

Revelation 17-18 – Punishment of the Great Prostitute

Read Revelation 17

1. What kind of picture is built up of this woman in the vision? Are there any contrasting images in v4-5?

2. What are the wrongs that this woman has committed?

3. Why do you think John is “greatly astonished” (v6-8)? How does the angel respond?

4. Skimming through v9-14, what things might we conclude about the earthly rulers who form part of the Dragon beast? What is their purpose?

(Remember that *‘This calls for a mind with wisdom’* and so we need to not fall into the trap of being too literal with this symbolic vision)

5. Describe the relationship between the woman and the beast she rides. What is the beast doing now?

6. What city was John pointed to as the angel speaks in v18? (v5)

The actual kingdom of Babylon is obviously long gone; and so it’s fair to assume that its name is being used to refer to something else...

7. Have a read of Genesis 11:1-6 & Jeremiah 50:29-38, discussing how this adds to our understanding of the ideas & attitudes ‘Babylon’ might be representative of.

Read Revelation 18

8. What warning call goes into the city? (v4-5)

9. What is the outcome for all who are part of the city and who is brings this about? (v8)

9. What are the common reactions of the kings and both merchants to Babylon’s destruction? (v9-19)

10. Hearing the horrific nature of the destruction that’s inevitable, why does there need to be a warning call at all? (v3, 23b)

Implications (choose 1 or more to answer)

- What should this warning call mean for someone who:
 - Isn’t a Christian
 - Is already Christian
- What are some of the ways that you are often tempted to follow the sins of the world? (In your workplace, your family life, your sports club or somewhere else)
 - What might be some strategies for avoiding these?
- What tensions arise between the call to come out from the city, and the gospel mission that Jesus has given us? How might we navigate these?

Give thanks and pray

Asking that God would reveal and convict us of where we need to be listening to the warning calls.

Ask God to give you a deep concern and love for those who still need to hear about Jesus.