

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 26

Babylon is Fallen

Revelation 18

1

Acts 18:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

2

Revelation 18

After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, the earth was lit up by his splendor. He cried out in a strong voice, “She has fallen! She has fallen! Babel the Great! She has become a home for demons, a prison for every unclean spirit, a prison for every unclean, hated bird. “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of God’s fury caused by her whoring—yes, the kings of the earth went whoring with her, and from her unrestrained love of luxury the world’s businessmen have grown rich.” Then I heard another voice out of heaven say: “My people, come out of her! so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not be infected by her plagues, for her sins are a sticky mass piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. “Render to her as she rendered to others! Pay her back double for what she has done! Use the cup in which she has brewed to brew her a double-sized drink! “Give her as much torment and sorrow as the glory and luxury she gave herself! For in her heart she says, ‘I sit a queen—I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow.’

3

“Therefore, her plagues will come in a single day—death, sorrow and famine; and she will be burned with fire, because Adonai, God, her Judge, is mighty” The kings of the earth who went whoring with her and shared her luxury will sob and wail over her when they see the smoke as she burns. Standing at a distance, for fear of her torment, they will say, “Oh no! The great city! Babel, the mighty city! In a single hour your judgment has come!” The world’s businessmen weep and mourn over her, because no one is buying their merchandise any more— stocks of gold and silver, gems and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, all rare woods, all ivory goods, all kinds of things made of scented wood, brass, iron and marble; cinnamon, cardamom, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots—and bodies—and people’s souls. The fruits you lusted for with all your heart have gone! All the luxury and flashiness have been destroyed, never to return! The sellers of these things, who got rich from her, will stand at a distance, for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, and saying, “Oh no!

4

The great city used to wear fine linen, purple and scarlet! She glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls! Such great wealth—in a single hour, ruined!” All the ship masters, passengers, sailors and everyone making his living from the sea stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke as she burned, “What city was like the great city?” And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, saying, “Oh no! The great city! The abundance of her wealth made all the ship owners rich! In a single hour she is ruined!” Rejoice over her, heaven! Rejoice, people of God, emissaries and prophets! For in judging her, God has vindicated you. Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a great millstone, and hurled it into the sea, saying, “With violence like this will the great city Babel be hurled down, never to be found again!

5

“The sound of harpists and musicians, flute-players and trumpeters will never again be heard in you. No worker of any trade will ever again be found in you, the sound of a mill will never again be heard in you, the light of a lamp will never again shine in you, the voice of bridegroom and bride will never again be heard in you. “For your businessmen were the most powerful on earth, all the nations were deceived by your magic spell. “In her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s people, indeed, of all who have ever been slaughtered on earth!”

6

Possible meaning?

Five that are fallen – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece

Sixth that is: Ancient Rome

Seventh that is not yet: Revived Rome

Eight that is of the seventh – when the antichrist himself assumes control over the 7th empire.

7

Cities Represent Satan (Isaiah 14)

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! [13] You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ [15] But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

8

Cities Represent Satan (Ezekiel 28)

“Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. [13] You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. [14] You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. [15] You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

9

Another Mighty Angel

Revelation 18:1	References
After these things, I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his glory.	Dan 10:6 His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.

10

Fallen, Fallen!

Revelation 18:2	References
He cried out with a mighty voice, saying: “ Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.	<p>Isa 21:9 Look! Here comes a chariot of men, with a pair of horsemen.” Then one answered and said, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon! All the images of her gods are broken on the ground.”</p> <p>Jer 51:8 Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken; wail for her! Take balm for her pain; perhaps she may be healed.</p>

11

Den for Demons

Revelation 18:2	References
...She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.	<p>Isa 13:19-22 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. [20] It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. [21] But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance. [22] Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged.</p>

12

Den for Demons

Revelation 18:2	References
...She has become a den for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit and for every unclean bird and for every unclean and detestable beast.	Isa 34:8-11 For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. [9] And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. [10] Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever . From generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever. [11] But the hawk and the porcupine shall possess it, the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. He shall stretch the line of confusion over it, and the plumb line of emptiness.

13

Come out of her!

Revelation 18:3-4	References
For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her immorality. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich off the power of her self-indulgence." Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, " Come out of her, my people , lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!	Isa 48:20 " Get out of Babylon, flee from Chaldea! With a shout of joy, proclaim this, send it out to the end of the earth, say: 'Adonai has redeemed His servant Jacob! Isa 52:11 Leave, leave! Get out of there! Touch no unclean thing. Go out of her midst. Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of Adonai.

14

Come out of her!

Rev 18:4	References
...“Come out of her, my people, lest you participate in her sins and receive her plagues!	<p>Jer 50:8-9 “Flee from within Babylon, get out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be like he-goats before the flock. [9] For I will soon stir up and bring against Babylon an alliance of great nations from the north. They will form battle lines against her, from there she will be captured. Their arrows will be like a warrior who bereaves, not returning empty. (also Jer 51:6-8)</p> <p>Zec 2:10-11 Oy, oy! Flee from the land of the north”—it is a declaration of Adonai—“because I scattered you like the four winds of heaven”—it is a declaration of Adonai. [11] “Oy, Zion! Escape, you who are living with the daughter of Babylon.”</p> <p>2 Co 6:17 Therefore, come out from among them, and be separate...</p>

15

Luke 21:20-22

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. [21] Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, [22] for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is written.



16

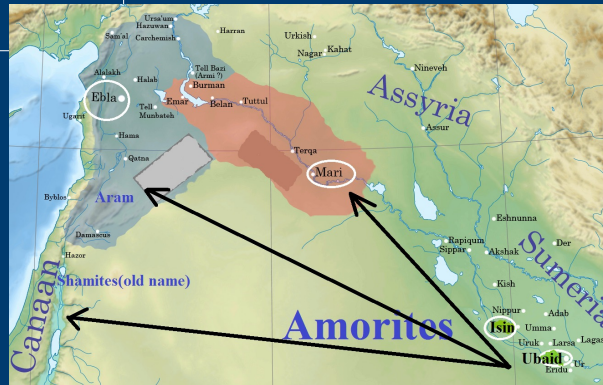
A sin counter?

Revelation 18:5

For her sins have piled up to heaven, and **God has remembered** her crimes.

References

Genesis 15:16 “And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”



17

2 Kings 22:11-20

When the king (Josiah) heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. [12] And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, ...saying, [13] “Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

...

[16] Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. [17] Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.

18

[18] But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, [19] because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. [20] Therefore, behold, **I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, and your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring upon this place.**” And they brought back word to the king.

19

Measure for Measure

Revelation 18:6	References
Pay her back just as she has paid out , and give her back double for her deeds! In the cup she has mixed—mix a double dose for her!	<p>Jer 50:29 “Summon archers against Babylon, all those who bend the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape. Repay her according to her deeds; do to her according to all that she has done. For she has proudly defied the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.</p> <p>Obadiah 15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.</p>

20

Psalm 137

By the waters of **Babylon**, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. [2] On the willows there we hung up our lyres. [3] **For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"** [4] **How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?** [5] If I forget you, O **Jerusalem**, let my right hand forget its skill! [6] Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy! [7] Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem, how they said, "Lay it bare, lay it bare, down to its foundations!" [8] **O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us!** [9] Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!

21

I am no widow; I shall never see grief!

Revelation 18:7	References
As she has exalted herself and indulged herself in luxury, so give her the same measure of torment and grief! For in her heart she says, ' I sit as a queen—I am no widow; I shall never see grief. '	<p>Lam 1:1 How lonely sits the city (Jerusalem) that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.</p> <p>Isa 47:5-6,9 Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans (i.e. Babylon); for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms. [6] I was angry with my people; I profaned my heritage; I gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy; on the aged you made your yoke exceedingly heavy. [9] These two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the loss of children and widowhood shall come upon you in full measure, in spite of your many sorceries and the great power of your enchantments</p>

22

Kings weep and wail

Revelation 18:8-10

For this reason her plagues will arrive in a single day—death and grief and famine—and she shall be burned down with fire. For mighty is Adonai Elohim who judges her! **Then the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and indulged in luxury with her shall weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning—**standing far off because of the terror of her torment, saying: “Alas, alas, O great city—O Babylon, the mighty city! For in a single hour your judgment has come!”

References

Rev 17:16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. **They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,**

23

Merchants weep and Mourn

Revelation 18:11

11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, because no one buys their merchandise anymore—

References

24

28 luxury items

Revelation 18:12-13	References
shipments of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet; all kinds of citron wood; all kinds of ivory products; all kinds of products made of costly wood, bronze, iron, and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, and frankincense; wine, oil, fine flour, and wheat; cattle, sheep, horses, and chariots; and slaves—that is, human souls.	

25

Fruit from your soul's desire has gone

Revelation 18:14-15	References
The fruit of your soul's desire has gone from you, and all the expensive and beautiful things are lost to you—never again will people find them. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, shall stand far off for fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,	Eze 26:17-18 And they will raise a lamentation over you (Tyre) and say to you, “ How you have perished, you who were inhabited from the seas, O city renowned, who was mighty on the sea; she and her inhabitants imposed their terror on all her inhabitants! [18] Now the coastlands tremble on the day of your fall, and the coastlands that are on the sea are dismayed at your passing.’

26

Market collapse

Revelation 18:16-19

16 saying, “Alas, alas, O great city—clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in a single hour so much wealth has been ruined!” And every ship captain and passenger, sailors and all who make their living at sea, stood at a distance 18 and were crying out, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’ 19 And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, “Alas, alas, O great city—in her all who had ships at sea grew rich from her wealth! For in a single hour has she been ruined!

27

Large Millstone

Revelation 18:20-21

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you kedoshim, emissaries and prophets! For God has judged her condemnation of you!” 21 Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a **great millstone** and threw it into the sea, saying: “So shall Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, never to be found again!

References

Jer 51:63-64 When you finish reading this book, **tie a stone to it and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates**, [64] and say, ‘Thus shall Babylon sink, to rise no more, because of the disaster that I am bringing upon her, and they shall become exhausted.’” Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

28

Large Millstone



Basalt olive press at Capernaum

29

No Joy

Revelation 18:22

And the sound of harpists and musicians, flautists and trumpeters, shall never be heard in you again! And the craftsman of any craft shall never be found in you again! **And the sound of a mill shall never be heard in you again!**

References

Isaiah 13:20 It will **never be inhabited or lived in for all generations**; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there.

30

Families and Careers

Revelation 18:23	References
23 And the light of a lamp shall never shine in you again! And the voice of the bridegroom and bride shall never be heard in you again! For your businessmen were the tycoons of the world, for all the nations were deceived by your sorcery!	Luk 17:26-29 Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. [27] They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. [28] Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, [29] but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—

31

Rev 6:10 They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and **avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?”

Rev 16:6 For they have **shed the blood of saints and prophets**, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”

Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman, **drunk with the blood of the saints**, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of the prophets and kedoshim and all those slaughtered on the earth.”

Rev 19:2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has **avenged on her the blood of his servants.”**

32

Luke 1:30-33

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

33



34