



## Sermon Series Notes

### “The End of this Present World” (Revelation 18)

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v.1 Angels are fascinating to me. I can't wait to see one. I believe the increase in earthquakes as we approach the end of this present world could be because of the increased angelic activity during this time. See Matt.28:2.

vv.2-3 Chapter 17 called her “Mystery Babylon The Great.” Mystery Babylon The Great in my opinion is the spirit of the world.

Rev.17:15 This tells me that “Mystery Babylon The Great” is not limited geographically. These are people of the world.

Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon...she made **the whole earth** drunk. **The nations** drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.

She is the world of people who live their lives without the true God in the equation. They may be religious, but they are not redeemed. They reject the true Christ & follow a false Christ, who in reality is indwelt and empowered by Satan himself. They ride on the back of the beast, astonished at the power and glory of his kingdom, impressed by his false resurrection, marveling at the counterfeit miracles performed by the false prophet.

I Cor.2:12a We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God...

Eph.2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed **the ways of this world** and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

I John 2:15-17

With all that said, it appears that this is a literal city that is destroyed in this soon coming day. Some believe it to be literal Babylon, some Rome, some New York City, etc. Whatever city it is, it drives the world economy. When it falls, the world economy falls. Remember, antichrist is ruling at this time, and no one can buy or sell without the mark of the beast. So this is his capital, wherever it is.

vv.4-8 Verse 8

II Peter 3:7...the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men...10...the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

We are not told where this fire comes from. Is it nuclear weapons, fire from heaven, a combination of the two? We just are not told the details. See also Isa.24.

vv.9-13 Don't miss the human trafficking in verse 13b.

v.14 People who lived only for the riches and pleasures of this present world now see those riches and pleasures vanish, never to be seen or experienced again (I John 2:15-17).

vv.15-19 Verse 8 says that her plagues will overtake her in one day, and three times we are told it happens in one hour. Do you remember how quickly things changed in one day, in one hour, on 9/11? I believe 9/11 was a post card from heaven.

v.20 The world that rejects our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is not our friend, & this is not our home. The judgments that will take place in this coming day are for people who have repeatedly rejected the grace & mercy of God found only in His Son, Jesus Christ.

vv.21-23 The old days will be no more. The world as we know it ends.

v.24 This last verse once again reminds us of the nature of the god of this world, Satan.

- John 8:44...He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

What is the main message of Revelation 18? I believe it is found in verse 4.

You may remember in a recent teaching that God told the Israelites to flee from ancient Babylon, but He was not telling them to leave geographical Babylon. He was telling them to flee from “Mystery Babylon The Great.”

Note: I believe when Babylon falls, everyone who is saved and who is going to be saved is already in heaven. If I’m right, then why is verse 4 even in Rev.18? It’s there for us – NOW!

How to come out of Babylon: Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior

Read Eph.2:1-7; I came out of Babylon at age 19.

How to stay out of Babylon

Keep yourself sexually pure (Heb.13:4; I Cor.6:18-20; I Thess.4:3-8)

Repent of sexual sin; Two of the seven churches Jesus addressed in the first part of Revelation needed to repent of sexual sin, Pergamum & Thyatira.

Read Eph.5:3-7

Keep your head in the clouds

- Phil.3:17-19; Rom.12:2; John 17:15-17; Col.3:1-6
- The psalmist had to refocus (See Psalm 73)

Learn to be content with what you have

- Phil.4:11-12 (read vv.6-7 after power point)
- I Tim.6:6-11
- For me it has been easier to be content when I had little, and a greater challenge to be content with more.
- Eccl.5:10 Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.

Don’t become engrossed in the things of this world

- I Cor.7:31...those who use the things of this world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.
- Not wrong to have things, wrong for things to have you.

- How do I know if I have become engrossed?
  1. How much of my time does it take?
  2. How much of my money does it take?
  3. Am I willing to give it up if I feel the Lord wants me to?

Honor the Lord with the firstfruits of all your income

- Prov.3:9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your increase.
- II Chron.31:5...the Israelites generously gave the **firstfruits** of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a **tithe** of everything.
- Abraham & Melchizedek (Gen.14, Hebrews 7); Jacob
- When we honor the Lord with the tithe, we invest in the kingdom of God; I personally believe tithe should go to the local church. We give to the Lord through His church.
- When we invest in kingdom purposes, it helps to keep our hearts in heaven (Matt.6:19-21).
- When we invest in kingdom purposes, we store up personal treasure in heaven (Matt.6:19-21).

As God blesses you, give beyond the tithe

- II Cor.8:11...if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.
- See Mark 12:41-44
- Note: The Pharisees were meticulous tithers, yet they were filled with greed and self-indulgence. They loved money (Luke 16:14).
- See I Tim.6:11-12, 17-19
- Support a missionary; support a mission that is doing the work of the kingdom; My wife and I get to support several kingdom causes beyond our tithe to the church.
- Give alms for the poor (Special Needs, etc.)

Get in fellowship with some committed Christian brothers/sisters

- I Cor.5:9-10; II Cor.6:14-7:1
- I Cor.15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

Find a place to serve in the church

- Eph.4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- Gal.5:13...serve one another in love.

## Conclusion

- Follow the trail of your time, energy, affections, and money, and there you find a throne. And whatever or whoever is on that throne is the object of your worship.