

b) Seventh bowl: destruction of Babylon - 18.1-24

4. Angel announces judgement - 18.1-3

Fallen is babylon... See Rev 14.8. Again, a clear indication that we must not try to read all of the book of Revelation as a historically sequential description of the fall of Babylon. In chapter 18 we get a wider description than in chapter 14, but it describes the same event.

The description of the fall of Babylon resembles how this is prophesied in Isaiah 13, Jeremiah 50-51, and Ezekiel 27's prophecy against Tyre.



Discuss: How does Rev. 18.3 describe the relationship between Babylon and the nations/kings/merchants?

Discuss: What is the attraction of Babylon? What is the chance that we fall under 'her' spell?

5. Go out from her - 18.4-8

Come out of her, my people... This is addressed to the churches in Thyatira and Laodicea that seemed to enjoy the culture in which they lived too much. See Rev 2.18-29 and 3.14-22. But this message is similarly, and in general, addressed to all Christians. Read 2 Corinthians 6.14-18.

Discuss: How does Babylon view itself?

Discuss: How does God respond to this?

6. Result of cooperation with Babylon - 18.9-19

Discuss: What was the image of Babylon? And why is the world so sad over the destruction of the city?

Rev 18:20 - I am not sure this sentence is part of what is said by those who mourn (Rev 18.17-19a) and it seems more like an interjection for the church. The persecuted church of Rev 2-3 will rejoice with heaven because God judges their persecutors.

7. Vindication of the believers and of God - 18.20-24

Compare Rev 18.24 (and Rev 18:20) with Luke 11.49-50 and Matthew 23.35-36 and discuss how these verses are related (if at all).

If Babylon is Jerusalem in 70AD, the words "Come out of her, my people..." (Rev 18.4) may be parallel to Luke 21.20-21.

Homework :) Read at home pages 50 and 52 of the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible about the identity of the city of Babylon.

