

# HOW TO GET OUT OF BABYLON

Part 7 of Understanding the Times. Revelation 15-18.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 2, 2023.

## RISE AND FALL, RISE AND FALL

**In the history of the world, every empire eventually falls:**

- The Ottoman Empire lasted about 600 years.
- The Roman Empire lasted about 500 years.
- The Han Dynasty lasted about 400 years.
- The Soviet Union collapsed after 74 years.

**'Babylon' will collapse.**

Revelation 16:17-19 (ESV) 7 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

## GOD'S MESSAGE TO US: GET OUT!

**Babylon is a metaphor for a world-wide, God-rejecting culture.**

- Led by the Beast who is empowered by Satan.
- Idolatrous, and without moral boundaries.
- Persecutes Christians

Revelation 18:4-5 (ESV) Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; 5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities..

**How can we get out of Babylon?**

# HOW TO GET OUT OF BABYLON

## 1. I must align my thinking with the Bible.

- Faulty thinking: God is not a God of wrath and judgment.
- The Bible:

Revelation 15:3-4 (ESV) Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy.

Revelation 16:5 (ESV) And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.

- Our just and holy God won't allow this godless world to go on forever.

## 2. I must love God above all.

- The citizens of 'Babylon' hate God.
- When God's judgment happens, their hearts are revealed:

Revelation 16:8-11 (ESV) 8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

- We step out of Babylon when we embrace Jesus as our God and live for his glory.

Revelation 15:2 (ESV) 2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

## 3. I must stand my ground.

- The big lie about secular culture is that it is neutral.

- Babylon represents the secular state, and it serves Satan:

Revelation 17:3 (NLT) So the angel took me in the Spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns, and blasphemies against God were written all over it. 4 The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality. 5 A mysterious name was written on her forehead: “Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World.” 6 I could see that she was drunk—drunk with the blood of God’s holy people who were witnesses for Jesus. I stared at her in complete amazement.

Revelation 13:8 (NLT) ... all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast ...

- Get out of Babylon by refusing to bow down to the ‘Beast.’ Commit to follow Jesus without compromise.

## **DECIDE: GET OUT OF BABYLON**

### **Babylon is on borrowed time.**

Revelation 18:1-2 (ESV) After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit ...

### **Jesus will defeat everyone aligned with Babylon.**

Revelation 17:14 (ESV) They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

### **The only kingdom that lasts forever is the Kingdom of Christ**

Revelation 11:15 (ESV) 15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

# **CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER**

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on Revelation 15-18.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.**

- Read aloud Revelation 15-18. It will be a powerful spiritual experience.
- In your opinion, how might 16:5-7 serve to give courage to faltering Christians under pressure to conform to the values of the world?
- Read the following passages and discuss how to apply them to our lives in this world: 1 John 2:15-17; 5:19; John 15:18-19; 17:15; 18:36; James 4:4; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 2:8; 1 Peter 2:11.

## **Pray together. Be bold.**

Pray for the courage and conviction to 'come away' from Babylon, to commit to Christ without compromise, to not conform to this world, and to not be captured by godless ideas.

## **Preparation for Next Sunday**

- Read a helpful commentary on Revelation 19:  
[www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-33](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/revelation/#section-33)