

The Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18

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A Year of Revelation

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

Stories of the battle between good and evil have always captivated people. Whether they are fairy tales or cartoons, books, or major film productions, there is always an audience for this age-old storyline. But have you ever stopped to ask yourself why that is? Ultimately, in the depth of each of our hearts, God has placed eternity there. We all long for evil to be done away with and for things to function in their created and intended fashion. As we see the destruction of Babylon in our study of the Book of Revelation, we will find ourselves one step closer to that redeemed reality.

REALIZE

1. The destruction of Babylon

- **Scripture Reference;** 2 Corinthians 6:17-18
- **Leader Notes**
 - People want the benefits of a spiritual reality without the personal relationship with a Holy God
 - We are called to be separate from the world, though we are still in the world
 - We must walk the tension between being in the world but not of it, not leaning too far to one side or the other
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How does God's judgment of Babylon challenge me?

2. Your response reveals your heart

- **Scripture Reference;** Ezekiel 27, Matthew 15:17-21
- **Leader Notes**
 - God is most interested in what is going on in your heart
 - We love getting to the end of something that is hard, but God wants to make us like Jesus during the process, we need to be more process focused than outcome focused
 - Everything we deal with is an opportunity to see what is in our hearts and be more formed into Christ's likeness
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - What do my reactions teach me about myself?

3. A tragic aftermath

- **Scripture Reference;** Matthew 18:6-9

- **Leader Notes**

- Babylon's destruction will be so complete that nothing that was done there before will ever be done there before
- We must take seriously our walks with Jesus, people are watching us
- We should live lives that make life with Jesus seem more desirable to the world

- **Questions for reflection**

- What does this chapter show me about Jesus?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?