

Study Guide: The Judgment of Babylon the Great Prostitute

Text: Revelation 17

Main Idea:

The world system, pictured as Babylon the great prostitute, may appear powerful and alluring, but it will be judged and destroyed—while Christ, the Lamb, will triumph with His people.

1. The Vision of Babylon (vv. 1–6)

John is carried away in the Spirit and shown a woman seated on a scarlet beast. She is adorned in luxury and holds a golden cup filled with abominations. On her forehead is written a name: *Babylon the Great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations*. She is drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus.

Key Observations:

- Babylon is pictured as a prostitute—spiritually unfaithful, seducing the nations.
- Her wealth and beauty mask her corruption.
- She persecutes and kills the saints of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think John is shown Babylon as a prostitute?
 2. How does her external beauty contrast with the reality of her corruption?
 3. What parallels can you see between Babylon's seduction and the temptations of today's world system?
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2. The Mystery of the Beast (vv. 7–14)

The scarlet beast that carries the woman is full of blasphemous names, with seven heads and ten horns. The angel explains the mystery: the beast mimics resurrection, the seven heads represent mountains and kings, and the ten horns represent future rulers. They will make war on the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Key Observations:

- The beast symbolizes political power energized by Satan.

- Babylon rides on the beast—religious and cultural corruption supported by political might.
- Though terrifying, the beast and its allies are destined for defeat.
- The Lamb will triumph, and His followers—called, chosen, and faithful—share in His victory.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does John marvel at the woman and the beast?
 2. What does this passage reveal about the alliance of false religion and political power?
 3. How do the titles “Lord of lords” and “King of kings” encourage us in times of turmoil?
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3. The Fall of Babylon (vv. 15–18)

The angel explains that the waters on which the woman sits represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. The very kings who once allied with Babylon will turn against her, stripping her bare and destroying her. Her fall is God’s judgment—He puts it into their hearts to carry out His purposes.

Key Observations:

- Babylon’s power is widespread, but not secure.
- Evil alliances are unstable—they eventually devour one another.
- God is sovereign, even over the schemes of the wicked.
- Judgment is certain for those who oppose Christ and His people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do the kings turn against the prostitute in the end?
 2. What does this reveal about the deceptive and self-destructive nature of sin?
 3. How does this passage show God’s sovereignty even over the plans of the wicked?
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4. Endurance and Hope for the Saints

Though Babylon seems powerful and alluring, her destruction is certain. Christ the Lamb will triumph, and His people will share in His victory.

Key Observations:

- The world's systems of power, wealth, and immorality are temporary.
- The Lamb's kingdom is eternal.
- God's people are called to endure, remain faithful, and resist Babylon's seduction.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Revelation 17 encourage believers facing pressure from the world's systems?
 2. What does it mean to live as one of the "called and chosen and faithful" today?
 3. In what ways can we guard ourselves from Babylon's allure?
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Final Discussion & Application

1. What contrasts does Revelation 17 draw between the apparent power of Babylon and the true triumph of the Lamb?
2. How can recognizing the temporary nature of the world's systems strengthen our faith?
3. Where might you be tempted to compromise with the world's values, and how does this passage call you back to faithfulness?
4. How can we encourage one another to endure as those sealed with Christ's name, awaiting His final victory?