

Week 7: Chapters 17-22

Two Cities and New Creation

This is our last meeting. You made it!

Two Songs

- Funeral Dirge: Revelation 18:1-24
 - “Come out of her, my people, so that you do not take part in her sins, and so that you do not share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.” -Revelation 18:4-5
 - Key points of chapter 18
 - Babylon’s fall is coming
 - Get out
 - Those cooperating with Babylon will lament
 - Three groups mourn:
 - Kings
 - Merchants
 - Sailors
- Heavens Rejoice
 - “After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, for his judgments are true and just; he had judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.’” Revelation 19:1-2
 - From silence in Babylon (18:21-24) to Celebration in heaven (Revelation 19:1-8)

Two Feasts

- The Beatitude of verse 9 is the 4th one of 7
 - Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14
- The Wedding Supper of the Lamb: Revelation 19:9
 - “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’” Revelation 19:9
- The Supper of God (Feast for the birds): Revelation 19:17-21
 - Contrasted with the Wedding feast of the Lamb
 - Could these both be the same event?

Two Women/Cities

- The Whore Babylon: Revelation 17-18
 - “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the inhabitants of the earth have become drunk.’ So he carried me away in the spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.”
-Revelation 17:1-3
 - Seated on the Beast
 - Seated on 7 hills (17:9)
 - The ten horns and the Beast turn on the whore (17:16)
 - Strip her
 - Devour her
 - Burn with fire
 - Caricature
 - “They seek to show people something in a way they would not normally see it: “If people can be persuaded to think that what appears impressive is actually ridiculous, that what seems glamorous is really garish, and that what appears desirable is in fact ludicrous, they will be more ready to resist it.”
-Koester
 - Here they were supposed to think of Rome as:
 - Dignified lady – but she was portrayed as a whore
 - Virtuous woman – drunken
 - On an elegant steed – an outrageous 7 headed beast
 - With golden cup full of finest wine – full of vile sewage
 - Pretentious lady is actually a buffoon
- The Parallels:
 - Compare 21:9 with 17:1
 - “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great whore who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and with the wine of whose fornication the inhabitants of the earth have become drunk.’ So he carried me away in the spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.” (Revelation 17:1-3)
 - “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.’ And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.” (Revelation 21:9-10)
 - Compare 22:8-9 with 19:10
 - “Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10
 - “And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; but he said to me, ‘You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!’”

- The Bride New Jerusalem: Revelation 21:9-22:9
 - Boundaries of the holy
 - Walls of Jasper 21:18
 - Statements of exclusion: Revelation 21:8, 21:27, 22:3, 22:15
 - City as a place and as a people
 - 12 foundations, 12 gates, etc. – 12 as number for God’s people
 - Restored Eden
 - River dividing into 4 branches, like in Genesis 2
 - Tree of Life
 - God as the center and focus
 - “I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.” –Revelation 21:22-23

The Millennium

- Three positions based on when Christ returns:
 - Pre-millennial
 - Post-millennial
 - A-millennial
- What does this period refer to?
 - “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.” –Revelation 20:1-3
 - Plan of God expands to the nations after Christ’s ascension
 - 1,000 years in scripture is better understood as an era
 - Binding of Satan corresponds with the cross
 - The millennium ends with Satan’s judgment (return of Christ)
 - In Revelation, conquering refers to being faithful in persecution