



Park Community Church

GENESIS ————— //

# BOOKENDS

// ————— REVELATION

The Fall of Babylon's Seduction  
Revelation 17:1-18

# Summary

Revelation 17 explores the biblical figure of Babylon as a symbol of humanity's persistent rebellion against God. In Mike's sermon, he traces Babylon's origins back to the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, showing how this Spirit of self-glorification and arching against God has reappeared throughout history in empires like Babylon and Rome, and continues today in the seductive systems of wealth, sensuality, and prideful self-importance that surround us. The text walks through three key aspects of Babylon: her history, her character, and her demise. Babylon is portrayed as an attractive but deadly prostitute who seduces people with luxury and pleasure while leading them toward destruction. Ultimately, she will be devoured by the very beast she rides, a sobering reminder that the world system is a pawn in the hands of a ruthless enemy. This leaves the reader with a loving but urgent warning: Christians must not let their joy drift back into worldly allure, and those outside of Christ are invited to see through Babylon's facade and find true life in Jesus alone.

# Questions

1. Mike described Babylon as a recurring Spirit throughout history, from Babel to Rome to our own day. Where do you see that same Spirit of self-glorification and independence from God showing up in our culture today?
2. Mike compared Babylon to the adulteress described in Proverbs, attractive on the outside but deadly in the end. Can you think of something in your own life that has looked appealing on the surface but turned out to be harmful or empty?
3. Mike warned that money and sexual temptation can get their hooks into us in ways that require an act of God to break free. How do we stay alert to those kinds of slow, subtle pulls without becoming fearful or legalistic?
4. Revelation 17 describes Babylon as having widespread influence over peoples, nations, and languages. How does living in a major city like Chicago make it harder or easier to recognize and resist the Spirit of Babylon?
5. The text is clear that Babylon will ultimately be devoured by the very beast she served. What does that tell us about the nature of the enemy and the emptiness of what the world offers?
6. God's primary look in Revelation 17 is one of serious and loving warning. How do you personally respond when you sense God warning you away from something? Do you tend to listen quickly or resist?

7. Mike ended his sermon with a call for Christians to keep their confidence and joy anchored in Christ rather than in affluence or pleasure. What are some practical habits or rhythms that help you stay rooted in Christ rather than drifting toward worldly comfort?

## Application

This week, identify one area of your life where the Spirit of Babylon, whether through money, entertainment, status, or sensuality, has been quietly pulling your attention and affection away from Christ. Bring it honestly before God in prayer each day this week, asking him to give you clarity about what is really going on and the courage to reorient your heart toward Him. Consider sharing what you discover with a trusted friend or someone in this group.

## Key Takeaways

1. Babylon is not just an ancient city or empire. It is a recurring Spirit throughout all of human history that tempts people to glorify themselves, pursue luxury and sensuality, and live independently from God.
2. The seductive power of Babylon is real and dangerous. Like a prostitute dressed in gold and pearls, she appears attractive but offers something that is ultimately deadly and destructive.
3. Babylon's influence is widespread, touching nations, economies, and cultures, and Christians living in prosperous cities must be especially awake and discerning about her pull.
4. Babylon's demise is certain. She will be devoured by the very beast she served, which reveals that the enemy is utterly ruthless and that the world system offers no lasting security or satisfaction.
5. Jesus alone is the source of real life. He is the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, and he offers abundant life freely to all who come to him, in contrast to Babylon, who only takes and destroys.

