

Strengthening Faith, Sermon Series on Revelation continues 1/21/24 "Babylon the Great," Rev. 17, MEV

INTRODUCTION: Do you believe that God will show you good? Do you believe that even when bad things happen—even the worst things?

Colossians 3:2, MEV: Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth.

MAIN IDEA: Cling to Jesus no matter what happens. How? Remember these four facts.

I. First, God allows evil to be fully evil (1-6, 14-16)

A. whole world system rebellious vs. God

Babylon: a symbol for whole world system dominated by Satan throughout history, which acts out his evil politically, religiously, economically, and commercially

Great Prostitute/the woman: religious Babylon, encompassing all false religions, occultic activities, drug-induced experiences

Prostitute/adultery: rebelliousness against God, idolatry

1. religious Babylon (woman)
2. political Babylon (beast/antichrist)

B. world leaders (2)

C. multitudes from all the world (1, 15)

Application: Expect evil because it's all around us.

II. Second, Satan destroys his "co-workers" (8, 16)

John 10:10, MEV: The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy.

A. most unknowingly follow the devil; some knowingly

B. he hates all

C. God wants to save all (John 3:16)

Application: In pity for the lost, witness to them.

III. Third, God is sovereignly working (17)

A. in judgment (1)

1. He will judge (1)
2. He is working toward judgment even now

B. through the wicked

1. He doesn't make them evil or do evil
2. He leads them further in their bents (Pharaoh)

Application: Thank God in all circumstances (1Thess. 5:18)

IV. Finally, He makes a distinction between children (6, 8, 14)

Ps. 116:15, NLT: The Lord cares deeply when His loved ones die.

A. the devil's (John 8:38, 41, 44): may prosper here; damned

Galatians 5:19-21, MEV: 19 Now the works of the flesh are revealed, which are these: adultery, sexual immorality [fornication/*porneia*], impurity, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery [*pharmakeia*], hatred, strife, jealousy, rage, selfishness, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I have previously warned you, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

B. God's (6, 14): may suffer here; saved

Matthew 22:14, MEV: For many are called, but few are chosen.

1. called: open invitation to spiritual salvation
2. chosen: those who respond in faith
3. faithful: live for Jesus (John 14:21), overcoming

Revelation 3:5, MEV: He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments. I will not blot his name out of the Book of Life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Application: Pray without ceasing to the Father (1Thess. 5:17)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: The world is dominated by a personality that blasphemes God, kills His people, destroys those who work "for him," is bound for hell, & takes everyone he can with him (3, 8)

ALTAR: Salvation. Been lukewarm toward Jesus? Been going through difficult time? Discouraged by world or recent events—personal or national/global?