Title: The Cries of the Babylonian Collapse

Scripture Text: Revelation 18:1-24 **Date: April 2, 2023**

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Revelation 18 continues the description of the collapse of Babylon. The great city of Babylon represents the godless society that continues to blaspheme God. In chapter 17, it is described as the great harlot, indulging in immorality and sin. As the chapter draws to a close, a divinely ordained rebellion brings about the fall of the great harlot, a.k.a. the great city of Babylon. In today's sermon we'll look at the five cries of the Babylonian collapse.

I. The Cry of Declaration (Rev. 18:1-3)

Time has run out for Babylon the great! Vs. 1 describes an angel descending with a cry of declaration. "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!" Then he goes on to describe its unashamedly sinful behavior. As He was with Babylon the great, God is patient, but He will not allow us to linger in our sin.

- Describe another biblical story of God demonstrating patience, allowing for repentance, but when there was no repentance, exercised judgement.
- What does it say about God that He is patient, allowing us to repent before executing judgement?
- Why is it to our benefit that we not linger in our sin?
    - Why do we?

II. The Cry of Exhortation (Rev. 18:4-8)

Another voice from heaven is heard. "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues". We are not to participate in the sins of the world, even by association. 2 Cor. 6:14 asks "what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?"

- What are the dangers for Christians to partner/fellowship with those practicing sin?
- How can our witness for Christ be compromised by such behavior?
- Why is it such a temptation to associate with such behavior?
- How might we suffer similar consequences as those participating in the sinful behavior when we associate with them?

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III. The Cry of Lamentation (Rev. 18:9-19)

The impact of Babylon the great's fall affects everyone. All those who profited from her way of life lament their loss. Little consideration is given if what they profited from was right or not. Their motive is self-centered. All they see is the loss they will experience. No concern about the sin committed again God.

- Why is it so easy at times to only see how much a situation may put us out and not try to understand the impact to others?
- Give examples of Jesus' selfless lifestyle and how they can encourage us to do the same.
- How can we not get wrapped up in our own circumstances and be more available for the needs of others?

IV. The Cry of Jubilation (Rev. 18:20)

The call to rejoice in vs. 20 is not a call to revel in the suffering of another, or to enjoy the experience of revenge, but a time to celebrate God's justice prevailing over evil. Gal. 6:7 states: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Babylon the great is reaping what it sowed and God is true to His word.

- Describe a time when you were tempted to revel in the sufferings of another because of a wrong they may have committed toward you.
- Why is checking our motives so important?
- Describe how Jesus treated those who wronged Him.
- How can remembering how Jesus treated others help us as we engage those who have wronged us?

V. The Cry of Explanation (Rev. 18:21-24)

The destruction of Babylon the great is brought to completion. Life as it was known is totally over. The only thing that remains is the blood of God's people (prophets and saints).

- How does the fall of Babylon the great remind us how the things of this world are temporary?
- What are examples of the things that last?
- How can we place more priority on these and less on those which don't last?
- What is one thing you can do this week that could have eternal implications?