Presently, we are studying the final bowl judgment of at the end of Tribulation. The seventh bowl is a judgment that brings God’s wrath against the enemy and against the world’s sin to an end. It involves an unimaginably destructive hailstorm and earthquake. The judgment eliminated all mountains and islands, except the one on which Jerusalem stands. Thus making Jerusalem the highest point on earth. And all the Gentile nations of the earth are destroyed. In particular, one Gentile city - the Great City, Babylon- is utterly destroyed. Her destruction is so significant to the program of God in Tribulation that Revelation devotes two entire chapters to the details. Chapter 17 and chapter 18 chronicle Babylon’s judgment. But the story is broken into two distinct parts with each chapter telling a different but related piece. Last week in chapter 17, we learned that the judgment of Babylon was not only an attack against the physical city, but it was also an assault against God’s spiritual foe. The angel showed John that the judgment of the great city will begin with the elimination of Spiritual Babylon. Spiritual Babylon is depicted as a Harlot and the mother of all harlots. It is the name Scripture gives to the Kingdom of Satan in all its forms. Similar to that fictitious, unseen power in Star Wars called “The Force,” Scripture describes a very real, very powerful spiritual kingdom that is ever-present in controlling the unbelieving world.
The kingdom is orchestrated by Satan and centered in Mesopotamia

It has been the source of all sin, all lies, all immorality, all hatred and persecution of God's people

And by this spiritual kingdom, the enemy wields his controlling influence over all human authority in the unbelieving world

- By our faith in Christ, we were rescued from this dark kingdom and made citizens by faith in the Kingdom to come

As Paul wrote:

\textit{Col. 1:12} giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

\textit{Col. 1:13} For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

\textit{Col. 1:14} in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- God judges the spiritual kingdom of Babylon in preparation for the Lord’s return and reign
  - God places in the hearts of the antichrist and the kings of the earth the desire to destroy the Harlot with fire
  - The antichrist causes all religious practice, buildings and relics to be burned so that all worship is directed at the antichrist

- As a result of the Harlot’s destruction, the world confronts a stark choice: worship the antichrist or worship Christ

  - This is the reality of two kingdoms: worship Satan or worship Christ

- Now in chapter 18, the judgment of Babylon continues with the destruction of the city itself
  - Last week Scripture testified that the Harlot, Spiritual Babylon, sits on many waters, which were nations and kings and people
  - In the last days, all world political and financial power will be concentrated into one person: the seven head of the beast, the antichrist
    - He will be the unchallenged world leader
The world will worship him as God

And by the mark of the beast, he will control all finance by determining who may buy and sell

- After the indwelling of Satan, the antichrist moves the seat of power to Babylon, Satan’s home in Mesopotamia

- So in the last days of Tribulation, the seat of all world political and all world financial authority is in Babylon

- This is the capital of the beast and Satan, and the story of its destruction is given in chapter 18

  - The destruction of geographical Babylon is the subject of numerous prophecy in the OT

    - To appreciate those prophecies, we need to examine two extended passages out of the major prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah

    - We will move back and forth between Revelation, Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 50-51 studying parts of them together

    - Also note that the events of Revelation 16-17 are the backdrop for the events of Revelation 18

  - Secondly, Chapter 18 gives us the opportunity to continue our study of the War of Armageddon, since the destruction of the city factors prominently in the movement of armies

- Let’s begin in chapter 18

**Rev. 18:1** After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

**Rev. 18:2** And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird.

**Rev. 18:3** “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

- The chapter opens with our familiar phrase “After these things...”

  - This time the phrase in Greek is *meta houte houtos*
This is the phrase that implies a cause-and-effect relationship between the connected thoughts

So the events in chapter 18 are the result of events described earlier

- Those earlier events are of Rev 16, specifically the seventh bowl judgment

  - Remember, chapter 17 was an interruption in the narrative

- The beginning of chapter 17 shows John carried away to see a vision of the Harlot begin judged

- Now in chapter 18 John returns to a literal description of the Great City being judged by the seventh bowl

  - In fact, notice that in chapter 17, the movement is away from the earth and into heaven (17:1-3)

  - But in chapter 18, the direction is away from heaven and toward the earth (18:1)

- John describes the angel leaving heaven as having great authority, which might mean he was an archangel, but we can’t know for sure

  - His authority does indicate the importance of the mission and the announcement

  - The angel declares (twice for emphasis) that Babylon is fallen

    - What follows is God’s fulfillment of previous prophecy concerning Babylon

    - These prophecies are found in various OT prophets, but particularly in Isaiah and Jeremiah who spoke extensively on Babylon

- The angel declares that the city will be so utterly devastated that it will be left uninhabited forever except that demons will be confined there during the Kingdom

  - In v.2 we’re told it will become a dwelling place only for demons and unclean spirits and unclean birds, meaning scavengers

    - The reference to birds is a way of communicating that only dead things will dwell in this place
But in the OT, the descriptions only seem to mention animals but not demons

-One example:

Is. 13:19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans’ pride, will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

Is. 13:20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation; nor will the Arab pitch his tent there, nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

Is. 13:21 But desert creatures will lie down there, and their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.

Jer. 51:35 “May the violence done to me and to my flesh be upon Babylon,” The inhabitant of Zion will say; and, “May my blood be upon the inhabitants of Chaldea,” Jerusalem will say.

Jer. 51:36 Therefore thus says the LORD, “Behold, I am going to plead your case and exact full vengeance for you; and I will dry up her sea and make her fountain dry.

Jer. 51:37 “Babylon will become a heap of ruins, a haunt of jackals, an object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants.

Notice that the place will never be inhabited again after God’s judgment comes upon Babylon.

These descriptions preclude the possibility that the prophets were talking about the overthrow of Babylon by the Medo-Persia Empire.

During that event, the nation of Babylon was not destroyed and it continued to be inhabited even to this day.
Secondly, the conquest of Babylon in that day happened very differently than the way described here

- In fact, the conquest of Babylon by the Medo-Persians was largely a bloodless affair

- The city of Babylon was protected by high walls no one could successfully assault

- The river Euphrates ran under the wall, but iron gates block anyone from swimming under through the opening

- Cyrus the Great invaded Babylon by diverting the Euphrates river upstream
  - Then when the river level dropped, his troops marched in the river bed, destroyed the gates and entered the city under the wall

- The citizens of Babylon were sleeping off an night of feasting, so there was virtually no fighting during the capture of the city
  - So this must reference a future time of destruction, something that has yet to happen

- Furthermore, both the passage from Isaiah and Jeremiah are set in a context of the end times
  - Isaiah lists animals that will inhabit Babylon instead of people, but it’s a odd list of animals and curious even that animals are listed at all

- Revelation says nothing about animals, yet it does talk about demons
  - Isaiah description of unclean animals includes animal types that picture of demons in scripture
  - They are associated with sorcery, satanism or other the occult

- We’ll see a similar description later when we read about the destruction of Edom in Isaiah 37

  - In v.3 we have the three reasons for her destruction
    - First, the nations have become drunk by her immorality
This statement reminds us of the judgment in the previous chapter, that of the Harlot and Spiritual Babylon

But chapter 18 is squarely focused on Tribulation Babylon, the city of the antichrist that reigns over the world

So this first indictment is speaking of the effect this city will have over the world in this day...it will lead the world into worship of beast

Secondly, the kings of the earth will commit acts of immorality with Babylon

Babylon controls all political and military authority and causes all kings to do the antichrist’s bidding’

In chapter 17:13 we heard how the kings of the earth give their authority to the Beast

Thirdly, the merchants of the world have profited from the antichrist’s rule in Babylon

Since he has the ability to regulate all commerce through the mark of the beast, the city becomes unbelievably rich

The world’s corrupt economy will depend on Babylon

Moving forward...

Rev. 18:4 I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues;

Rev. 18:5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Rev. 18:6 “Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back to her double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.

Rev. 18:7 “To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I SIT as A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.’

Rev. 18:8 “For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

In v.4, a call is given into the city tell God’s people to escape before the judgment comes

Remember we said that the plagues have come upon the entire world except for the Jews and believers and except for Jerusalem
○ And so God will call from heaven for His people to leave Babylon before the city’s judgment
  ▪ Because if the people remain in the city, they will surely experience the judgment with the city
  ▪ God spoke of this warning to leave Babylon before judgment in the OT

Jer. 51:5  For neither Israel nor Judah has been forsaken
  By his God, the LORD of hosts,
  Although their land is full of guilt
  Before the Holy One of Israel.

Jer. 51:6  Flee from the midst of Babylon,
  And each of you save his life!
  Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
  For this is the LORD’S time of vengeance;
  He is going to render recompense to her.

Jer. 50:4  “In those days and at that time,” declares the LORD, “the sons of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go, and it will be the LORD their God they will seek.

Jer. 50:5  “They will ask for the way to Zion, turning their faces in its direction; they will come that they may join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.

Jer. 50:28  There is a sound of fugitives and refugees from the land of Babylon,
  To declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God,
  Vengeance for His temple.

Jer. 51:45  “Come forth from her midst, My people,
  And each of you save yourselves
  From the fierce anger of the LORD.

• The Jews still living in Babylon (those who haven’t taken the mark of the beast) will flee the city in response to God’s warning
  ○ God’s warning to leave Babylon is similar to the one Christ gave believers concerning Jerusalem in the Olivet Discourse
    ▪ He told those in Jerusalem to flee to the mountains when they see the city surrounding the city
      • Only those who heard and believed God’s word would respond to the call to flee
Similarly, on those Jews who hear and believe the call from Heaven will flee

- Only those who do not have the mark of the Beast

By their departure, they will save their lives and give opportunity for salvation

- Where will the Jews who flee Babylon go?

- They go to the only other city remaining on earth: Jerusalem

**Jer. 51:10** The LORD has brought about our vindication;
Come and let us recount in Zion
The work of the LORD our God!

**Jer. 51:49** Indeed Babylon is to fall for the slain of Israel,
As also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.

**Jer. 51:50** You who have escaped the sword,
Depart! Do not stay!
Remember the LORD from afar,
And let Jerusalem come to your mind.

- When they arrive in Jerusalem, these refugees from Babylon share the news with the other Jews that the city was destroyed

- The fact that the news has to arrive through messenger reminds us that the world is so utterly devastated that all other communication is gone

- In v.6-8 the angel declares that this judgment is recompense for her Israel

- In particular, Babylon is held responsible for her mistreatment of Israel during the invasion of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar

**Psa. 137:1** By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down and wept,
When we remembered Zion.
Psa. 137:2 Upon the willows in the midst of it
   We hung our harps.

Psa. 137:3 For there our captors demanded of us songs,
   And our tormentors mirth, saying,
   “Sing us one of the songs of Zion.”

Psa. 137:4 How can we sing the LORD’S song
   In a foreign land?

Psa. 137:5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
   May my right hand forget her skill.

Psa. 137:6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
   If I do not remember you,
   If I do not exalt Jerusalem
   Above my chief joy.

Psa. 137:7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom
   The day of Jerusalem,
   Who said, “Raze it, raze it
   To its very foundation.”

Psa. 137:8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one,
   How blessed will be the one who repays you
   With the recompense with which you have repaid us.

Psa. 137:9 How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones
   Against the rock.

○ In v.7 the psalmist asks Lord to remember the day Babylon ordered that Jerusalem be razed to its very foundation and judge her

○ And in v.7, the angel quotes from Isaiah 47, a lament against Babylon

Is. 47:1 “Come down and sit in the dust,
   0 virgin daughter of Babylon;
   Sit on the ground without a throne,
   0 daughter of the Chaldeans!
   For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate.

Is. 47:2 “Take the millstones and grind meal.
   Remove your veil, strip off the skirt,
   Uncover the leg, cross the rivers.

Is. 47:3 “Your nakedness will be uncovered,
   Your shame also will be exposed;
   I will take vengeance and will not spare a man.”
Is. 47:4 Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name,  
The Holy One of Israel.

Is. 47:5 “Sit silently, and go into darkness,  
O daughter of the Chaldeans,  
For you will no longer be called  
The queen of kingdoms.

Is. 47:6 “I was angry with My people,  
I profaned My heritage  
And gave them into your hand.  
You did not show mercy to them,  
On the aged you made your yoke very heavy.

Is. 47:7 “Yet you said, 'I will be a queen forever.'  
These things you did not consider  
Nor remember the outcome of them.

Is. 47:8 “Now, then, hear this, you sensual one,  
Who dwells securely,  
Who says in your heart,  
'I am, and there is no one besides me.  
I will not sit as a widow,  
Nor know loss of children.'

Is. 47:9 “But these two things will come on you suddenly in one day:  
Loss of children and widowhood.  
They will come on you in full measure  
In spite of your many sorceries,  
In spite of the great power of your spells.

Before we go further in chapter 18, we need to spend a little time in Isaiah and Jeremiah to learn how the city is going to be judged and destroyed by God

○ The destruction of physical Babylon actually a two-part process, with both parts orchestrated by God

□ The first part is accomplished at the hands of men and directed against the citizens of the city

□ The second part is accomplished supernaturally by God alone and directed against the structures of the city

○ Revelation 18 summarizes the outcome of both, so we need to go outside the chapter to find details on each part individually
• Let’s study the destruction of Babylon at the hands of men, starting in Isaiah 11

**Is. 13:1** The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw.

**Is. 13:2** Lift up a standard on the bare hill,
Raise your voice to them,
Wave the hand that they may enter the doors of the nobles.

**Is. 13:3** I have commanded My consecrated ones,
I have even called My mighty warriors,
My proudly exulting ones,
To execute My anger.

**Is. 13:4** A sound of tumult on the mountains,
Like that of many people!
A sound of the uproar of kingdoms,
Of nations gathered together!
The LORD of hosts is mustering the army for battle.

**Is. 13:5** They are coming from a far country,
From the farthest horizons,
The LORD and His instruments of indignation,
To destroy the whole land.

• Isaiah delivers an oracle or word against Babylon

  ○ In vs.2-3, God describes how He will command His mighty warriors to execute His anger against Babylon

    ▪ And this call is followed by the sound of an army, many people, numerous nations gathered together to muster for battle

    ▪ These warriors are God’s “consecrated” ones commanded to attack Babylon

      • The word for consecrated is *qadash* in Hebrew

      • The word can mean holy, but it can also mean simply “set apart” or “appointed for God’s purpose”

    ○ They come from a far country as God’s instruments of indignation to destroy the whole land of Babylon

      ▪ So God is sending some army to destroy Babylon
What does this invading army do to Babylon?

**Jer. 50:46** At the shout, “Babylon has been seized!” the earth is shaken, and an outcry is heard among the nations.

**Jer. 51:1** Thus says the LORD:

“Behold, I am going to arouse against Babylon
And against the inhabitants of Leb-kamai
The spirit of a destroyer.

**Jer. 51:2** “I will dispatch foreigners to Babylon that they may winnow her
And may devastate her land;
For on every side they will be opposed to her
In the day of her calamity.

**Jer. 51:3** “Let not him who bends his bow bend it,
Nor let him rise up in his scale-armor;
So do not spare her young men;
Devote all her army to destruction.

**Jer. 51:4** “They will fall down slain in the land of the Chaldeans,
And pierced through in their streets.”

God promises to raise up the spirit of the destroyer against Babylon and against leb-kamai

- Leb-kamai means “heart of my adversaries” which is an ancient term for Chaldea or Mesopotamia
  - It carries a meaning similar to the mother of harlots
  - It means that Mesopotamia is the heart or source of all God’s adversaries

- The phrase spirit of the destroyer is a poor translation of the Hebrew
  - A literal translation would be a destroying wind
  - This is not a reference to a spirit
    - The invading army is compared to a violent windstorm that blows in from the north and destroys the city

- The invading army attacks the people in the city using hand-to-hand combat and simple weaponry
  - With the result that all the citizens of the city are killed...all of them
  - Remember, no one inhabits the city again
• Who will conduct this attack upon the antichrist’s headquarters?

  ○ Jeremiah and Isaiah give us an answer...to a degree

**Jer. 50:1** The word which the LORD spoke concerning Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

**Jer. 50:2** “Declare and proclaim among the nations. 
Proclaim it and lift up a standard. 
Do not conceal it but say, ‘Babylon has been captured, 
Bel has been put to shame, Marduk has been shattered; 
Her images have been put to shame, her idols have been shattered.’

**Jer. 50:3** “For a nation has come up against her out of the north; it will make her land an object of horror, and there will be no inhabitant in it. Both man and beast have wandered off, they have gone away!

**Jer. 50:9** “For behold, I am going to arouse and bring up against Babylon 
A horde of great nations from the land of the north, 
And they will draw up their battle lines against her; 
From there she will be taken captive. 
Their arrows will be like an expert warrior 
Who does not return empty-handed.

**Jer. 50:41** “Behold, a people is coming from the north, 
And a great nation and many kings 
Will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

**Jer. 50:42** “They seize their bow and javelin; 
They are cruel and have no mercy. 
Their voice roars like the sea; 
And they ride on horses, 
Marshalled like a man for the battle 
Against you, O daughter of Babylon.

  ○ Then Jeremiah tells us the attack will come from the north and consist of a great nation and many kings and involve peoples from all parts of the earth

  ■ We know that in the time of Tribulation, the political map will look very different than it does today, since there will only be ten kingdoms and ten rulers

  ■ Today, you can find the nations of Iran, Turkey, Armenia and Russia north of Babylon
○ Isaiah confirms one of these nations will be involved

Is. 13:17 Behold, I am going to stir up the Medes against them,  
Who will not value silver or take pleasure in gold.
Is. 13:18 And their bows will mow down the young men,  
They will not even have compassion on the fruit of the womb,  
Nor will their eye pity children.
Is. 13:19 And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms, the glory of the Chaldeans' pride,  
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
Is. 13:20 It will never be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation;  
Nor will the Arab pitch his tent there,  
Nor will shepherds make their flocks lie down there.

○ The Medes is the ancient name for the people who settled in the region of present-day Iran
  - Some might assume that Isaiah was speaking about the past invasion of Babylon by the Med-Persian empire in 539BC
  - But as we discussed earlier, the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus happened in a very different way than described here
  - Plus the context of Isaiah 13-14 (and Jeremiah 50-51) say that in conjunction with Babylon's destruction, Israel will be restored in sinless glory
    - That obviously did not happen in 539 BC
  ○ The prophet was simply using the historical name of Medes to describe the region that would lead the attack
  - Jeremiah also confirms these nations are involved

Jer. 51:27 Lift up a signal in the land,
Blow a trumpet among the nations!
Consecrate the nations against her,  
Summon against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni and Ashkenaz;  
Appoint a marshal against her,  
Bring up the horses like bristly locusts.
Jer. 51:28 Consecrate the nations against her, 
The kings of the Medes, 
Their governors and all their prefects, 
And every land of their dominion.

- God’s consecrated attackers include the kingdoms of Ararat (Turkey), Minni (Armenia), Ashkenaz (southern Russia/Black Sea), and the king of the Medes

- Why would an army wish to destroy the antichrist’s kingdom in Tribulation?
  - We can only speculate, though Scripture does give us some tantalizing clues
    - Let’s revisit the story from the earlier stages of the War of Armageddon
    - First, at the release of the sixth bowl judgment, the armies of the world were called to join in the great war of God
      - The armies that responded gathered in Northern Israel in preparation to invade the city
    - Secondly, we heard in chapter 17 that God caused the kings of the earth to give their allegiance to the beast during the second half of tribulation

Rev. 17:17 “For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

- Notice v.17 says that they will give their kingdoms to the beast until the words of God are fulfilled
  - The phrase at the end of the verse suggests that the kings will change their mind at some point during Tribulation
  - They follow the Beast only until the words of God will be fulfilled
    - Which words?
    - The words of chapter 18, Isaiah 13 and Jeremiah 50-51
  - Once God is ready to judge Babylon, he causes His consecrated ones (i.e., the kings of the earth) to turn against the antichrist
At that point, the kings attempt a coup by destroying the antichrist’s city while the antichrist is away with the rest of the world’s armies in Israel

- The kings themselves do not wish to destroy the city but rather they want to take it for themselves and put an end to the antichrist’s rule
- But God is simply using them to do His will in destroying the people of the city
- Then God Himself steps in to destroy the physical city supernaturally in the seventh bowl judgment

- So the first part of Babylon’s destruction is accomplished by an invading army sent by God to destroy the city’s residents as payment for her sins against Israel and the world
  - This is also the second stage of the war of Armageddon
  - When the headquarters of the antichrist is taken by opposing forces
    - But they do not hold the ground for very long
  - The second part of the city's destruction is given in the rest of Revelation 18

**Rev. 18:9** “And the kings of the earth, who committed acts of immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

**Rev. 18:10** standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

**Rev. 18:11** “And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more –

**Rev. 18:12** cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble,

**Rev. 18:13** and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.

**Rev. 18:14** “The fruit you long for has gone from you, and all things that were luxurious and splendid have passed away from you and men will no longer find them.

**Rev. 18:15** “The merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,

**Rev. 18:16** saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls;
**Rev. 18:17** for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!' And every shipmaster and every passenger and sailor, and as many as make their living by the sea, stood at a distance,

**Rev. 18:18** and were crying out as they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What city is like the great city?’

**Rev. 18:19** “And they threw dust on their heads and were crying out, weeping and mourning, saying, ‘Woe, woe, the great city, in which all who had ships at sea became rich by her wealth, for in one hour she has been laid waste!’

**Rev. 18:20** "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.”

- Now God's destruction focuses on the city itself which is laying in ruins
  - The city is burning and everything in her has been laid waste
  - Her ruin is complete, and all three classes of society mentioned in v.3 are shown mourning for her
    - In v.9 the kings of the earth mourn for the loss of their important city and the political power that came from controlling her
    - In v.11 the merchants mourn the loss of trade and wealth associated with her
    - In vs. 15 & 17 the working class that profited from the city mourned

- Notice that the destruction comes very quickly
  - Three times we’re told that the destruction of the city comes in an hour
    - This is not a description of the invading armies described earlier
    - In fact, the kings who led that invasion are most likely the same kings shown mourning here
  - Notice that the kings and merchants and laborers are described as standing at a distance from the city
    - They are at a distance because they fear her torment
    - Something caused them to leave the city in fear of what was coming
      - Perhaps the warnings by the angels of impending doom in vs.1-4 caused the invading army to flee from the city
• Therefore, in the second part of Babylon’s judgment, God Himself destroying the city afterward
  ◦ How does God destroy the city?
    ▪ Rev 18:8 told us

**Rev. 18:8** “For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

- The seventh bowl judgment results in a rapid destruction of the city
- Rev 16: 19 also told us the city was split into three parts by the earthquake
  - And the hailstones eliminated all buildings and structures
  - And the city is in flames
- Jeremiah provides a nice two-verse summary of both parts of God’s judgment against the city

**Jer. 51:28** Consecrate the nations against her,
    The kings of the Medes,
    Their governors and all their prefects,
    And every land of their dominion.

**Jer. 51:29** So the land quakes and writhes,
    For the purposes of the LORD against Babylon stand,
    To make the land of Babylon
    A desolation without inhabitants.

- Nations rise up against her while the land quakes and writhes
  ◦ So the destruction of the city was accomplished in two parts:
    - The citizens of Babylon are destroyed by kings who God causes to rise up against the antichrist’s rule
    - Then the city structures are destroyed by God supernaturally through the seventh bowl judgment

• The final part of Revelation 18 shows that Babylon’s destruction was the fulfillment of God’s promise to avenge Israel
Revelation 18

Rev. 18:21 Then a strong 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 not be found any longer.

Rev. 18:22 “And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer;

Rev. 18:23 and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.

Rev. 18:24 “And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.”

• An angel takes a great millstone and throws it into the sea
  ○ Obviously, such a large stone will sink and never be found again
    ■ This is the image the Lord wants His people to have in their minds when they think of Babylon’s future
    ■ It’s the same image God gave to Jeremiah at the end of his vision for Babylon

Jer. 51:60 So Jeremiah wrote in a single scroll all the calamity which would come upon Babylon, that is, all these words which have been written concerning Babylon.

Jer. 51:61 Then Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “As soon as you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words aloud,

Jer. 51:62 and say, ‘You, O LORD, have promised concerning this place to cut it off, so that there will be nothing dwelling in it, whether man or beast, but it will be a perpetual desolation.’

Jer. 51:63 “And as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates,

Jer. 51:64 and say, ‘Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.’” Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

○ And thus the Kingdom of Satan on earth comes to an end, including the permanent elimination of Satan’s capitol as God promised

• Where is the antichrist during all this time?
  ○ The antichrist is in Israel with the armies preparing to invade Jerusalem
    ■ By moving armies across the Euphrates and out of Babylon, the antichrist left the city undefended

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This gave the other kings the opportunity to attack the city in the hope of seizing the city and world power away from the antichrist.

- Soon thereafter, God brings supernatural destruction upon the city to complete the city's downfall.
- So then the antichrist hears the news of his city's downfall.

**Jer. 51:31** One courier runs to meet another,  
And one messenger to meet another,  
To tell the king of Babylon  
That his city has been captured from end to end;

**Jer. 50:43** “The king of Babylon has heard the report about them,  
And his hands hang limp;  
Distress has gripped him,  
Agony like a woman in childbirth.

- When the antichrist hears the news that his city is gone, he is distressed and in agony.
  - Now he and his armies have no choice but to attack Jerusalem, for Jerusalem is the last city standing on the earth.
  - And destroying the Jews is the enemy’s last hope for rescuing himself.
- So the second stage of the War of Armageddon is complete.
  - And stage three of the war will begin next week as we come to the threshold of our Lord’s return.

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