

Small Group Discussion Guide Revelation 17-19:10 Ep. 12

Key Takeaways:

- Babylon represents any system or worldly attraction that seduces us away from pure devotion to God.
- We are called to be "in the world but not of it"—living physically in our culture while maintaining spiritual separation from its corrupt systems.
- We are engaged to Jesus Christ, awaiting the marriage supper of the Lamb. This relationship demands loyalty, preparation, and purity.

Discussion Questions:

- The podcast describes the "harlot" as representing systems that draw our worship away from God. What modern "Babylons" do you see in our culture today that compete for people's devotion?
- The podcast mentioned that Babylon started with the Tower of Babel—humans trying to build something apart from God. How do we see this pattern repeating in our world? In our own lives?
- Read the "seven marks of Babylon" from the podcast:
 1. Leaving God out
 2. Sensuality/sexual immorality
 3. Injustice (selling bodies and souls)
 4. Worship of products/materialism
 5. Violence
 6. Deception/counterfeit spirituality
 7. Idolatry
- Which of these do you find most prevalent in your daily life? Which is hardest to resist?
- Revelation 18:4 says, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins." What does it practically mean to "come out" without physically leaving your community?
- The sermon discussed how difficult it is to help people who are trapped in cycles of dependence and unhealthy systems. Have you experienced this tension between wanting to help and enabling destructive patterns? How do we navigate this with wisdom?

- The podcast mentioned that even in small-towns, technology and social media have brought "Babylon" closer to home. How has technology made it harder or easier to maintain spiritual purity?
- The podcast explained the ancient Jewish betrothal process—the groom pays a price, goes to prepare a place, and returns at an unexpected time. How does understanding this cultural context deepen your appreciation of our relationship with Christ?
- Revelation 19:7 says "the bride has made herself ready," yet verse 8 says "it was granted her to clothe herself." How do we balance our responsibility to prepare ourselves with the reality that God is the one who makes us ready?
- The podcast said, "Sin is adultery"—it's spiritual unfaithfulness to our bridegroom. How does viewing sin through this relational lens (rather than just rule-breaking) change your perspective?
- St. Ephraim's quote spoke of being "clothed with glory" and finding "the robe that belonged to Adam and Eve." What does it mean to you that God is restoring what was lost in the beginning?

Practical Application:

1. We're engaged to the Lamb - There's a powerful picture of how much Jesus loves us.

Application: How can you remind yourself daily that you are deeply loved by Christ?

2. We're secure - We've been purchased with a price.

Application: What insecurities or fears can you surrender, knowing you're secure in Christ?

3. The fundamental issue is loyalty - Where does your allegiance truly lie?

Application: Do an honest inventory: What gets your best time, energy, and attention? Is it Christ or something else?

4. Sin is worse than we thought - It's spiritual adultery.

Application: Is there an area of compromise in your life that you've minimized? How can you address it this week?

5. We must be ready and watchful - The groom is coming at an unexpected time.

Application: What spiritual practices help you stay alert and prepared? (Prayer, Scripture, accountability, etc.)

6. We're called to simplicity - Complexity and busyness cloud our devotion.

Application: What is one thing you can remove from your life to create more space for intimacy with Jesus?