

Three Angels' Message Sermon Series
8 – The Fall of Babylon
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Final Warning Last Cry message is given before the fall of the seven last plagues

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out** of her, my people, that ye **be not partakers of her sins**, and that ye **receive not of her plagues**.

Those who do NOT take heed to the FINAL urgent message and receive the mark of the beast will receive the seven last plagues, the wrath of God. When the plagues fall probation for everyone is CLOSED.

The last days are compared to the days of Noah before the flood. God gave the people time to repent before the execution of his judgment, the worldwide flood. He gave them a warning and a call to get out of worldliness and unbelief and get on the ark to be saved. The truth was sufficiently given to every person to make the right choice to get on the ark and be saved before the flood. The final warning was given when the animals were getting into the ark. When God closed the door of the ark it was too late. Probation closed for all the world and they received their doom. The same will be true at the end of time. Every person will be given sufficient evidence of God's truth to get out of Babylon! The seven last plagues are like the flood, the door of mercy is closed.

The seven last plagues are the execution of God's judgment against ALL who have received the mark of the beast.

"So in the prophecies the future is opened before us as plainly as it was opened to the disciples by the words of Christ. The events connected with the close of probation and the work of preparation for the time of trouble, are clearly presented. But multitudes have no more understanding of these important truths than if they had never been revealed. Satan watches to catch away every impression that would make them wise unto salvation, and the time of trouble will find them unready." {Ellen White, Great Controversy 594.1}

"Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God or be cut down by the destroying weapons. Already a few drops of God's wrath have fallen upon the earth; but **when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever too late to repent and find shelter**. No atoning blood will then wash away the stains of sin." Ellen White, Testimonies For The Church Volume 5, p. 212

"Mercy's sweet call is now sounding; but it will soon die away. Probation's hour will soon be ended. The **seven last plagues will fall**, and then those who have chosen the pleasures of the world and rebelled against God, will cry for mercy when there will be none to answer their prayers. But a voice will be heard,--"Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting." And as they realize that they have no shelter from the dreadful storm of God's wrath, they will plead for one little hour of probation that they may again hear the sweet voice, inviting "every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." It will then fall upon the ear, in that dreadful hour. **"Too late! too late!"** "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded. But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh." **Exhortation to the Young, Youth Instructor, January 1, 1854, Ellen White**

What does God pronounce upon Babylon as result of her sins?

Revelation 18:6

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

Reward (Greek) = Payment for deeds (good or bad)

God pronounces a guilty verdict on Babylon and she will receive double punishment for her wickedness and rebellious deeds.

What are the sins of Babylon that reached in heavens? Why will Babylon receive double punishment for her deeds?

Revelation 18:7

7 How much she hath **glorified herself**, and **lived deliciously**, so much **torment and sorrow give her**: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Glorify - to praise, honor, celebrate, magnify

Glorified Self – False worship is self worship!

Revelation 18:7 reveals that ALL the inhabitants of Babylon, those have the mark of the beast, glorified self. The main motive in life was to please and uplift self. They all were puffed up with selfish pride. As a result of not heeding the call to GET OUT OF BABYLON. They believed the lie. They placed self above TRUTH. False worship ALWAYS leads to self worship. They believed the dragon and all the doctrines of Babylon more than God. Self was their idol above God the Creator.

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

3 Let **no man deceive you by any means**: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the **son of perdition**; [Papal Rome (outer core) / Satan (inner core)]

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This is the nature of Satan. Self worship. He exalts self above God. ALL in Babylon will reflect the nature of Satan. Satan is who they truly worship. They are following down the exact same path as Satan. Self worship is Satanic worship.

James 1:14, 15

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

This is the seed that Babylon's inhabitants have sown. The result is destruction. Why did they NOT take heed to the merciful call of God to get OUT of BABYLON!

Again, BE NOT DECEIVED... What seeds are you sowing now? They will determine what you will reap in the future. "If you sow beans, don't expect corn!" If you sow into the flesh don't expect spiritual blessings...

Galatians 6:7, 8

7 **Be not deceived**; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap **corruption [ruin/eternal death]**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

	<u>Sowing to Flesh</u>	<u>Sowing to Spirit (vital connection with God)</u>
S	Hollywood Movies / Worldly TV	Bible Study
	Yoga (new age meditation)	Prayer
	Junk Food/ Processed Foods	Plant Based Diet

E E D S	Sports TV Entertainment	Gardening / Walking / Industry /Exercise
	Worldly Music (R&B, Hip hop, rock, jazz, etc)	Godly / heavenly wholesome music
	Gossip	Sharing God's Word
	Fornication, Adultery, Homosexuality or Shackin'	Christian Marriage

As a result of Babylon's self worship, how did they live?

Revelation 18. verse 7 says that they **lived "deliciously"**.

"Deliciously" Greek- to be *luxurious*

Dictionary.com

"Luxurious" as an adjective: Key meanings that describe **BABYLON!**

1. given to pleasure, especially of the senses; voluptuous.
2. present or occurring in great abundance
3. excessively ornate / decorated; overelaborate:

"Luxury" as a noun: Key meanings

1. a means of ministering to such indulgence or enjoyment:
2. a foolish or worthless form of self-indulgence:

The Doctrine of Delicious Living

"Deliciously" living is continually sowing to please the flesh. This is one of the main mixes of the Babylonian wine in which ALL get drunk. A doctrine of self-indulgence. All in Babylon believed and were deceived by it. The doctrine of "delicious" living has a main motto, which is "Do what thou wilt." It teaches, "**If it feels good to you, do it.**" **If it tastes good, eat it.**" **"If you like it, take it."** **"If you want it, buy it."** **"If you got it, show it."** **"If you can't have it, watch it, lust it, and imagine it's yours."** If it pleases your eyes, ears, taste, smell, or touch... DO IT!

1 John 2:16

16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

2 Timothy 3:1 - 5

- 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
- 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
- 4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
- 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

It does not matter if they claim godliness or not there is NO DISTINCTION from the world. All in Babylon love self-indulgence and worldliness.

Going back to Revelation 18:7 -

In reality, what does Babylon offer?

Revelation 18:7

7 How much she hath **glorified herself**, and **lived deliciously**, so much **torment and sorrow give her**: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Babylon is full of torment (torture) and sorrow.

Why? Remember Revelation 18:2... Babylon is a “habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”

Even though ALL in Babylon are lovers of pleasure and self-indulgence NONE are truly happy with real peace that only comes from God. They are tormented by devils, but try to make it appear that they are having a good time! They are truly full of sorrow, heart ache, and pain. They ALL will suffer from the seven last plagues.

In order to try to escape the reality of their miserable condition, what do they say to themselves?

End of verse 7 - for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

They deceive themselves by telling themselves a lie to escape the reality of their misery!

How long will those in Babylon suffer from the seven last plagues and what will happen to them in the end?

Revelation 18:8

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in **one day**, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be **utterly burned with fire**: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.

Remember in the context of symbolism... 1 day = 1 literal year. ALL those who choose to stay in Babylon will suffer from and be tormented by the seven last plagues in one literal year. Only God's people sealed with the seal of the living God will be able to make it through in the very end.

End of verse Rev. 18:8 Babylon leaders will be “utterly burned with fire.”

Did you know the leadership of Babylon, the beast and the image of the beast who make the wheels of Babylon turn, will be thrown into a lake of fire specifically made for them during the seventh plague at the Second Coming of the Lord?

Revelation 19:20, 13, 14

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Who will cry over the destruction of Babylon, why do they cry?

Revelation 18:9 – 11

9 And the **kings of the earth**, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in **one hour is thy judgment come**.

11 And the **merchants of the earth** shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Two main groups of people that will cry aloud bitterly when they see Babylon, their beloved city, destroyed; the kings (leaders / politicians) of the earth and the merchants (businesses / corporations) of the earth. They were part of it! Not only do they see her doom, but they also see their own.

Why do the kings (leaders and politicians) cry over her? Verse 9 – First they committed fornication with Babylon. This reveals the intimacy of the leaders of the earth and Babylon! They cried bitterly for Babylon as a lover loses its love. The kings of the earth were intimate with her as like one who sleeps with a prostitute. Babylon made the kings of the earth feel good in exchange for power and authority. The kings enjoyed her company and paraded her to others and celebrated her.

They also enjoyed a self-indulgent lifestyle with Babylon. The intimate relationship thrived because they were both pleased. They both were able to satisfy their self-indulgent desires. Many became powerful and wealthy because of her. ALL of that is now taken away! The kings of the earth are in deep mourning for Babylon's ruin and collapse! Because they are part of it they also will fall with it!

Why do the merchants (business / corporations) weep and mourn over Babylon?

Verse 11 – For no man buyeth their merchandise any more.

Many businesses of the world become very wealthy because of Babylon's self-indulgence and political connections to Babylon.

Remember what it says at the end of Revelation 18:3 concerning the merchants of the earth...

“..the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the **abundance** of her delicacies.”

Self-indulgence, entertainment, pleasure seeking, worldly fashions, adornment and all that supports it is worth trillions of dollars world-wide!

The merchants of the earth advertise and feed the great self-indulgent appetite of ALL those in Babylon, but in the end they will collapse financially because of the total fall of Babylon. No one will buy her stuff anymore!

But, as we will see later, there is another industry that profits greatly from this self-indulgence.... ALL in Babylon support this industry directly or indirectly.

What were some of the things they sold that fed the self-indulgent appetite of Babylon?

Revelation 18:12

12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

Verse 12 reveals how much Babylon was caught up in display, making itself look good on the outside to try to hide the filthiness, pain, hurt, and chaos on the inside. You will see the inner focus of pleasing self will be manifested in the outward physical appearance in bringing attraction to self!

All in Babylon; from Papal Rome, modern apostate churches, pop culture, hollywood, atheist, to all false religions, coveted the outward adorning of self. All have a “look at me and my stuff – attitude.” Even if they could not afford it, they coveted it. Their inward self-indulgence and pride reflected their outward adornment of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls around their necks, wrists, and ankles. The wearing of jewelry originally came from the pagan worship of false gods. In many false religions the jewelry was used to “calm the evil spirits or prevent an evil spirit from entering in through the open area of the body such as the mouth, nose, or ears. Jewelry is used to display a persons wealth or “enhance” their status of how others think of them. Also it promotes pride.

Also, Babylon was caught up in the clothing fashions of the world that were made with fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet.

Babylon was also caught up their stuff - houses and car made from wood, ivory, brass, iron, and marble. Again if those in Babylon did not have it, they coveted it or imagined it through movies, video games, etc..

Decades ago churches spoke against the outward adorning of self and worldly fashions, but this is almost never addressed today because the modern church has accepted.

ALL in Babylon may profess differences in beliefs, but they are ALL the same – SELF-INDULGENT and PRIDEFUL. They all covet outward adorning of self.

What are some other things that the merchants of the earth sell to those in Babylon that feed their self-indulgence?

Revelation 18:13

13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Even though spiritually the odor of all in Babylon is stink to God because of their rebellion and pride, they try to cover up the stink by buying sweet-smelling perfumes and incense. They also indulge in alcoholic wine, food, animal flesh, and cars (chariots).

Notice at the end of verse 13 it says that the merchants of the earth got wealthy selling slaves and the souls of men to Babylon?

Babylon is a great supporter of slavery and oppressor of the souls of men.

Slavery is a legal and economic system in which people are treated as property that can be bought, sold, and manipulated. For centuries, countries including the United States of America were built on the backs of free or low wage workers. Slaves are given just enough to survive and live the next day to make the owner a profit.

Unfortunately, today there are untold millions who are slaves or low wage workers who barely make enough to survive in order to make great profits for the merchants of the earth and Babylon. Also, our modern educational system has produced higher wage slaves that are manipulated by merchants of the earth and Babylon. No more are students taught how to work with their hands, invent, think for themselves, start their own business, and grow food. Students are taught to regurgitate what the school wants them to learn. They are taught to go to college get in major debt and be a part of the working herd to make the merchants of the earth wealthy. **That sounds like slavery to me.**

Souls of men....

Also, the merchants of the earth see those in Babylon as merchandise especially those who profess godliness. The CEO of this enterprise are the pastors and priest. They sell what people want to hear - cheap grace, the promise of heaven, blessing, healing, and financial blessing only if they have "faith" and sow a seed of money into the church enterprise. They preach "itching ear" sermons to keep the people captivated and entertained.

What does Peter say about these "merchants of the earth"?

2 Peter 2: 1 – 3

- 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- 3 And through covetousness shall they with **feigned words make merchandise of you**: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

James 5:1-7

- 1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

- 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.
- 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.
- 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.
- 5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.
- 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.
- 7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

The “business” of church is a multi-billion dollar industry in which the pastors of these mega business churches live “deliciously” with mansions, expensive cars, private jets, expensive jewelry, etc...

Appeal