

The downfall of Babylon



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).

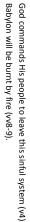
After the downfall of Babylon, the merchants recognise how much of their economic wealth they had to attribute to this false church. The expressions "in one day" (v8) and "in one hour" (v10) hint on the suddenness of the judgment on Babylon and its annihilating force. The "list of traded goods" (vv12-13) 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.

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



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





44.