

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Book of Revelation with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapter 18

For the next session on April 1st, please read Chapter 18, pages 287-304 in *The Revelation* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "Lord Jesus, who lived and died for us, when Your presence seems far away, may I reach out for Your healing touch, for the comfort of Your embrace. Lord Jesus, who suffered for my sake, in times of burden or despair, may Your example give me new faith and hope in Your eternal care. Lord Jesus, who came to do the Father's will, with pain too much to bear alone, may Your Spirit give me strength within and guide me on the path You have shown. Amen."

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **April 1st** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

In this chapter we see Babylon the political and economic entity. Babylon, in its various forms, is mentioned 280 times in the Bible and has always represented a rejection of God. The last mention is in Rev. 18:21. Its earliest act of defiance was building the Tower of Babel.

Babylon History (1-2)

1. (1-2) How do you think knowing that Babylon falls, will/should affect us today? (James 4:4 and 1 John 2:17)

Babylon's Appeal (3-19)

2. This chapter calls out the numerous riches of the world enjoyed by many. What do you think is the danger of riches? (Proverbs 30:8-9, 1 John 2:15-17, Hebrews 13:5)

3. (3) We know that Satan is active in the world right now. He is not sitting around waiting for the end times we are reading about. He and his demons target anything and anyone, including the church. What are the three key temptations used to lure people away from God and to the world?

4. (6-7) To what degree will Babylon be judged?

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5. (p. 290-291) John tells us to “keep a spiritual distance from the corruption of society...so as to not take part in her sins.” The author then lists the sins “that characterize the society in which they live: idolatry, sorcery, murder...” *Can you add to this list for our current day? Which do you see in the world the most today? How can we combat this?*

6. (9-19) Here we read about the destruction of three groups who profited from the wealth of Babylon. We read three times that this takes place in “one hour.” *What do you think “one hour” means here?*

7. (p. 300) The author talks about corporations and if their sole motive is profits, they are more likely to abuse those who make their goods, their customers, society or the environment. *What are some companies that you feel good about supporting? Why?*

8. We can follow the crowd and live like the world, or we can be different. The New Testament calls us to the Great Commission—to be in the world, but not of the world. We are to be salt and light to others and shine our light for all to see. *How do you see our church doing this today?*

What else stood out for you in these chapters?

For your personal prayer:

The world attempts to pressure us to conform to its ways rather than God’s. Think about a time when you felt this pressure. How did you respond? What did you learn from this? Pray for those who may be feeling this pressure now to give them strength.

Matthew 6:19-21 – *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*