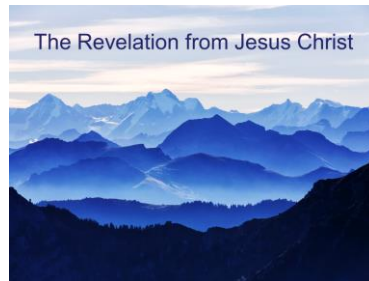




*You're Welcome Here!*



## Series – Revelation

### Study Guide 9: Chapters 17.1-19.10: The Fall of Babylon

Week Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*Babylon (speaking of Rome - its imperial Empire and its self-idolatry) is presented in Revelation chapters 17-18 as the contrasting mirror-image of the New Jerusalem, the City of God in chapters 21-22. The New Jerusalem will reveal a picture of God's Kingdom fully realised – the home of righteousness and peace with God – where evil and death are no more. Babylon (Rome) by contrast reveals a society that has turned its back on God – it is self-glorifying; proud; immoral; abusive; exploitative; and a persecutor and murderer of God's people. Babylon is, however, temporary and under the judgement of God (see **Rev 17.8**). The New Jerusalem is permanent and under the rule and blessing of God.*

Please read **Revelation 17.1-7**

John is taken out into the wilderness/desert to see his own Rome-ruled society from heaven's perspective - in all its luxurious splendour, as well as its corruption and abusiveness.

1. Why is the wilderness/desert a spiritually helpful place to go to get God's revealing perspective on a city? Have you considered retreating to an isolated place to seek God's revealing perspective on our society?
2. Why do you think John was 'astonished' by what he saw revealed about his society? Do you think we might be 'astonished' if we saw our society the way God does?

*The Babylonian (Roman) society was revealed as being characterised by human arrogance; self-glorification and idolatry; the selfish and entitled use and abuse of resources and even human beings (see **Rev 18.13-14**); excessive luxury (see **Rev 18.16**); leading other nations astray (see **Rev 18.23b**) and as a violent oppressor of God's people (see **Rev 18.24**)*

3. How do you think this compares and contrasts with our own society in the UK today?

Please read **Revelation 18.1-3; Ephesians 6.12**

4. As Babylon is revealed to John, the response of heaven is to lament its fall. What does this lament reveal about the root problem in this society? How might we lament the fall of our society?

Please read **Revelation 18.4-5**

*The gospels portray a Jesus who sides consistently and definitively with the Creator/ Liberator God and against the god(s) of empire. In this sense, those who would argue that Jesus' enemy was not "Rome" but what Paul calls "the principalities and powers" (e.g., Eph. 6:12) are correct. ...But this does not mean that the struggle is "only" spiritual. ... Jesus stood up to oppose the specific incarnation of those powers that happened to "reign" in his time, but he knew well that they were simply momentary manifestations of the "bigger" enemy. (Howard-Brook, Come Out My People)*

5. What will it mean for us to 'Come out my people' from the God-forsaking corruption of our society and instead live and speak with God's Kingdom perspective & values – like Jesus?

To finish please read aloud **Revelation 19.1-10** – Worship God for His Justice and his Salvation