take time **22 December** **Revelation 17:1-18** read

http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2017:1-18&version=NKJV

Babylon – the antichurch

study

Just as there will be an Antichrist (an "against Christ", a false Christ) in the end times, an antichurch, a false church, will arise out of nominal Christendom (all true believers have been taken to heaven already). This antichurch will have great influence, but will be annihilated under the leadership of the Roman dictator (vv15-18).

The true church is compared to a city (Jerusalem) and the false church as well (Babylon). Whilst the church is the bride of Christ (bride = purity, devotion, faithfulness), Babylon is a harlot (harlot = defilement, sin, unfaithfulness). Babylon is characterised by pomp and luxury (v4). She is responsible for the death of many martyrs (v6) and has great international influence (v15).

ans-wer

41. What does Babylon "drink" (vv4-6)?
42. What battle will the nations of Europe fight, which they can only lose and will also lose (v12)?

in-form

Verse 8 describes three phases of the Roman Empire:

1. „The beast .... was" – The Roman Empire we know from history was founded in 753BC and ceased to exist in 476AD (western empire), and 1453AD (eastern empire).
2. „It is not" – At present, this empire doesn't exist. „It will arise out of the bottomless pit." – This empire will come into being again. Its origin is satanic.
3. „It is going to perdition" and will find its end through the Lord Jesus (v14).

think

Are you an original, or just a fake copy? The Lord Jesus is looking for true witnesses and not for dead register members.

note down

41. She drinks from a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication, and she drinks the blood of martyrs. She gets drunk on that. That means: She is intoxicated by the persecution of believers. 42. They will wage war against the lamb, ie against the Lord Jesus (v14). But no one stands a chance against the Lord of lords and King of kings.