

The Future of the World, its Pleasures and Powers

Revelation 17:1-18

I. The Lesson: See the Judgment of the Great Prostitute, Babylon (vs. 1-2)

A. Does a Fish Know It's Wet?

1. This is an old question... perhaps a little humorous, but it has to do with our inability to rise above our culture—the world in which we swim continually—to see it as it really is
2. A deeper question is: do we realize the ways in which the world has corrupted us? Can we see the danger, and flee to Christ for refuge, cleansing, and transformation?
3. The one asking “Does the fish know it’s wet?” is a human being who is dry, but knows what it is to swim... we are vastly above the fish, able to look down and see its world in a way it cannot
4. So it is with the Holy Spirit through the scriptures: it is able to warn us of the danger of the corrosive rebellious world system in which we live, and move, and have our being

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For everything in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life -- comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

So John warns us most directly of the danger of this world system... a world system which is constantly alluring us toward sin with its magnetic LUSTS

James also warns us of the same in different language:

James 4:4-5 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

He says to be in love with this present world is like committing spiritual ADULTERY to God... like being a wandering, unfaithful wife who cannot stay put and love and please her husband... it provokes his Spirit to jealousy

And Paul tells us where this corrupt, magnetic world system comes from:

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Satan has set up a world of temptations that is so brilliant and alluring, singing a siren song to us to cause us to sail too close to the rocks of sin and sink our souls

He mentions that Satan is the “prince of the power of the AIR” ... invisible, powerful, constantly surrounding us

He says that the essence of life in the world system is to gratify the cravings of our flesh – those BODILY DRIVES and DESIRES, the pleasures of the body and of the mind

This world system has been working its devastation for millennia, and is still at work RIGHT NOW

Do you feel its influence? Are you aware of its daily assault on your soul? Do you know the way the “prince of the power of the air” is infiltrating your mind, and pushing you to act in lust, defying God, violating his holy laws

Does the fish know it's wet?

Do you know HOW YOU ARE WORLDLY????

5. No Chapters of the Bible so Clearly Unveils the Wicked World System as do Revelation 17-18
 - a. Here in Revelation 17 we will see unveiled in the most vivid terms the MYSTERY of Babylon the Great, portrayed as a prostitute riding the beast... she is dressed in luxury, drinking from a golden cup... we will see how she will be at the end of the world... but also have a sense of how she is RIGHT NOW
 - b. In the next chapter we will see plainly her outcome, the final demise of the world system called Babylon the Great
 - c. And in both chapters, we will hear the plain warning these chapters were meant to give us:

Revelation 18:4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues..."

B. The Angel Reveals the Woman

Revelation 17:1-2 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. ² With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

1. The Book of Revelation ends with two women unveiled, revealed to us: the Great Whore of Babylon, and the radiant Bride of Christ
2. The language is SO STRIKING and SO SIMILAR to what we will see in Revelation 21!! These two women are meant to be revealed to us, so that we can see them plainly and understand their true nature
3. Here, the vision is revealed and guided by one of the seven angels who poured out the bowls of judgment on the earth
4. We saw those in the last chapter—Revelation 16

- a. A destruction so worldwide and overwhelming that it is clear that the world cannot live much longer after they are poured out
- b. However, now John and Revelation go BACKWARD to show us the enemy that Christ is fighting, that Christ will destroy with the breath of his mouth
- c. After the third angel poured out his bowl on the earth and turned all the waters of the earth into blood, he celebrated the JUSTICE of that judgment with these words:

Revelation 16:5-6 "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; ⁶ for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

- d. But in Revelation 17, we are shown the BLOODTHIRSTY woman who is drunk on the blood of the saints... she is the one driving the slaughter of God's precious children that the angel says deserves such a punishment as the turning of the water into blood
5. So, one of the seven angels invites John to COME with him so that he can see this woman, the prostitute who sits on many waters... she is filthy, alluring, and wicked... and with her, the kings of the earth have committed adultery... and with her the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her adulteries
 6. John went away in the Spirit to see her:

Revelation 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names

Revelation 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

7. The exact same language is used at the end of this amazing book of Revelation for the BRIDE of Christ:

Revelation 21:9-11 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." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

Clearly, these two women are meant to be shown SIDE by SIDE, as a CONTRAST to each other... one of them alluring, enticing, but filthy and wicked... the other one radiant, majestic, holy, and stunningly beautiful, shining with the glory of God

The prostitute vs. the bride

C. Who is the Woman?

1. The end of the chapter tells us plainly this about her:

Revelation 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

2. She is also called "Babylon the Great"
3. We will discuss each detail as we walk through the chapter, but she is the world of people who are both themselves allured and enticed by Satan's appeal to the flesh, and are themselves enticing and alluring to others to sin with them
 - a. She has a wandering corrupt heart, and she must be PAID for all her affections... she has no faithfulness, no commitment to a bridegroom
4. By contrast, the Bride of Christ is the church... the godly who have escaped the allure of the world and have devoted themselves entirely, body, soul, and spirit to her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ

D. The Lesson of these Chapters: The JUDGMENT of the Prostitute

1. Revelation 17-18, taken together, give us a full picture of the **nature** of the world and its alluring system of corruption... and even more of her future **JUDGMENT** by God

2. This is exactly what the angel says he wanted to show John... AND US

Revelation 17:1 "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

3. John wants us to know she is DOOMED to destruction under the wrath of God
4. Why? So that we will FLEE that punishment... not share in her destruction!!

E. Initial Description of Her:

1. Her Location: She sits on MANY WATERS
 - a. Many of the greatest cities in the world are built by the ocean, so that they can take advantage of the commerce by the sea... like the port cities of Tyre and Sidon... or modern-day Singapore or New York
 - b. In the next chapter, Babylon's fall is given from the perspective of the seamen who ship their wares to her
 - c. However, this city "sits on many waters" refers to the fact that she gets her power and influence from the teeming mass of humanity worldwide:

Revelation 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

2. Her actions: she allures nations to drunkenness in sin

Revelation 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

The world's system allures people all over the world to sin through temptations

So... the angel initiates a vision with John... he wants to show him, and through him, all Christians in every generation... the true nature of the harlot city of Babylon the Great

II. The Vision: The Drunken Woman Riding the Beast (vs. 3-6)

A. The Vision Begins with a Journey by the Spirit to a Desert

Revelation 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert.

1. The desert image is one of sterility... fruitlessness
2. It is the absence of God's blessing
3. There he sees her... and she is both alluring and repulsive

B. The Woman Described

Revelation 17:3-5 There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. ⁵ This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

1. Her posture: she is SITTING ON A SCARLET BEAST
 - a. Both the beast and the woman are scarlet... a vivid color, even lurid... some link it to the blood of the saints they are shedding
 - b. The Beast is the Antichrist as he leads a worldwide empire
 - c. The woman sitting on the Beast either represents that she is riding the Beast where she wants it to go, or that the Beast is supporting her and enabling her to do what she is doing... I go with the second—the Beast is really using the woman more than the other way around
2. Beast covered with blasphemous names
 - a. The Beast openly embraces blasphemy in that he is demanding to be worshiped as God and he defies the true God of heaven

- b. Like the Dragon (Satan) in Revelation 12:2, this Beast has seven heads and ten horns... these represent the various kingdoms/nations that combine to give the Beast his power
- c. So... the Antichrist is supporting the woman, enabling her to live the life she is living

3. The Woman's Apparel

- a. She is "dressed in purple and scarlet"... these are the clothes of luxury... purple dye in particular was a symbol of wealth, royalty, and luxury—it was obtained from the secretions of four mollusks (snails, clams) native to the Mediterranean Sea; since approximately 8000 mollusks are required to produce one gram of purple dye, purple cloth was extremely expensive and almost exclusively reserved for royalty—the cloth of kings, queens and nobility
- b. In addition, she is glittering with gold precious stones, and pearls... she is holding a golden cup in her hand
- c. These are pictures of LUXURY... and she is drinking wine from the golden cup; a picture of EASE and PLEASURE as she reclines on the Beast

4. The Woman's Drink

- a. The golden cup in her hand is filled with "abominable things and the filth of her adulteries"
- b. She is drunk with illicit pleasure...
- c. Remember what the second angel said about Babylon:

Revelation 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

- d. Since the word is "adultery" we should see her as reclining at a raucous feast, getting drunk on wickedness and living the life of pleasure and ease and immoral sensual excess, especially sexual

5. The Woman's Title

- a. On her forehead there is a mysterious title, proclaiming her identity to John and through him to the world

Revelation 17:5 MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- b. First: “mystery”... this word refers to the special, spiritual insight needed to understand this vision... her identity and activity in the world is a spiritual mystery, hidden from us unless God reveals her to us... also this word refers to the mystery religions that were popular in the ancient world—where you had to be an initiate into her secret ways to get the full benefits of her idolatries

Like the prophetess Jezebel in Thyatira who was leading the church members to commit sexual immorality with her in secret...

Jesus speaks of those who have learned “Satan’s so-called deep secrets” (Rev. 2:24)

It is for this reason that many interpreters think the woman represents an idolatrous RELIGIOUS SYSTEM... the conglomerate religions of the world, mixed together to serve the Antichrist for a short time

However, there is nothing said in this chapter overtly about the woman being a religious figure – the picture is much more of fleshly ease, luxury, pleasure, sex, drunkenness... the ALLURES OF THE WORLD

- c. “Babylon the Great”

- i) Babylon is the symbol of a pagan empire, worldwide, the essence of human rebellion against God
- ii) The godless, idolatrous city of Babel was established in Genesis 10 by the mighty hunter, Nimrod, and they commenced to building a lofty tower to reach the heavens... a form of self worship

- iii) Babylon, the empire that conquered Jerusalem and exiled the Jews in the time of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel was a world system of military power and pagan idolatry under the tyrant King Nebuchadnezzar
- iv) Babylon was crushed by the power of God over many centuries as the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah foretold... never to be rebuilt
- v) However, the “spirit of Babylon” lived on and moved to other geographical centers... in the days of the Apostles, Rome became Babylon... Peter, writing his epistle from Rome, closed with these words:

1 Peter 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

- vi) So the “mystery” Babylon the Great is that she is the alluring system of worldly temptations and pleasures—power, possessions, pleasures, sexual immorality, illicit religions, idolatries of every kind—that draws human hearts away from God... the geographical center moves from place to place as the centuries unfold—in John’s day, it was Rome

d. “Mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth”

- i) The mysterious woman, Babylon the Great, is the mother to all the lesser prostitutes of the earth, who allure the people all over the world toward sin
- ii) There is a vast, unifying system of illicit pleasure... an intelligence behind it all... the five-sense appetites, the stimulation of various nerve endings—through food, drink, drugs, material possessions, luxuries... on and on... the
WORLD OF PLEASURE

C. Drunk with the Blood of the Saints

Revelation 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

1. The woman is drinking a varied wine... the wine of adulteries and immoralities, yes... but also the blood of the saints, those who bear testimony to Jesus
2. These are any Christians who stand firm in the face of the world's allures and threats and live openly and courageously for Christ
3. The world will offer many of us a purple robe of luxury and a golden cup of intoxicating pleasure... but if we refuse, it will turn and persecute and attack and kill us
4. The woman is DRUNK with the blood of Christians... many will have died under the vicious attacks of the Beast she is riding; and she ENJOYS their deaths; it enjoys seeing them die
5. The population of Rome would go to the Coliseum and cheer while Christians were ripped to shreds by wild animals or butchered by gladiators... they enjoyed the show, they were drunk with the bloody spectacle

D. John's Reaction: Astonishment

1. John has never seen the darkness of the evil, luxurious world harlot before
2. To see her wickedness uncovered and exposed by the vision of the angel left him astonished and breathless...
3. So would we be if we could see the world as it really is, a mortal threat to the health of our souls
4. The Spirit of Babylon is alive in our day and age, even if it hasn't reached the final form it will in the days of the Antichrist

III. The Interpretation: A Beast of Seven Hills, Seven Kings (vs. 7-13)

A. The Angel Seeks to Interpret the Vision

Revelation 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

B. Yet... the Angel Says Almost Nothing About the Woman!

1. The next number of verses (7-13) focus almost exclusively on the beast and the horns

C. The History of the Beast Revealed

Revelation 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

1. The final phase of this worldwide godless system of world domination will be under the reign of the Antichrist
2. But it comes and goes in EVERY ERA of human history
3. And John says the Beast “once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss...”
 - a. Ultimately, this Beast will emerge from the Abyss... the very place where the demons come from; it is essentially a demonic world empire ruling by evil men
 - b. It will ultimately go to its destruction; when Jesus returns to earth, he will destroy the final phase of this empire
4. This could refer to the astonishment of the world at the Beast (the Antichrist) who was wounded with an apparently mortal wound, and yet recovered as we have seen... the great miracle that persuaded the world that the Beast should be worshiped as God... **BUT THE ELECT, whose names are written in Christ’s book from the creation of the world, will ESCAPE**

D. The Mystery of the Seven Hills

Revelation 17:9-10 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

1. Whenever we are called to have a mind of wisdom, we have to COMBINE biblical truth with current events

2. The people who are living in the final generation will have the fullest understanding of all these symbols
3. But those living in John's day as soon as they hear "the seven hills on which the woman sits"... they will immediately think of ROME
4. The city of Rome developed on seven hills on the east bank of the Tiber River midway up the Italian peninsula
5. Romans frequently referred to their capital city as the city of seven hills
6. Because of this clear reference to Rome, many Protestant commentators have seen the purple harlot as referring to the false church of Rome, the Roman Catholic church
7. However, the geographical focus is not so important... the center of power for the world has moved from place to place ... moving from Babylon to Rome, then to whatever empire ruled the world at any given point
8. The number seven is the number of completeness or totality; the hills represent (like the Tower of Babel) man's LOFTY ASPIRATIONS, like the arrogance of Nebuchadnezzar walking on the lofty perch of his palace roof

Daniel 4:30 "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

E. The Seven Hills are Also Seven Kings

1. So the seven hills are not just Rome... we should not just be thinking about Rome
2. A series of kings leading a series of empires, one after the other, since five have fallen and one is yet to come

Revelation 17:10-11 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

F. The Ten Horns: A Coalition of Kings

Revelation 17:12-13 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

1. The Antichrist will rise from among a group of world leaders who come together to solve the overwhelming problems of a dying planet Earth reeling under the trumpet judgments... the ecology of the earth will be smoldering and people desperate to find food and water
2. By diplomacy, deceit, and murder, the Antichrist will rise to be a first among equals, then a world dominating ruler... a kind of "king of kings"
3. These ten kings had not yet risen in John's day... they were in his future, and (I believe) they are still in our future... why would the Lord prophecy about a series of Roman emperors who have now been dead for sixteen centuries??
4. They rule the world for ONE HOUR... a very short rule
5. They come together as an alliance, a coalition of force to GIVE THEIR POWER AND AUTHORITY to the Beast
6. He will use them to rule the world
7. God will use them to gather the world's armies for the final battle
8. They are totally loyal to the Beast... they have ONE PURPOSE... they are of ONE MIND: serve the Beast, fight against Christ and his people!

IV. The Triumph: The Lamb Destroys the Beast and His Kings (vs. 14)

Revelation 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

A. A Glorious Final Battle!

1. The Ten Kings come together to support the Antichrist

2. And the remaining dissidents in the entire world are the Christians, both Jews and Gentiles, who follow the Lamb and refuse to worship the Beast
3. These ten kings come together to make war on the people of God, and through him, the Lamb—Jesus Christ

B. The Lamb is Loyal to His People

1. The people of Christ are “his called, chosen, and faithful followers”
2. They are courageously resisting the world system... they will not receive the Mark of the Beast
3. They will not bow down to the Antichrist and worship him... or the idol the false prophet has set up
4. It is quite possible that a large percentage of them will be hiding in Palestine near Jerusalem, and that the kings of the earth come together under the leadership of the Antichrist in one final battle to destroy them

Revelation 16:16 Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Revelation 19:19 Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.

C. The Beast and His Kings Make War on the Lamb

1. The absolute insanity of sin! Irrationally thinking you can fight God and win!!
2. The text is sweetly understated!! They will make war on the Lamb but the Lamb will conquer them because he is the King of kings and Lord of lords! He is omnipotent! He cannot lose!

V. The Purpose: Evil Consolidated and Destroyed (vs. 15-18)

A. The Final Explanation (verses 15-18)... First the Woman

1. The woman is the great city of the world

Revelation 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

2. The waters: the nations

Revelation 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

B. The Beast and the Ten Horns HATE the Prostitute

Revelation 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

1. This is a very difficult concept to explain
2. It affects how we interpret the woman; some commentators focus on the woman as a conglomerated world religion that is useful for a while, but then the Beast grows tired of her and strips her of all influence in light of his own self-focused religion

2 Thessalonians 2:4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

3. That is possible... but if the woman represents just simply the world and all its alluring pleasures, it could very well be that the destruction of the woman—the shredding of her glory and stripping of her has to do with the internally destructive nature of Satan's kingdom
4. Satan HATES EVERY HUMAN BEING... he is a miserable, wretched tyrant who has no love for anyone... he does not give pleasure to anyone; not even to his most loyal servant, the Antichrist. If the woman represents worldly luxury and sensual pleasure, her being shredded and stripped and destroyed by the Antichrist and his fellow rulers is a measure of how wretched and hateful they are
5. They are antipleasure, and don't desire anyone to be happy, or to experience pleasure
6. C.S. Lewis, Screwtape letters:

Older demon, Screwtape giving advice to a younger demon, Wormwood, on how to tempt a man. He discusses the topic of pleasure... normal, physical pleasures:

“Never forget that when we are dealing with any pleasure in its healthy and normal and satisfying form, we are, in a sense, on enemy territory. I know we [devils] have won many a soul through pleasure. All the same, it is [God’s] invention, not ours. [God] made the pleasures: all our research so far has not enabled us to produce one. All we can do is encourage the humans to take the pleasures which [God] has produced, at times, or in ways, or in degrees, which He has forbidden. Hence we always try to work away from the natural condition of any pleasure to that in which it is least natural, [reminding people] the least ... of its Maker, and least pleasurable. An ever-increasing craving for an ever-diminishing pleasure is the formula. ... To get the man's soul and give him *nothing* in return--that is what really gladdens [Satan’s] heart.”

Satan wants to STEAL, KILL, DESTROY... and so he will destroy the “city” of man, the world system that has provided its subjects with so much sensual pleasure

Adolph Hitler represents this kind of world-hating, Spartan, pleasure-rejecting, cold, hard personality... he didn’t live for pleasure – he ate very little, never got drunk, seemed to have little or no sexual appetite; he lived only for war and power and destruction, and in the end hated everything around him. He ended far from all sensual pleasures, in a concrete bunker, surrounded by the city of Berlin that his rule had reduced to smoldering rubble... no architecture, no beauty, no wine, women, or song... just cold, hard, death apart from any sensual pleasures at all.

C. God’s Plan: To Consolidate All Evil in One Place... and Destroy It

1. The Ten Kings come together to do Antichrist’s bidding
2. His will is to kill all remaining Christians once and for all

3. But all this is according to GOD'S PLAN... God's purpose:

Revelation 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.

So it is... man proposes, but God disposes:

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

4. God puts all the rotten eggs in one basket, gathering them to one final battle... and Christ descends from heaven leading the armies of God to destroy his enemies once and for all:

5. We will read about it in Revelation 19... the final battle when Christ destroys the Antichrist and his forces!

VI. Application: "Come Out from Her, My People" (18:4)

A. First and Greatest Application to Us Christians: FLEE BABYLON!!

Revelation 18:4-5 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

1. "Does a fish know it's wet?"
2. Do you know how the world is corrupting you?
 - a. Are you aware of what inroads the world's evil, alluring system is making in your soul??
 - b. Do you know what affect your iPhone is having on you? Your constant focus on the events and entertainments and concerns and pleasures of the world?
 - c. Do you see the way that the world's values are drawing your soul away from God and from Christ?
 - d. Do you have an increasing taste for the things of this world? For its possessions, pleasures, power?

e. Do you have a pattern of self-denying mortification of sin?

1 Corinthians 9:27 I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

f. What does it mean to not love the world or anything in the world?

g. What does it mean that friendship with the world is hatred toward God??

h. Do you see the alluring whore of Babylon, dressed in purple, riding the Beast, calling to you with the enticing siren song? Are you able to stop your ears and pull away?

i. LOOK TO YOUR APPETITES! Food... movies... drink... sports... various forms of luxury... entertainments

1 Corinthians 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-- but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-- but I will not be mastered by anything.

B. Non-Christians: Flee to Christ!

1. There is an evil world system that is drawing people to destruction
2. The only answer is the gospel:

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God... because of his great love for us... God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.

C. Understand the Future ... the Future of Pleasure!

1. The Harlot of Babylon cannot satisfy anyone... she desires to destroy us
2. True pleasure comes from God... and the fullest expression will be in heaven

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore