

**Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation**  
**“Don’t Be Deceived” #19**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**December 13, 2020**

**Big Idea:** God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

**1. Don’t Be Deceived By Humanistic Religion**

“You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be **very difficult times**. For people will **love only themselves and their money**. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and **love pleasure rather than God**. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!” **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT2)**

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**. With her the **kings of the earth committed adultery** and the inhabitants of the earth were **intoxicated** with the wine of her adulteries." 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 and had seven heads and ten horns. 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. This title was written on her forehead: **MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**" 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. 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. **Revelation 17:1-7 (NIV)**

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. "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The **seven heads are seven hills** on which the woman sits. 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. **The beast** who once was, and now is not, **is an eighth king**. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

**Revelation 17:8-11 (NIV)**

"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. They have **one purpose** and will give their power and authority to the beast. 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**." Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are **peoples, multitudes, nations and languages**. **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. 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**. **The woman** you saw is **the great city** that rules over the kings of the earth." **Revelation 17:12-18 (NIV)**

## 2. Don't Be Deceived By The Lures Of Pleasure

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. 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. 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."** 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; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.** 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. 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.' 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. "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. 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!"

### **Revelation 18:1-10 (NIV)**

"The **merchants** of the earth will weep and mourn over her because **no one buys their cargoes any more**-- 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; 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. "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your **riches** and **splendor** have vanished, **never to be recovered.**' 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 and cry out: "Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls! In **one hour** such great wealth has been brought to ruin!" "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' 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!**

### **Revelation 18:11-19 (NIV)**

Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you." **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. 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. **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. In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth." **Rev. 18:20-24 (NIV)**

### ➤ **What Am I Building My Life Upon?**

#### **My next right step, I will:**

- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- Invite someone to join you for our Christmas Eve Celebration at 4 pm or 6 pm
- Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

**How has God blessed you so far in this study of God’s Word?**

**Icebreaker:** If you could be famous for one hour, for what would you like to be known?

**1. Don’t Be Deceived By Humanistic Religion**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5**

How does the list of sins mentioned sound like a commentary of our culture?

Of all of the sins mentioned here, which one is the root of all others?

**Read Revelation 17:1-18**

Who is the central figure in this scene?

In what sense is she influential?

Evil? **Revelation 18:1-10**

Attractive?

Repulsive?

Who is she? See also Rev. 14:8 & 16:19

How is the woman and the beast like the first and second beast in Revelation 13?

Why do the kings and the Beast join forces?

How does God’s Greatest purpose triumph in all of this?

In this passage, how does Babylon symbolize what is wrong in society today?

Which of the wrongs have tempted to trap you from your relationship with Jesus?

## **2. Don't Be Deceived By The Lures Of Pleasure**

### **Read Revelation 18**

What are the two messages and the two responses from the two audiences?

How does God's perspective on Babylon (vv.2-6) differ from Babylon's self-understanding? (v.7)

How do the voices from the world greet the fallen Babylon? (vv.9-20)

Why do they mourn?

Why does God judge Babylon so harshly? (vv. 20, 24)

How are believers treated in the world today?

Compare this passage with the following prophecies about the fall of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19, and Tyre. Ezekiel 27-28.

How is each a historical example of the fall of this spiritual Babylon?

What do you learn about God?

What do you do to keep the evils listed in this passage out of your life?

What part of your life is falling apart?

What is the most important lesson that you have learned from this passage?

What actions will you take today based on these actions?

Close in Prayer.