

REVELATION

Sermon Points

Title: The Victorious Lamb

Date: 7.24.22 • Scripture: Revelation 17-20

- **Main Point:** By his life, death, and resurrection Jesus Christ conquered the Devil so that the word of the gospel victoriously goes forth through the whole world until all enemies, including sin and death, are vanquished at his second coming.

“Babylon is allegorical of the idolatry that any nation commits when it elevates material abundance, military prowess, technological sophistication, imperial grandeur...and any other glorification of the creature over the creator...the message of the book of Revelation concerns...God’s judgments not only of persons, but also of nations and, in fact, of all principalities and powers—which is to say, all authorities, corporation, institutions, structures, bureaucracies, and the like.” **–Bruce Metzger**

“The best and most successful lies are those that are so like the truth that it only takes a little blink to be deceived.” **–NT Wright**

- **Revelation should be understood as portraying symbolically what God does actually with a divine performative utterance, an effective word not unlike the word that spoke creation into existence.**

“This truth that the language of judgment in Revelation symbolizes God’s effectively speaking evil into non-existence is perhaps most sharply represented by the vision of Jesus’ victorious appearance as the Word of God on the white horse, with sword in his mouth. This signifies the effective word of God’s judgment—the wrath of God and the Lamb—that needs no literal sword, and which a literal sword could never accomplish. Moreover, this Jesus comes dressed in a robe dipped in blood (19:13)—his own blood—because the battle has already been fought and won in his death. The judgment he executes is his word so that the effects of his saving death may be fully realized in God’s work of renewal.”