

The Cancelled Culture - Part 2 *When the Party's Over*

Revelation 17-18; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 3-5-2023

The culture may cancel you (as a Christian), but God will cancel the culture!

The Book of Revelation

- The 7 Churches (1-3): *The Typical History of the Church* under the Rule of Christ
- The 7 Seals (4-7): *The Typical History of the World* under the Rule of Christ
- The 7 Trumpets (8-14): *Warnings* of Divine Judgment
- The 7 Bowls (15-18): *Divine Judgment*
- The Consummation (19-22): *Kingdom of Heaven on Earth*

The 3 Elements of the World System

- Tyrannical Government (Beast from the Sea) (Revelation 13)
- False Religion (Beast from the Earth) (Revelation 13)
- Godless Society/Culture (Babylon the Great) (Revelation 17-18)

Babylon the Great: The Great Harlot (Revelation 17)

1. The godless society/culture is not your friend. (17:1-7)

- Ungodly culture is not harmless but seductive like a prostitute. (17:1-2)
- The kind of culture we have is determined by the kind of state that supports it. (17:3)
- The ungodly culture that is outwardly beautiful and attractive is the very culture that kills those who expose its true nature. (17:4-7)

2. Evil is always self-destructive. (17:8-18)

- The ungodly rule by force of tyrannical governments has had many expressions throughout history (including the Roman empire), but there will be one final expression of it that will dwarf them all. (17:8-14)
- Evil ultimately consumes itself and the final tyrannical state will crush all opposition and all independent expressions in everyday culture. (17:15-18)

Babylon the Great: The Great City (Revelation 18)

“Worldliness is everything in a culture that makes sin look normal and righteousness look odd.” – David Wells

3. The future of the godless society is devilish and judged.

The Shocking Depravity of the City (18:1-3)

- The ungodly culture naturally moves toward more thorough evil and perversion, especially when fueled by the oppression of the tyrannical state. (18:1-3)

The Urgent Call to Escape Judgment (18:4-8)

- God will bring a full and just judgment on ungodly civilization and He calls us to flee the judgment to come. (18:4-8)

The Days of Noah before the Flood – Matthew 24:36-41; Genesis 6:5-6, 13-14

4. The kind of culture that we desire shows what city we belong to.

The Unholy Mourning of Sinners (18:9-19)

- The opulence of the ungodly Roman society of the 1st century is pictured here.
- The ‘*pleasure and possessions and power at all costs*’ attitude is reflected in the ‘slaves and human lives’ mentioned (literally, ‘bodies and souls of men’).
- God’s judgment is both just and swift (‘in one hour’).
- The ungodly mourn the loss of ungodly civilization. (18:9-19)

The Holy Rejoicing of Saints (18:20-24)

- But the godly will rejoice when God brings an end to evil and to the ungodly civilization because it is filled with lies and murder like its ruler, the devil. (18:20-24)

Remember Lot’s Wife! – Luke 17:22-35; Genesis 19:15-17, 23-26

The Call in the Book of Revelation

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’ – Revelation 2:7

He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. – Revelation 21:7