

## 2024-2025 BSP#16 Group Time Discussion

### (A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (15 minutes)

1. 按 18:4-8，天主審判巴比倫的原因是什麼？
  - a. 她的罪惡已堆積得直達上天
  - b. 天主想起了她的不義
  - c. 她自誇自耀，奢侈享樂
  - d. 她以為自己是皇后，必見不到哀傷
  - e. 她是巴比倫帝國的首都－猶大的敵人和征服者。

According to 18:4-8, what are the reasons for God' s judgment of Babylon?

- a. Her sins are piled up to the sky
- b. God remembers her crimes
- c. Her boasting and wantonness
- d. She thinks she is a queen and will never know grief
- e. She was the capital of the Babylonian empire – the enemy and conqueror of Judah.

2. 18 章主要訊息是要我們「從她(巴比倫)中間出來罷！免得你們分沾她的罪惡，也免得遭受她的災禍」(18:4)。經文也讓我們明白，巴比倫代表著罪惡、淫蕩、奢華、不義。這有關末世的教導和預告，讓我們再次看到聖經獨特的威力。如希伯來人書所說：「天主的話確實是生活的，是有效力的，比各種雙刃的劍還銳利，直穿入靈魂和神魂，關節與骨髓的分離點」(希 4:12)。在 18 章經文中，天主的話的威力特別表現於：
  - a. 這有關末世的重要訊息，天主早已藉著先知給人提示和預告。
  - b. 有關舊約教導和預告包括依 13-14; 耶 50-51; 依 34; 則 26-28。
  - c. 也包括撒下 17:11-12 達味一位後裔要為祂建造殿宇，他的王位要直到永遠的預告。
  - d. 這顯示著天主的全知性(能預先準確地看見和知道)和大能(能夠在歷史中，在不損害人的自由之下，用軟弱和常犯錯誤的人，準確地說出祂要人知道的真理)。
  - e. 也顯示著天主的話的連貫性 - 不會自相矛盾，舊約所說的在新約得到肯定和滿全。

The main message of Chapter 18 is for us to " Depart from her(Babylon), my people, so as not to take part in her sins and receive a share in her plagues" (18:4). The scriptural passages also let us understand that Babylon represents sin, lust, luxury, and unrighteousness. This teaching and prophecy about the end of the world allows us to once again see the unique power of the Bible. As the Epistle to the Hebrews says: "The word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating to the very dividing points of soul and spirit, of

joints and marrow” (Hebrews 4:12). In chapter 18, the power of God’s word is especially demonstrated in:

- a. God has already reminded and foretold this important message about the end of the world through the prophets.
- b. Relevant Old Testament teachings and prophecies include Is 13-14; Jer 50-51; Is 34; Eze 26-28.
- c. It also includes the prophecy in 2 Samuel 17:11-12 that a descendant of David will build a house for Him, and his throne will last forever.
- d. This demonstrates God’s omniscience (the ability to accurately see and know in advance) and His omnipotence (the ability to accurately speak through weak and erring humans throughout history without compromising their human freedom the truth that needs to be known).
- e. It also shows the coherence of God's word - it does not contradict itself; what is said in the Old Testament is confirmed and fulfilled in the New Testament.

3. 鑑於《默示錄》第 18 章這重要的末世論教導，天主話語無可爭議的力量，以及當今世界的社會和政治形勢，你決定從現在起如何生活？

As a result of this important eschatological teaching of Rev 18, the indisputable power of God’s word, and the social and political situation of the current world, how would you resolve to live from now on?

**(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (10 minutes)**

「她以前怎樣自誇自耀，奢侈享樂，你們也就怎樣加給她痛苦與哀傷」(18:7)。巴比倫因淫亂和物質享受，受譴責和懲罰。但是福音中，耶穌在加納婚宴中賜給赴宴者六口石缸灌滿了的酒(若 2:6-10)；又讓一個女人用一瓶貴重的香液倒在他身上(瑪 26:8-13)。此外，蕩子回頭的故事中，父親因為兒子回頭悔改而宰殺肥牛來慶祝(路 15:23)。你怎樣看這些似乎是奢侈的行為？會不會受天主譴責？為甚麼會或不會？可否列舉類似生活上的例子？

“To the measure of her boasting and wantonness repay her in torment and grief” (18:7). Babylon was condemned and punished for sexual immorality and material enjoyment. But in the gospel, Jesus gave the attendees at the wedding feast in Cana six stone jars filled with wine (Jn 2:6-10); and also allowed a woman to pour a bottle of precious perfume on him (Mt 26 :8-13). In addition, in the story of the prodigal son, the father slaughtered the fattened cow to celebrate his son's repentance (Luke 15:23). What do you think of these seemingly extravagant behaviors? Will they be condemned by God? Why yes or no? Can you give some similar examples from real life?