THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

“What Do You Treasure?”

Revelation 18:1-2 (ESV)

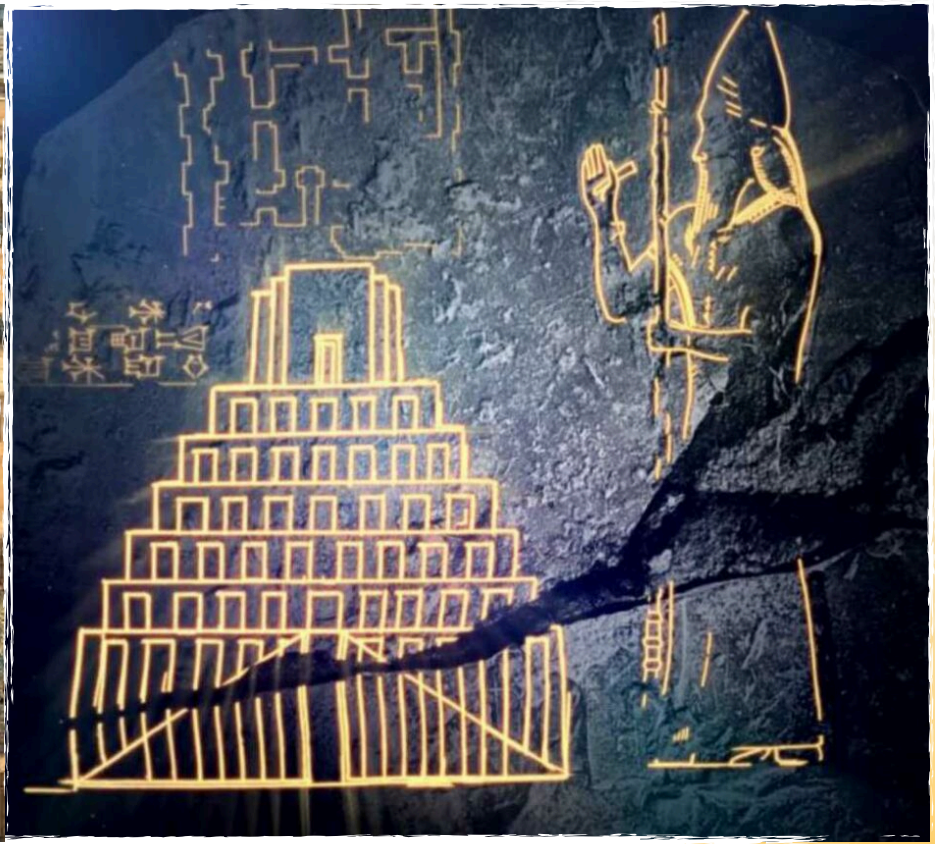
1 After this I saw another angel coming down
from heaven, having great authority, and the
earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he
called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is
Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling
place for demons, a haunt for every unclean
spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt
for every unclean and detestable beast.”

Revelation 18:3 (ESV)

3 “For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

“And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there… Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” (**Genesis 11:2, 4**)





Babel

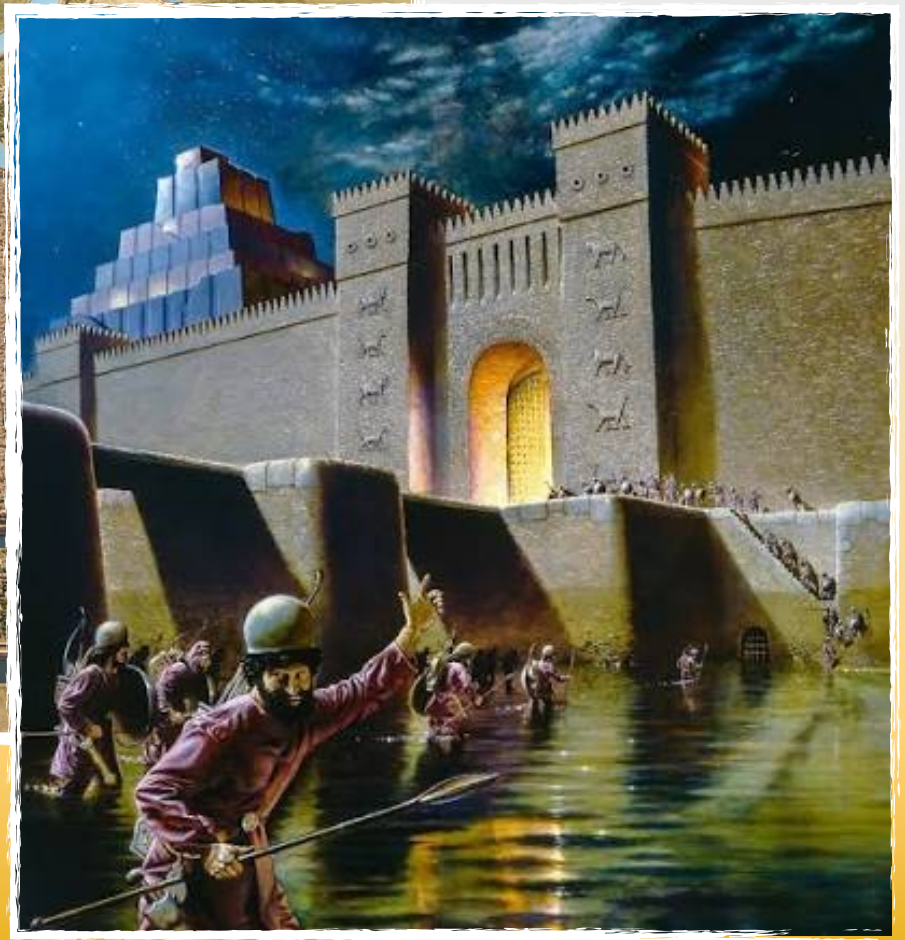




Neo-Babylonian Empire

“And the king answered and said, ‘Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?’”
(**Daniel 4:30**)





"Fallen! Fallen!"

“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the splendor and pomp of the Chaldeans, will be like Sodom and Gomorrah when God overthrew them. It will never be inhabited or lived in for all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there; no shepherds will make their flocks lie down there. But wild animals will lie down there, and their houses will be full of howling creatures; there ostriches will dwell, and there wild goats will dance.” (**Isaiah 13:19-21**)

“Hyenas will cry in its towers, and jackals in the pleasant palaces; its time is close at hand and its days will not be prolonged… And behold, here come riders, horsemen in pairs! … Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the carved images of her gods He has shattered to the ground.” (**Isaiah 13:22; 21:9**)

Revelation 18:4-6 (ESV)

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven
saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you
take part in her sins, lest you share in her
plagues; 5 for her sins are heaped high as
heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back
others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix
a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.”

Revelation 18:7-8 (ESV)

7 “As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and
mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a
queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall
never see.’ 8 For this reason her plagues will
come in a single day, death and mourning and
famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for
mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

A believer who navigates life unintentionally—who goes with the flow and does not live proactively as a dissident disciple of Jesus—**will find himself enamored with Babylon's distractions and pleasures.**

Change begins NOW.
It is time to go cold turkey.

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
(**Ephesians 5:14**)


"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!"
Ruth Radford

Revelation 18:21-22 (ESV)

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; 22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,”

Revelation 18:23-24 (ESV)

23 “and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.”

While you might expect **the downfall of this evil empire** to spark great rejoicing, instead we see a surprising amount of **weeping**, **grieving**, and **gnashing of teeth**.

Revelation 18:9-10 (ESV)

9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. 10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.”

Revelation 18:11-13 (ESV)

11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn
for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, 12
cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple
cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood,
all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of
costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon,
spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine
flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots,
and slaves, that is, human souls.

Revelation 18:14-17 (ESV)

14 “The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from
you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost
to you, never to be found again!” 15 The merchants of
these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand
far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning
aloud, 16 “Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed
in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls! 17 For in a single hour all
this wealth has been laid waste.”

Revelation 18:17-19 (ESV)

17 …And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, “What city was like the great city?” 19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, “Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.”

Revelation 18:20 (ESV)

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!”

If you witnessed God undoing our wicked world order, would you find yourself grieving loss or celebrating gain?

Your response is determined by WHERE your TREASURE is.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (**Matthew 6:19-21**)

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (**Matthew 6:22-24**)

“Godliness with contentment is great gain… But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (**1 Timothy 6:6, 9-10**)

Be honest with yourself. What would you be **unwilling to exchange** for a thriving economy, technological advances, and impressive cultural entertainments?

What would it take for you to reject and **"come out"** of a kingdom that promised such outcomes?

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” (**Matthew 13:44**)

“But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ.” (**Philippians 3:7-9**)

Jesus is true treasure, the only genuine and lasting source of joy and security.

“I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

(Philippians 4:11-13)

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (**Philippians 4:5-7**)

Where is your treasure?
Is it in Babylon or with Jesus?