

THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON, THE TIME WHEN GOD
AVENGES HIS TRUE PEOPLE.

REV. 18:20-24

Introduction:

- A. The world mourns the loss of Babylon.
 - 1. "weeping and wailing." v15,19
 - 2. "weeping and mourning." v11
 - a. Kings - merchants - ship masters.
- B. What will God's people be doing?
 - 1. Will there be great weeping also?
 - 2. Will we be filled with guilt and remorse?

I. HEAVEN WILL REJOICE. V20

- A. "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets."
 - 1. rejoice = euphraino - to make glad-minded.
 - 2. N.T. apostles = The twelve, their messages, true!
 - 3. O.T. prophets = prophetes - one who speaks forth.
- B. "for God hath avenged you on her."
 - 1. avenged = krima - to judge judgment, to carry out what has been determined in judgment.
 - 2. Rom. 12:19-

II. AN ILLUSTRATION OF BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION. V21

- A. "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."
 - 1. violence = hormema - with a rush, like a stone whizzing through the air.
 - 2. The city disappears in one hour.

3. One day the sun rises as it always has, the stock market opens, the trading begins, all things are prospering, at sunset, everything is gone but the smoke of her burning.

III. THE TOTALITY OF BABYLON'S DESTRUCTION. V22,23

- A. All vestiges of civilization are destroyed.
 1. There will be no more music.
 2. No more men of skill and trades.
 3. No more shops will open.

- B. v23, All signs of domestic life will end.
 1. There will be no homes.
 2. No more families.

- C. The leaders made wrong decisions.
 1. "for thy merchants were the great men of the earth."
 2. "for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."
 - a. sorceries = pharmakeia - the preparing or using of medicine, the using of any kinds of drugs, potions or spells.
 - b. deceived = planao - to make to wander, cause to err, lead astray, used of religious deceit.

IV. THE SHAME OF BABYLON. V24

- A. There are many things not found in the city of Babylon.
 1. Truth, Integrity, Godliness, Purity.

- B. The true work of God is not found.
 1. No true churches where the gospel is preached.
 2. No Bible study, No hymns about the blood.

- C. The unseen treasure.
 1. "And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

2. found = heurisko - to find, as without seeking, to light upon, to discover.
3. slain = katasphazo - to slaughter down, to butcher.
4. The blood of the victims accused it!

V. THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH. Jer. 51:1.

- A. There are several prophecies of doom directed at Babylon
 1. Isaiah 13:1-; 14:1-23; 21:1-10.
 2. Jer. 51:1- [739 B.C.]
- B. Prophecy may require a double fulfillment.
 1. Once literally in history and another time by the direct intervention of God.
 2. This may be true of Babylon.
 3. Babylon has been destroyed by invading armies.
 4. It may be rebuilt as a defiant act by Antichrist.
 5. The tower was built in defiance of God and His commands.
- C. Some verses of particular interest.
 1. God has not forsaken Israel. v5
 2. It is a time of divine vengeance. v6
 3. Babylon is a golden cup. v7
 4. Her judgment reaches to heaven. v9
 5. It is a wealthy city. v13
 6. It shall be desolate. v26
 7. It is the time of harvest. v33
 8. No one may live there. v37
 9. Satan will be punished there. v44,47
 10. Destroyed a great voice. v55
 11. Babylon will sink. v63,64, Rev. 18:21.

VII. AGAIN WE SEE THE POPULATION DIVIDED.

- A. The world.
- B. The kingdom of God.