



FAITH PRINCETON SUNDAY SCHOOL

REVELATION 18:9-24 Fall of Babylon (part 2)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

REVELATION 18 Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

18 Fall of Babylon (part 2)

9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

11 “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more— 12 cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, 13 and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives. 14 The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance

because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning, 16 saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; 17 for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance, 18 and were crying out as they saw 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, saying, 'Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!' 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."

21 Then a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. 22 And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; 23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

Enduring Word Commentary: **Revelation 18:9-24 The Fall of Commercial Babylon (part 2)**

A. Announcing the fall of Babylon. (vs 1-8)

(see last week's lesson)

B. Lament for commercial Babylon.

1. (9-10) Lament of the kings.

“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

a. Standing at distance for fear of her torment:

So great is the heat and **smoke of her burning** that these kings must stand **at a distance**. Some think this may be an indication that nuclear weapons are used in the judgment of these commercial centers.

i. “Whether this is to be understood of the literal destruction of the city of Rome by fire, is surely doubtful, considering the mystical character of the whole prophecy.” (Alford)

b. Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! “With a touch of grim humour he paints them as standing at a safe distance from the conflagration, and contenting themselves with idle lamentations.” (Swete)

2. (11-17a) Lament of the merchants.

“And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their

merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’

a. Merchandise of gold and silver: This long list needs little explanation, except to note these are all luxuries, not necessities. It is plain that the mourning is rooted in self-interest: **for no one buys their merchandise anymore.**

i. “The combined picture is one of complete abandonment to the wealth of this world and complete disregard of the God who gave it.” (Walvoord)

b. And bodies and souls of men: The profits of commercial Babylon have come through cruelly using others. They sold the **bodies and souls of men**. This idea has many applications, none less so than today's widespread human trafficking, prostitution, and pornography.

c. **You shall find them no more at all:** Those who lived for the luxuries of commercial Babylon will be tormented by the eternal absence of those luxuries all the more: **you shall find them no more at all.** Ultimately, hell will be a place of unfulfilled desire.

3. (17b-19) Lament of the sea-captains.

Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’ They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’

a. **Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth:** Again, little comment needs to be made on this, other than to notice that their sorrow at commercial Babylon’s fall is selfish.

4. (20) Call to the heavens and the people of God: rejoice!

“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

a. **Rejoice over her:** Should God’s people rejoice when judgment comes? Yes, but we don’t rejoice in the destruction in judgment. Rather, we **rejoice** in the righteous resolution God’s judgment brings.

C. Finale: commercial Babylon’s death knell.

1. (21) An angel graphically shows Babylon’s fall.

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

a. **A mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea:** This is reminiscent of Jeremiah’s instructions to Seraiah to bind a stone to a text of Jeremiah and cast it into the Euphrates. *Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary* ([Jeremiah 51:61-64](#)).

i. But it also reminds us of what Jesus said in [Matthew 18:6](#): *But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.* This applies to Babylon in [Revelation 18](#), because *she led others into sin*. It is a terrible thing to sin unto yourself; it is even more terrible to lead others into sin.

b. **The great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore:** Some day, this world system will pass away, like a great stone falls to the bottom of the sea.

i. Will this fall hurt us? We will only be hurt to the extent that we invest ourselves in the mentality of commercial Babylon’s materialism and worldliness.

2. (22-23) Babylon is left desolate and powerless.

The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp

shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

a. Shall not be heard... shall be found anymore... shall not be heard in you anymore... shall not shine in you anymore: In graphic and poetic language, John describes how the industry and commerce of Babylon will come to an end.

b. For by your sorcery all the nations were deceived: **Sorcery** is the Greek word *pharmakia*, which means, “to prepare drugs.” The lure of commercial Babylon is like a drug addiction, fed by deceptive advertising.

3. (24) The ultimate reason for commercial Babylon’s judgment: She has killed the prophets and saints.

And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

a. The blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth: The extent of this charge is an indication that this great city is symbolic of the world system at large. There is no one literal city that is responsible for **all who were slain on the earth**.

b. In her was found the blood of prophets and saints: God takes the persecution of His people as a personal offense. Those who attack His people really attack Him.