Sermon Study Guide – WEEK 6

Don’t Fall For Babylon

Revelation 13–20

BIG IDEA

Choose your kingdom by its destiny.

Revelation shows us two kingdoms competing for our allegiance. Babylon may look powerful, attractive, safe, and successful now, while the way of the Lamb can look costly or weak. But Revelation pulls back the curtain and shows us where both roads lead.

Faith is trusting the end while you are still living in the middle.

COME AND SEE

Read **Revelation 13:1–4, 11–17; Revelation 14:1; Revelation 18:1–3; Revelation 19:11–16.**

John presents us with two competing kingdoms.

On one side:

- The **Dragon**
- The **Beast**
- The **False Prophet**
- The **mark of the Beast**
- The **prostitute of Babylon**
- The city of **Babylon**

On the other:

- The **Father**
- The **Lamb**
- The **Spirit**
- The **seal of God**
- The **Bride**
- The **New Jerusalem**

Revelation is not merely giving Christians a puzzle to solve. It is asking a much more personal question:

Who gets your allegiance?

Discuss

1. Revelation 13:11 says the second beast looked like a lamb but spoke like a dragon. Why is that image important?
2. Why do you think evil is often more dangerous when it looks attractive, reasonable, or normal rather than obviously evil?
3. In Revelation 13–14, both the Beast and the Lamb place their names on their people. What does this imagery communicate about identity and allegiance?

FOLLOW ME

Read **Revelation 17:1–6 and Revelation 18:11–17.**

Discuss each of these ways Babylon can compete for our allegiance.

Security

- Where are you most tempted to say, **"Jesus, I can't afford to obey you there"?**
- When has following Jesus cost you something?

Success

Babylon measures us by achievement, income, influence, appearance, accomplishment, or the success of our families.

- What accomplishment or status symbol has the greatest power to make you feel significant?
- How can you tell when something good has begun to define your worth?

Comfort

- Where do you see the temptation to edit Christianity so that following Jesus asks very little of us?
- What part of Jesus' teaching currently feels inconvenient or costly?

Approval

Babylon often wins not through persecution but through normalization:

- Where has the pressure to fit in been strongest for you over your lifetime?
- When does faithfulness to Jesus feel culturally strange?

Politics

- What are the warning signs that political allegiance has begun competing with allegiance to Jesus?
- What changes when we really believe **"Jesus is Lord"** regardless of who wins an election?

Desire

- Where does our culture most strongly teach us to treat desire as authority?
- What is the difference between suppressing desire and surrendering desire to Jesus?

Money

- What does your relationship with money reveal about where you look for security?
- What would financial faithfulness look like for you right now?

GO AND BE

Live Today in Light of the Ending

Read **Revelation 18:1–4 and Revelation 19:11–16.**

Discuss

1. What difference does it make to know the ending while still living in the middle of the story?
2. Where in your life does doing the faithful thing currently feel like losing?
3. Where might you be tempted to choose what works now rather than what leads toward the Kingdom of God?

Revelation ultimately contrasts Babylon with a wedding—the Bride and the New Jerusalem. How does knowing that God's story ends in restoration change the way Christians endure difficulty now?

THIS WEEK

Take one concrete step of obedience and allegiance this week.

Maybe that means:

- telling the truth when it costs you,
- giving when you would rather protect,
- forgiving when you would rather hold onto resentment,
- refusing to compromise to gain approval,
- surrendering a desire to Jesus,
- serving when you would rather remain comfortable,
- or choosing faithfulness when success would be easier.