

# REVELATION

## The Judgment of Babylon

### Icebreaker

**When you see things going on in the world around you, what is something that makes you sad? Why?**

**Alternate question: Do you think we (all people) have an understanding of sin that is closer to how it truly is, or do we have an understanding of God's holiness that is closer to how it truly is? Which one should we endeavor to know better and why?**

### Context

In Revelation 17, the worldly system used by Satan to entice and draw people away from worshiping God, as represented by a woman referred to as the Great Harlot, was being judged for her great sins. At the end of chapter 17, we are told that Great Harlot was also a symbol of the great city Babylon. In chapter 18, we see the judgment of sin and evil as symbolized by Babylon. Her destruction and its effects are described through three funeral songs offered by people most directly benefiting from Babylon's glory days.

### Discuss

1. **What examples can you give of people looking to Babylon to provide satisfaction, joy, and meaning?** (Akin)
2. This chapter shows the inability of sin to provide lasting pleasure. **How have you seen the deceptiveness of sin in its failure to provide lasting joy and security?** (Akin)
3. Read Nahum 1:2 and Romans 12:19. Now, look at verses 6-8. **Why is God justified in pouring out judgment on Babylon's sins?** Consider Luke 18:7-8 to help understand why God is justified.
4. Read John 17:14-15. **How are Christians "not of this world?" How can we be "not of this world" while still going out into the world?**
5. In verses 6-8, the judgment of Babylon is more severe because of her pride. **Do you think it is "fair" to make her punishment more severe due to her**



**pride? Why or why not?** Read Psalm 10:4. **What effect does pride have on people?**

6. **How is our heart revealed by what we weep over?** (Akin)
7. **What does it mean that all three groups (kings, merchants, and sea traders) all stood “far off” from the destruction of Babylon?**
8. The three groups singing their funeral songs reveal that they didn’t really love her (Babylon) but what she did for them. The kings enjoyed sensuality and selfish pleasure, the merchants had their greed fed by Babylon, and the sea traders faith was in the income she provided rather than God. **Which of those temptations/sins is hardest to battle?**
9. **How does the worship of God make us more like God, and the worship of idols and Satan make us more like them? Have you found yourself molding to a person or thing you care most about? What is it?** (Akin)
10. **What is your initial reaction to heaven and God’s people being called to rejoice at Babylon’s judgment? Why is it justified that heaven and God’s people should rejoice at the punishment of Babylon?**
11. **This passage provides a strong warning against falling in love with this world. What role does warning play in our evangelism and missions?** (Akin)

Akin, D. L. (2016). [\*Exalting Jesus in Revelation\*](#) (D. L. Akin, D. Platt, & T. Merida, Eds.; Re 18:1–24). Holman Reference.

