



# REVELATION

## Session 7

October 24, 2021

### “Judgment of God’s Enemies”

(pt.1 Babylon Prostitute)

Revelation 17:1 – 19:21

#### BIG IDEA

Our world is seductive. The great challenge for many believers is not the persecution *from* the world but the seduction *of* it. Will you be seduced by the world and fall into adultery with her, or will you come out of her and make yourself ready as the bride of Christ?

#### BIBLE CONVERSATION / GENERAL INFO

The book of Revelation is not a decoder book. It is a picture book. It shows us what *is* and what *will be*. (Revelation 1:19) It uses vivid images to show us the nature of things that are at play in our world even now. It shows us what God is like. What Satan is like. What the world is like. Unfortunately, we are often too easily allured and trapped by this world’s powerful seductions.

Satan and the beastly kingdoms and people through which he operates were showcased in Chapters 12-14. Now we see another dangerous and destructive force that plays itself out in our world and attacks Christians: The Great Prostitute - Babylon the Great. What is Babylon the Great? It is the highly sensual and seductive cultural atmosphere in which believers find themselves in. In every age, location, and situation she strives to entice and torture men and women. This highly personified and anthropomorphized depiction of spiritual adultery holds a cup in her hand filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. She sits on many waters, which is the way to say every single person, from kings to common folk, is subject to her tempting allure. The lust for glamour, possessions, and pleasure has intoxicated our world.

We have all faced this great foe, perhaps you recognize her in the world today. Despite her arrogance and pride, she will fall! She may look splendid now, adorned in all the finery this world has to offer, but she is ugly, decrepit, and blasphemous to God and she will be condemned when Christ comes again! This is what Christians can rejoice in.

The point of John’s vision here is for Christians to see the truth of the corrupted world for what it is. It works like a fairy tale in which the magic of the beautiful seductress wears off to reveal the hideous and evil witch. So, do you see the world for what it is? The problem is not the world

as God made it, but the world as it has become corrupted by sin, particularly the sensual and sexually intoxicated version of it. Our secular-humanistic worldly system is in rebellion to God.

C.S. Lewis once said we are “halfhearted creatures, fooling around with drink and sex and ambition... we are far too easily pleased...”

**Read Revelation 17:1-7 and 18:1-4**

**Question #1** “Fallen! Fallen! Is Babylon the Great!” (Revelation 18:2) Who mourns over Babylon the Great when she falls? (18:9, 11, 17) Who celebrates when she falls? (18:20) Would you celebrate or mourn the fall of sexualized movies, media, and advertisements?

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**Question #2**

According to Revelation 17:16-18, what is the actual reality of sensual seductive culture? What do the kings of this earth do to her?

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According to Revelation 19:19-21, What is the destined reality of Satan’s beasts and all those who worship him and bear his mark?

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**SERMON OVERVIEW**

We struggle against this seductress harlot, this anti-god culture, this image of spiritual adultery and idolatry. So, what are we to do when Christians see this harlot? What is our response to be? The answer is in 18:4-5: “Come out of her!” The best advice on how to do this is Psalm 1.

Abigale Adams, the wife of the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States John Adams, went to join her husband in Paris while he was serving as the French ambassador. After some time, she became lonely so she started attending Parisian social life events with friends and she was shocked at the nudity and sensuality of the culture. She wrote in a letter that at first “she was ashamed to be seen in that environment or to be looking at the scantily clad dancers” but in a later letter wrote that “she found her taste reconciling itself to habit, customs, and fashions which at first disgusted her.” The same influence exerts itself on college campuses, on Netflix, in movie theaters, on billboards, in music, and in every advertisement you subconsciously take in. The harlot Babylon allures with pleasure and leads to the embrace of death and despair. She is washed in the blood of the saints; Jesus washes us in the blood of himself. There is a choice in front of every one of us; either be Christ’s Bride or commit adultery with the Harlot.

How do we come out? We rejoice in Christ! For He is coming back! We acknowledge the reality in which we live now, we call it out, and we turn away. We divert our gaze. Then we get together and we physically cheer on what God is doing. Like a football crowd. Like the sending off of a bride and groom after a wedding. We cheer! In other words, we don't have to physically isolate ourselves or shun all things of culture, but we do flee and run from all forms of perverted culture which warp our minds. (Jeremiah 51:6-9, 45) And as we do this, we are called together to rejoice in the fact that Jesus is coming back to put all evil things to an end.

Jesus rides in! He shows up! He brings victory! And we who are of His own get to ride in with Him. This second coming of Christ has captured the expectations and hearts of Christians for two thousand years. Above all else, this is what we put our hope in. Because His return is going to be great and glorious in full power and might. With a word from His mouth, all the armies gather against Him fall. With ease, He captures Satan's beasts and casts them into the lake of sulfur. The enemies of Christ will be totally defeated! How great is our God!

**Question #3** In Revelation 8:4 we are told to "come out of her." This is also articulated in Jerimiah 51:45. How might Christians come out of our own sensual, seductive culture?

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**Question #4** Read Revelation 19:1-16. What emotions does this rise up in you? Do you long for Christ's second coming? Will you cheer for him when we comes?

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OPTIONAL EXERCISE

Option 1	Option 2
<p><b>A Tale of Two Cities:</b></p> <p>This micro-story about Babylon, which represents this evil world and opposes the things of God, is set as a foil to the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21.</p> <p>Compare and Contrast the image of Babylon as described in this chapter with the New Jerusalem.</p>	<p>Personal Questions:</p> <p>Examine your own heart. What are some things of this world that tend to distract you from God and His good purposes?</p> <p>Do you find it hard to be a Christian in a culture ruled by Babylon?</p> <p>How can you protect yourself against the prostitute's seduction?</p>

<p>What other compare and contrasts do you see regarding Babylon the Great?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-with the bride of Christ?</li> <li>-with Jesus on the white horse?</li> <li>-with Israel in Revelation 12?</li> </ul>	<p>How do you think worship of God breaks the spell culture casts over us?</p> <p>How can you make yourself ready as the Bride of Christ? (Phil 2:8, Revelation 7:14)</p>
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**PRAYER**

- Intentionally Specific Prayer for this week: Pray for our nation and culture to return to God. Pray that Christians all across our world would “come out of” Babylon the Great. Pray that young men and women would fight the good fight against our overly sexualized culture and pray that all people would live pure and upright lives as we wait for Christ to return in might and power.

**Next Session: Revelation 20:1 – 15**

<p><b>DIGGING DEEPER</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Jeremiah 51</p> <p>Read Jeremiah 51. Focus in on the particular language again. What do verses 6-9 say? What does verse 45 say? How do these verses and this chapter overall connect to Revelation?</p>
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