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Come Out of Her, My People, So That You Will Not Share in Her Sins 18: 4-5

Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins DIG: As compelling as the power of evil is, a voice from heaven exhorts God's people to holiness. At this point, who are His people? How can they come out of her? What will it mean when they do come out of her?

REFLECT: How many times has God warned you to flee a certain sin? Has the Lord remembered your crimes? How far is the east from the west? Is it without measure?

From the middle of the Great Tribulation forward, **the LORD** will increase the pressure on mankind to repent. Once the antichrist is revealed (**Second Thessalonians 2:3**) and the mighty angel declares: **There will be no more delay (10:6)**, all restraint will be removed. From that point on, the world will be divided into three camps: **Isra'el**, those aiding **Isra'el** and those opposed to **Isra'el**. So when this **voice from heaven** says **My people**, it means **Isra'el (Romans 11:26)**, or the **sheep** Gentiles aiding **Isra'el (Matthew 25:34-41)**.

The destruction of **Babylon** will be the second stage in the Campaign of Armageddon. But before **she** is destroyed, **ADONAI** will give **five warnings**, all from the book of **Jeremiah**, to **the Jews** still living there to flee the city before it is too late. There are two types of prophecies:

First, there are **near historical** prophecies that describe something that will take place within the lifetime of the prophet. For example, **the LORD** sent **Jeremiah** to confront the false prophet **Hananiah** who was prophesying that **the Jews** would defeat the Babylonians. **Then Jeremiah said to Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah! ADONAI has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in a lie. Therefore, this is what ADONAI says: I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against God."** In the seventh month of that same

year, Hananiah the false prophet died (Jeremiah 28:1-17).

Secondly, there are **far eschatological** prophecies that will happen in the last days. **All five of Jeremiah's prophecies are far eschatological prophecies.** The **first** is in **Jeremiah 50:1** and **6a**, where we read: **This is the Word which ADONAI spoke concerning Babylon, through Jeremiah the prophet: Flee out of Babylon and leave the land of the Babylonians (CJB).** The **second** warning will proclaim: **Hear the sound of the fugitives, of those escaping from Babylon, coming to proclaim in Zion the vengeance of ADONAI our God, vengeance over His Temple (Jeremiah 50:28 CJB).** Those Jews who escape from Babylon will run away to Jerusalem. The destruction of **Babylon** will be **the LORD's vengeance on Babylon for her abuse of His people and His Temple.** As the **fugitives and refugees arrive from Babylon, they** announce the destruction to the Jews living there (**Jeremiah 50:10** and **Jeremiah 51:45**). These are the **third** and **fourth** warnings. The **fifth** and last warning is **Jeremiah 51:50**. Thus, **the Jews** living in **Babylon** will be given plenty of warning to flee. They will make their way to Jerusalem with zeal.

The Jews living in **Babylon** will be able to avoid **God's** judgment on this commercially prosperous but morally bankrupt society can be avoided, as **another voice from heaven** makes clear. The word for **another** is *allos*, meaning *another of the same kind*. This suggests that the speaker is **another** angel like the one in **18:1**.³⁸⁷ So just as Lot was warned to leave Sodom, **another** angel warns the Jews: **Come out of her, My people**, quoting from **Jeremiah 51:45** (also see **Isaiah 52:11** and **Jeremiah 50:8, 51:6**). **So** the purpose of leaving **Babylon** is twofold. First, by separation from **her** adultery they **will not share in her sins. And** Secondly, they **will not receive any of her** plagues inflicted on them (**18:4**). The reference to plagues refers to the bowl judgments in **Chapter 16**.³⁸⁸



The **angel** continued to proclaim that **Babylon's sins are piled up to heaven (18:5a)**. Nimrod led the first Babel rebels in building a great tower that would reach **to the heavens** (see the commentary on **Genesis, to see link click [Dm](#) - Let Us Build a City and Make a Name for Ourselves**). That tower was a religious symbol called a *ziggurat*. It had a square base and sloping, stepped sides with a small shrine on top. They were often painted with blue enamel in order to make them blend in, in their minds, with the heavenly home of one or more of their gods. They believed that the gods would briefly live in the shrine when they came down to meet with the **people**. They would climb up the side of the *ziggurat* all the way to the top in the hope that the gods would condescend to meet with them. But the **angel** at the end of the Great Tribulation will declare that the **sins** of **Babylon**, like bricks of a *ziggurat*, **are piled up**, literally *glued or welded together, to heaven*. The only thing that would reach **up to heaven** would be the stench of their rebellion. Therefore, **God** had to come down to see what rebellious man was up to and punish their **sin**.

Later, the great king Nebuchadnezzar of **Babylon** dreamed that he was **a great tree, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth (Dani'el 4:20)**. But that **great tree** was cut down and proud Nebuchadnezzar had to live like an animal for seven long years. Neither the Tower in ancient **Babylon**, nor the

great tree of later **Babylon**, could really reach **up to heaven**. Consequently, **her judgment reaches to the skies, it raises as high as the clouds (Jeremiah 51:9)**.



As far as the believer is concerned, the Bible teaches this wonderful truth: **As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west** (which is immeasurable), **so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:11-12)**. However, for those who reject Yeshua, **He** does not forget and **He** knows the extent of **Babylon's** wickedness. When **the Lord** comes back, all wrongs will be made right. It will have been a long time between Nimrod's rebellion at the Tower of Babel and the Beast's rebellion during the Great Tribulation, but **ADONAI** will remember **her crimes**. It will be time for **her** to drink the cup of wrath **(18:5b)**.³⁸⁹ Although **He** is longsuffering, **Babylon's** ultimate punishment is inescapable.

*Dear Great and Merciful yet Holy **Father**, Praise **Your** Almighty power, infinite wisdom and great **love!** **You** died for all and desire all to go to heaven. **The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some consider slowness. Rather, He is being patient toward you - not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance (Second Peter 3:9)**. How much **You** want to give **Your** gift of righteousness to everyone; but **Your** holiness only allows into heaven those who accept **Your** righteousness. Each person makes his or her own choice to decide who they will **love** and follow. It is like **You** are reaching out **Your** arms of **love** to gently take the hands of a person to bring them to eternal **love** and joy in heaven, but they stand there with their arms crossed in defiance, and their face turned away from you looking into a mirror as they smile at themselves. Please open the eyes of*



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*my family and friends to see how much they miss out on by loving themselves more than you and that there are eternal consequences for not loving **You**. There is no greater joy than living to please **You** in heaven. **You** are awesome! What joy to serve **You** even in hard and painful times, for they will soon be over and those who **love You** will have peace and joy in heaven for all eternity. **For I consider the sufferings of this present time not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18)**. We **love You**. In **Your** holy **Son's** name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*