

Sunday, May 7, 2023 - "The Return - Week 3 - The Fate of Babylon(Revelation 17)" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Revelation 17,

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Where are you being challenged or convicted by God's word?
- The key for Revelation 17
  - Prostitute = the city of Rome (Babylon) —> represents cities of power/wealth/sin
  - Beast = Roman empire —> any power that rises up and oppresses people of God
  - 7 Heads = All (not just 7) of the emperors of Rome
  - Horns = Kings of Roman provinces
  - Sexual immorality: Not necessarily just sexual immorality...allegiance from God to something else
  - Purple and Scarlet = symbols of royalty and wealth
  - 7 heads/7 hills: the land where Rome is situated
  - Babylon = every city of world power (includes the city of Babylon) —> represents the dead end street of humanity's attempt to build their culture apart from God
- Throughout history God makes a promise to a person or people and says wait for the season to come
  - They take matters into their own hands
    - Abraham...having a son
    - Moses...freedom and justice for his people
    - Joseph...dreams about leading his family
  - As soon as a promise is made, Satan tries to steal it
  - Temptation of Jesus..."You don't have to wait"
- It is easier to know what God promises than when it will happen
  - Applies to grand/corporate promises (believers reign and rule with Jesus)
  - Also to individual promises (He loves us like nothing we can imagine)
- The word wait in Hebrew is both wait AND trust
- Revelation is call to endurance
- "Babylon" is out there...but also inside of us...It's anything competing for our allegiance and devotion

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Where are you being challenged or convicted by the word of God?
2. How has your understanding of the images and metaphors in Revelation changed or grown lately?
3. When was a time that you took matters into your own hands instead of trusting God's timing?
4. What have you learned about waiting on and trusting in the Lord?
5. What was a situation in which God helped you to endure? What did He teach you?
6. What is competing with God for your allegiance and devotion?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

**Songs from the weekend:**

[Rest On Us - Maverick City] - [Ancient Gates - *Brooke Ligertwood*] - [Reason to Praise - *Cory Asbury*] -  
[Goodness of God - *Bethel Music*]