

Introduction

1. Spirit of Change

- (1) 1969 - LA Times
No fault divorce
- (2) 1973 - SF Chronicle
Roe v Wade
- (3) 2015 - Boston Globe
Obergefell

2. Born of the Times

- (1) What if the world was working against you?
- (2) What if the way you think, the things you love were part of a plan? A plan to keep you angry, or anxious, or distracted, or blind

Ephesians 6:10-13 - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, **but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Ephesians 2:1-2 - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work...**

3. The World: Satan's counterfeit shop

- (1) Whatever God creates in His Kingdom, Satan counterfeits in the world.

(Trevin Wax)

I. The "Place" of Babylon

1. Intro to Babylon

- (1) Babylon is also called Chaldea and the Chaldeans throughout the Bible. Geographically, today we'd call this land Iraq.

In Daniel 1:2 Babylon is also called "Shinar". We first learn about this region in Genesis 11:2. The context is the tower of Babel.

Rev 17
↳

Following the great war in heaven where Satan and demons tried to set up their own kingdom apart from God, this demonic effort continued as godless people wanted to make a great city and great name for themselves, complete with a high tower that reached up to the heavens so they could act like god. God creates a Kingdom, Satan counterfeits with Babel.

2. God's response

- (1) Seeing that evil would only increase
- (2) Confused languages & scattered people

3. Babylon Reemerges

- (1) Flash Forward to 5th-6th cen B.C. = Babylon most powerful
- (2) King Nebuch.
- (3) Unfaithful Zedekiah of Judah
- (4) Allowed to invade, riot, torch, & exiled the Jews to Babylon
- (5) Temple built by Solomon destroyed.

(6) Book of Daniel = taken to Babylon as an exile & rose to prominence in the admin. of King Nebuch.

(7) Babylon would eventually fall to Persia & exiles allowed to return.

4. There is always another Babylon

(1) Babylon

(2) Persia

(3) Rome

(4) Nazi Germany

Babylon never
thinks its
Babylon

5. Babylon is a city, empire, idea that exists in the world.

(1) A way of thinking

(2) A system of values

II. The "World" of Babylon

1. What is "the World" ≠ Earth

Jn. 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(1) What part of the world?

1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life - is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1. Des. of Flesh - Use
2. Des. of Eyes - Possess
3. Pride of Life - self-sufficient
4. Not from Father - against God
5. Passing away - temporary

(2) "World" Defined - current, unhealthy temporary, social climate that promotes consumption, possession & pride. Which includes the prevailing worldview assumptions of the day in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. The World Has A Ruler

Jn. 14:30 - I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me...

Jn. 12:31 - Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

Jn. 16:11 - ...concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

(1) Satan rules this world, cast down in Rev 12.

III. The "Spirit" of Babylon

Revelation 14:8 | Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality."

Revelation 17:5 | And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."

Revelation 18:1-2 | I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast."

1. Defined - the "World" isn't neutral

- (1) The demonic influence & lies behind the unhealthy social climate, the prevailing worldview, & the assumptions of the day

2. Babylon is everywhere

- (1) Sometimes easily spotted:

1. Sodom/Gomorrah
2. Nazi Germany
3. Stalin's Russia
4. North Korea
5. Drug Cartels
6. Human trafficking
7. Kombucha & Kale & Chipotle

- (2) Sometimes, not so much:

1. Busy writing curriculum for K-College
2. Architecting political platforms
3. Narrating cultural ideologies in movies, music & tv shows.
4. Enjoys surfing internet, starting social media trends & hash tags movements

(3) Nations, empires, movements have a spirit & spirit beings who started as Angels & are now in rebellion to the one, true Kingdom.

3. Where is the "spirit" of Babylon at work in your life?

"I'm about to make a lot of you mad, so check your heart..."

(1) Media

1. Counterfeit narrative (Gospel)
2. Counterfeit Worship (Music)
3. Counterfeit Community (online)

(2) Politics

1. Counterfeit Saviors
2. Counterfeit Kingdoms

(3) Parenting

1. Counterfeit Identity
- 2.

(4) Academia & Career

1. Counterfeit standards of acceptance

(5) Sex & Dating

1. Counterfeit intimacy

4. The Kingdom

- (1) The Sovereign Rule of God
- (2) The Mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)
- (3) God satisfies desires (Ps. 37:4)
- (4) At hand, because of Christ's incarnation
- (5) Counter-world / cultural
- (5) Foreshadows our future reality
- (6) Is to be lived out in faith & practice now.

Kingdom : The future, eternal, comprehensive reign of God on earth as it is in Heaven, where every mind is transformed ^{in Jesus} & every desire is satisfied by Jesus.

This future reality is lived out in the world with present faith, by true Christians everywhere

Conclusion

1. Your value is in what you do.

2. Self-sufficiency is a sign of strength.

Isa. 60:2 - For behold, darkness shall cover the [world], and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

Jn. 12:46-47 - I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.