

Personal/Small Group Study Notes

Week of August 22, 2021, A.D.

The Fall of Babylon

The seventieth week of Daniel, the great tribulation, and/or the wrath of God (take your pick—one, two, or all three) come to a conclusion when “the seventh angel” pours out his (the final) “bowl of God’s wrath on the earth”. See Revelation 16:1 and 16:17. In this lesson, you are being asked to let your “sanctified imagination” run wild and to answer each question “from your gut” without attempting to “nail down” the “correct answers”. Why? Because we probably will not know the “correct answers” until the events which are described in Revelation actually occur.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Revelation 16:17-21

1. Does God want us to interpret these verses figuratively or literally? Is there anything in these verses which (a) God cannot cause or allow to happen? and (b) mankind does not deserve to experience?
2. Refer to verse 19. Do all of the cities of the world collapse? Do the words “the great city” and “Babylon the Great” refer to the same city? Does God punish Babylon more severely than God punishes the other cities of the world? If so, why?

Read Revelation 17:1-2; 15-18

3. The city of ancient Babylon has been abandoned and covered with dust for more than 1,000 years. Please name each currently existing city which fits the description of Babylon found in these verses.

Read Revelation 18:1-3

4. Are these verses a present and/or future description of a city which currently exists in the world? If you have a particular city in mind, please explain why.

Read Revelation 18:17-20

5. Did this “great city” treat God’s people with kindness? Is the “great city” a figurative term or a literal term in these verses? Does God punish people for “becoming rich through her wealth”? Is it good for a person to be wealthy?

Read Revelation 18:21-24

6. Do these verses paint an optimistic future for (a) America? and/or (b) “the great city of Babylon”?
7. What do these verses teach the American church about our persistent willingness to “yield to the pull of our culture” and our persistent willingness to pursue health, wealth, and prosperity?
8. Is “being a Christian” only about “being saved from hell” and being saved from God’s wrath?
9. In your opinion, are most of the church attendees in American more excited about (a) being raptured before bad things happen on earth or (b) serving Christ every day in every way possible out of love for Christ?

Read Romans 2:6-11

10. Is there salvation (i.e. eternal life) without (a) repentance? (b) good works? and/or (c) seeking and obeying the truth?

Read Philippians 3:17-21

11. Are the people described in verses 18-19 (a) citizens of “Babylon the Great” or (b) citizens of heaven? Does behavior matter to God—not for salvation but—as proof of salvation?

Read 2 Peter 3:10-13

12. What does it mean to “live holy and godly lives”? What is “the day of God”? How can the followers of Christ “speed the coming of the day of God”?

Conclusion: Our citizenship is in heaven. Friendship with the world is hatred toward God. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command.” “You think about that.” Amen.