

REVELATION 16-22

WAKE UP AND COME OUT OF BABYLON

SERMON NOTES | SERIES FINALE

THE BIG IDEA

Revelation is not primarily a puzzle about the end of the world. It is an unveiling of the world we are already living in. It exposes Babylon, calls the Church to wake up, and invites us to return to our first love.

“Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins.”

REVELATION 18:4

We can live in Babylon without belonging to Babylon.

1. Stay Awake

Throughout Revelation, Jesus repeatedly speaks to His Church:

- Return to your first love.
- Repent.
- Strengthen what remains.
- Hold fast.
- Keep your garments.
- Stay awake.

“Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes.”

REVELATION 16:15

These warnings are not meant to make believers live in constant fear of losing their salvation. They are the loving words of a Father who wants His children near Him.

The real question is not, “How far can I wander and still be saved?” It is, “Why would I want anything that takes me away from Jesus?”

2. Return to Your First Love

“I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

REVELATION 2:4

A church can be biblically correct and spiritually cold.

We must stay awake to:

- Love
- Tenderness
- Conviction
- Worship
- Prayer
- The presence of Jesus
- The works we did when we first came to Christ

Revelation should not merely make us analyze the world. It should cause us to open our hearts and pray:

“Lord, search me. Convict me. Change me.”

3. Babylon Is Seductive

Babylon does not initially appear ugly. It appears attractive, wealthy, powerful and desirable. But Revelation removes the filter.

“Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.”

REVELATION 17:5

Babylon promises life but produces death. It promises freedom but creates slavery. It promises fulfilment but leaves us empty.

Babylon is anything that asks us to find our identity, security, satisfaction or purpose outside of God.

4. Good Things Can Become Idols

An idol is not always something obviously evil. Good things become idols when we ask them to provide what only God can give.

Children

Children are a gift from God, but they cannot become the centre of the family's identity, purpose and worship.

Marriage

Marriage is a gift, but a spouse cannot carry the weight of being our saviour, security or ultimate source of fulfilment.

Money

Money is useful, but it cannot tell us who we are or guarantee our future.

Career and Success

Achievement can become an attempt to make a name for ourselves rather than glorify the name of Jesus.

Comfort

Comfort becomes an idol when obedience feels too costly and serving others becomes too inconvenient.

The question is not simply, “What do I possess?” The question is, “What possesses me?”

5. Every Idol Eventually Devours Its Worshipers

“These will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked.”

REVELATION 17:16

Evil always produces more evil. Sin never remains small.

An idol may promise to serve you, but eventually it will rule you. It may promise comfort, significance or pleasure, but it will always demand more.

This is why repentance is mercy. God exposes idols because He loves us too much to allow them to destroy us.

6. Every Idol Has a Funeral Scheduled

“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.”

REVELATION 17:14

Babylon falls. The beast is defeated. Satan is destroyed. Death is removed. Every enemy of God has an ending.

Every idol has a funeral scheduled.

- Lust will die.
- Jealousy will die.
- Greed will die.
- Division will die.
- Violence will die.
- Sickness will die.
- Death itself will die.

JESUS WINS.

7. The Story Ends With Grace

After the beasts, the bowls, Babylon and judgment, Revelation ends with an invitation.

“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.””

REVELATION 22:17

- If you are thirsty, come.
- If you are tired of drinking from Babylon’s golden cup, come and drink the water of life.
- If you are exhausted from pretending that life without God is freedom, come.
- If you have wandered from your first love, come home.

The water of life is offered without cost.

Grace has the final word.

Reflection Questions

- 1 Have I lost the tenderness and hunger I once had for Jesus?
- 2 Is there a good thing in my life that has become an ultimate thing?
- 3 What do I believe I must have in order to be secure, significant or happy?
- 4 Where have I accepted Babylon's values without recognizing them?
- 5 What is Jesus asking me to surrender?
- 6 What would returning to my first love look like this week?

Prayer

Jesus, wake me up.

Expose every idol and every place where I have accepted the values of
Babylon.

Return me to my first love.

Burn away everything that competes with You until all that remains is a holy
desire for Your presence.

You are my life, my security and my hope.

Teach me to live in this world without belonging to it.

Amen.