

## This World Will not Last

Pastor Don Brock

*Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!*

### Open

Today Pastor Don turns to chapters 17 and 18 of the book of Revelation to help us understand how the author John's description of the city of Babylon serves as a warning of the dire consequences of rebelling against God. And while John clearly indicates that Satan is a significant catalyst in Babylon's defiance (17:3), Revelation 18:3 makes it clear that the people themselves choose to willingly disregard God's authority - which highlights the truth that no matter the environment around us, each of us will be held individually accountable for our own response to God. To get your group's conversation started, let each person share about a time when they were a kid and tried to shift the blame off themselves onto someone else (a sibling, friend, classmate, etc.) - did it work?

### BIG THOUGHT

Even though we may be in an environment where nobody around us is following God, we are still personally accountable for our decision to be obedient to Him through Jesus.

1. Unfortunately, Revelation's depiction of Babylon is not the only example in the Bible of a rebellion against God that is both corporate and individual. For another, read Exodus 24:12-18. What was going on in the circumstances of the Israelites? Now read Exodus 32:1-3. How did the people respond when it took Moses so long to come down from the mountain? (v. 1) How did Aaron respond? (v. 2) Why do you think Aaron gave in so quickly?
2. Now read v. 32:4-6. What did Aaron do after he collected the people's gold and what did they all (apparently even Aaron) say? (v. 4) What does Aaron decide to do next? (v. 5-6) How do we still try to replace the true God with gods of our own making today? Why? And what would you say are some of our culture's most common substitute gods?

3. Read v. 7-8. What does God say to Moses when He sees what the people are doing? (v. 7-10) Why do you think God says "your people" in v. 7? How does He describe the Israelites? (v. 9) Do you think God is justified in being angry? Why or why not?
4. Read v. 11-14. To what two things does Moses appeal in his response to God? (v. 12-13) How does God respond? (v. 14) Do you think this means that we can change God's mind about judgement? Share your thoughts...
5. Even though God does not completely destroy the Israelites, what tragedies happen as a result of their rebellion? (v. 26-28, 35) Now read Revelation 18:4-8. What will happen to the future kingdom of Babylon when God passes judgement on it? (v. 8) Read John 3:16-17 - what does this verse mean to you now in light of the surety of God's coming judgement?

### Take it Further

Have you accepted God's offer of forgiveness, salvation, and purpose for you life through Jesus? Check out [PeaceWithGod.net](http://PeaceWithGod.net) if you'd like to know how. Then ask Him to give you the strength to stand firm no matter what the crowd around you is doing...

#### Daily Readings

Day 1: Psalm 37:39  
Day 2: Joshua 1:9  
Day 3: Hebrews 9:27

Day 4: John 5:24  
Day 5: 1 Samuel 12:24  
Day 6: Deuteronomy 6:5

Memory Verse: Acts 4:12



1651 Dutch Fork Rd. Irmo, SC  
[www.gatewaybc.com](http://www.gatewaybc.com)