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Sermon Notes

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The Final Fall of Babylon

Revelation 18:1-24

I. Babylon's Judgment Throughout the Ages

A. The Legend of the Phoenix

In many ancient cultures there was the myth of a radiantly colorful bird called the Phoenix. In some of the myths, this large bird looked like a peacock, with purple and red flowing feathers. It could live for a very long time, even as long as five centuries or more. But when the time of its end would come, it would make for itself an elaborate nest of kindling wood, and it would be consumed in a raging ball of fire. From the ashes of the previous phoenix, the bird's successor would rise and begin its own prodigiously long life. This cycle of fiery death and the rising from the ashes of the progeny is a tale often told in the Ancient world... so it has come down to us in a saying "Like a phoenix, rising from the ashes..."

B. The Origin of Babylon

To some degree, that has been the story of the city-state of Babylon... a city of ancient origins, whose history has been woven together with overt rebellion against the God of heaven, and against his chosen people. In the Bible, Babylon was an actual city in Mesopotamia, built by a mighty and godless hunter named Nimrod in the years just after the flood of Noah...

1. it was built in the fertile soil of Mesopotamia right on the Euphrates River, less than 75 miles from the Tigris River in modern Iraq, only about 50 miles south of modern Baghdad
2. it was well-situated... not only the fertile soil between the Tigris and Euphrates but also along the major trade route of the fertile crescent connecting the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea
3. it thus began as a nation of merchants (Ezekiel 16:29 calls it a land of merchants), but also of warriors like their founder mighty Nimrod

4. with Babylon and these other urban centers came the concept of the “City-state”... a region controlled by a city

C. The Tower of Babel: A Symbol of Human Defiance and Self-Worship

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

D. The Babylonian Empire

The mighty Babylonian Empire rose under King Nebuchadnezzar to conquer the world

It was awesome and irresistible in military power... complex in culture... exquisite in architecture... shrewd in politics

They toppled the remnants of the once mighty Assyrian Empire and swept down to Palestine

E. The Exile to Babylon

Babylon was the city of origin of the mighty empire that came as an exercise of the wrath of God in 586 BC, under mighty, to carry away the remnant of the Jews from Judah and Jerusalem, thus ending the history of Jewish rule over all of the Promised Land. The exile to Babylon was a firm line of demarcation in the history of the Jews

F. The Prophecies Against Babylon

But God through the prophets focused on Babylon as a special object of his wrath... he predicted very clearly that Babylon would be destroyed, never to be rebuilt:

Isaiah 13:19-22 Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah. ²⁰ She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there. ²¹ But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about. ²² Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces.

Jeremiah 25:12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

G. Babylon's Sudden Fall, and Gradual Demise

The beginning of the end for Babylon was the night of Belshazzar's feast in Daniel 5, when the Babylonians arrogantly trusted in their massive walls and had a drunken feast. But the Medes and Persians took advantage of the fact that no watchmen stood on the walls because of their drunken sleep... and they diverted the Euphrates River, crawled in under the portcullis of the walls where the river usually supplied the city with water, and then opened the gates and killed the warriors as they lay drunk in their beds:

Jeremiah 51:39 But while they are aroused, I will set out a feast for them and make them drunk, so that they shout with laughter-- then sleep forever and not awake," declares the LORD.

However, the destruction and total desolation of Babylon, the literal city in Mesopotamia, did not happen overnight, but only gradually... over a few centuries, the words of the prophets gradually came to be fulfilled...

- a. Cyrus the Great of Persia took over Babylon and ruled it, but destroyed the immense walls so its citizens couldn't revolt
- b. Alexander the Great wanted to live there and make it his empire's capital city, but he died there before his dreams could be realized
- c. 309 B.C. Antigonis I of Macedonia leveled Babylon
- d. in 275 B.C., Antiochus I took away the remaining civilian population and deported them to other cities.
- e. Pausanias, a Greek writer and geographer of the Roman period, said that there was absolutely nothing within the walls of Babylon.
- f. Last century before Christ, ancient geographer Strabo wrote "the great city of Babylon has become a wilderness"
- g. The Roman Emperor Trajan, eager to visit the infamous Babylon, was disappointed when he arrived at the site; it was only a wasted pile of rubble
- h. As recently as a century ago, the ruins of ancient Babylon had yet to be discovered
- i. Today: modern Iraq, Saddam Hussein had plans to rebuild Babylon, but they were thwarted by the Gulf Wars
- j. Some modern Iraqi leaders want to turn it into a theme park centered around archeological artifacts... problem is, American troops using ancient

Babylonian clay to fill their sand bags have inadvertently destroyed ancient artifacts

- k. In the adjacent area there is today the city of Hilla, but the site of Babylon's ruins is now uninhabited except by wild animals and birds

So the city of Babylon slowly sank down into the dust of the centuries, sinking under the judgment of God

H. The Spirit of Babylon: Risen from the Ashes to Take Root in Rome... and Spread in Every Generation of World History

BUT the "Spirit of Babylon" lived beyond it, **RISING LIKE AN EVIL PHOENIX** from the ashes of the literal city of Babylon...

- 1. key passage: 1 Peter 5:13

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

- 2. this proves the "Spirit of Babylon" infused the Roman Empire of Peter's day
 - a. Babylon itself was a howling empty wasteland at that time
 - b. Church tradition puts Peter in Rome where he would later die
 - c. "she who is in Babylon, chosen together with you" is code language for the Church of Rome
 - d. Thus the Spirit of Babylon rises from the ashes of the last world dominating empire and takes over
 - e. It goes from Babylon to Persia to Greece to Rome to the Huns to the Vikings to the Mongols to the Turks to the Spanish to the French to the British to the Germans... right up to the present day
 - f. Any realm which seeks to dominate the world militarily and economically
- 3. Two Aspects of Babylon throughout all ages... all of its Phoenix rising from the ashes... one empire after the next:
 - a. **FIRST: Military Domination** resulting in cruel tyranny
 - i) Daniel 7: The beasts from the sea are symbols of this aspect of Babylon
 - ii) Note what Daniel says about the fourth beast

Daniel 7:7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-- terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron

teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left.

b. SECOND: Economic Prosperity resulting in pleasure-filled self-indulgence

i) Initially, building of a glorious self-celebrating culture

Nebuchadnezzar's boast

Daniel 4:29-30 the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

ii) Afterward: the widespread trade resulting in economic domination and gluttonous self-indulgence

Revelation 18:2-3 Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great!... ³ For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

iii) Finally: the corruption of morals weakening the empire and making it ready for the next Babylon to rise

I. The Final Phase of Babylon: The Capital of Antichrist's Worldwide Reign (Revelation 18)

1. Babylon the Great of Revelation linked to the persecution by the Roman Empire (the "seven hills" of Revelation 17)
2. however, the best interpretation of Revelation 18 is of the final form of Babylon... the worldwide reign of the Anti-Christ
3. right before the Second Coming of Christ, the final fall of Babylon the Great is described in Revelation 17-18

II. Babylon's Judgment Pronounced (vs. 1-3)

Revelation 18:1-3 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ² With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. ³ For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

A. An Angelic Messenger

1. The proclamation of Babylon's final fall is entrusted to a heavenly messenger
2. The decree and the power for the fall of Babylon is God's; this time there will be no Phoenix rising from the ashes... this is the end of Babylon forever
3. That awesome message is entrusted to an awesome messenger
4. The angel is DESCRIBED in words that are hard to fathom
 - a. He had GREAT AUTHORITY...
 - i) not all angels are equally authoritative
 - ii) some angels are called "arch-angels" = ruler angels
 - iii) this angel is one of the greatest angels of heaven, created by God to rule in the heavenly realms
 - b. He had great GLORY...
 - i) an overwhelmingly brilliant light surrounds him
 - ii) the angel that announced the birth of Christ appeared to the shepherds on the hills around Bethlehem and the "glory of the Lord" shone around him, and they were terrified!!
 - iii) The angel that appeared to Daniel in Daniel 10 had a similar glory, with a face like lightning, eyes like flaming torches, feet like burnished bronze
 - iv) This angel seems brighter than both of them... he is so bright that his glory ILLUMINATES THE EARTH... brighter than the sun, perhaps
 - v) Piercing the darkness of Satan's masterpiece... the present evil age will be consummated in the reign of Antichrist; what Paul calls "this present darkness" (Ephesians 6:10)... that spiritual darkness will be the greatest in Babylon's final phase... and this powerful ruler angel appears to make this final announcement, and his glory illuminates the earth
 - vi) Keep in mind that the earth will be in a deep physical darkness because the fifth bowl (Revelation 16:10) will have plunged the world into eerie darkness as a judgment from God
 - vii) So this angel's brilliance will pierce the eyes of earth's wicked inhabitants... and his message will be even more shocking than his brightness
 - c. He had a LOUD VOICE

- i) The voice he uses to make his announcement is extremely loud... all the inhabitants of the earth are meant to hear it
- ii) He speaks in a voice like thunder

Revelation 18:2 "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

B. The Decree from God: FALLEN, FALLEN is BABYLON THE GREAT!

1. God is going to cast her down, make her low
2. The time of her judgment is at hand!
3. The angel cries FALLEN, FALLEN... the repetition gives a sense of certainty and finality

C. A Home for Demons and Evil Spirits

1. This borrows the language of the Old Testament prophets who predicted the fall of the earlier phases of Babylon
2. Once Babylon was made physically desolate, she became a home for jackals and wild animals
3. But now, the destruction of Babylon will make her a home for demons and unclean spirits
4. Like disgusting carrion birds, large black vultures... the demons will swirl and swoop down to torment earth's inhabitants

Matthew 24:28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

5. Remember that demons billowed from the guts of the earth in Revelation 9 with the blowing of the fifth and sixth trumpets... these especially vicious and violent demons will congregate around the smoldering ruins of Babylon, the capital city of Antichrist's worldwide reign

D. The Wickedness of Babylon Exposed

Revelation 18:3 For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

1. As we saw in Revelation 17, Babylon is pictured as a great whore, an alluring wicked woman... the world's alluring system of pleasure and profit and possessions and power

2. This is the WORLD in all its enticing magnetically appealing temptations... 1 John 2 speaks of the LUST OF THE EYES, the LUST OF THE FLESH, and the BOASTFUL PRIDE OF LIFE
3. James commands us to keep ourselves from being POLLUTED BY THE WORLD
4. Babylon here is a system of worldwide corruption, making all the nations DRUNK with pleasure and sin
5. Notice the phrase, "the merchants of the earth"... later in this chapter we will see the MERCHANDISE that Babylon has to offer... but here, the kings of the earth grew rich from her EXCESSIVE LUXURIES

E. Excessive Luxury

1. The theme of LUXURY is huge in this chapter:

Revelation 18:3 the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries."

Revelation 18:7 Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

Revelation 18:9 the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury

What is LUXURY???

2. In every generation, craftsmen hone their skills in their particular craft, and produce masterpieces of their art... the high level of their skill commands the best price the market can bear

Illus. Staying at a wealthy person's mansion once, years ago, I noticed there a set of magazines called "Connoisseur Magazine"... it had articles on the best things money could buy in various categories... I remember articles on the most expensive, highest quality kitchen knives available on planet earth... the most expensive that didn't have jewels in its handle was made by a Japanese blacksmith Yoshikazu Ikeda, made of white steel, it took ten years to make and cost \$6,980... but that was nothing compared to a kitchen knife made by German cutlery-makers Nesmuk, the Jahrhundert Messer is claimed to be **the most expensive kitchen knife in world**

Forged by Lars Scheidler, the blade is made from 640 layers of Damascus steel with a cutting edge made from the finest carbon steel.

What makes this **luxury kitchen** knife so pricey might be the fact that the handle is made out of the wood of a 5,000 year old bog oak and that it is

decorated with a platinum collar set which is adorned with 25 brilliant-cut diamonds.

Other luxury items covered in the magazine extended to men's custom-made bespoke silk suits from Savile Row, costing at least \$40,000... or Italian leather shoes by Testoni costing over \$30,000 per pair

Excessive luxury! The BEST THINGS IN THE WORLD...

As James warned:

James 5:5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

III. Babylon's Judgment Escaped (vs. 4-5)

Is there a way to ESCAPE the clutches of Babylon?? YES, there is! But it can only be escaped BY FAITH!

Believers have to see the FUTURE DOOM of the system of Babylon around us and flee by faith into holiness in Christ... when the judgment of Babylon becomes exposed, an earthly physical reality, it will be too late!

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.

A. The Warning is to Read the Pages of Revelation and Flee the Corruptions of Babylon NOW BY FAITH!!

B. This is a call to holiness... to flee the worldly lusts that John warned about

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

C. Paul Uses this Same Warning

2 Corinthians 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

D. This is the Test of the People of God in Every Generation

1. The world will allure us into sin... we must put sin to death by the Holy Spirit

2. The world will offer us benefits and pleasures and possessions and power if we deny Christ... we must stand firm in our faith and be holy!
3. The smoke from Babylon's future fire can only be smelled by faith... the heat from Babylon's future flames can only be felt by faith... the cries of her future torment can only be heard by faith
4. We have to look at our lives and see the way the luxuries of Babylon have worked themselves into our souls

IV. Babylon's Judgment Justified (vs. 6-8)

Revelation 18:6-8 Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. ⁷ Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself. In her heart she boasts, 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.' ⁸ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

- A. God Seeks to Explain Babylon's Judgement... the Justice of It
- B. It is PAYBACK Time for all the Torment Babylon Has Caused His People
- C. She is Going to Drink Torture and Grief from the Cup in Her Hand
 1. She measured out a HUGE CUP of luxury and pleasure and glory for herself
 2. So her punishment will be HUGE as well!!
- D. Her Overconfidence Exposed
 1. She sits like a queen in her vast realm
 2. She cannot be touched, cannot be threatened, so she believes!
 3. She thinks she will never mourn, that no sorrow can ever come upon her
 4. But she is forgetting about the power of God to throw her down from her lofty perch
- E. Judgments Listed: DEATH, MOURNING, FAMINE
- F. The Source of the Judgment: MIGHTY IS THE LORD GOD, who judges her!

Isaiah 14:26-27 This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. ²⁷ For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

V. Babylon's Judgment Lamented (vs. 9-19)

A. Babylon's Citizens and Merchants will GRIEVE the Fall of Babylon!

1. This is the END of Everything they every loved!
2. Idolaters Do Not Give Up their IDOLS easily!
3. Their sadness at the fall of this WICKED WORLD SYSTEM shows the wickedness of their own hearts

B. The Kings of the Earth Lament Her... Those Who Ruled with Her and Drank Luxury With Her

Revelation 18:9-10 "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. ¹⁰ Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!'

C. The Merchants of the Earth Lament Her... Those Who Traded with Her

Revelation 18:11-17 "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more-- ¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. ¹⁴ "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.' ¹⁵ ¶ The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn ¹⁶ and cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! ¹⁷ ¶ In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin!'

D. The Ship's Captains of the Earth Lament Her... Those Who Carried the Cargoes to Her

Revelation 18:17-19 "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. ¹⁸ When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' ¹⁹ They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!'

E. The Days of Luxury and Ease and Sinful Self-Indulgence will Be Over Forever

BUT... not everyone will be grieving! Not at all!! The fall of Babylon the Great will be a source of energetic praise and joyful celebration among the servants of the Lord!

VI. Babylon's Judgment Celebrated (vs. 20)

Revelation 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you."

A. Remember that Babylon the Great was 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.

B. The Worldly People Don't Understand Why Christians Refuse to Share in her Pleasures

1. A genuine Christian is a person who has died to sin and now lives for Christ
2. He lives a changed life... and refuses to partake in the corruptions of the world

1 Peter 4:2-3 he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do-- living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

3. Therefore, the world HEAPS ABUSE on the truly godly:

1 Peter 4:4-5 They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

C. When Babylon the Great is Finally Thrown Down... all of Heaven will Celebrate!

[As we shall see next week with the four HALLELUJAHS! of Revelation 19]

VII. Babylon's Judgment Completed (vs. 21-24)

Revelation 18:21-24 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. ²² The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again. ²³ The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. ²⁴ In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."

A. The Hurling Down of the Millstone: A Symbol of the Massive, Crushing Judgment that God Will Work

1. A millstone was generally 4-5 feet in diameter, over a foot thick, extremely heavy
2. You can well imagine the huge splash that such a massive object being thrown into the sea would make
3. After it was thrown into the sea, it would SINK DOWN to the bottom of the ocean, never to rise again

B. The End of Babylon's Music

1. The text specifically mentions the end of the carnal, sensual, wickedly happy music of Babylon
2. Their songs and tunes will end... no one will be singing in hell
3. This is PAYBACK for when the Babylonian captors mockingly wanted the Jews in exile in Babylon to "sing one of the songs of Zion!"

Psalm 137:1-4 By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. ² There on the poplars we hung our harps, ³ for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" ⁴ How can we sing the songs of the LORD while in a foreign land?

4. No more rock and roll, jazz, classical, hip hop, r & b, or whatever music the people of Babylon will love

C. The End of all Work... all Skilled Craftsmen will cease their labors

1. These craftsmen were the very ones who made all their luxuries
2. Their skills should have been used in service to Christ... instead, they were used to make themselves wealthy
3. The SOUND OF A MILL will also end... all factories will cease; production is done forever; all the industries of Babylon will come to an end

D. The End of all Light

1. The light of a lamp will shine in Babylon no more
2. The artificial light of human technology will end...
3. All the sinners of Babylon will be cast into OUTER DARKNESS forever

E. No More Human Relationships

1. The sound of the bride and bridegroom will end
2. No more weddings, no more love, no more sex, no more pleasure, no more friendships
3. All that made human life so pleasant will come to an end

F. The Reasons Given Once More

Revelation 18:23-24 By your magic spell all the nations were led astray. ²⁴ In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth.

The magic spell of Babylon could be a metaphor for her alluring temptations...

But the Greek word is *pharmakeia*... from which we get “pharmacy” or “pharmaceuticals” ... it refers to DRUGS, and also to the OCCULT, to magic spells

And the BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS... prophets, saints, faithful servants of Christ, all those murdered because of Babylon’s wicked ambitions... the time has come for God’s judgment to fall

VIII. Applications

A. Look Around You at the World with EYES OF FAITH

1. I said earlier, it is only by faith that we can see the coming judgment of Babylon and take refuge while there’s time
2. Faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, but also the CONVICTION of things not seen
 - a. The second word “conviction” refers to being rebuked or brought to a sense of guilt for sin
 - b. We need to see where this world is going and flee to Christ

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

3. We need to see that the timeless spirit of Babylon is at work in America today
 - a. Many Christians are “God and Country” types

- b. But we need to be careful that our loyalty to our country does not make us blind to the fact that the spirit of Babylon is here as well... is there not immorality? Sexual allurements? Material wealth? Political and military power? How can we imagine that America is immune?

B. "Come Out and Be Separate"

1. See the world as a threat to your faith
2. Ask God to reveal the ways he wants you to be separate
3. Is there any sexual sin in your life?
 - a. Are you visiting internet sites that are defiling your soul?
 - b. Are you drawn in to watch movies or videos that lure you to lust?
4. Even if you are watching morally acceptable movies on Netflix, are you addicted to pleasure?

2 Timothy 3:4-5 lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power

C. What About Luxury??

1. Our church has many wealthy people here... our lifestyle is among the highest in the world
2. Are we "fattening ourselves in the day of slaughter"?

James 5:5 You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

3. It is vital for wealthy Christians to be sure we are not corrupted by luxury, and failing to be generous to the poor and needy

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

D. Come to Christ!!

1. Christ alone can rescue us from the coming wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10 Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.