

09/07/25

Pastor Dan Esh

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

Outlines: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/media>

RSS: <http://www.calvarycentral.org/feed>

## REVELATION

### The War for Our Worship – Part 2

Revelation 14:6-20

#### I. Intro - Heaven

##### a. What is heaven like?

- i. No suffering - God will wipe away every tear, no more death, mourning, crying, or pain
  1. Eternal joy and gladness (Isaiah 35:10)
- ii. We know it is a place of perfection, beauty, and abundance
  1. Streets of gold, gates of pearl, walls adorned with precious stones - A river of life and tree of life
- iii. No sin, no corruption – Rev 21 - But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles
  1. Place of perfect peace and rest - freedom from sin and striving
- iv. Jesus describes it as paradise – a word used for a king's garden
  1. Imagery here is Eden (helpful for understanding what Heaven is like)
- v. Most people – believers or not – would sign up for this – a desire for utopia – for peace and human flourishing – no more pain and heartache, no more poverty and starvation

##### b. Why is it like this?

- i. Because of the Designer and the Ruler
- ii. Heaven is God's good creation, and it is under His good rule
  1. Much like Eden – “it was good”

##### c. Ask people, why the world is the way it is – the have a whole host of reasons

- i. Government, billionaires, young people, old people, the media, the wage gap, the climate
- ii. Rarely do you hear “it's me”- “it's because of me”
- iii. That is the irony of it all – we want God's good plan for humanity but we don't want Him
  1. We want His good design but we reject His good rule and reign

***6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”***

#### II. The Everlasting Gospel (Good News)

##### a. Considering the audience, this message makes sense

- i. ***Proverbs 1:7 – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”***

- ii. ***Proverbs 9:10 – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”***
- iii. ***Job 28:28 – “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.”***
  - 1. There is a direct connection between bowing the knee before God, acknowledging who He is and who we are in light of that and seeing things clearly
  - 2. Until that takes place – we are lost, we are confused, we are blinded
  - 3. ***Psalm 33:8 – “Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.”***
    - a. This is a right response to reality
- iv. ***Hebrews 12:28 – “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”***
- b. This book is about a battle for our allegiance – it boils down to “whom do you fear?”
  - i. ***Matthew 10:28 – “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”***
  - ii. How we answer that determines which kingdom we belong to
    - 1. The Kingdom of God or Babylon - the Kingdom of Man
    - 2. Worship God, the creator of it all – or reject Him and create a world view of our design
    - 3. Create our own set of rules, values, belief systems, and social hierarchy
  - iii. We must pick a side – we must choose who we will trust – where we will place our confidence – who we will turn to for truth and purpose and meaning in this life
    - 1. Most importantly – who we will turn to for salvation?
    - 2. To not choose is still to deny the reality – this all belongs to Him

***8 And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”***

- III. Babylon is Fallen (Why is this good news?)
  - a. What is Babylon? To answer that, we need to go back to the beginning
    - i. ***Gen 1:28 “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’”***
      - 1. Do not eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil – a fruit that awakens you to a world outside of my good design – a world where man does what is right in his own eyes – a world cut off from life – you will surely die
      - 2. They chose that – we want to be like god without the rule and reign of God
    - ii. We come to (how are things going?) ***Gen 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***
      - 1. ***Gen 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.***
      - 2. There’s an outlier, hidden between these verses - ***Noah walked with God*** – God floods the earth but preserves Noah and his family

- iii. ***Gen 9:1-3 “So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.’” “And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.”***
- b. The Tower of Babel
  - i. ***Gen 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.***
    - 1. Asphalt – hemar – used two other times in scripture – ***Exo 2:3 But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with asphalt and pitch. She placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.***
    - 2. Gen 6 – God instructs Noah to make an ark out of gopher wood and cover it asphalt or pitch – inside and out
    - 3. Because it is waterproof
  - ii. ***Gen 11:4 And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. 9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.***
    - 1. This is humanities first organized act of collective pride – what is their mission? Reach heaven on their own and make a name for themselves
    - 2. Babel is an introduction to the system that scripture calls “the world”
      - a. Marked by self-sufficiency and organized rebellion

#### IV. Babylon the Empire

- a. Later we have Babylon the nation
  - i. Became the dominant empire in the 6th century BC under Nebuchadnezzar II
  - ii. Isaiah 47 - Babylon is pictured as a proud, luxurious queen who boasts, “I am, and there is no one besides me.” They were Babylon an empire of immense wealth, power, and influence, along with arrogance and cruelty
- iii. They are the embodiment of organized rebellion against God
  - 1. It would make sense that this is the nation that God uses as His instrument of judgement for the nation of Israel
  - 2. Babylon conquers Jerusalem in 586 BC, destroying Solomon’s temple, and exiling much of the population

- b. ***“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”***
  - i. 539 BC – Babylon was conquered by the Medo-Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great
    - 1. Babel and Babylon represent far more than a historical nation – they represent organized rebellion against God’s design and His reign
    - 2. Man’s feeble attempt to reach the heavens without God
- c. That is the best way to understand “the world” - fallen humanity organized in opposition to God
  - i. Jesus came preaching and revealing His Kingdom He was executed – That is why Jesus warns His followers – do not be surprised when the world hates you, it hated me first
- d. ***1 John 2:15–16 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*** And then he gives a definition ***“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.”***
  - i. James writes that friendship with the world is by nature placing yourself in opposition to God
  - ii. ***Romans 12:2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.”***

## V. The Great Harlot

- a. Revelation 17–18, “Babylon the Great” is the culmination of all worldly kingdoms united against God.
  - i. Revelation 17: John sees a woman, “the great prostitute,” sitting on a scarlet beast. She is called: “Babylon the Great, mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth”
  - ii. She is clothed in luxury (purple, scarlet, jewels), intoxicated with wealth, and drunk on the blood of the saints.
  - iii. Professor gave a short version of the history of Christianity: “Christianity started in Israel as a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a philosophy; it moved to Italy and became an institution; it moved to Europe and became a culture; it came to America and became a business. After a student in the class raised her hand. She asked such a simple question, "A business? But isn't it supposed to be a body?" "Yes." "But when a body becomes a business, isn't that a prostitute?"
    - 1. She wears all kinds of different outfits – one even looks like evangelical Christianity
      - a. Sing all the right songs, quote all the right verses – but underneath is a contractual relationship – not a covenantal one – one where we attempt to control God by right behavior – we follow the rules to get what we want out of Him

- iv. Like a prostitute, she lures humanity into perverse relationships, turns hearts away from God toward idolatry, pleasure, and power.
- b. Babylon is the cultural, political, economic, and religious embodiment of man's pursuit of heaven apart from the creator and King of Heaven
  - i. All of those towers crumble, all of them are built on a foundation of sand
  - ii. ***Babylon is fallen, is fallen*** – that isn't simply prophetic – Babylon one day will fall – that is a description – Babylon at its core is a fallen system – it can't stand – it is corrupt at its very foundation

***9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." 12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. 13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." 14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. 17 Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." 19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.***

## VI. Putting an End to Unrighteousness

- a. Picture of judgement – the time has come – the harvest is ready
  - i. God cares – He is serious about sin but He is serious about salvation
  - ii. We look at this scene and we think, how gruesome
    - 1. God putting an end to the deception, the distraction, the war for our hearts and minds, the evil, the brokenness in this world
      - a. Putting an end to the empty promises
- b. The call – ***Rev 18: 3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury." 4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.***