

The Fall of Babylon
Revelation 18
Lesson #15

Introduction

1. If history has taught us anything it is;
 - A. Every worldly system built on pride, greed, & rebellion against God will fall.
 - B. Christ has called His people out, stand apart, & rejoice in the justice of God.
2. God is calling the church away from compromise with the world.
 - A. He is calling us toward wholehearted allegiance to Jesus Christ.

The Titanic

1. Its designers never claimed the ship was unsinkable.
 - A. 1911 an engineering journal wrote that the ship was “practically unsinkable”
 - B. The public and newspapers picked up on this phrase and repeated it as an absolute fact.
 - C. The Titanic is an unsinkable ship.
2. Ship was divided into 16 compartments.
 - A. It was designed if 4 of those compartments filled with water it would stay afloat.
3. April 10, 1912, the Titanic set sail for its first trip.
 - A. It was an unusual night in the ocean waters.
 - 1) The ocean was flat and smooth.
 - B. This made spotting icebergs harder to see.
 - 1) Normally the waves would be breaking against the icebergs and creating foam on the water.
4. When the ship struck the iceberg, it tore a gash in the side of the ship down 5 compartments.
 - A. When that 5th compartment filled with water there was no stopping the ship from sinking.
5. People gathered on a ship that had been untruthfully reported as being the unsinkable ship.
 - A. Over the next several hours the unsinkable ship began to sink.
 - B. It was estimated that over 1,500 people lost their lives.

This story of the Titanic gives us a picture of Babylon

1. A city so big & prosperous there is no way it could fall.
2. As discussed last week, this world system is built on pride.
 - A. It started with Nimrod at Babel.
 - B. Nimrod – 1st world dictator.
 - 1) A system that says, they don’t need God.
 - 2) We can do it on our own.
 - 3) We build our own way to heaven.
 - C. From Babel to Babylon, it represents human glory.

Things are not always as they appear. Vs. 1-3

1. Babylon on the outside looking in.
 - A. Appears to be fabulous.
2. On the inside it has become a dwelling evil (vs. 2).
 - A. What looked impressive on the outside was rotten on the inside.
 - B. Beneath the prosperity was rebellion.
3. Scripture has never taught against hard work and wise stewardship.
 - A. Babylon had turned gifts into gods.
 - B. Her luxury exploit and seduced the nations.
 - C. She drank from the cup of pride and invited the world to drink with her.
4. We must be ware – Babylon is already out there.

Personal challenge

1. Believers must take regular inventory of our hearts.

- A. What do we desire most in our life.
 - 1) Materialist things, entertainment, pride, status-seeking, moral compromise.

God always gives directions to His people. Vs. 4

- 1. God sounds the alarm of mercy and warning.
 - A. Scripture never teaches us to flirt with Babylon, reform Babylon, or be comfortable in Babylon.
 - B. God says come out of her.

God has always called believers to separate from sin, but he has never called us to isolate.

- 1. We separate from the sin, but we are still called to be a witness to the sinner.
 - A. We work, buy, sell, trade, build, and serve our communities.

When God declares His judgment, it will come swiftly and be carried out completely. Vs. 5-10

- 1. God's judgment seems to move slow to us.
 - A. His judgment will come swiftly and quickly.
 - B. It will happen in a day (vs. 8).
 - 1) As quickly as an hour (vs. 10).
- 2. Their sins have piled so high they reach heaven (vs. 5).

We have come to the end where there will be "no more". Vs. 14, 21-23

Heavenly rejoicing over God's righteous judgement. Vs. 20

- 1. Those who worship and profit from the beast now mourn.
 - A. Heaven is not rejoicing over cruelty.
 - B. Heaven is rejoicing over righteousness.
- 2. Evil doesn't get the last word.
 - A. The blood of the saints is not forgotten.
 - B. The oppression of the weak is not ignored.
- 3. We wonder, will wrong ever be made right?
 - A. The answer is. Yes
- 4. Believers should never have the attitude they got what they deserved.
 - A. Our rejoicing is that God is Holy, Just, and he wins out.
- 5. Heaven rejoices over righteousness.
 - A. God's heart is still broken over those who reject him.

Conclusion

- 1. God is calling believers to run from the sinful ways of the world.
- 2. Where do we run.
 - A. Jesus Christ