



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 18:7

(7) To the degree that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, give to her as much torment and sorrow. For she says in her heart, 'I sit a queen enthroned, and am not a widow; and in no way shall I experience sorrow.'

A Faithful Version

From a theological point of view, Revelation 18 identifies the hallmarks of Babylon. The signs are idolatry, theological prostitution or spiritual [adultery](#), self-sufficiency, self-glorification, pride, complacency, reliance on luxury and wealth, avoidance of suffering, and violence against life. Reading Revelation 17 and 18 carefully, one finds each of those traits expressed in some way.

Interestingly, [God](#) emphasizes three in particular in [Revelation 18:7](#). Personifying Babylon as a woman, God reveals her innermost, secret thoughts and thus her true character.

The first of the three characteristics emphasized here is *pride, self-glorification*: "She glorified herself . . . 'I sit as queen. . .'" The second is *reliance on wealth, satiety, overindulgence*: She "lived luxuriously [extravagantly, lustfully, without restraint]." The third trait is *avoidance of suffering*, for she says, "[I] will not see sorrow." Because reliance on wealth can easily lead to proud self-sufficiency and avoiding all suffering, these three are interrelated. What bothers God is that her self-sufficiency is aimed against Him. Who needs God when one has everything? Avoidance of suffering produces compromise with both conscience and law. It can severely damage one's character, and to God that is a serious matter.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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