The Destruction of Babylon
PART IV
Revelation 18:9-24

**MAIN THOUGHT** The destruction of Babylon unfolds in three phases: (1) RELIGIOUSLY (ch. 17); (2) ECONOMICALLY (ch. 18); (3) MILITARILY (ch. 19).

**BABYLON DESTROYED ECONOMICALLY**

**THE VOICE OF LAMENTATION** (9-19).

- This LAMENT, or dirge, details the shocking fall of Babylon.
- Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, composed many laments including the Book of Lamentations containing five (2 Chron. 35:25).
- WOE! WOE! is its chief component (10, 16, 19; Lam. 1:1). Jesus uttered 27 woes in the Gospels most notably to Korazin and Bethsaida (Matt. 11:21).
- The kings of earth are so TERRIFIED at her TORMENT (20:10) that they will "stand far off" (15, 17; Eph. 2:13) as if to run from God (Psa. 139:7).
- Now the merchants (GK = emporion – emporium) weep and mourn with the kings.
- This lament is nearly parallel to Ezekiel's lament of Tyre (Ezek. 27:33-36).
- 29 items are listed. Of note are (1) PURPLE (expensive dye extracted a drop at a time from the murex shellfish – Mk. 15:17; Lk. 16:19; Acts 16:14); (2) SILK (Alexander's trip to India); (3) CITRON WOOD (cypress; prized for its fragrance); (4) IVORY (GK = elefantinon; 1 Kings 22:39); (5) MARBLE (GK = marmarou – to glisten); (6) BODIES AND SOULS OF MEN – slave traders (GK = soma [body] emporion [merchants]) dealing in "human livestock" (Swete).
- The anecdote for lust (longed for [14]) is CONTENTMENT (1 Tim. 6:6-10).
- This will all happen "in one hour" – suddenly (Mk. 13:36; 1 Thess. 5:3).
- Not only kings and merchants, but sea captains and crews are lamenting.

**THE VOICE OF CELEBRATION** (20-24).

- All of heaven (saints, apostles, prophets) is to REJOICE that Babylon has fallen.
- "How Long?" is the age old question (6:9-11; Psa. 13:1-2; Hab. 1:2; 2:3).
- We should never rejoice over the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:23), but in the justice and righteousness of God.
- God's patience means salvation (2 Pet. 3:8-9); but He will repay (Rev. 12:17).
- NEVER (5x in these verses) again will Babylon live (Jer. 50:39) for she will be NO MORE (Psa. 37:10; 59:13; 104:35; Jer. 51:64).
- Babylon used her MAGIC SPELL (GK = farmakeia – pharmacy, drugs, intoxication, demonic activity, sorcery [9:21; Gal. 5:20]) to intoxicate the nations (17:2).
- She led the nations astray (Jer. 50:6).
- God will avenge the blood (6:10; 17:2; 19:2) of the prophets and of the saints, from Abel (Gen. 4:10) until Zechariah (2 Chron. 24:22; Matt. 23:35) for their blood was found in Babylon.
- Are you a citizen of “Babylon” or a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:19-20)?
This World Is Not My Home

This world is not my home
I'm just a-passing through
My treasures are laid up
Somewhere beyond the blue.

The angels beckon me
From heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore.

Oh Lord, you know
I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home
Then Lord what will I do.

The angels beckon me
From heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore.

Just over in Gloryland
We'll live eternally
The saints on every hand
Are shouting victory.

Their songs of sweetest praise
Drift back from heaven's shore
And I can't feel at home
In this world anymore.