

Prayer:

The book of Revelation gives us a broad outline overview of where we are and where redemptive history is ultimately going.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) – Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
- - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

The last great system of organized rebellion against God in the world comes under the heading of Babylon, which is headed up by Antichrist. The rebel world can accurately be described as Babylonian in orientation.

Slide # 2

The PROGRESSION of BABYLONIANISM

- The “seeds” were sown in the Fall of Mankind.
- Marked by the Solidarity of Mankind in Rebellion.
- Systematized at Babel.
- Developing throughout History.
- Universalized under Antichrist.

The great issue in life is the issue of worship. After the fall this was first great issue addressed as seen in Genesis 4, where Abel represented being a true worshiper, and Cain represented false worship. Cain killed his brother Abel, and ever since, this rift between true worshipers and false worshipers has been developing throughout history and comes to a climax in the Tribulation Period under the umbrella of Babylon.

In the conclusion of rebellious pre-kingdom history, there are two climactic aspects of the Babylonian System. One is found in Revelation 17 (called Mystery Babylon), which gives way to the final form in chapter 18 (called Babylon the Great).

Slide # 3

The WOMAN OF REVELATION 17

HARLOT (Spiritually Unfaithful – Rev. 17:1)

MYSTERY BABYLON (Distinct from literal Babylon, but Babylonian [idolatrous] in orientation – Rev. 17:5)

CITY (Headquarters – Rev. 17:18)

DESTROYED (By the forces of Antichrist – Rev. 17:16)

Slide # 4

The Babylonian System Proper

- Roots are traced back to Babel in Genesis 10-11.
- Idolatrous in Nature.
- Involved the UNION of the Gov't and Religion.
- Spawned the Mother and Son Cult. (Semiramis and Tammuz)
- Settled historically in Rome (The harlot that is Mystery Babylon – Rev. 17)
- Finalized in literal Babylon under Antichrist (Rev. 18)

We have noted that in the climax of the Babylonian System, there are two phases involving two cities.

Slide # 5

THE BABYLONIAN SYSTEM

Idolatrous False Religion
(Genesis – Revelation)

Revelation 17

Stage One

Revelation 18

Stage Two

A City (Papal Rome)
 "Church" & State in Union
 Mystery Babylon
 Religious Emphasis
 Rides the Beast (Control)
 Destroyed by Antichrist
 1st Half of the Trib

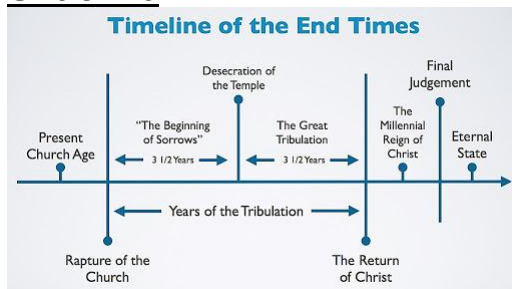
A City (Babylon Revived)
 Religion & State in Union
 Babylon the Great
 Economic Emphasis
 Controls the World
 Destroyed by God
 2nd Half of the Trib

The next great event on God's prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. In place immediately after the Rapture of the Church is this great spiritual ecumenical harlot centered in what I believe is the city of Rome.

The influence of the great harlot (the false church) will be worldwide, even over kings. She will be in union with the beast (Antichrist), and she will be in the dominant riding position (Rev. 17:3, 7, 9). But the Antichrist and his henchmen will HATE this counterfeit Christianity, this great whore that is Mystery Babylon, and therefore, after using her in ascendancy to worldwide power, they will destroy her completely!

Antichrist will then emerge as the ultimate union of Religion and State. The final form of Babylon will then be realized in Antichrist and his worldwide government in combination with his one-world religion. Then will be realized the union of Government and Religion on a worldwide scale. Thus, Babylon will have come full circle back to the Tower of Babel. The people will be one in organized rebellion against God under the idolatrous leadership of Antichrist.

Slide # 6



Whereas the harlot that is Mystery Babylon is headquartered in the city of Rome, the final form of Babylon will be headquartered in the rebuilt city of Babylon. In the end, everything comes full circle to Babylon, and the Antichrist brings the Babylonian System to full final fruition as seen in Revelation 18.

Slide # 7**THREE GREAT CITY HEADQUARTERS IN THE TRIBULATION**

- 1) **ROME** (Headquarters of Mystery Babylon the Great Harlot in the 1st Half of the Tribulation – Rev. 17:8).
- 2) **JERUSALEM** (Religious Headquarters of the Antichrist in the 2nd half of the Tribulation after his take down of the Great Harlot – Dan. 11:45, 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13).
- 3) **BABYLON** (Political/Economic Headquarters of the Antichrist – Rev. 18).

I personally believe that Mystery Babylon is Rome and that, when it goes down in the midst of the Great Tribulation, the religious center shifts to Jerusalem because it is at Jerusalem that the False Prophet will put up his image of Antichrist to be worshiped. Commercial Babylon is ancient Babylon, rebuilt as the commercial capital of the world. This city is the final capital of the political power of the Beast.

– **J. Vernon McGee**

And that background brings us to Revelation 18 and the climactic judgment of the final form of the Babylonian System of the world.

Revelation 18:1–8 (NKJV)

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

The phrase “**After these things**”, as it consistently does in Revelation, marks the beginning of a new vision (cf. 4:1; 7:9; 15:5; 19:1). After what things? Well, after the destruction of the Great Whore by Antichrist, as seen at the end of chapter 17. This all the more shows that Mystery Babylon of chapter 17 is distinct from the Great Babylon of chapter 18.

John now saw “**another angel coming down from heaven**.” Another (Gk “allos”) means “**another of the same kind**,” meaning one similar to one of the seven angels in chapter 17 who showed him the judgment of the great harlot (17:1).

The earth was previously darkened under the 5th bowl judgment (Rev. 16:10), but suddenly, this angel, bursting forth from heaven, reflects a broad band of light over the earth. This angel has great authority in representing God in a most important announcement!

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!

This is the grand climactic announcement that all of heaven and the saints have been waiting for! He cried mightily with a BOOMING voice, “***Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen.***”

Note the double emphasis on fallen. The point is made emphatically! She was great, but she has now fallen. This language is in keeping with prophetic statements and language in the OT that looked forward to this time (cf. Isa. 13:19-22; 14:11; 21:9; 47:1-15; Jer. 50:39; 51:8;)

This reality was introduced in anticipation in 14:8, but now a detailed treatment is given, which is often the pattern in Revelation.

This statement looks to the end of the Tribulation. The fall of Babylon in this final form comes at the pouring out of the 7th bowl judgment (cf. 16:19), which occurs right at the end of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

Note also the connection in **14:8-10** between Babylon the Great fallen and the mark of the beast, which relates to the last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation period. So, in view here is the end of the matter – the end of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

Babylon, here I take it, is the historical city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in modern Iraq. Babylon is stated to be a CITY five times in Revelation 18. It is a CITY (headquarters) but represents a great political/economic system.

There are three main reasons to believe that the literal, rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates River is in view.

- 1) Isaiah 13-14 and Jeremiah 50-51 depict the final demise of Babylon. Babylon fell in 539 BC (Dan. 5:31), but the cataclysmic language found in those prophecies was not fulfilled at that time. Babylon must be revived again in order for those specific prophecies to be fulfilled. For example, the Babylon of old was not destroyed catastrophically in a sudden manner as prophesied. It has never been entirely extinct. The area is still inhabited, and stones from the old Babylon are still being used contrary to the final end as prophesied.

Slide # 8**Isaiah 13:19–20 (NKJV)**

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be **as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah**.

20 It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there.

We don't even know where Sodom and Gomorrah were located. In contrast, we do still have remnants of the old Babylon.

Slide # 9**Jeremiah 51:24–26 (NKJV)**

24 "And I will repay Babylon And all the inhabitants of Chaldea For all the evil they have done In Zion in your sight," says the LORD.

25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain.

26 They shall not take from you a stone for a corner **Nor a stone for a foundation**, But you shall be desolate forever," says the LORD.

The stones from Babylon are still in existence. All this argues that the final fulfilment of total destruction will be fulfilled in a rebuilt city of Babylon.

The prophecies concerning the total demise of Babylon have never been completely fulfilled, but they will be. The Bible is teaching us that in the last days, BABYLON will make an economic comeback and be the economic engine of the Antichrist's world empire.

- 2) Zechariah 5:5-11 specifically teaches that in the end when the time is right wickedness will once again be centered in Babylon.

Slide # 10**Zechariah 5:7–8 (NKJV)**

7 Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket";

8 then he said, "**This is Wickedness!**" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

Zechariah 5:10–11 (NKJV)

10 So I said to the angel who talked with me, “**Where** are they carrying the basket?”

11 And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the **land of Shinar** [*the old name for Babylon*]; **when it is ready**, the basket will be set there on its base.”

- 3) Babylon fell in 539 BC. Zechariah’s prophecy was given 20 years later in 519 BC, so it must have a future fulfillment.

Human history will eventually cycle back to where it all began. In the same region where the first world emperor led mankind in a universal political and religious revolt against God, the future Antichrist will also lead the last collective revolt before Christ returns.

– **Andy Woods and Tim LaHaye**

Dr. Mark Hitchcock wrote a book titled “***The Second Coming of Babylon,***” and the premise of his book is stated as: “*The Bible says that Babylon will be rebuilt and become the economic center of the world in the end times.*” This is what Revelation 18 is all about!

With the fall of Babylon, as seen here in Revelation 18:2, it will become “***a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!***” This is a picture of desolation and misery. Babylon will be an absolute wasteland populated by demons and all that is unclean.

Again, the fall of Babylon in Revelation 18 comes right at the end. The very next thing that follows is the Second Coming of Christ in chapter 19. So, when might Babylon become the holding place of demons? Evidently, during the millennial reign of Christ that immediately follows the fall of Babylon. I don’t think it will be a major “***tourist attraction***” during the millennial kingdom (cf. Isa. 13:21-22; 34:11-17; Jer. 51:37-40).

We know from Revelation 20:2 that at the 2nd coming, Satan will be bound in the abyss for 1000 years. But what about the demons that are currently roaming the earth? We are not explicitly told about them. Some demons, ever since the flood, have been held in the lowest regions of the netherworld, bound in everlasting chains awaiting final judgment (cf. Lk. 8:31; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) when in the end they will be cast into the lake of fire with the devil (Mt. 25:41).

However, it would seem that some demons currently on the loose on the earth will, during the Millennium, be confined to destroyed Babylon as described here in Revelation 18:2. Birds in the prophetic Scriptures are often symbolized as representing evil forces (cf. Isa. 34:11-15; Mt. 13:32).

This...will be a place of confinement for many demons during the kingdom period. It is clear from Revelation nine and other passages that demons have animal-like features, and this is what the animals [in view here]...actually represent. – **Arnold Fructenbaum**

These demon spirits... will now be confined to the region of Babylon. Thus, in the same way that Satan is bound so he is unable to interfere with the Millennial Kingdom, his fallen angels will also be incarcerated during the thousand-year reign of Messiah on earth.

– ***Precept Austin Commentary***

3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

Note this combination...

Slide # 11

All nations – kings of the earth (Whole World)

Fornication (Idolatry – Beast Worship)

Merchants (Economic Boon)

The Babylonian System under Antichrist will control the world through economics, and the financial movers and shakers of the world who are all in with Antichrist will become very wealthy through this system.

Slide # 12

Revelation 13:16–17 (NKJV)

16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,

17 and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

The whole world will be in on this spiritual fornication (idolatry) with Babylon the great – that is the economic system of Antichrist that controls the entire world!

This is an unholy (idolatrous) alliance between government and business.

Slide # 13

Daniel 11:37–39 (NKJV)

37 He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for **he shall exalt himself above them all.**

38 But in their place he shall honor **a god of fortresses**; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things.

39 Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, **and divide the land for gain.**

The sense here is that Antichrist will see himself as the WAR-GOD who is above all other gods. He will commit vast resources to this endeavor and as he grows in power, he will divide the spoils with his most loyal supporters.

MANY will be involved. Many kings will be involved. And the merchants of the earth involved will grow filthy rich in short order. The whole world will “buy in” to his “you can’t buy or sell without the mark” system and thus, become “drunk with the wine” of God’s wrath because of this flagrant idolatry (cf. Rev. 14:9-11).

And in this context, a severe warning is issued...

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

This is no time to be in Babylon. If you belong to God, you are given fair warning – get out because she is going down. It’s like when God told Lot to get out of Sodom -judgment is about to fall (cf. Gen. 19:12-13 also Num. 16:26).

Anyone nestled in here and not yet found should get out immediately. To stay would be to identify with the sin of this place and therefore to partake in the judgment of her which is imminent.

It is literally time to get out of Babylon, just like in Matthew 24 where Jesus says when they see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel (which is Antichrist going into the temple and declaring himself to be God), then they are to immediately flee to the mountains. They are not to take time to take anything out of the house; if working in the fields, they are not to take the time to go back home and get a change of clothes (Mt. 24:15-18). It is time to GET OUT – RIGHT NOW!

God has his scope right on Babylon, and if you have any hope of getting into the kingdom alive, you had best get out of Babylon at this point. I think this warning is pertinent to the last half of the Tribulation period, when Babylon becomes the commercial headquarters for the world in combination with the mark of the beast, but especially in view is the time of the bowl judgments that come right towards the end of the Tribulation. That is the context.

It is saying don't let the abundance or the luxury of the city in any way lure you in. This is not a safe place! Judgment day for Babylon has arrived.

“...survivors will face powerful temptations to participate in the system. Family and friends will no doubt pressure them to save themselves by accepting the mark of the beast. The need to obtain the basic necessities of life will also pressure them to conform to the system (cf. 13:17).” – **John MacArthur**

The message is clear: Have nothing to do with this city or this commerce system that emanates from her.

A legitimate inference from this call is that saints will inhabit the beast's kingdom to the very end, with the danger of being deluded through a lingering fondness of Babylon and a consequent involvement in her remaining judgments. – **Robert Thomas**

Sometimes just being associated identifies a person with the sin involved, and the only answer is to immediately dissociate yourself. In this case, God demands IMMEDIATE separation. An example would be “Korah's Rebellion” in the OT.

Numbers 16:26 (NKJV)

26 And he [Moses] spoke to the congregation, saying, “Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.”

By way of application. Unbelievers ten times in the book of Revelation are called “**Earth Dwellers.**” They live for this life and what the Babylonian world system has to offer. In contrast, God’s people are called to be separated from the world and unto the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) do not be conformed to this world.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NKJV) Come out from among them, and be separate.

James 1:27 (NKJV) Pure and undefiled religion ...to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James 4:4 (NKJV) Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

1 John 2:15 (NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

The word HOLY means “set apart” – this is the calling of the Christian – to be different from the world in terms of our affections, our eternal perspective, and our love for God and His people.

5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

God has had enough of this Babylonian System that is all about ME, all about STUFF, all about living for NOW instead of for God. Babylon worships the philosophy of “**Your Best Life Now**” and “**It’s all about you.**”

The sins of Babylonian selfism, which are idolatrously self-oriented, have reached to heaven (cf. Jer. 51:9). These people would do anything for self-preservation, for self-gratification, for self-indulgence, including worshiping the beast and taking his mark of 666.

The fact that her sins have reached (Gr., kollao, literally “glued” or “welded together,” i.e, piled one on another as bricks in a building) unto heaven is an allusion to the tower of Babel, which began the wicked career of ancient Babylon (Gen. 11:5-9). – **John Walvoord**

In Genesis 11:4, the tower of Babel was supposedly going to have a top in the heavens. (Gen. 11:4) Well, figuratively, they are there, but on a pile of sin!

Babylon's sins have reached to heaven, is the idea that they are PILED UP HIGH. They have been accruing and building to this point, where God is going to bring the whole thing down in one day.

Sins are cumulative in the sense that they are building towards judgment.

Slide # 15

Genesis 15:16 (NKJV)

16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is **not yet complete**."

Romans 2:5 (NKJV)

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

The world is building towards judgment day. Sin is building towards judgment!

Babylon is known as "***the city of man***" being mentioned about 300 times in the Bible.

The book of Revelation serves as a "***Grand Central Station***" that gathers up all the prophecies of "***Babylon***" and brings them to a head. The book of Revelation has a total of 404 verses, with 44 of them addressing Babylon.

This means that 11 percent of the entire book of Revelation deals with the subject of Babylon. Revelation deals with the final culmination of Babylon that began back in Genesis. Revelation presents the fully developed theme as it presents a globalized Babylon.

The Babylonian system is the idolatrous values, ideas, and concepts that unite a rebel world of false religion, politics, and economics. It really is all about a ONE-WORLD ORDER in rebellion against God.

Satan has been working on this project for a long time as he seeks to unite the world in organized rebellion against God. This system is progressive in nature, emanating forth until it infects and corrupts the entire world and

comes to a climactic end in the judgment of God, as seen here in Revelation 18.

God has not forgotten! He has remembered her iniquities. Iniquity is the idea of “wrongdoing.” It refers to specific acts of wickedness (cf. Acts 24:20).

God hasn’t forgotten – He will never forget the sin of the unrepentant. Not forgotten is the Bible’s way of saying that in the plan of God, the time of reckoning has come.

God does not forget the sin of the wicked, and they have an appointment with judgment. On the other hand, those who repent are forgiven and God “forgets” all their sins in the sense that they are never held against them ever for all eternity.

Slide # 16

Isaiah 43:25 (NKJV)

25 “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And **I will not remember your sins.**

Hebrews 10:17 (NKJV)

17 then He adds, “**Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**”

Remembering for God is the time of calling people to account because they refuse to repent! He is now calling defiant, unrepentant Babylon to account, and judgment is now to be rendered.

6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.

Apparently, this is an angel speaking to God.

“Double has the sense of fullness or completeness. In the Mosaic Law, wrongdoers were often required to pay double restitution for their crimes.” – **John MacArthur**

What Babylon did against God, she in effect did against His people. They go together (cf. 18:24, 19:2).

Slide # 17**Revelation 18:24 (NKJV)**

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."

Revelation 19:2 (NKJV)

2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her."

Vengeance belongs to God. It is His prerogative alone to pay people back for what they have done (Rom. 12:19). The punishment appropriately matches the crime according to what God determines – for He alone is Judge and He is a HOLY Judge (cf. Isa. 40:1-2; Jer. 16:18).

In Revelation 6:10, the martyrs cried out, "***How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?***" That time has now come! Judgment day for Babylon has arrived! It's too late for repentance! Only judgment remains.

The imagery of the cup of God's wrath is common in prophetic literature (cf. Rev. 14:8, 10; 16:19; 17:4; 18:3). The idea of a cup metaphorically represents one's portion. Here, the cup represents the bitter consequences of wicked rebellion. But note it well, it is the "***cup which she has mixed.***" Babylon herself is responsible for what she is getting. This is what she deserves.

7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Here is the heart of what defines Babylon. She glorified herself – she exalted herself. She made it all about SELF! This is all about living for self instead of living for God.

She lived luxuriously, which is the idea of sensuality. She lived for the moment. She lived for what feels good instead of living for God. No expense was spared to make this the most pampered place on the planet. It was all about living for self – for now – for self gratification. To live "luxuriously" means to "live deliciously". It means to be wanton or to revel in

the appetites of the flesh. It is to grab for all the gusto of the world and the flesh. It seeks to gratify self with all this world has to offer and leave God out of the equation. This defined Babylon!

In the same measure, she is now to be given torment and sorrow. The law of Scripture is that you reap according to how you have sown (Gal. 6:7). The idea here is that she will be brought LOW in keeping with how HIGH she had been on herself.

Torment literally means “torture”. (cf. v. 10, 15; 9:5; 14:11) In Revelation 14:11, this very same word is used to speak of eternal punishment.

Sorrow means mourning. This word was commonly used in reference to mourning for the dead. It expresses deep grief. It is the grief that torment produces.

Note the fundamental problem is that Babylon has a HEART problem! The heart represents the inner core of a person, their motivations, thoughts, and will, etc. It has been described as the “**true you**.” Proverbs 4:23 says that out of the heart spring the issues of life. 1 Samuel 16:7 indicates that the Lord looks at the heart to determine a person's true motives and intentions. Proverbs 23:7 says as a person thinks in his heart, so is he. This defines the person!

Babylonian thought at heart says, “**I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.**” Famous or rather infamous LAST WORDS! She thinks she is invincible! She thinks she is self-sufficient and doesn't need God. She is very haughty, self-confident, and self-assured. In effect, Babylon plays the part of God, thinking she is the master of her own fate.

Whenever someone starts to play “God,” it is just a matter of time till they find out they aren't God, and that can be a really painful revelation!

Slide # 18

THE HEART OF BABYLON

- DEMONICALLY Controlled (Rev. 18:2).
- Thoroughly IDOLATROUS (Rev. 18:3).
- SELF-absorbed – PRIDEFUL (Rev. 18:7)

Babylon thought she was all that! She thought she was invincible and above being brought down to sorrow. But she thought WRONG!

Slide # 19**Isaiah 47:7–9 (NKJV)**

7 And you said, ‘**I shall be a lady forever**,’ So that you did not take these things to heart, Nor remember the latter end of them.

8 “Therefore hear this now, you who are **given to pleasures**, Who **dwell securely**, Who say in your heart, ‘I am, and there is no one else besides me; **I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children**’;

9 But these two things shall come to you **In a moment, in one day**: The **loss of children, and widowhood**. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments.

And here comes the fulfillment of that prophecy...

8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Therefore, in light of her self-glorification, self-gratification, and self-sufficiency, in light of her attitude that she doesn’t need God, in view of her acting like she is God, her plagues will come in one day!

It’s like when Nebuchadnezzar so proudly said, “***Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?***” and “***while the word was still in the king’s mouth a voice fell from heaven***” saying, “***the kingdom has departed from you.***” And that very hour he was driven from the palace (cf. Dan. 4:30-33).

Pride goes before a FALL (Prov. 16:18). And the more self-exalted a person is the HARDER they fall! It’s just a matter of time! Pride defines Babylon, going back to Babel in Genesis 11:4, where they said, “***let us make a name for ourselves.***” It all about SELF!

When judgment comes, it comes FAST. God gave Babylon a long leash, but suddenly it is all OVER.

“[one day] does not express duration of time, but is a figurative way of expressing abruptness...[it] emphasizes how quickly Babylon will experience what she sought to avoid through her luxury.”

– **Robert Thomas**

This makes sense because “famine” would not seem to be merely a 24-hour thing. The idea seems to be one of suddenness.

Reminiscent of this was Babylon under Belshazzar in the OT. They were having a grand party full of blasphemous idolatry and revelrous carousing, and suddenly a hand appeared and wrote on the wall, which loosely translated was “***The party is over***”. That very night, the city was taken, and the king was killed. So likewise, the final expression of Babylon will fall in a day.

Sudden death, mourning, and famine come upon her! The picture is not that of a gradual decline but of a sudden collapse, culminating with utterly being burned with fire (cf. 10, 17, 19). Fire is a common metaphor for total destruction!

The overall sense then is that these Plagues of death, mourning, and famine hit quickly. Suddenly, these things overtake the city, and then in FINALITY, the city burns to the ground. It all happens with amazing rapidity with the final event coming like when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Isa. 13:19, Jer. 50:40).

Slide # 20

Isaiah 13:19 (NKJV)

19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jeremiah 50:40 (NKJV)

40 As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah And their neighbors,” says the LORD, “So no one shall reside there, Nor son of man dwell in it.

And WHY does this happen? Because “***strong is the Lord God who judges her.***” This is the judgment of the Lord God!

Note that while Antichrist and his forces are used by God to destroy the harlot in Revelation 17 (v. 16), here (18:8) it is God Himself that directly destroys the final form of Babylon, which is the economic HEADQUARTERS of Antichrist.

She thought she was so great, self-made, self-sufficient, and invincible, but the fact is, she was NO MATCH for the Lord God, and in short order, He reduces Babylon to nothing.

Lord literally means MASTER, and God (theos) is the most common designation for God, meaning “**supreme being**.” Lord God literally means GOD-MASTER. This, in a nutshell, is the whole issue. It is a LORDSHIP issue!

The whole issue of BABYLON really comes down to one word: **NON-LORDSHIP!** What defines Babylon is **NON-LORDSHIP!** Babylon demands to be its own LORD, and that is the problem – an idolatrous problem!

The besetting sin of mankind is pride, and pride fundamentally is the idea of INDEPENDENCE from God. Pride says I want to be my own master. I am in charge of my own affairs. I will be my own god! That is Babylon – it has a God-complex and refuses to bow before the LORDSHIP of God! That in a nutshell, is the entire issue! This is the great issue in the Day of the LORD. It’s all about **LORDSHIP!**

Slide # 21

Isaiah 2:11 (NKJV)

11 The lofty looks of man shall be **humbled**, The haughtiness of men shall be **bowed down**, And the **LORD alone shall be exalted** in that day.

Isaiah 2:17 (NKJV)

17 The loftiness of man shall be **bowed down**, And the haughtiness of men shall be **brought low**; The **LORD alone will be exalted** in that day,

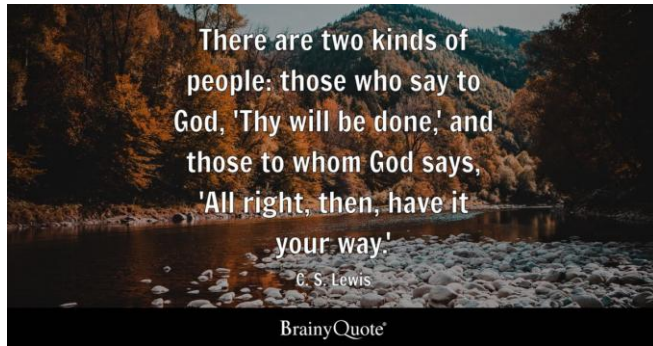
Babylon has a theme song, and it is titled “**My Way**.” The song made famous by Frank Sinatra says this in the closing chorus...

For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself, then he has naught
To say the things he truly feels
And not the words of one who kneels
The record shows I took the blows
And did it my way

Yes, it was my way

My way is the IDOLATROUS Babylonian way in contrast to God's way!

Slide # 22



What say you? Are you your own Master, charting your own course, to the drum beat of the Babylonian theme, or have you bowed to the truth of Jesus as Lord and Savior? This and this alone is GOD'S WAY!

It can't be both! Either you are going the Babylonian way, insisting on being your own "lord", or you are going the LORD's way, where Jesus ALONE is LORD!

Repentance is a change of mind that says, "I am wrong – God, you are right," and it aligns the heart with God's truth as found in Jesus. Jesus said, ***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*** There is no other way to be saved!

The Babylonian way is the idolatrous way of self-determination!
God's way is the humbled way of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Humble yourself – call on Jesus to save you! And then your story will be, "Not my way, but God's way!"

It's all about God's way! This is the heartbeat of all true believers!

And God's way is Jesus! Just Jesus! As Colossians 3:11 says of believers: "Christ is all and in all." He is all in all!

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31)