

## Revelation: Babylon The Great

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Description	Significance	References
Babylon is fallen (14:8; 18:2)	Jerusalem destroyed in first century (70 AD)	Matt. 24:2; Josephus, Wars 6.10.1; 7.1.1
Sat upon many peoples (17:4, 15)	Jerusalem ruled spiritually over Jews scattered throughout the world	Acts 2:5-11; Josephus, Antiquities 14.7.2
Made nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (14:8; 17:2; 18:3)	Jerusalem had become an evil influence to those around her	Rev. 14:8; 17:2; 18:3; 2 Chr. 21:11; Jer. 13:27; Ezek. 16:15, 26, 29; Ezek. 23; Matt. 3:7; 23:15; Josephus, Wars 5.10.4
Sat upon and carried by the beast (17:3, 7)	Rome tolerated and carried Jerusalem to its present glory	Josephus, Wars Preface; Wars 2.10.4
Arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold and precious stones (17:4; 18:16)	Jerusalem was a prosperous city Outwardly beautiful, inwardly depraved	Matt. 23:37; Jer. 4:30; Ezek. 16:1-63; Josephus, Wars 6.10.1
On forehead written MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (17:5)	Jerusalem's harlotry goes way back Contrast with mother of righteous Committed the worst act of spiritual harlotry by placing trust in herself rather than the Son of God	Jer. 3:1-3; Ezek. 16; 23:43; Isa. 1:21 cf. Gal. 4:26 Rev. 11:8; Matt. 10:15; 23:1-39; Heb. 10:29-31
The great city that reigned over the kings of the earth (17:18)	Jerusalem is the great city "where our Lord was crucified"	Rev. 11:8; 14:8; 16:19; 18:16-21; cf. 21:20; Josephus, Antiquities 14.7.2
Divided into three parts (16:19)	At the time of its fall, Jerusalem was politically divided into three (leaders: Eleazer, John, Simon)	Josephus, Wars 5.1.1
Dwelling place of demons, foul spirit, unclean bird (18:2)	This was the case in Jerusalem during the Roman-Jewish War	Josephus, Wars 5.10.5; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3
God's people called out of her (18:4)	God's people were called out of Jerusalem	Matt. 24:15, 16; Lk. 21:20, 21; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5.3
Said "I sit as queen, and am no widow" (18:7)	The Jews were spiritually married to God, and thought He was on their side. They refused to believe that Jerusalem was to be destroyed	Rev. 12:1, 2; Hos. 2:1-13; Lam. 1:1; Mic. 3:11, 12; cf. Isa. 47:7, 8; Josephus, Wars 6.2.1
Beast would burn her with fire (17:16, 17; 18:8)	The Roman Empire is the force that destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD	Rev. 18:19; Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:24-27; Josephus, Wars Preface; 5.13.6
Rewarded double for her sins (18:6)	Jerusalem was destroyed once by Babylon (586 BC), and again here by Rome (70 AD) The events surrounding the second destruction were the worst in history	2 Kings 25; Matt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21 Matt. 24:21; cf. Heb. 10:29-31
Blood of all righteous required and avenged on her (17:6; 18:20, 24; 19:2)	This would be required of Jerusalem only	Matt. 23:34-39; Lk. 11:46-52; 13:34-35; 21:22

The destruction of a city and fall of a nation is the primary focus of the book of Revelation, and no other events in history match up as well as those surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD. It is on Jerusalem that Jesus said would be required "all the righteous blood shed upon the earth" (Matt. 23:35). Yet it was Babylon the Great in which this blood was found, and on whom it was avenged (Rev. 18:20, 24). Therefore, she is none other than Jerusalem, that "great city, which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." (Rev. 11:8)