

The Cancelled Culture

Revelation 17-18; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-26-2023

The culture may cancel you (as a Christian), but God will cancel the culture!

The Book of Revelation

- The 7 Churches (1-3): *The Typical History of the Church* under the Rule of Christ
- The 7 Seals (4-7): *The Typical History of the World* under the Rule of Christ
- The 7 Trumpets (8-14): *Warnings* of Divine Judgment
- The 7 Bowls (15-18): *Divine Judgment*
- The Consummation (19-22): *Kingdom of Heaven on Earth*

The 3 Elements of the World System

- Tyrannical Government (Beast from the Sea)
- False Religion (Beast from the Earth)
- Godless Society/Culture (Babylon the Great)

The World as Babylon the Great

- The Great Harlot (Revelation 17)
- The Great City (Revelation 18)

1. The godless society/culture is not your friend. (17:1-7)

- Ungodly culture is not harmless but seductive like a prostitute. (17:1-2) The world system is designed to lead you away from looking to the true God through Jesus for your ultimate help and happiness!
- The kind of culture we have is determined by the kind of state that supports it. (17:3)
- The ungodly culture that is outwardly beautiful and attractive is the very culture that kills those who expose its true nature. (17:4-7)

2. Evil is always self-destructive. (17:8-18)

- The ungodly rule by force of tyrannical governments has had many expressions throughout history (including the Roman empire), but there will be one final expression of it that will dwarf them all. (17:8-14)
- Evil ultimately consumes itself and the final tyrannical state will crush all opposition and all independent expressions in everyday culture. (17:15-18)

3. The future of the godless society is devilish and judged. (18:1-8)

- The ungodly culture naturally moves toward more thorough evil and perversion, especially when fueled by the oppression of the tyrannical state. (18:1-3)

- God will bring a full and just judgment on ungodly civilization and He calls us to flee the judgment to come. (18:4-8)

4. The kind of culture that we desire shows what city we belong to. (18:9-24)

- The opulence of the ungodly Roman society of the 1st century is pictured here.
- The *'pleasure and possessions and power at all costs' attitude* is reflected in the 'slaves and human lives' mentioned (literally, 'bodies and souls of men').
- God's judgment is both just and swift ('in one hour').
- The ungodly mourn the loss of ungodly civilization. (18:9-19)
- But the godly will rejoice when God brings an end to evil and to the ungodly civilization because it is filled with lies and murder like its ruler, the devil. (18:20-24)

We need to 'cancel the culture' whether it cancels us or not and before God cancels the culture ultimately and finally! – Galatians 6:14

The Call in the Book of Revelation

We are called to overcome the obstacles in our way to becoming a part of the kingdom of heaven on earth! Overcoming is what true faith does. (1 John 5:4; Revelation 2:7; 21:7)

In order to overcome, we need to understand:

The Hindrances to Trust and Love

- Tough Truth (Matthew 13:4, 19; John 6:60, 66)
- Trials (Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5)
- Temptations (Matthew 13:7, 22; 2 Timothy 4:10)

The Nature of Sin

- Unbelief (root: Hebrews 3:19)
- Idolatry (trunk: Romans 1:25): Pride is the greatest idol ('The Great Harlot/City')
- Disobedience (fruit: Hebrews 4:11)

What God Calls You and Me to Do

- Believe the Good News (of Jesus the Lion/Lamb – Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8-10)
- Turn from Sin (Acts 17:30-31)
- Rest in Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30)
- Hope in God (Hebrews 11:1, 24-26)
- Pursue Love (1 John 3:23)