

# JUDGMENT OF BABYLON

Scripture Reference: Revelation 17-18

Last session we entered the thirty day period just following Daniel’s seventieth week. We saw as God completed His wrath as His seven angels poured out the Bowl judgments.

<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>From last session, what took place in the seventh bowl?</b>

In the final bowl judgment we see that many natural disasters take place that seem far worse than the world has experienced prior to this. Hail, ranging from 75 to 100 pounds per piece falls from the sky decimating the earth.

But the most important statement in this passage about the seventh bowl judgment is that God remembers Babylon to give her the “*cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.*”

<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>Here, when John refers to “great Babylon” to what or whom is he referring?</b>

God’s remembering great Babylon sets up the vision and revelation John receives in **Revelation 17-18**. So let’s read this a bit at a time and ask for God to reveal the meaning of this passage to us.

## THE HARLOT

Read **Revelation 17:1-6**.

- 1) Who is it that reveals the judgments of the “great harlot” to John? \_\_\_\_\_

2) As we'll see, this harlot is referred to as Babylon... why does the angel refer to Babylon as a "great harlot"? \_\_\_\_\_

3) What other charges does the angel bring against the harlot? (vs. 2) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>What else does John reveal about the woman in vs. 3-6?</b>

One significant description of the woman is that she is adorned in scarlet and purple. What do you think the colors of scarlet and purple represent? \_\_\_\_\_

No doubt, there is a reference to the royalty and ruling aspect of Babylon. But there is also more. Read **Isaiah 1:18**. In this passage, to what is the color "scarlet" linked? \_\_\_\_\_

Another interesting correlation is that in verse 4, John sees her holding a cup and then in verse 6, she is drunk. What is in the cup according to verse 4? \_\_\_\_\_

On what does the woman get drunk according to verse 6? \_\_\_\_\_

What connection do you make based on this? \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BEAST**

Now let's read **Revelation 17:7-14**. If you recall back to "Session Four: The Prophetic Empires," we thoroughly dealt with this passage. By way of review, let's briefly look at the revealed truths here by way of questions.

- 1) The beast has seven heads and ten horns (vs. 7). To what do these refer?
  - a. Seven heads: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Ten horns: \_\_\_\_\_

2) The beast "was, is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition (vs. 8). Review the meaning of this: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Why will “those who dwell on the earth marvel? (vs. 8) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) To what does the seven mountains and seven kings refer? (vs. 9-10) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5) The phrase, “Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come” refers to what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) “And when he comes, he must continue a short time,” refers to what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) What is the meaning of verse 11? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Verses 12-14 tells us about the ten horns. To whom do these refer and what are the facts John reveals to us about them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**THE RELATIONSHIP OF BABYLON TO THE BEAST**

Now let’s read **Revelation 17:15-18**. In verse 1, the angel reveals to John that the harlot sits on many waters. Here, in verse 15, John elaborates on that vision by revealing that the many waters refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

In verse 16, John reveals an interesting truth – one that we may not expect and can cause some confusion. What happens between the ten rulers who serve under Antichrist and Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

According to this passage, the ten rulers, along with Antichrist, will turn on the harlot and destroy her.

<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>How does this impact your original idea as to the identity of the harlot?</b>

Enlightened by this passage, many see that the “harlot” specifically refers to the false religious system of Babylon. John MacArthur writes this:

*“After using the false religious system to unify the world kingdoms and gain control of all, the Antichrist—with the help of his 10 sub-rulers—will turn against the system, plunder and destroy it, and seize all power and worship for himself.”<sup>1</sup>*

Many speculations have abounded as to the identity of this false religion that will be the “official religion” of the world for a while until the Antichrist sets himself up as God. However, once the Antichrist declares himself as God (at the midpoint) he, with the aid of his ten sub-rulers, will decimate the current religious system and set up a new one with him as the object of worship.

Perhaps the most popular “guesses” as to this harlot religion are as follows (in order):

- 1) Roman Catholicism
- 2) Islam
- 3) A Universal Religion

And according to **verse 17**, all of this falls perfectly into the plan of God. Then in **verse 18**, we get another nugget into the identity of Babylon. How does John define “Babylon” in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

“Babylon” also refers to the city – most likely the city in which lies the center of the Antichrist’s government, religion, etc. – much like Rome in the Roman Empire.

### **THE SECOND ANGEL**

Read **Revelation 18:1-3**. According to **verse 2**, what will Babylon become? \_\_\_\_\_

Babylon will become a city in which thrives the most intense evil – demonic, foul, and unclean.

Upon what three groups does Babylon have an evil and corrupting impact?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

We see that Babylon not only has the religious aspect as seen in chapter 17, but also has a heavy impact on the commercial and political affairs of the world.

Now read **Revelation 18:4-8**. What is the angel’s warning to His people who happen to be in “great Babylon” during the tribulation? \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup>MacArthur, John Jr: *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville : Word Pub., 1997, c1997, S. Re 17:16

In verses **5-8**, what are God's charges and judgments against Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Revelation 18:9-10**. How will the kings of the earth respond to the destruction of Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Revelation 18:11-19**. How do the merchants respond to the devastation of Babylon? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Revelation 18:20-24**. What further judgments take place on Babylon according to this angel? \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>In light of our session, to what or whom is "Babylon" referring?</b>