

The City of Babylon: “the gate of the gods”

Revelation 17-18

Pastor Daniel at CBC 2/12/12

A. A ‘tale of two cities’ – Chps 17-22 is consumed with these two

<u>City of Babylon</u>	<u>New Jerusalem</u>
(1) Built by Antichrist	Built by Christ (Jn 14:2-3)
(2) Earthly city	Heavenly city (21:1-2a)
(3) A gate of the gods	“Having the glory of God” (21:11)
(4) Pictured: <u>a harlot</u>	Pictured: <u>a virgin bride</u> (21:2b)
(5) Filthy and defiled	Holy and pure (21:27; 22:14-15)
(6) Temporary – lasts 7 yrs	Eternal – lasts forever (22:50)
(7) Inhabitants: live in sin/fear	Inhabitants: dwell secure (21:3-4)

B. Outline of both chapters (Chps 17-18 – V.I.P.L.D.)

- (1) 17:1-6 – Vision of Babylon
- (2) 17:7-18 – Interpretation of the vision
- (3) 18:1-8 – Physical destruction of the city
- (4) 18:9-20 – Laments of the world over the loss of the city
- (5) 18:21-24 – Divine reason for the judgment

C. Outline of 17:1-6 – The Vision of Babylon

- vv 1-2 – Invitation to John to “Come and see”
 - vv 3-6 – Dramatization of historic significance taking the reader back to Rev 6:1 and the 1 seal which opens the Tribulation Period
- (1) v 1a – **Her Judgment declared**
 - Note: 17:18; 18:21-24
 - (2) vv 1b-2 – **Her Image**
 - a. A great harlot [spiritual adultery] who sits on the waters – see v 15
 - b. The world is intoxicated with her – verse 2
 - (3) v 3 – **Her Alliance (John is captured by her not the Beast)**
 - a. The woman and the beast are distinct
 - i. Beast – Antichrist [note 13:1]
 - ii. Harlot – represents false religion (apostate one-world church)
 - b. The Beast forms a short-lived alliance with her
 - Both are “scarlet” – Beast is masked by her
 - c. It looks like the woman is in control
 - d. The Beast seems tame and docile (unlike 13:1ff)

- e. The harlot is used by Antichrist for the first 3½ years of the Tribulation (17:16-17 with Daniel 9:27a). She is what makes the city of Babylon what it is, but Antichrist (in middle of Trib) desires worship – 13:8

(4) v 4a – **Her Dress**

- She is successful and rich (see 18:3 and 7)

(5) v 4b – **Her Practice**

- She is full of spiritual adultery – one-world religion

(6) v 5 – **Her Name**

- a. “mystery” – Not part of her name, but the mystery is that the city of Babylon resurfaces as a literal city and is rebuilt as the capital of Antichrist’s world rule
 - b. OT begins with city of Babel “he confused” – Gen 11
 - c. OT ends with prophecy of Babylon – Zech 5:5-11
 - d. Middle of OT – Isaiah’s incredible prophecy –13-14
- #### (7) v 6 – **Her Persecution (blood-thirsty, hates God/His people)**

D. Fitting the Rest of Chapters 17-18 around the Vision

(1) 17:7-18 – **Interpretation of the Vision**

We learn four things in this interpretation

- a. Though the Vision is consumed with the Harlot, the interpretation is consumed with the Beast and His city
 - b. The Beast will have absolute control in the final 42 months of history before Christ returns (cf. 13:16-18)
 - c. There are no laments in ch 17 at the death of the harlot
 - d. Harlot image remains firm over the city 17:18; 19:2
- ##### (2) 18:1-8 – **Physical Destruction of the City**
- a. By the middle of the Tribulation Period this city has become a political and economic powerhouse - 18:3,7
 - b. Nothing humanly can stop this ‘*throne of Antichrist*’
 - c. Verse 5 – a play on ‘Babel’s’ earliest days in Gen 11
 - d. Verse 8 – God is strong who judged her
 - e. Question: When God destroys city, why is not the Antichrist destroyed since this is his capital? 16:10-21
- ##### (3) 18:9-20 – **Laments of the world . . . singing in Heaven?**
- a. vv 9-19 – The Laments
 - b. v 20 – Singing in Heaven . . . see 19:1-3
- ##### (4) 18:21-24 – **Divine reason for the judgment**

E. Three Sharp Conclusions: To remind, To warn, To awake!

- (1) I Timothy 4:1 (2) I John 2:18-19 (3) Matthew 7:21-27