

decoding

Revelation

Week 10 – Revelation 17 & 18

Revelation 17 & 18

decoding

***“Here’s the picture I want
you to get concerning
this very important city.”***

Genesis 11:3-9

“The people said to each other, ‘Come and let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ And they used brick instead of stone. They used tar for mortar and then they said, ‘Come let us build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.’

Genesis 11:3-9

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that men were building.

The Lord said, 'It's as if one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this and nothing they plan will be impossible for them. Come let's go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.' So the Lord scattered them over all the earth and they stopped building this city.

Genesis 11:3-9

That's why it's called Babel because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world and from there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth."

***“Babylon is entrenched worldly
resistance to God.”***

***There’s three channels of evil in
the world today,***

***three ways that temptation &
evil come into our lives – the
world, the flesh, and the devil.***

The devil –

Satan – and the way he tempts us.

The Flesh – What's inside of us.

***The World – the world we live in,
the philosophy of it, direction
of it, and system of it.***

Babylon is a picture of the world.

***“This is an image that can bring
to never again be forgotten
awareness, the powerfully
seductive presence of those
who would obstruct or
subvert our worship of
the slain and risen Lamb.”***

Eugene Peterson

5 Ways to recognize this civilization that sets itself up against God.

1. This is a woman sitting on a scarlet beast.

Revelation 17:3-4

“Then the angel away in the spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand filled with abominable thing and the filth of all her adulteries.”

5 Ways to recognize this civilization that sets itself up against God.

2. This woman is dressed in purple and scarlet.

5 Ways to recognize this civilization that sets itself up against God.

3. She held a golden cup in her hand.

Jeremiah 51 – prophecy of the physical downfall of the first Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:7

“Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord’s hand and she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine and they have now gone mad. Its character is immorality.”

5 Ways to recognize this civilization that sets itself up against God.

4. “This title was written on her forehead. The title was ‘Mystery. Babylon the great. The mother of all prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.’”

Ezekiel 16:15

“But you trusted in your beauty and you used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his.”

**5 Ways to recognize
this civilization that sets
itself up against God.**

***5. She's drunk with the
blood of the saints.***

Revelation 17:6-10

***“I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. And when I saw her I was greatly astonished and then the angel said to me, ‘Why are you astonished? I’ll explain to you the mystery of the woman and the beast that she rides which has seven heads and ten horns. The beast which you saw once was, now is not and will come up out of the abyss and go to his destruction.*”**

The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast because he once was, now is not and yet will come. This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are the seven hills on which the woman sits. They are also seven kings, five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come. But when he does come he must remain for a little while longer.”

The Seven Hills and Seven Kings

Some think...

*Seven Kings of Rome, the Caesars
from Augustus to Domitian.*

The Seven Hills and Seven Kings

Some think...

*It represents a symbol
of the fullness of evil.*

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The Seven Hills and Seven Kings

Some think...

*It represents seven
kingdoms from Egypt.*

Revelation 17:12-14

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings which have not yet received a kingdom. But who for one hour receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They’ll make war against the Lamb but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings. And with Him will be the called and chosen faithful followers.”

Revelation 17:15-16

“The angel said to me, ‘The waters that you saw where the prostitute sits were peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. The beast and the ten horns will hate the prostitute and they will bring her to ruin and leave her naked. And they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule until God’s words are fulfilled.’”

The beast will ruin Babylon

Two things –

- 1. The harlot is destroyed by the beast, evil inevitably eventually consumes itself.**
- 2. The Bible tells us that God put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose.**

Chapter 18 –

God's Perspective on Babylon

1. The voice of condemnation –

“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority. And the earth was illuminated by his splendor with a mighty voice he shouted ‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the great.’”

– Revelation 18:1-2

2. The voice of separation.

“I heard another voice from heaven say, ‘Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues.’”

– Revelation 18:4

Jeremiah 51:45

“Come out from her My people. Run for your lives. Run from the fierce anger of the Lord. Separate yourself.”

***There's a sensitivity that
comes into our lives when
we recognize the
presence of Jesus Christ.***

1 John 2:15-17

***“Don’t love the world
or the things that
are in the world.”***

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3. The voice of lamentation

“When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxuries see the smoke of her burning will weep and mourn over her, terrified of the torment, they will stand a far off and cry, ‘Woe! Woe great city of Babylon. City of power. In one hour your doom has come.’”

– Revelation 18:9-10

3. The voice of lamentation.

***“In one hour such great wealth has
been brought to ruin.”***

– Revelation 18:17

3. The voice of lamentation.

***“In one hour such great wealth
has been brought to ruin.”***

– Revelation 18:19

God’s perspective on Babylon –

“In one hour.”

***“Now it is gone. Salvation
by checkbook is gone.
God on demand is gone.
Meaning my money is
gone. Religion as
feeling is gone.
Self as God is gone.”***

– Eugene Peterson

4. The voice of celebration.

***“Rejoice over her O heaven.
Rejoice saints, apostles and
prophets. God has judged her for
the way she treated you. Rejoice.”***
– Revelation 18:20

***God’s perspective is that
justice will be done.***

4. The voice of celebration.

“A mighty angel picked up a bolder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea and said, ‘With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.’”

– Revelation 18:21