

Judgment of Sin City (Message # 40)

Revelation 18: 1-8

We have dealt with the judgment of the Babylonian system for some time now. We have already studied the future judgment of the false religious system. Immediately following the judgment of the great harlot, the Lord turns His judgment to the economic system that men have placed their trust in. [Rev.18:1 – And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.](#)

These verses deal with the wealth and prosperity that men worship and build their lives upon. It is here that God strikes the very heart of their depravity; He judges the place of their devotion, the city or economic center of society. Babylon has long stood as an idol of man through the wealth and prosperity that he has achieved. Ancient Babylon reached its pinnacle under Nebuchadnezzar, a city known for its magnificence, luxury, and excess.

The ancient city has long been destroyed, but the philosophy that it promotes is alive and well. We see it very apparent in our day. Man has constructed large metropolitan centers and vast economic empires. These cities and their indulgence reveal the true desire of men. Las Vegas has been named Sin City, a place where people go and indulge in sin and depravity. Their slogan is, "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." Clearly they are promoting a lifestyle that is ungodly and detrimental to homes, families, and society.

These places of sinful indulgence will only increase in popularity, attracting more and more as we draw closer to the end times. The economic system of Babylon will make Vegas look like a family outing at the park. It will evolve into the most extravagant sin city man has ever known. There will be a season of prosperity for Babylon, but it will ultimately face the wrath of God. As we look at what the Bible reveals about the last days of this sinful place, I want to preach on the thought: [Judgment of Sin City](#).

I. The Inhabitants of the City (2) – [And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.](#) It isn't clear whether the text deals with a literal city or not. There will surely be a central location where Antichrist will operate.

- But, there is also a picture of a system that has been embraced by all men. This judgment will come upon the whole economic system, not just a specific city as we know it. The "city" of Babylon will be inhabited by masses of earth dwellers who have denied God's merciful offer of salvation, but there is a more diabolical presence there as well. Notice:

A. Their Description – We find that Babylon will be inhabited by devils, and the hold of every foul spirit. The Babylonian system will be inhabited by the demonic forces of Satan himself. We have seen at various times in Revelation the release of demons upon the earth and Babylon will be filled with them. The city will be filled by every evil spirit and device of Satan.

- We hear of the sinfulness of large cities today, but they will not compare to the satanic influence in the last days. Satan's influence will dominate the world scene when the Spirit of God is removed. What a dreadful picture of what waits those who forsake and reject Christ!

B. Their Domain – Babylon is the hold of every foul spirit, and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. These words are the same in the Greek. They mean “a guard or watch; a place where captives are kept in prison.” Babylon will not only be inhabited by demons, it will be dominated by them. They have taken over the city, setting a watch upon it. Those who dwell there are constantly under the influence and domain of demons. These evil spirits will hover over the city like unclean birds of prey, keeping those who dwell there in submission to them.

- It is apparent that Satan has a grip on many in the world today, but it is nothing compared to what is coming. The world will be enslaved to Satan and his dreadful beast. These were offered soul saving redemption, the chance to be freed from the bondage of sin, but they refused only to remain bound by the influence of Satan and face the wrath of God! It is hard to imagine the wholesale depravity of man that will exist in that day, but it will be reality and those who are here will indulge in all that Satan offers.

I. The Inhabitants of the City (2)

II. The Intoxication of the City (3) – As I pondered these verses I wondered what would cause man to succumb to such wickedness? What could possibly entice him to such a state of utter depravity and self-indulgence? They have abandoned the offer of God because they have been made drunk with the wine of Babylon. They have become:

A. Intoxicated with Her Philosophy (3a) – For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. This isn't referring to a select group or a few people, the entire world has been lured in by the seduction of the Babylonian system. They have bought in to the lies of the beast. They have sold their souls for the ideals of wickedness.

- Man will utterly reject the truth of God for a deceitful lie. The lure of the dollar has become their religion. All of the world will be under the influence of greed. They have forsaken any form of godliness for the philosophy of Satan. [2 Thes.2:9-12](#).

B. Intoxicated with Her Pleasure (3b) – [and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her](#). The kings of the earth, along with the nations, have become drunk with her seduction, committing fornication with Babylon. Their conscience has been seared and they are unaware of right or wrong. Life has become a search for pleasure. The beast has offered that which appeals to the flesh and the world has indulged itself in pleasing the flesh.

- We live in a day where that philosophy is becoming more prevalent. People are not concerned with moral decency, right or wrong, but only what pleases the flesh and makes them feel good. It makes no difference who it hurts as long as they have pleasure!

C. Intoxicated with Her Prosperity (3c) – [and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies](#). The desire for wealth and riches will take over men's lives. This will be a time of great abundance and excess for those who follow the beast. Men will strive to gain more and more, becoming greedy and insensitive to the needs of others. They will be driven by the appetite for more wealth. The more they achieve, the more they will desire.

- This will be a time marked by men of prominence and prosperity because they have sold themselves out to the lure of riches! They take no thought for their eternal destiny, only focusing upon the present flow of wealth. The love of money will control many in that day. Greed has always been a problem and many will be unable to free themselves from their new found wealth and the addiction to acquire more.

I. The Inhabitants of the City (2)

II. The Intoxication of the City (3)

III. The Inquisition of the City (4-8) – As the Tribulation moves on men will feel as if they are living in the best of times; the church is no longer here to question their actions or motives, they are experiencing new found wealth, and the world has united under a charismatic leader, but God will have the final say. Their days of indulgence and pride are about to reach a dreadful end. These verses reveal the real condition of the city as God looks upon it with His all seeing, all knowing eye. He has sent His angel to call for His people to abandon and reject this evil system, separating themselves from it. [V.4 – And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues](#). After His warning God declares judgment. Notice:

A. Her Reproach (5) – *For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.* The Babylonian system has enjoyed a season of prosperity. She likely has felt as if the train would never stop, but God is well aware of her ways. The abundance of wickedness has reached the heavens and God has remembered her iniquities.

- Nimrod and those who fathered this vain philosophy failed to reach heaven with the tower of Babel, but the sins of their system have reached the throne of God. We serve a God of holiness; He will not wink at sin and simply allow it to continue. We live in a day of grace where God's mercy is still being extended, but one day He will have His fill of sin! It is impossible to get by with sin. God is aware and He demands righteousness!

B. Her Reward (6) – *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.* God has called for the reward of Babylon. This words means "*to pay a debt; to return that which is due.*" Most of the time we think of a reward in a positive manner, but Babylon's reward will be anything but pleasant. She has committed great sin, indulging herself in all manner of excess and God is about to reward her twofold for her actions. She has brought about the suffering and destruction of many saints of God; she has stood in defiance of all that is holy and true.

- Her sins have not gone unnoticed and they will not go unpunished. The Lord is about to repay a double portion for all her wickedness. There is wisdom to be learned in these verses. Sin that isn't forgiven must be paid, and the price is very heavy! Those who indulge in sin, defying the holiness of God will one day reap their reward. God keeps a record for the just and the unjust. [Gal.6:7-8](#). It may appear as if Satan and this world have gained the upper hand and are getting by with sin, but God promises a reward!

C. Her Reputation (7) – *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.* Here we find the attitude of the Babylonian philosophy. It stands in arrogant defiance to the Lord. She has glorified herself, elevating herself to a level reserved for God. She has lived a life of indulgence and excess, seeing herself as a queen worthy of the pleasures she has enjoyed, even at the expense of others. She has rejected the idea that anyone could remove her prosperity. God hates her pride and defiant stand. [Prov.16:18](#) – *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

D. Her Ruin (8) – *Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.* She has enjoyed a season of great abundance. Her sinful heart has been filled many days with the pleasures of life, but it is all coming to a destructive end. The abundant pleasures will

cease in a moment of time. God has had His fill of Babylon and the philosophy that she promotes.

- Much of His wrath had been seasoned with mercy, but her ruin will be swift. In the few hours of one day God will bring plagues, death, mourning, and famine, resulting in the destruction of Babylon. Upon her demise she will be burned with fire. The wrath of God has been sent and His strong arm will bring destruction! [Heb.10:31 – It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.](#) [Is.43:13 – Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?](#)

God will one day judge and destroy all that man places above Him. These verses reveal what waits those who have rejected the Lord and indulged in sin. God is a God of mercy, but He is also a God of holy wrath. The only hope that man has to prevent the wrath of God is the blood of Christ. For all who have denied the saving power of Christ, eternal, sovereign judgment waits. Are you ready to meet God? Was there a definite moment in your life that you trusted Christ to save your soul?