

Problem:

The Tribulation ends with the destruction of Babylon in Rev. 18 followed by the celebration of Heavenly Jerusalem in Rev. 21

From here to the end of the Bible it is literally a tale of two cities where the city of Man and the City of God are put in stark contrast

- Rev. 18 is a line in the sand reminding us that the philosophy, posture, power, and prestige of this world will be brought to nothing
- but this is not a new contrast by any means ->Matt 20:17-28

we are so easily conformed to this world - we practice the philosophy of the world, we pursue the power this world wields, we praise the prestige this world offers even as we claim to be not of this world.

Rev 18 is a call to choose

Main Idea:

The city of Man will fall
do not practice it's philosophy
do not put on it's posture
do not pursue it's power
do not praise it's prestige
it will come to nothing

Rejoice over it's destruction Rev 18:20

Implication:

- this is also a tale of two citizens - one mourns, weeps and wails while one rejoices
- babylon is the city of man, the city of power, position, prestige and we are supposed to rejoice at its destruction
- 1 Pet 2:9-12 - we must never forget that this is not our home

Application:

we are supposed to set our hearts on something better than this place
a city whose foundation is God - Heb 11:10,
a city hoped for since the beginning of the Bible - Heb 11:13-16;
a city we experience spiritually now - Heb 12:22-24
a city we will experience literally in the future - Rev 21:1-5
blessed are the poor in spirit...- Matt 5:1-11

The city of Man will fall

Rev. 18:1 ¶ After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.

Rev. 18:2 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.

Rev. 18:3 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.”

Babylon

- Rev 13:14-17 (commercial Babylon)
- Rev 18:24 (final form of gen 11)
- Gen 11 (the city of man)

Do not practice it's philosophy

Rev. 18:4 ¶ 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;

Rev. 18:5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven **(like Babel)**,
 and God has remembered her iniquities.

- Come out** - Jer 50:8-10; 51:6, 45-50 (physical/spiritual)
 - 2 Cor 6:14-18 (spiritual separation)

Do not put on it's posture

Rev. 18:6 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.

Rev. 18:7 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.’

Rev. 18:8 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.”

pay her back, repay

- Isa 47 (I am and there is no one besides me)

Do not pursue it's power

Rev. 18:9 ¶ 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.

Rev. 18:10 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.”
kings weep -Jer 50:29-46 (the proud one)

Do not praise it's prestige

Rev. 18:11 ¶ And the **merchants** of the earth **weep and mourn** for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore,
 Rev. 18:12 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,
 Rev. 18:13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

Rev. 18:14 ¶ “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!”

Rev. 18:15 ¶ The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

Rev. 18:16 ¶ “Alas, alas, for the great city
 that was clothed in fine linen,
 in purple and scarlet,

adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!
Rev. 18:17 For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste.”
And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off
Rev. 18:18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,
“What city was like the great city?”
Rev. 18:19 ¶ 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.
merchants weep - Isa 13 (glory, splendor and pomp)

It will come to nothing

Rev. 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!”
Rev. 18:21 ¶ 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;
Rev. 18:22 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,
Rev. 18:23 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.
Rev. 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints,
and of all who have been slain on earth.”
into the sea - Jer 51:58-64 (thus will it sink)

articles for further study:

[http://www.spurgeongems.org/
vols55-57/chs3234.pdf](http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols55-57/chs3234.pdf)