

INTRODUCTION

1. Contrast 2 wmn: Harlot & Bride. Babylon; Bst; False prophet; earth-dwellers - global opposition to Lamb - Rv 17:14. Judgment of Bab - Rv 17:1-2. Surprising turn - v15-18. Present [6th] & future [7th/8th] manifestation of the Bst - remain for a little while, 1 hour - goes to destruction [v8-13].

1st: The Description of the Babylonian Harlot Prospering - v15-16a & v18

1. v1 - *waters* = 4fold description of idolatrous earth-dwellers: under Bab's *reign*. Variety of nations but all held in the grip of Harlot's idolatrous deception. v16 - *10 horns/kgs w/ the bst* - a blasphemous idolatrous culture - 17:3 [5:9]
2. OT sees peoples/nations like turbulent water [Isa 17:12-13; Jer 51:13]. Historical types, prophetic pictures of the last-times Babylon.
3. v18 *the great city* = antiChrist society - 11:8 *Jerusalem* - apostasy; *Sodom* - sexual sin, violence, injustice; *Egypt* - enslaved people of God. Max Doner: "immorality, enslavement, and apostasy are what characterizes Babylon."
 - i. Bab called *the great city* in chpt 18 5x as object of God's Jdgmnt.
 - ii. *city*: organized community of blasphemous, materialistic, idolaters: "trans-historical system of satanic evil that infuses" cities -> a global city.
4. 2 cities: Jerusalem that *comes down from heaven* [Rv 3:12; 21:2,10; 22:2-3] & *Babylon the Great* [11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10]; 2 citizens, laws, gov'ts: *city of truth* [Zech 8:1-3] or of lies: 2 destinies: glory or destruction

2nd: The Self-destruction of the Babylonian Harlot Prophesied - v16b-17

1. Literary structure: 17:16-18 summary - 18:1-14 details judgment
2. 3 metaphors Bst's revolt: 1] nakedness exposed; 2] devoured; 3] burned
3. OT - Ezek 16:35-41 [jdgmnt on Jeru - apostasy is harlotry, cf 23:25-29].
4. NT - Mrk 3:24-26 Derek Thomas: "Evil is implicitly self-destructive."
5. Bst [political/policing] & Bab [economic, social, cultural/religious]. See "Societal Suicide" sermons from Isaiah in 2012.
 - i. Beale; Hendriksen. Like Judas regretted betraying Jesus - but its too late: commits suicide. Rv 18 the time for repentance is past. Dennis Johnson.

6. Gov't policy, enforced by police -> economic collapse & social chaos. Beneath it all is a common rejection of Creator & gospel = what unites for Armageddon.

3rd: The Completion of God's Sovereign Purpose - v17

1. Why does Bst revolt & destroy Bab? Loss of common grace; perversion of creation order; rebellion against God-constituted authority. Kistemaker - [Mt 22:12]. Violation of Vth c civil authority [Rm 13:1ff]; domestic [Isa 3] - a society w/o qualifies leaders. Rm 1 - sexual sin & moral insanity as consequence of idolatry [Rm 1:25]; [1T 4:1-5; 2T 3:1-5] *love* grown cold
 - i. Rv 12:15-17 common grace stays Satan's flood of lies from Satan's mouth, but see Rv 16:13-16. Lies & false miracles [False Prophet] unite against Lamb for *one hour* in wh/ Bab is judged & collapses [Rv 18:19].
2. Why ? - Rv 17:17. *God has put it in their hearts* - Ezra 7:27; Neh 2:12; 7:25; Prv 21:1 - so that *the words of God will be fulfilled*. God superintends real creaturely evil that deserves real judgment - Am 3:6.

Applic #1: Discern the Movements of the Beast in Babylon

1. Any news headlines come to mind? Events from history?
2. Mat 4:7-11 reject Satan's cheap & tawdry proposals.

Applic #2: Discern the Fate of Jezebel

1. Rv 2:20-23 Jezebel is Bab Harlot w/i ch: apostate Xnty - same fate as Bab.
2. Discern vulnerability to apostasy in self. Judas, Demas - 1T 6:9. Rv 18:4 *Come out of her My people!* Withstand Satan's deceptive incitements w/ an overcoming faith - *until the words of God will be fulfilled*. AMEN