**Revelation 18:1-24 January 3, 2021**

**Economic Babylon**

Proverbs 11:4a   
Riches do not profit in the day of wrath.

Proverbs 11:28a  
He who trusts in his riches will fall.

Babylon Revelation 18:1-3

* Symbolic of the worship of **false gods** over the centuries that was inspired by demonic forces (Revelation 17)
* Symbolic of the mistaken belief that those who are **financially strong** are superior to all (Revelation 18)
* The symbolism of being “drunk of the wine of passion” means that the world has been captivated by the lure of **riches and wealth** over time
  + Just as immorality seems enjoyable at the time, so does the collection of wealth

Believers to Leave Babylon Revelation 18:4-8

* God’s people are warned not to be enticed by the short-term allure of wealth and riches
  + Instead believers are called out of the enslavement to the love of money to use money wisely and generously
* Far too many people cling to their money and **abuse it**
  + They will be paid back by losing it all as God’s wrath causes it to be ultimately destroyed
  + God’s judgment will come upon them

Lament over Babylon Revelation 18:9-19

* The political leaders of the earth, who abused their wealth and power, will weep over the losses from the city as it burns
  + “immorality” and “sensuality” describe how they used the wealth hedonistically
* God’s judgment of the abuses comes “in one hour” indicating the **swiftness** and totality of the judgment against the city
  + What was once strong and represented the world’s best is now gone!
* Those who experienced the great losses will weep, mourn, and cry out in anguish at the losses
  + All their wealth and potential to make more will be gone as God’s wrath consumed the wealth of the world

God’s People Rejoice Revelation 18:20

* During the 7 year tribulation, God’s people will be persecuted, imprisoned, tortured, and killed
  + As the wrath of God is poured out just prior to Christ’s return, the saints of all ages will rejoice that God’s **justice** has been served

Babylon’s Judgment will be Final Revelation 18:21-24

* As God executes His wrath, the wealthy of the world will suffer extreme losses that cannot be **overcome**
  + There will be no recovery following God’s wrath over the world’s economic fortresses
* God’s people have suffered tremendously over the centuries
  + “in her was found the blood of the prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth” (v. 24)

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