take time **23 December** **Revelation 18:1-13** read

http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2018:1-13&version=NKJV

The downfall of Babylon

study

The false church is referred to on one occasion as a woman (chapter 17), an illustration of the religious power of the antichurch, and on another occasion as a city (chapter 18): This symbolises the political, economic and cultural power. An angel announces the end of this false system. In contrast to the true church, the "dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22), the false church is a "dwelling place of demons" (v2).

After the downfall of Babylon, the merchants recognise how much of their economic wealth they had to attribute to this false church. The expressions "in one day" (v8) and "in one hour" (v10) hint on the suddenness of the judgment on Babylon and its annihilating force. The "list of traded goods" (vv12-13) displays a frightening order: The first place is taken by gold and the last by men's souls. The false church trades also in people, but they don't have much value.

ans-wer

43. What is God's command for His people (vv4-5)?
44. How will Babylon be judged?

think

Test yourself: What place and value do material things have in your life?

note down

43. God commands His people to leave this sinful system (v4).
44. Babylon will be burnt by fire (vv8-9).