

# REVELATION 18



## Revelation 18 Part 2

# Vs 5

- Her sins have reached unto heaven
  - This is a call back to the tower of Babel.
  - God remembers her sins.
  - This is a statement that God will now deal with the sin of Babylon.
  - Judgement is coming!

# VS 6

- Reward her
- It means: Give Babylon the same kind of treatment she gave others—measure-for-measure
- Babylon persecuted God's people, promoted immorality, and seduced the nations—now she will reap the consequences. justice.
- Double
  - This doesn't mean "twice as much" in a strict numerical sense—it means a full, overflowing, and intensified judgment.

- Babylon filled a cup with spiritual poison—false religion, luxury, pride, persecution.
- Now, she must drink from the same cup, but double in intensity.
- The “cup” is a common biblical image for God’s wrath (see Jeremiah 25:15, Revelation 14:10).

# How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously

- “Glorified herself” = She exalted herself instead of God—filled with pride, self-worship, and vanity.
- “Lived deliciously” = Lavished herself with luxury, sensuality, and self-indulgence. This reflects economic excess, moral decay, and comfort at the expense of others.

She celebrated her own greatness, lived like royalty, and gave no thought to repentance or justice.

# For she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

- This is one of the most telling lines. Babylon says in her heart:

Phrase

Meaning

**“I sit a queen”**

Claims absolute authority, luxury, and security—**no accountability**

**“Am no widow”**

No loss, no vulnerability—**self-sufficient, invincible**

**“Shall see no sorrow”**

Delusional confidence that judgment will never come

This echoes ancient Babylon’s pride (Isaiah 47:7–9), where she also claimed to “sit as a queen.”

# Judgement

- The judgement will come in 1 day.
- The kings of the earth shall SEE the smoke.
- Standing afar off.
- This give the indication that it is NOT symbolic but literal.

# The merchants

- Vs 11-19
- Three groups lament: kings, merchants, and sea captains/traders.
- They weep from afar—terrified but unwilling to intervene.
- They grieve over lost luxury, not lost souls.
- Lists 28 luxury items showing Babylon's wealth-driven culture.
- Human lives (slaves) are treated as commodities.

## 28 Luxury goods

- Revelation 18:12–13 lists 28 luxury goods that merchants mourn the loss of when Babylon is judged. These aren't random; they are deeply symbolic and highly relevant today.

Category	Items	Modern Relevance
<b>Precious Metals &amp; Gems</b>	Gold, silver, precious stones, pearls	Wealth, banking, jewelry, status
<b>Luxury Clothing</b>	Fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet	Fashion industry, designer brands, vanity
<b>Luxury Materials</b>	Thyine wood, ivory, marble	Exotic imports, rare furnishings, elite décor
<b>Spices &amp; Fragrances</b>	Cinnamon, incense, ointments, frankincense	Cosmetics, health & wellness, luxury branding
<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	Wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep	Gourmet food, high-end restaurants, indulgence
<b>Transportation &amp; Power</b>	Horses, chariots	Modern equivalent: luxury cars, private jets, status mobility
<b>Human Trafficking</b>	Slaves and human souls	Literal modern slavery: sex trafficking, labor exploitation, commodification of people

# The heart of Babylon.

These items represent the heart of Babylon's system:

- Materialism
- Luxury without conscience
- Exploitation of people for profit
- Idolatry of wealth, beauty, and power

Babylon is not condemned just for being rich—but for:

- Worshiping wealth
- Living in self-indulgence
- Buying and selling even *souls* (v. 13)

# Why It Matters to Us

## Warning

The world seduces through material things

God sees exploitation and will judge it

We're told to **come out of Babylon**  
(Rev 18:4)

## Modern Example

Consumerism, social media "luxury culture"

Human trafficking, labor abuse, vanity markets

Don't let wealth, image, or indulgence corrupt your walk with God

# A city?

- WE talked about this being a city.
- So what city is it?

Revelation 17–18 speaks of “Mystery Babylon”—but scholars debate whether it's:

- A literal rebuilt city in Iraq (ancient Babylon),
- A symbolic spiritual system (like Rome, or global religion),
- Or a geopolitical/economic center (like New York, Dubai, or a yet-future city).

Abu Dhabi:

- Is rising as a global hub of religion, politics, and wealth.
- Hosts the Abrahamic Family House (interfaith center).
- Is part of the wealthy Gulf region, which mirrors the luxury and global trade described in Revelation 18.
- So Abu Dhabi could represent a modern “spirit of Babylon”—not in name or ruins, but in function.

# Traits of Babylon

- 1.Global Trade Hub** (vv. 11–13): Merchants mourn because no one buys their goods anymore.
- 2.Luxury and Excess** (v. 7): She says, “I sit as queen... I shall never mourn.”
- 3.Moral Corruption** (vv. 3, 5): “Her sins have reached to heaven.”
- 4.Economic Power and Influence** (v. 3): “The merchants of the earth have grown rich.”
- 5.Sudden Destruction** (vv. 8–10): “In one hour your judgment has come.”
- 6.Exploitation** (v. 13): Includes trafficking of “bodies and souls of men.”
- 7.Center for kings and corporations** (v. 9): “The kings of the earth who committed fornication with her...”

# Comparison of cities

City	Strength	Weakness	Role
<b>New York</b>	Economic + Global power	Not religious	Strong candidate
<b>Dubai</b>	Wealth + Interfaith push + Near Babylon	Still growing	Emerging candidate
<b>Rome</b>	Religious + Historical tie	Not economic leader	Spiritual Babylon
<b>London</b>	Financial + political	Diminished power	Possible role
<b>Future Babylon</b>	Literal fulfillment	Not yet relevant	Possible if rebuilt

Revelation 17:3–5 calls Babylon:

- A “mystery”
- The “mother of harlots”
- Connected to global political and commercial power

Abu Dhabi (or the broader Gulf region, including Dubai and Saudi Arabia) is:

- Ultra-rich from oil (Rev 18:3 – “merchants of the earth waxed rich”)
- Building religious and political influence
- Geographically close to ancient Babylon
- In a region prophetically significant (e.g., Ezekiel 38–39, Isaiah 21)

# Comparison

Comparison	Insight
<b>Ancient Babylon</b>	In Iraq, cradle of rebellion (Gen 11, Nimrod)
<b>Abu Dhabi</b>	550 miles southeast, not Babylon itself, but part of the <b>same prophetic region</b>
<b>Prophetic Role?</b>	Possibly a modern expression of <b>end-time Babylon's spirit</b> —wealthy, interfaith, globally connected

# Isaiah 13–14 and Jeremiah 50–51

- These chapters pronounce judgment on Babylon.
- Some of the language seems to describe a future, final destruction—not fully fulfilled historically.

• Example:

Jeremiah 50:39–40

“It shall be no more inhabited forever; nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.”

But:

• Ancient Babylon (in Iraq) was **gradually abandoned**, not destroyed “in one hour” as Revelation 18 says.

• People still live near the ruins today (e.g., Hillah, Iraq).

This leads some to say:

These prophecies require a rebuilt and flourishing Babylon so it can be destroyed *suddenly*, just as Revelation 18 describes.

# Babylon will be rebuilt

## Statement

“Babylon will be rebuilt” (explicit statement)

Implied future presence in Shinar (Babylon region)

Future destruction of a major city called Babylon

Literal vs. symbolic debate about Babylon

## Biblical Support

**No clear verse**

**Zechariah 5:11**

**Revelation 18**

**Ongoing among scholars**

# Location, location, location.

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# Heaven rejoices

- Vs 20-24
- Heaven, saints, apostles, and prophets are told to rejoice—justice is done.
- A mighty angel throws a stone into the sea—symbolizing Babylon's utter ruin.
- No more music, craftsmen, trade, light, or weddings—complete silence and desolation.
- Babylon guilty of deceiving nations and shedding the blood of God's people.

# Millstone

A millstone is a massive round stone used in ancient times to grind grain. It was:

- Extremely heavy
- Used in pairs (upper and lower)
- Symbol of industry, economy, and daily life
- You couldn't casually pick it up—once thrown into the sea, it's gone forever.

# Millstone

Symbol

**Millstone**

**Thrown into sea**

**“Found no more”**

Meaning

Heavy object—represents the **weight of Babylon’s guilt**

**Sudden and irreversible judgment**

**Final end** to Babylon’s influence—religiously, politically, economically