her wealth and luxury kept them in her interest. The spiritual merchandise, by which multitudes have wickedly lived in wealth, by the sins and follies of mankind, seems principally intended. Fair warning is given to all that expect mercy from God, that they should not only come out of this Babylon, but assist in her destruction. God may have a people even in Babylon. But God's people shall be called out of Babylon, and called effectually, while those that partake with wicked men in their sins, must receive of their plagues.

#### Verses 9-19

The mourners had shared Babylon's sensual pleasures, and gained by her wealth and trade. The kings of the earth, whom she flattered into idolatry, allowing them to be tyrannical over their subjects, while obedient to her; and the merchants, those who trafficked for her indulgences, pardons, and honors; these mourn. Babylon's friends partook her sinful pleasures and profits, but are not willing to share her plagues. The spirit of antichrist is a worldly spirit, and that sorrow is a mere worldly sorrow; they do not lament for the anger of God, but for the loss of outward comforts. The magnificence and riches of the ungodly will avail them nothing, but will render the vengeance harder to be borne. The spiritual merchandise is here alluded to, when not only slaves, but the souls of men, are mentioned as articles of commerce, to the destroying the souls of millions. Nor has this been peculiar to the Roman antichrist, and only her guilt. But let prosperous traders learn, with all their gains, to get the unsearchable riches of Christ; otherwise; even in this life, they may have to mourn that riches make to themselves wings and fly away, and that all the fruits their souls lusted after, are departed from them. Death, at any rate, will soon end their commerce, and all the riches of the ungodly will be exchanged, not only for the coffin and the worm, but for the fire that cannot be quenched.

#### Verses 20-24

That which is matter of rejoicing to the servants of God on earth, is matter of rejoicing to the angels in heaven. The apostles, who are honored and daily worshipped at Rome in an idolatrous manner, will rejoice in her fall. The fall of Babylon was an act of God's justice. And because it was a final ruin, this enemy should never molest them any more; of this they were assured by a sign. Let us take warning from the things which brought others to destruction, and let us set our affections on things above, when we consider the changeable nature of earthly things.



See **Acts 17:11** — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

## Revelation 19 (NKJV)

### 1. The Fall of Babylon the Great

- 1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.
- 2 And he cried <sup>[a]</sup>mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!
- 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the <sup>[b]</sup>abundance of her luxury.”
- 4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.
- 5 For her sins <sup>[c]</sup>have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
- 6 Render to her just as she rendered <sup>[d]</sup>to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.
- 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived <sup>[e]</sup>luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’
- 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who <sup>[f]</sup>judges her.

### 2. The World Mourns Babylon’s Fall

- 9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,
- 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’
- 11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:
- 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;
- 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.
- 14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have <sup>[g]</sup>gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.
- 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,
- 16 and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!
- 17 For in one hour such great riches <sup>[h]</sup>came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance
- 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’



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19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she <sup>[i]</sup>is made desolate.’

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you <sup>[j]</sup>holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

### 3. Finality of Babylon’s Fall

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

### 4. Footnotes

[a] 18:2 NU, M omit mightily

[b] 18:3 Lit. strengths

[c] 18:5 NU, M have been heaped up

[d] 18:6 NU, M omit to you

[e] 18:7 sensually

[f] 18:8 NU, M has judged

[g] 18:14 NU, M been lost to you

[h] 18:17 have been laid waste

[i] 18:19 have been laid waste

[j] 18:20 NU, M saints and apostles

### 5. Notes on Footnotes

**The KJV / NKJV** is based on the received text, the version where there exist most ancient Greek manuscripts.

**NU** - stands for Netsle-Aland Greek New Testament /United Bible Society. These are texts based on the oldest, but not the most numerous ancient manuscripts.

**The NU-Text** found in the footnotes represent the text found in Alexandria / Egypt, because this text is considered to be oldest version of the new testament still in existence. However, old does not automatically mean correct. Alexandria is known to be the seat of occult teachings in ancient times. Even in the 1st and 2nd century there were already incorrect versions of Paul's letters in circulation, but the majority of the copies (i.e. the received text) agreed with each other.

**M** - Masoretic Text - Traditional text of the Old Testament. Often compared to the LXX (Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Old Testament.)



See **Acts 17:11** — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

#### **6. John 15:18,19 The World’s Hatred**

**18** “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** He who hates Me hates My Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. **25** But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”

#### **7. 1 John 3:7-10 Sin and the Child of God**

**4** Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. **5** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. **6** Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.  
**7** Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. **9** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

#### **8. The Imperative of Love**

**10** In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. **11** For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, **12** not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.

#### **9. Matthew 7: 16 You Will Know Them by Their Fruits**

**15** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **16** You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? **17** Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. **19** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **20** Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

#### **10. Revelation 13:17 The Beast from the Earth**

**11** Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. **12** And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. **13** He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. **14** And he deceives [*M my own people*] those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. **15** He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. **16** He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, **17** and that no one may buy or sell except one who has [*NU, M the mark, the name*] the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.  
**18** Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.



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### Revelation 18 Outline

1. Proclamation of Judgment
2. God Announces Babylon The Great has Fallen I got into
  - a. **See Daniel 2** Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Daniel's Interpretation
3. The Limitations of the Merchants and Kings over the Fall of Babylon The Great
4. While This is Going on There Will Be a Celebration in Heaven