

Revelation 18:1 - After these things [referring to chapters 16–17], I saw another angel who had great authority [the king of arms of the angelic College of Herald, a seraph-rank elect angel with insignia of rank bearing six wings (see Revelation 5:2; 8:3–5; 10:1)] descending from heaven and the earth was illuminated by means of his glory.

v. 2 - Then he shouted with a powerful voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [the destruction of ecumenical religion]. In fact, it has become the habitation of demons [fallen angels] and is a prison [φυλακή (*phulaké*)] for every unclean spirit [these demons are restricted to this specific geographical area], and a lookout point for every unclean and hated bird [vultures that feast on human carrion]. (EXT)

17. In the fury of nuclear weaponry, the headquarters of ecumenical religion is destroyed. Humans were assigned there to carry out the demonic policies of every part of the ecumenical organization.
18. The city of Babylon is biblical code word for the dominant religion that is utilized by Lucifer to carry out his policies under the aegis of ecumenical religion.
19. Figurative Babylon refers generally to the global social order that falls under Gentile domination. In the New Testament it is prophetic for apostate Christendom and depicts ecclesiastical Babylon as the “great harlot” (Revelation 17:14-18).
20. “Babylon” also prefigures political Babylon which destroys ecclesiastical Babylon in this same passage.

Revelation 17:14 - “These [the 10-nation confederacy that makes up the revived Roman Empire] will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is the Lord of lords [victory of the First Advent] and King of kings [victory at the Second Advent], and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful [Church-Age believers].”

Revelation 17:15 - And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot [**ecclesiastical Babylon**] sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues [**Gentiles**].

21. When religion dominates a nation or a confederacy of nations, it always leads to its downfall or loss of power. This was true of the Roman Catholic Church leading up to the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century.
22. Since the early 1500s, Protestant theology has maintained independence from ecclesiastical Rome until its slow demise in the last half of the twentieth century when secularism invaded its pulpits.
23. Christianity is not a religion, but its proponents have taken on the trappings of religion. The temptations of modern media's ability to mass-market anything has lured denominations to invest in brick and mortar with the hope of drawing crowds.
24. To pay the loan, more people must be lured inside the brick and mortar. To do this on a mass scale, media are used to advertise things that are of interest to the masses. Serious Bible study is not on the top of most people's list of lures.
25. Truth is not the kind of thing that will lure the masses in the Tribulation either. As it turns out, nothing about ecumenical religion will interest them.
26. Therefore, the majority of present-day Christian churches and ecumenical religion in the Tribulation are inspired by the lust patterns of power and money.
27. Prostitutes vie for power and money. Power over their clients due to knowledge of adultery and fornication and money collected for services and silence.
28. In Revelation 17:1, we read, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot (ecclesiastical Babylon) who sits on many waters."

29. The “many waters” refer to the dominance that religion has on the nations of the world. The “many waters” of our passage refers to the influence religion will have over the nations of the world during the Great Tribulation.
30. All cultures are based upon the principles of the foundational “religion” subscribed to by its founders.
31. When a “change of thinking” occurs among the culture’s population that replaces the principles of the founding religion, then that culture has been fundamentally changed.
32. Once ecumenical religion has completed the task of uniting nations into a confederacy, for example, the Revived Roman Empire, then political Babylon destroys ecumenical Babylon.
33. This is Evil 1 destroying Evil 2. Political power will always seek to destroy Religious power. This may be characterized as judgment by finesse (divine subtlety).
34. Jesus Christ controls history, but the system set up in the divine decree is so structured that evil will ultimately judge evil.
35. Thus, what will happen in the future is being tried out presently as the government of the United States is in the process of destroying Christianity.
36. Just how evil Christianity will become remains to be seen. Just how evil the government happens to be has become obvious and apparently knows no bounds.
37. That Christianity will be under maximum assault and Judaism will be in the Beast-Dictator’s crosshairs is evident from prophecy.
38. In the Church Age, the status of Christianity is erratic and plays a major part in the development of historical trends whether they are up or down.

39. The culture of the United States has been in transformation away from a biblically oriented majority by the advance of Progressive ideology.
40. This transformation can be easily tracked by the consistent decline of interest in serious Bible study resulting in blasé attitudes toward biblical teachings concerning right and wrong.
41. It will only take another decade or less for the forces of incessant propaganda and legal legerdemain to convert public opinion away from frustrated tolerance to open hatred for Christianity and those within it that remain loyal to biblical teachings.
42. The current brouhaha over same-sex marriage is the opening salvo in the Long March's assault on the institution of the church.
43. So Babylon may be defined by many decadent and corrupt nations and organizations, but the central theme is antagonism toward the Word of God and institutions committed to its teachings.
44. It is generally accepted by theologians that in the Book of Revelation, Babylon is a figurative name given to the city of Rome. Justification of this conclusion is supported by these points:
 - (1) The characteristics ascribed to this Babylon apply to Rome rather than any other city of that age: (a) as ruling over the kings of the earth (17:18); (b) as sitting on seven mountains (17:9); (c) as the center of the world's merchandise (18:3, 11–13); (d) as the corrupter of the nations (17:2; 18:3; 19:2); (e) as the persecutor of the saints (17:6).
 - (2) The comparison of Rome to Babylon is common in Jewish apocalyptic literature (see 2 Esdras and Apocalypse of Baruch).
 - (3) Rome was regarded by both Jews and Christians as being antagonistic to the kingdom of God. And its downfall was confidently expected. This conception is in accordance with the predicted downfall of Babylon (Revelation 14:8; 18:2:10–21).

As Babylon had been the oppressor of Israel, it was natural that this new power, which was oppressing the people of God, should be designated as Babylon.²

45. The Babylon in Revelation 17–18 speaks of ecumenical Babylon and refers figuratively to Rome. The prophecy that political Babylon will destroy religious Babylon is said to occur during the latter stages of the Great Tribulation.
46. The events that take place just before the Lord's arrival at the Second Advent are described in Acts 2, verses 18 through 20.
47. The chronology of verses 18 and 19 are inverted. The context of verse 18 is the Second Advent. The baptisms of fire will have removed all unbelievers from the earth and transferred them to the Torments compartment of Hades.
48. The last phrase of verse 18 also indicates that since only believers remain following the baptisms of fire, then the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit will occur.
49. Verse 19 looks back retrospectively to the hours just before the Second Advent.

Acts 2:19 - 'And it will take place that I will perform wonders [τέρας (*téras*): **startling and ominous**] in the sky above and signs [σημείον (*sēmeíon*): **miracles**] on the earth below, blood and fire and clouds of smoke [refers to acts of God, not events associated with the Armageddon campaign].' (EXT)

50. Acts 2:20 reveals things that occur on the day of the Second Advent and quotes Joel 2:31:

Acts 2:20 - 'The sun will be turned to darkness [supernatural blackout so the light of Christ may be universally seen] and the moon to blood [atmospheric pollution from the wars causes the moon to appear red], before the great and glorious day of the Lord [**Second Advent**] comes.'

² A. F. Fortune, "Babylon in the New Testament," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 1:358.