

The Fall of Commercial and Political Babylon

18: 1-24

The judgment against **Babylon (14:8)** is against **her** pride, ruthlessness, greed (**First Timothy 6:9-10**) and materialism. It is a just judgment (**15:3, 16:5 and 7, 18:10 and 20, 19:2**), praised by **God's** people but mourned by the worldly and the wicked who share **her** values. **Chapter 18** is very somber and is, in reality, a dirge for humanity.

Much in this chapter resembles the lamentation of **Ezekiel 27-28** over the commercial center and port of **Tyre**. It is significant that **Tyre** is often understood as a substitute for **Satan's** realm of activity, and **Tyre's** king a surrogate for **Satan** (especially on **Ezekiel 28:11-19**). By analogy, then, the destruction of **Babylon** in this chapter is really the destruction of **Satan's** kingdom; and the destruction of **Satan** himself in **Chapter 20** reminds us of **Gog and Magog** as described in **Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39**, which also resembles **Ezekiel Chapters 27 and 28**.³⁸⁴ With the destruction of **Satan's** last and greatest human empire, the stage will be set for the triumphal return of **Jesus Christ**.