

Revelation 17

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SERMON NOTES

Revelation: The Hope of Glory

The last 6 chapters of Revelation focus on two themes:

1. The final destruction of the world system which has set itself against Jesus Christ
2. The final destiny of those who have given themselves to the worship of Jesus Christ

Revelation 17

- Two cities: Babylon and Jerusalem
- Two personages: the prostitute of chapter 17 and the bride of chapter 21
- Two foci of worship
- Two contrasting destinies

“They said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’”

- *Genesis 11:4*

Revelation 17

- What/who are the 7 heads/mountains/kings of v. 9-10?
- What/who are the 10 horns/kings of v. 12?
- We cannot be certain, but this much is clear... they side with the Beast, and so the end of their evil draws near. (v. 14-18)

Revelation 17

1. The core question is about worship. Who/what do you worship?
2. Alliances of evil are inherently self-destructive. But even the darkest forces of evil will ultimately serve the purposes of God.
3. All outcomes ultimately belong to God. All that we see here as hideous and gory will soon be contrasted with the beauty and the hope of glory.

“Moses’ task was to lead his people in worship. Pharaoh’s sin was that he prevented them. The judgment plagues are visited over this issue, and this issue alone. The greatest evil that people

of faith face from outside is the obstruction of worship. The greatest evil that they face from inside is the subversion of worship. This is what we have most to fear. This is what St. John gives continuous attention to. And it is on this evil that the judgments are visited.”

- Eugene Peterson, *Reversed Thunder*

“God often takes a course for accomplishing His purposes directly contrary to what our narrow views would prescribe. He brings a death upon our feelings, wishes and prospects when He is about to give us the desire of our hearts.”

- John Newton (1725-1807)

“We have a sure hope because of what Jesus accomplished in the past upon the cross as the Lamb of God. We have a living hope because of the present occupied throne of God in heaven. Indeed, our hope comes from ‘him who is, and who was, and who is to come.’”

- Scotty Smith, *Unveiled Hope*