

# The Unveiling of Jesus Christ



Fallen, Fallen Is  
Babylon the Great  
Revelation 18

Seven-headed Beast from the Luther Bible

Previously in Revelation

## Previously in Revelation

- The Book of Revelation began with John seeing a vision of the glorified Christ.
- Jesus gave John seven letters for seven churches, each church receiving a personal note from Jesus.
- Then John was taken up into heaven to see the scene before the throne.

## Previously in Revelation

- Amid that worshipful spectacle, he saw Christ, the sacrificed Lamb, receive a scroll.
- As Christ opened the seven seals on the scroll, a series of seven judgments were let loose upon the earth.

## Previously in Revelation

- The seventh seal led to seven trumpets, and as each one was sounded, seven more judgments came.
- The seventh trumpet led to seven bowls, and we then saw each of these judgments poured out.

## Previously in Revelation

- In Revelation 17 we saw the first of two visions pertaining to Babylon.
- That one dealt with the religious aspect of the city and the system it stands for.
- It showed us a future worldwide faith that will first be supported, and then destroyed by the Beast.

Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

Revelation 18

Introduction

# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

## Introduction

- In this chapter we will look at **Babylon** as more of a **commercial and political** city and system.
- Unlike the previous chapter, this one is not full of striking symbolism.
- Interpretation will not be that hard.



# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

## Introduction

- The key issue is the relationship between **ancient Babylon** and **Babylon the Great** of the future.
- The ruins of the city of ancient Babylon still exist in Iraq and were partially rebuilt by Saddam Hussein.
- We'll take a quick tour before we examine the chapter.

Here is a map of Iraq with the province of **Babil** highlighted.



### Babil Province

Population: 1,820,700  
(comparable to greater  
Indianapolis)

Area: Approx. 2000 sq.  
mi. (about 6 times  
Marion County)

Here is the rebuilt Ishtar Gate, the main gate to the city of ancient Babylon.



Photo: Sabah ARAR AFP

This is part of the ancient city today.



<https://www.unusualtraveler.com/visiting-the-ruins-of-babylon/>



Here is another view. The walkway down the middle is original.



<https://www.unusualtraveler.com/visiting-the-ruins-of-babylon/>

This lion statue is thought to go back to the days of Nebuchadnezzar.



<https://www.unusualtraveler.com/visiting-the-ruins-of-babylon/>

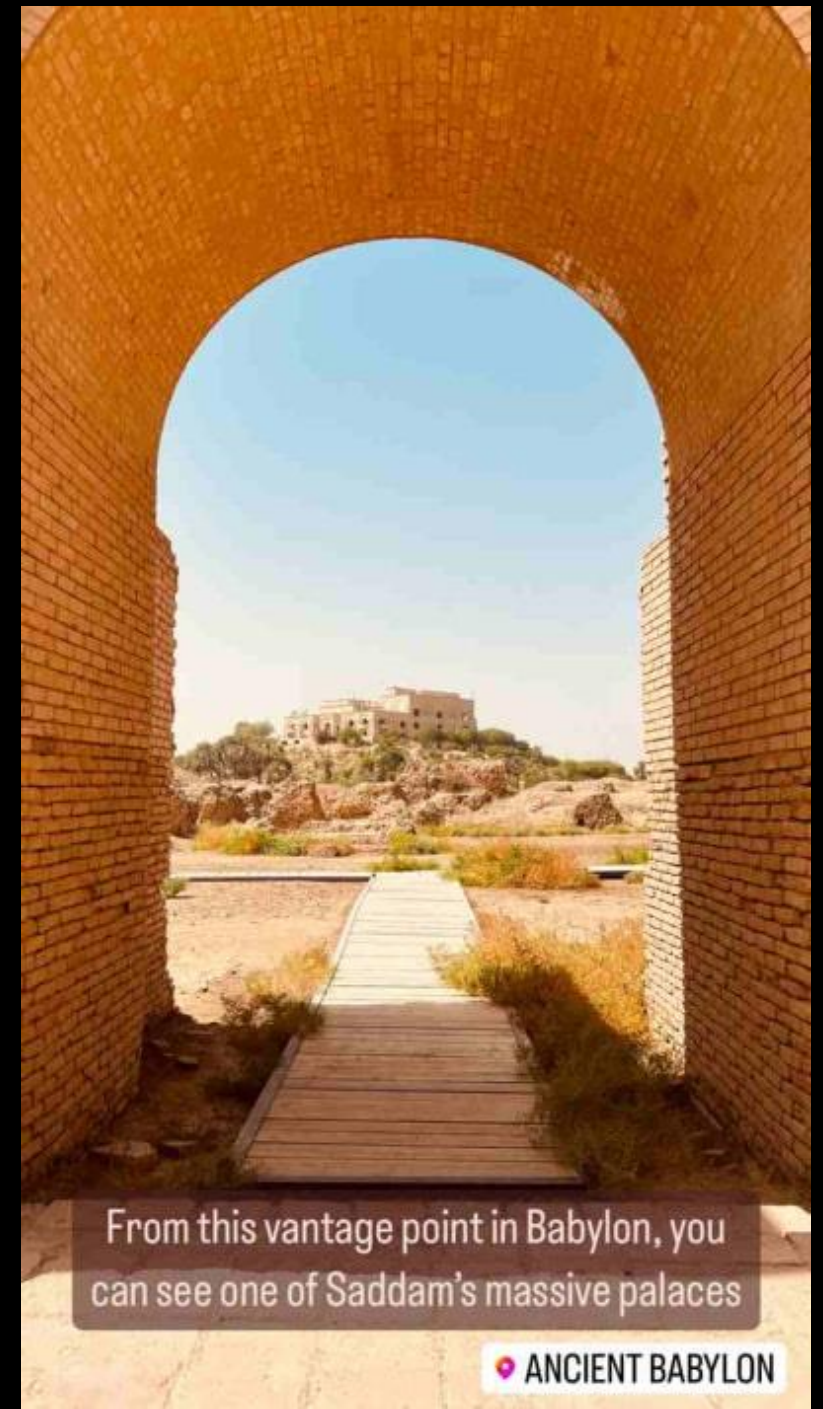
Alexander the Great built this amphitheater.  
He died in Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's Palace in 323 B.C.





The palace in the distance  
belonged to Saddam Hussein.

<https://www.sophiesworld.net/exploring-babylon-iraq/>



From this vantage point in Babylon, you  
can see one of Saddam's massive palaces

ANCIENT BABYLON



Here is a closer view of  
Saddam's palace.



<https://www.sophiesworld.net/exploring-babylon-iraq/>

The Tower of Babel may have been a structure much like this ancient Ziggurat. Buildings like these served religious purposes.



<https://jaminbradley.com/2020/02/15/tower-of-babel-an-ancient-ziggurat/>

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## Revelation 18

## Introduction

- Babylon is no longer great, but unfulfilled prophecies pertaining to its destruction remain.
- We may therefore look forward to a further rebuilding of the city somewhere near its ancient location.
- It can then become Antichrist's political and economic capital – the capital of the world.

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Old Testament Prophecies

# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

## Old Testament Prophecies

- Let's read through some of the Old Testament Prophecies and then read through the chapter.



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Old Testament Prophecies

- All of the following are pertinent to our chapter today.
  - Isaiah 13:19-22
  - Isaiah 14:22-23
  - Isaiah 47
  - Jeremiah 50:33-40
  - Jeremiah 51:8-9, 24-26, 27-29, 60-64

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## Revelation 18

# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

- Now let's read through **Revelation 18** in sections.
- Pay attention to the different voices that speak.

# 1. The Angel Announcing Judgment

## Revelation 18:1-3

# 1. The Angel Announcing Judgment

## Revelation 18:1-3

- We might wonder how so many could be deceived so thoroughly by Babylon's wickedness.
- Here is one reason:
- **18:3b** ... the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living

## 2. The Voice Calling for Separation

### Revelation 18:4-8



## 2. The Voice Calling for Separation

### Revelation 18:4-8

- In v.4 we see two reasons why God's people have to distance themselves from Babylon.
  1. To not take part in her sins.
  2. To not share in her plagues.

## 2. The Voice Calling for Separation

### Revelation 18:4-8

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

14 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? 15 What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

## 2. The Voice Calling for Separation

### Revelation 18:4-8

- In 18:8 the voice emphasizes that Babylon's destruction comes "in a single day."

### 3. The Voices of Those Who Mourn Revelation 18:9-19

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#### Revelation 18:9-19

- A. The kings of the earth 18:9-10
- B. The merchants of the earth 18:11-17a
- C. Shipmasters and sailors 18:17b-19

### 3. The Voices of Those Who Mourn Revelation 18:9-19

- 18:10, 19 in a single hour
- Again, notice the suddenness of Babylon's destruction.

### 3. The Voices of Those Who Mourn Revelation 18:9-19

The Top Ten Countries where modern slavery is still practiced according to the Walk Free Global Slavery Index:

- |                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. North Korea  | 6. Tajikistan           |
| 2. Eritrea      | 7. United Arab Emirates |
| 3. Mauritania   | 8. Russia               |
| 4. Saudi Arabia | 9. Afghanistan          |
| 5. Türkiye      | 10. Kuwait              |

## 4. The Voice of Victory

### Revelation 18:20-24



## 4. The Voice of Victory

### Revelation 18:20-24

- The destruction of Babylon, both here and in Old Testament prophecy needs to be:
  1. Sudden
  2. Complete
  3. Permanent
- This kind of destruction has not yet happened to Babylon.

## 4. The Voice of Victory

### Revelation 18:20-24

- 18:23 sorcery = *pharmakeia* related to drugs.
- See also Revelation 9:21,

Nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

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Conclusions

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## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

- To fulfill the prophecies, the final destruction of Babylon must fulfill three requirements.
- It must be:
  - Sudden in one hour, one day
  - Complete like Sodom and Gomorrah
  - Permanent never again inhabited
- We can expect the rebuilt Babylon of Antichrist to fall in exactly that way.

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## Conclusions

### 1. The Person of Christ

# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

### 1. The Person of Christ

- We can hear Jesus in the voice in v.4,  
“Come out of her, my people,  
lest you take part in her sins,  
lest you share in her plagues ...”

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2. The Persistence of Sin

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## Revelation 18

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### 2. The Persistence of Sin

- Here we only have to continue through the next few verses, vv.5-8.
- Let's read those again.



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Conclusions

3. The Plan of God

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## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

### 3. The Plan of God

- We see the plan of God fulfilled in **the certainty** of Babylon's destruction.
- The city is merely a focal point for the entire system of evil and temptation that we call **"the world."**

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## Conclusions

- The world, the flesh and the devil

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## Conclusions

- The world, the flesh and the devil
- Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

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## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

- The world, the flesh and the devil
- Ephesians 2:1-3

3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

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## Conclusions

- God's Alternative

# Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great

## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

- God's Alternative
- Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ...

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- God's Alternative
- Ephesians 2:4-10

... 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God ...



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## Revelation 18

## Conclusions

- God's Alternative
- Ephesians 2:4-10

... not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

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## Conclusions

- God's Alternative
- God is calling each of us to separate ourselves from the world.
- His point in this is that we obtain the life he has planned for us.