

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 18:1-24 we hear 6 pronouncements concerning Babylon's judgment.

- I. An angel with great authority announces Babylon's judgment because she has become a wilderness of idolatry for the earth dwellers (vs. 1-3).
- II. A voice from heaven commands His people to come out from Babylon lest they share in her sins and judgment (vs. 4-5).
- III. A voice from heaven defines the reason and extent of Babylon's punishment (vs. 6-8).
- IV. A voice from heaven reveals that the earth-dwellers will cry out in mourning and lament after the fall of Babylon.
 1. The kings of the earth will weep and wail in fear (vs. 9-10).
 2. The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn in fear (vs. 11-17a).
 3. The sea traders cried out, wept, and mourned in fear (vs. 17b-19).
- V. A voice from heaven calls His people in heaven and earth to rejoice over God's vindication of their suffering (v. 20).
- VI. A mighty angel demonstrates the extent of Babylon's destruction (vs. 21-24).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 10, 2019

Passage: Revelation 18:1-24

Memory Passage: Revelation 18:4-5

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 18:1-24.** Our study of chapters 14-17 have prepared us for what we are shown in chapter 18, so this week we will apply our “Dig & Discover Hermeneutical Principles” as we study. Remember first our convictional principles: Staying on the Line (don’t add to or subtract from the Scriptures) and Text and Framework (making sure the text of Scripture rule over our framework, our worldview and assumptions, not the other way around). Also remember the principle of Genre (apocalyptic in this section of Revelation) and all the principles we apply in apocalyptic (e.g. visions used to symbolize earthly realities, symbolic use of numbers, literal interpretation requires symbolic understanding, etc.).

(b) Asking Good Questions: This Dig & Discover Principle requires that we ask good questions of the text, so as you read today you should write down at least 10 good questions you have. Write down any answers to these questions that arise from your study today or throughout the week.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

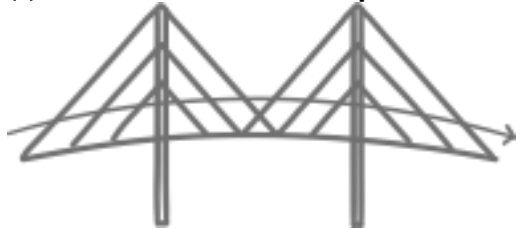
(a) **Read Revelation 18:1-24.** Today’s principle is Biblical Theology, and we will first look at the theology of Revelation, the immediate context: What words, phrases, symbols, concepts, visions, characters, etc. do you find in chapter 18 that have already been introduced in earlier chapters? How are they developed in chapter 18, and how do their previous occurrences inform your understanding of these developments?

(b) What Biblical themes are advanced or culminated in chapter 18, and how do previous occurrences of these themes help you fully understand their usage in chapter 18 (think, for example, of Babylon, wilderness, sexual immorality/idolatry, city, wrath, judgment, Christ, any OT passages quoted/alluded to in chapter 18 [margin references are helpful here], etc.)? In other words, how does Revelation 18 fit into and expand the main story line of the Scriptures and show its fulfillment in Christ?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 18:1-24.** Structure: Remember the picture of a suspension bridge that helps us understand structure:



The major ideas of the passage (at least 2) are represented by the vertical pillars, the connecting ideas that support these main thoughts are represented by suspension lines. Identify the major ideas of any passage by observing patterns, shifts in thought, and changes in direction, which you will find by observing repetitions, summary statements, how the passage begins and ends, commands, contrasts/comparisons, questions asked and answered, etc.

(b) What are the major ideas in chapter 18 (write them down in complete sentences) and what ideas support the major ideas?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 18:1-24.** Today we will identify the Main Idea (“What did John say?”) and Intended Response (“Why did John say it?”) of Revelation 18. The Main Idea is represented visually by the road deck in the picture of the suspension bridge, the one main idea the major ideas (the pillars) and supporting ideas (the suspension lines) lead us to (the arrow). Write down the Main Idea of Revelation 18 in one complete sentence (that is, it must have a subject and a verb!).

(b) The Intended Response deals with the author’s intent for the original hearers of the passage. What is the Intended Response of Revelation 18 (i.e. what did John want the 7 churches in Asia Minor to do after reading Revelation 18)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 18:1-24.** Traveling Instructions is the Dig & Discover Principle that identifies the contemporary application of what we have learned. The key is to remember that we don’t travel from the Scriptures to application in our own lives without first considering the author’s original intent, which we identified in the Main Idea and Intended Response.

(b) Write down at least 5 applications you will pursue as a result of your study of Revelation 18.

DATE: February 10, 2019

PASSAGE: Revelation 18:1-24

Babylon Is Fallen!