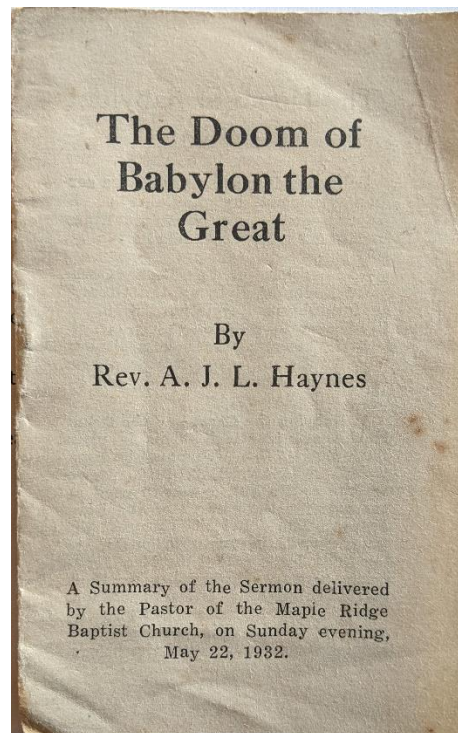


## “The Doom of Babylon the Great” by Rev. A. J. L. Haynes

*A Summary of the Sermon delivered by the Pastor of the Maple Ridge Baptist Church, on Sunday evening, May 22, 1932.<sup>i</sup>*

Following is a summary of the sermon preached by Rev. A.J.L. Haynes, pastor, at the Maple Ridge Baptist Church, on Sunday evening, May 22:

The subject of this sermon was “The Doom of Babylon the Great,” as foretold in Revelation 16:19.



### 1. Identity of Babylon the Great

It is essential that we positively identify the subject of this prophecy and, it so happens that this can be done quite briefly.

- a. **Babylon the Great and the Great Harlot are identical.** This is plain from Rev. 17:1-5. This may be compared with Rev 21:2, 9-10, where we see a city and a woman used as symbols for the Church of the Lord Jesus. The “Bride” pictures the true church in her relationship to the Lord Jesus, whilst the New Jerusalem pictures the members in their mutual relationship and organization. Notice that Jerusalem and Babylon are contrasting cities and the two women are of contrasting characters. Thus we are led to the truth that as the New Jerusalem and the Bride represent the true church, so Babylon the Great and the Harlot represent the false and corrupt church.
- b. **This church is one of great prestige and power.** The true church has a holy relationship to the Lord Jesus, but this other church has a shameful relationship to the “kings” of the earth. (17:2) Obviously, we are not to look for any obscure religious body, but one that will loom large in the eyes of the world. During part of her career she reigns over the kings of the earth.
- c. **This church is one of great arrogance and pretensions.** She is royally clothed, in purple and scarlet, and “decked with gold, precious stones and pearls.” (17:4) She says, “I sit a queen,” until the last.

- d. **This church is one of great corruption.** Outwardly she is queenly, inwardly, she is wicked and abominable. (17:4)
- e. **This is a persecuting church.** She is seen to be “drunken with the blood of the saints.” (17:6)
- f. **She is seated upon “seven mountains.”** (17:9) As it is clear from Rev. 17:2 and 18 that her sway is over many nations, this must refer to the centre of her authority.
- g. **She is, finally, hated and persecuted by the very kings she dominated.**

There is one—and only one—church which can be described as the one in this chapter. (Rev 17.) That church is the so-called “Roman Catholic Church.” She is the one church which, during the ages, has dealt with the rulers of this world. She has continually been corrupting the politics of the Roman world (i.e. Western Europe). She did, for a large part of the age, dominate the kings of the “Roman world” (this is the specialized use of the word “earth” in Revelation).

Her arrogance and claims are noteworthy, even today. No church assumes such earthly rank and “claims” such exclusive spiritual and heavenly power as she does.

In contrast with these, she has been unspeakably vile, both doctrinally and morally. Cardinal Baronius, **the official historian of the Roman Church**, writing of the conditions existing in the papal church in the tenth century, says:

Before commencing this unhappy century, the reader must allow me to warn him lest his very soul be scandalized when he sees the abomination of desolation in the very temple of God. How deformed, how hideous, was the aspect of the Church of Rome when it was governed solely by shameless prostitutes, who, at their pleasure changed, and changed again, the Popes, disposed of bishoprics, and, what is still more terrible, placed in the holy seat of St. Peter their paramours and their bastards. What unworthy, vile, unsightly, yea, execrable and hateful things the sacred Apostolic See, on whose hinges the universal Apostolical Church turns, has been compelled to see! How many monsters, horrible to behold, were intruded ...into that seat which is revered by the angels. The Holy See is bespattered with filth, infected by stench, defiled by impurities, blackened by perpetual infamy! ...Thus, lust, relying upon the secular power, and mad and stimulated with rage of dominion, claimed everything for itself. Then, as it seems, Christ evidently was in a deep sleep in the ship, when, these winds blowing so strongly, the ship itself was covered with the waves.<sup>ii</sup>

She is seen, in the prophecy, to be drunken with the blood of the saints, and, it has been computed (by Dr. Grattan Guinness) that 50,000,000 persons have been put to death at her instigation.

She is seated on seven mountains, and Rome is well known to be “the city of seven hills.” Medals are extant which actually picture this church as seated on seven hills.

She is finally robbed and burned by those she once ruled. This has been going on since the French Revolution. Just last year, the greatest remaining papal nation turned on her, dispossessing her of her wealth, and, burning her property.

This is only a summary of the identification of this church. Read the whole of Revelation 17.

## 2. The Judgment on Babylon the Great.

This occurs during the outpouring of the seventh vial. Its accomplishment is noted in Rev. 16:19, and, described vividly in Chapter 18. This event must be distinguished from the process mentioned in 17:16, and, which has been going on from the time of the first vial (i.e., the French

Revolutionary era). Since that time the papal kingdoms have turned upon the church which once dominated them. The judgment foretold in 16:19, and chapter 18, occurs during the era of the seventh vial, and, is evidently a terrible climax which we are yet to see.

It is sudden. The time occupied by this visitation of God's anger is short. "One day" is mentioned in 18:8, "one hour" in verses 8, 10, and 18.

It is unexpected by her. She says "I sit a queen and am no widow and, shall see no sorrow," immediately before the blow falls. The world looks on with horror and amazement at such an outpouring of wrath.

It is catastrophic. "She shall be utterly burned with fire." (18:8.) This may refer to an anti-clerical uprising in papal countries far greater than anything we have seen—but, the passage emphatically ascribes these things to the judgment of God, and, the terms of the description remind one of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. In addition, the fear aroused in the hearts of the onlookers gives some indication that more than the agency of man is responsible. Possibly, volcanic activity and earthquake will be the means used. The result is utter desolation, forever. (18:18-24.) "Thus, with violence, shall that great city Babylon be thrown down."

It is the cause of lamentation. "Kings" and "Merchants" (the political and commercial worlds) "beware her and lament for her as they see the smoke of her burning."

It is followed closely by the glorification of the True Church. This is clear from Chapter 19:7. The judgment and destruction of the false church comes just before the translation of the saints. This means that we shall see this whilst we are still on earth. It also gives us a solemn indication of its nearness. Many of us believe that the Glorious Advent of the Lord is close at hand, but this is closer.

We do not pretend to know the exact time of these things, but they must be very close now.

Finally, God's message today to those of His people who may be in this apostate and corrupt church is found in Rev. 18:4. "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues."

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<sup>i</sup> Footnotes and basic formatting have been added but emphasis and punctuation are original.

<sup>ii</sup> *Annales Ecclesiastici*. Ann. 912.