



[Revelation 18:7](#)

(7) How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

King James 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

To learn more, see:

[The World, the Church and Laodiceanism](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Revelation 18:7 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

Related Topics:

[Avoidance of suffering](#)

[Babylon](#)

[Overindulgence](#)

[Pride](#)

[Self Sufficiency](#)

[Spiritual Adultery](#)

[Spiritual Harlotry](#)

[Syncretism](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)