

The End of the Empire of Evil Revelation 18

A Quick Review - Chapter 17

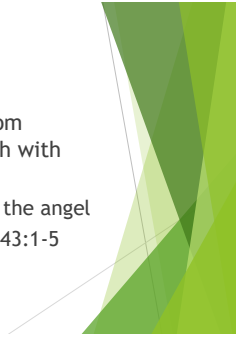
- ▶ The Great Prostitute
 - ▶ No longer following God
 - ▶ Adulterous leanings towards false gods
- ▶ The Beast
 - ▶ Came from the sea in chapter 13
 - ▶ The anti-Christ

OT Taunt Song or Doom Song or Dirge

- ▶ Isaiah 13:19-22
- ▶ Isaiah 34:11-15—Doom Song of Edom
- ▶ Zephaniah 2:13-15 Taunt Song of Ninevah
- ▶ Jeremiah 50:39, 51:37

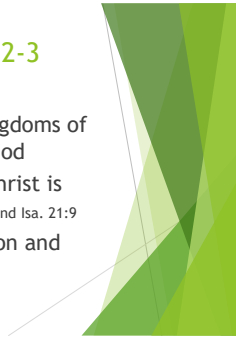
The Glory of God - v 1

- ▶ Another angel comes down from heaven...**illuminating** the earth with his splendor
- ▶ Radiance of God reflected by the angel
- ▶ See Exodus 34:29-35, Ezekiel 43:1-5



The Doom of Babylon - vs 2-3

- ▶ Babylon is a symbol of the kingdoms of earth versus the kingdom of God
- ▶ Earthly kingdom of the anti-Christ is the ultimate Babylon See Isa. 13 and Isa. 21:9
- ▶ A picture of absolute desolation and destruction



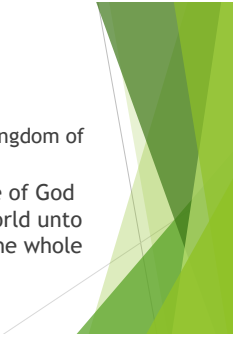
The Doom of Babylon - vs 2-3

- ▶ The nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries
- ▶ Kings of the earth committed adultery with her
- ▶ Desertion from the Lord; defilement
- ▶ See Hosea 4:1-13, Jeremiah 3:1-5



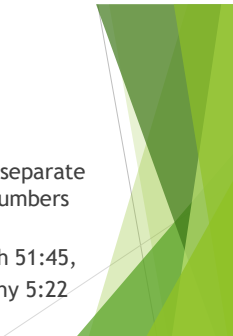
A Call to Christians - v 4

- ▶ “Come out of her, my people”
 - ▶ Warning to depart from the kingdom of evil and to follow God
- ▶ NOTE! This is the great theme of God calling people out from the world unto Himself that is the theme of the whole of scripture



A Call to Christians - v 4

- ▶ Call of Abraham, Genesis 12:1
- ▶ Call of Lot, Genesis 19:12-14
- ▶ Call to Moses and Israelites to separate from the rebellion of Korah, Numbers 16:23-26
- ▶ See also Isaiah 52:11, Jeremiah 51:45, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Timothy 5:22



A Call to Christians - v 4

- ▶ “saints” = “holy ones”
- ▶ “ekklesia” = “called out ones”
- ▶ Continuation/finalization of the theme that God’s people should not be part of the people who are against God
- ▶ The kingdom of God and the kingdom of earth are separate and will be clearly separate during the Great Tribulation
- ▶ NOTE! We may blur the separation of kingdoms now, living in both; but there will be no mistaking the two and no living in the two during the Great Tribulation—we will have to clearly choose



The Judgment upon the Kingdom of Babylon - vs 5-8

- ▶ The kingdom of evil and unrighteousness will be punished, reaping what has been sown
 - ▶ See Galatians 6:7, Jeremiah 50:29
- ▶ God remembers their sin and will repay them for their evil
 - ▶ See Daniel 5
- ▶ NOTE! This is in opposition to believers where God says He will remember their sins no more. The wicked will be punished and the righteous will be rewarded. Though it seems as though the wicked thrive while the righteous suffer, the great message of Revelation is that this will be turned around in the end. It will be made right! The justice of God will be meted out and our faithfulness will be rewarded
 - ▶ See Psalm 103:1-13



The Reaction of the World to the Fall of Babylon: Three Groups

- ▶ Likely modeled after Ezekiel 27 and the destruction of Tyre
- ▶ The Lament of the Kings - vs 9-10
 - ▶ They will mourn over her because of their own losses and be terrified at the swiftness of her destruction
- ▶ The Lament of the Merchants - vs 11-17
 - ▶ They will mourn the loss of trade and the source of their wealth
 - ▶ Opulence and excess had reached epic proportions in Rome, with costly goods imported from all over the known world



The Reaction of the World to the Fall of Babylon: Three Groups

- ▶ The Sea Captains - vs 17b-20
 - ▶ Like the merchants, they mourn the sudden loss of their source of wealth
- ▶ NOTE! In opposition to these worldly mourners, followers of Christ are rejoicing over this judgment! They see the justice of God and are glad. This is what the prophets, apostles and Christians throughout the ages have waited for, to see God act according to His justice in repaying the evil that has been done to them and upon the earth



The Final Word - vs 21-24

- ▶ A mighty angel throws a large boulder into the sea, indicating that Babylon will also be thrown down with violence and finality
- ▶ Six times—"never to be found in you again" or "never to be heard in you again"—finality of judgment.



The Final Word - vs 21-24

- ▶ The kingdom of evil will never rise up again; it is done and over
- ▶ God has judged and the world as we know it has ended
- ▶ NOTE! The reaction in Chapter 19 is praise and hallelujah from God's people in heaven. The time has come for the eternal kingdom of God!