

Apocalypse Now: The Challenge of Revelation
Week 8—Revelation 17:1-19:10
November 2, 2022

- I. Review
 - A. The Focus of the message is Jesus Christ (1)
 - B. The exalted Lord in the heavenly throne room (ch. 4–5)
 - C. Three series of seven visions portray judgment as disasters
 - 1. Seals
 - 2. Trumpets
 - 3. Bowls
 - D. Pattern: 1 thru 4 disaster; 5 intensification; 6 devastation
 - 1. Interlude to encourage the faithful follows each series.
 - E. Revelation 12-14 envision Christ’s victory over the devil.
 - 1. Dragon Seeks to Devour Baby; it is Foiled.
 - 2. Expelled from Heaven, wreaks earthly havoc.
 - 3. Uses two beasts: Sea and Land
 - a) Both are imitations of the Lamb
 - b) Mark of the beast: 666
 - 4. Real Salvation and Real Judgment are revealed
 - F. Chapters 15 & 16. End of history; vision of seven bowls.
 - 1. Intensified repetitions of the previous sets of seven visions.
 - 2. The final cataclysm is set: the place called “Armageddon.”
 - a) Uncertainty surrounding identity of this place.
 - b) Great reversal of history (cf. II Kings 23).
 - 3. 7th Bowl. Signals total judgment. “It is done” (finished).

II. Revelation 17 is the account of Rome's destruction.

A. Vss. 1-8 John uses some very powerful images/metaphors.

1. Whore. Rome. Adultery.

B. The whore sits on the beast.

1. Alluring until you see what is in her golden goblet.

2. Mark on forehead... drunk with the blood of the saints.

C. Rome is the city set on 7 hills—the well-known trademark.

D. Rome entices Christians away from commitment to Christ.

E. Eventually, and regardless of what the symbols actually mean, evil turns in on itself.

III. Revelation 18:1-19:10 describes the fall of Babylon (Rome).

A. John shows us fall of Rome from perspective of those who had grown powerful and rich.

B. 19:1-5 Songs of praise: wedding banquet of Christ & Church

1. OT saw relationship b/n God people as “marital.”

2. 19:6-8. NT sees Church as the bride of Christ.

3. Matthew 22:1-14. Kingdom is like a wedding feast

C. 19:9-10. Seven Visions of the End. Don't worship angels!

IV. Conclusion

A. Revelation is a warning for believers as much as it is for non-believers.

B. Babylon represents the idolatry any nation commits when it elevates material abundance, military prowess, technological sophistication, imperial grandeur, racial pride and any other glorification of the creature over the Creator.