

10/05/25

Pastor Dan Esh

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

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

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

REVELATION

Physician or Mortician?

Revelation 18

Rev 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. 2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! 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. 5 For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. 6 Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. 7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' 8 Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. 9 "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' 11 "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' 19 "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' 20 "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

I. Introduction

a. False religion is satan's most dangerous temptation – Babylon

- i. Mark 2 – Jesus said "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

1. False religion, false faith, false worship – convinces people that they are well when they are not
 - a. My mom’s disease
2. Or – if we finally recognize that we are sick – satan is quick to point us to a doctor that is actually a mortician in disguise
- b. That is the nature of false religion
 - i. Humanity has always been and will always be religious, created with a longing for eternal life.
 1. ***Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.***
 2. ***Rom 1: 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.***
- c. That is the danger of false religion – false sense of security – it appeases the longing we are all inherently created with
 - i. satan doesn’t care what you believe, as long as it isn’t the truth.
 - ii. The gospel is exclusive – No one comes to the Father but by Me – that is the narrow road that leads to life, and few find it
 1. The devil has an infinite arsenal of lies – false messiahs – it is a wide road that leads to destruction, and many go by it
 2. Even a false “Jesus” works for his purpose if it’s not the Christ of Scripture. Teacher, prophet, guru – that works for him as long as it is not Savior and King
- d. ***1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.***
 - i. That is exactly what we are seeing in Revelation 17 – 18 – John is witnessing the judgement of the Great Harlot
 1. Mother of Harlots – many harlots throughout human history
 - ii. Many False Religions – what they all have in common – they are man-made and demonically inspired –
 - iii. They are now all centralized under Babylon – the Great Harlot - exposed for what she is, judged, and destroyed
 1. How?
 2. ***Rev 17: 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”***
 3. When the true Messiah shows up all other false messiahs fall

“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen,

II. Babylon is Fallen

- a. This city – the epitome of false worship – the final future fulfillment of idolatry, rebellion against God, spiritual corruption, and worldly seduction is fallen
 - i. “Is” because its end is certain – just like you have been saved, your being saved, you will be saved – your future is certain – **YOU ARE SAVED**
 - ii. Babylon – False Religion – by its very nature is fallen – ***Rev 17: 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.***
 1. Evil turns in on itself – it is self-destructive – any of you who have struggled with addiction know this all too well
 2. In an attempt to find the physician we find a mortician
- b. Babylon exposed
 - i. Dwelling place of demons – false religion is demonically infested
 - ii. They may preach freedom, but in reality they are a prison
 - iii. ***all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication***
 1. No one is immune – that is the nature of a harlot – seductive, appeals to our senses – drawn to the abundance of her luxury
 2. Ever wonder why Jesus came as an ordinary man? Isaiah 53 says He didn’t have an impressive form or majesty that we should be drawn to him, no appearance that we should desire him.
 - a. Judas had to identify Him with a kiss – he didn’t stand out physically
 - iv. Why didn’t He come with an appearance the reflected His true glory? Because we are superficial! We are drawn to appearance. Beauty clouds our judgement.
 1. Jesus still stood out – but it was because of what He taught and how He lived – not because of how He looked
 2. Does His body today, the church, focus more on how we appear or what we teach and how we live?
 - a. Where is our focus – on the experience or the substance?
 - b. The Word of God has taken a back seat to the production
- c. The result – merchants have become rich off of her
 - i. Through exploitation and compromise
 - ii. People are waking, they are realizing the world sick, they are realizing they are sick – they are looking for answers
 1. There are people and organizations and institutions just waiting to capitalize off of them
 - iii. False religion exploits humanity’s deep spiritual need for personal gain
 1. The evangelical “church” with its celebrity culture and glorified self-help productions is just as guilty as any other false religion
 2. Not every church that is financial stable with a nice new building is false – look at their foundation – what are they building on?
 3. A harlot promises intimacy on your terms – for the right price – its intimacy you can control – but it is false intimacy – its an act – pleasure for a moment but only adds to the emptiness

4. The Harlot is the False Bride – the False Church – what is our responsibility as the true Bride of Christ? How do we live in a world of harlots?

Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

III. Come Out of Her My People

- a. With so many false messiahs, how are we to point people to true Physician?
 - i. Coming out of Babylon – called out but still here
 1. In the world, not of the world – what does that really mean?
 - ii. One – we are the true Bride of Christ
 1. What does that look like? If there is false religion, what does true religion look like?
 - iii. Religion defined - the service and worship of God or the supernatural
 1. ***James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.***
 2. Two things here – resisting and blessing – non-conformity and practical service
- b. Resist and Bless
 - i. ***Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.***
 - ii. ***James 4:4 Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***
 1. Many Christians stop short – it is not just non-conformity
 - iii. Bless the people – “Israel in Babylonian Captivity”
 1. ***Jer 29:4-7 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who are carried away captive, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—multiply there, and do not decrease. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.***
 - a. Examples of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Esther, and Josph
 - b. The biblical pattern is consistent: resist the spiritual and moral corruption of the culture, while actively engaging in ways that bless others for their good and the glory of God
 2. ***1 Peter 2:12 “Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”***
 3. We are called to covenant faithfulness – the church is called to be the faithful bride in a world full of harlots