



Series: “Signs of the Apocalypse”

Week 2 (5/5/24) – Mark of the Beast

Revelation 17:1-6 (NIV)

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 by many waters. ²With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

³Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The 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. ⁵The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

BABYLON THE GREAT

THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES

AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

Revelation 18:1-3 (NIV)

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ²With a mighty voice he shouted:

“‘Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!’

She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

³For 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.”



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Questions:

1. Is there anything from last week’s sermon or group discussion that you have continued to be thinking about this week? If so, what?
2. What stood out to you from the story about how the book, *The Motel of Mysteries*, interpreted the 1980s roadside motel? Do you agree with Dr. Mulholland that, “99% of the interpretations of Revelation are ludicrous, because they are taken out of context, place, time, setting, author intent, etc.?”
3. In your readings of scripture (Revelation and otherwise), how often do you take time to dig into the background of the text—to observe what is being written, who is writing it and the audience, and interpret it in its specific time and setting—or do you tend to go straight to application? Why?
 - Note to leader, one resource you might want to recommend to your group is “Blue Letter Bible”. This is a free resource that can be downloaded as an app on your smart device. Study resources on this app include interlinear/ concordance (index of original language words with pronunciation, outline of biblical usage, definitions, etc.), a Bible comparison feature, cross-references, text commentaries, and much more. Group members might consider downloading this app for assistance in unpacking scripture.
4. What “beautiful, yet horrendous dilemma” was the early church experiencing at the time of the writing of Revelation? Where are there similar experiences happening today?
5. What hope does the book of Revelation provide for Christians who are experiencing persecution today?
6. What is the “Shema” (pronounced “sheh-mah”) as described in the sermon?
7. What is the opposite of “Shema” and how is it manifested today?



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8. What message did the sermon provide regarding how we are to avoid the “seductive door” of self-interest and self-concern that leads to the Fallen Babylon? In other words, as Christians, with whom have we been marked and how are we to carry this mark into the world today?
9. What message is God giving you through this sermon and this discussion today?
10. Where do you see God’s kingdom breaking through and revealing light through the darkness of Fallen Babylon today? Who in your life might benefit from you sharing this story?