

INTRO

- What's a time you were drawn in by something that looked good on the outside, but proved disappointing in the end?

Revelation pulls back the curtain to show the unseen reality of our world—and calls us to faithful resistance through Christ's victory.

READ

Revelation 17:1-6 and 21:9-11

[Leaders: Use the questions below as a guide, not a checklist]

REFLECT & RESPOND

Revelation 17 and 21 reveal two opposing kingdoms, illustrated by two distinct cities and two different women. You may live in Toronto, but spiritually, you dwell in one of these kingdoms. One will shape your desires, and one will claim your allegiance.

Q: What are the similarities in how the two women/cities are introduced?

Q: How is Babylon described visually and symbolically? What emotions does that stir?

Q: What stands out to you about the New Jerusalem? What feelings or longings does it awaken?

Babylon Exposed

Babylon symbolizes a pattern in Scripture and history: every system, culture, or ideology that opposes God and elevates self. It represents the human pride seen in the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:4) and Nebuchadnezzar's self-glory (Dan 4:30).

Today, the spirit and influence of Babylon is active in our culture today. For example, it shows up as:

- Consumerism—what I have defines who I am

- Celebrity/Image Culture—appearance over substance.
- Political idolatry—placing ultimate hope in parties, policies, or leaders.
- Economics—people are exploited for profit.

Q: Where do you see the influence of Babylon in our city?

The Call to “Come Out” of Babylon

In Rev 18:4, God calls His people to come out of Babylon. To be clear, this is not a call to escapism, to fell the city or culture. Rather, it is a call to discern and resist Babylon's influence on our hearts.

Q: How does this call to “come out” sound to you, not just as a warning, but as an invitation?

Our wants and longings and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behaviour flow.... Jesus's command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his—to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all—a vision encapsulated by the shorthand “the kingdom of God.”
— James K.A. Smith, *You Are What You Love*

Q: What practices help you re-centre your worship on Christ and resist Babylon's pull?

Babylon promises the world—and takes your soul. The Lamb offers His life—and gives you a kingdom. This week, notice where Babylon shows up in your daily rhythms—media, shopping, ambitions, conversations.

PRAY

- For open eyes to discern Babylon's influence.
- Into specific areas where groups members feel the Spirit calling them to “come out” of Babylon and “come in” to the kingdom.