

Want to learn more? Here are few suggested resources:

Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation, by Nancy Guthrie (2022).

This is a popular level book exploring the main themes of the book of Revelation and taking special care to explore how these themes encourage our life.

Revelation: A Shorter Commentary, by G.K. (Greg) Beale (2015).

This “shorter” commentary is still 500+ pages but he writes in a way that is accessible to serious Bible students. If you are looking for a verse-by-verse approach, this is what you want. It is a bit pricey but worth it! If you are super ambitious, you could get his longer commentary which clocks in at 1309 pages! Anything from Greg Beale is worthwhile.

The Triumph of the Lamb, by Dennis Johnson (2001).

This is less verse-by-verse and more section-by-section. It is scholarly, but very readable. Johnson is a scholar/pastor and writes with the churchgoer in mind.

John 17¹⁴ [Jesus says...] I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

John 2 ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues *to live* forever.

Genesis 3 ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

(Regarding the heavenly city and the “city of man”)

We see then that the two cities were created by two kinds of love: the earthly city was created by self-love reaching the point of contempt of God, the Heavenly City by the love of God carried as far contempt of self. In fact, the earthly city glories in itself, the Heavenly City glories in the Lord. The former looks for glory from men, the latter finds its highest glory in God, the witness of good conscience. -Augustine, *The City of God*, 14.28.

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



REVELATION 17-18

MARCH 5, 2023

Winter 2023

Revelation is the last book of the Bible and is often treated as “mysterious” and “futuristic.” However, we contend that it only *seems* mysterious because it is full of images rooted in the Old Testament and first century Roman culture—from which we are far removed. A patient and careful reading yields an understanding that is neither bizarre nor exclusively future. Rather, we find the book of Revelation to be presently encouraging and empowering for the people of God. This is because it reveals heaven’s view of events that transpire on earth throughout history—including our history and the history of its original audience.

The Counterfeit Lover

March 5, 2023 | Revelation 17-18 | Pastor Roger Williams

**The LORD exposes “earthly” culture
so His people may live faithfully in the midst of it.**

Exposed Through Heavenly Vision

Revelation 17 ¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “**Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, ²with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.**” ³And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. ⁵And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “**Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.**” ⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. ⁷But the angel said to me, “**Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.**” ⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

⁹This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; ¹⁰they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. ¹¹As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. ¹²And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. ¹³These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴**They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.**”

¹⁵And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. ¹⁶And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, ¹⁷for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are

fulfilled. ¹⁸**And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.**”

Exposed Through Heavenly Announcement

¹⁸After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. ²And 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.**

³For all nations have drunk
the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her
luxurious living.”

Exposed Through Heavenly Calling

⁴Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

**“Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
⁵for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
⁶Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
⁷As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and mourning,
since in her heart she says,
‘I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.’**

⁸For this reason her plagues will come in a single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.”

Babylon is the world as the center of industry, commerce, culture, and power—organized independently from the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The woman stands for everything that tempts, seduces, and draws people away from God, all that stirs the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. -Joel Beeke & Leon Morris