**Sermon Notes April 30, 2023**

**Series**: Revelation

**Sermon**: Carried Away in the Spirit to the Desert

**Scripture**: Revelation 17:1-4, Ezekiel 16:30-33, Matthew 7:21-23, 25:1-13

**Summary**: As we approach chapter 17, we get to see some very unique perspectives from all of history. We are seeing the work of Satan from the time of Noah until the end of time.

**Read**: Revelation 17:1-4

History has ended with the seventh bowl judgment, but just as John often does, we see him shaking the snow globe one more time. Now he looks at the end of history by considering the fate of Babylon, the great Harlot.

Chapter 17 shows us the religious system that Satan has established. Since the rapture of the church, many people are confused and seeking answers, and this is the primary reason why the world is able to be united under one religion… because of the confusion and chaos, people will be looking for anything to explain things away, and Satan knows this about us.

He knows that we’re willing to follow any trend, and with this knowledge, he’s able to take control. As Christians, we need to understand this and be able to explain it to others so that they may be made aware

1. **The Great Harlot**
	1. Revelation 17:1-2
		1. After the seven bowl judgments have been poured out, John is invited to see the “religious” system left in the world.
		2. This gives us the knowledge we need to see what Satan has planned for the world.
	2. Women in the Bible
		1. Viewed in one of two ways.
			1. Spiritually Pure
			2. Defilement
		2. Harlot – Prostitute
			1. Ezekiel 16:30-33
				1. Jerusalem was called Adulterous wife as the people were seeking to leave God and cling to the things of the world that make them “happy.”
		3. Harlotry – Spiritual adultery
			1. The Harlot is well equipped to deceive.
2. **The Woman on the Beast**
	1. Revelation 17:3-4
		1. John is carried away in the spirit.
	2. The Beast mentioned is the same Beast we see in Daniel.
		1. We have to be careful not to see Satan in the Halloween’ish, cartoonish, worldly-image that he is often portrayed.
	3. The Woman
		1. Purple and scarlet signify royalty.
		2. Gold and precious stones show the world her worth
		3. The gold cup is filled with all the impurities that make up who Satan is and tricks.
		4. Compare the Woman to the 2 Witnesses in Revelation 11 dressed in rags.
			1. Pride vs humility.
			2. God seeks humbleness.
			3. Satan seeks arrogance and exaltation.
		5. She is beautiful, seducing the nations, appealing, trustworthy to the “world.”
		6. She represents something pure and innocent to the world.
		7. DO NOT BE DECEIVED

**Application / Next Steps**

As the church, we have to remain awake and aware, if not we might miss the actual coming of the Lord because we were too busy being enticed by the world’s image of what is Godly. Remember the purpose of Jesus giving us the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25.

* **It’s what’s inside the lamp that matters most.**
	+ If the Spirit of God does not dwell within you then you don’t belong to God. It doesn’t matter how good the lamp looks on the outside.
* **You Need Oil to Be Ready for His Coming**
	+ It’s what do you do the rest of the week that matters the most. Your growth in Christ will happen most outside of church.
* **This is Really About the Rapture**
	+ After they fell asleep, they were awoken by a cry that rang out. When that cry came, those who were ready went into the banquet with the bridegroom and those who were not ready got locked out.
* **Preparation Happens before You Die**
	+ Your eternal destination is determined by what you do now. Once you die or fall asleep it’s too late. If Jesus is not your Savior, then don’t delay. Today is the day of salvation.
* **The Greatest Question in Life**
	+ The greatest question in life is not… do you know Jesus? The greatest question in life is… does Jesus know you? (Just read **Matthew 7:21-23**)

Jesus, knowing you has nothing to do with your deeds or actions. Jesus, knowing you has to do with you putting your trust in him as Lord and Savior. Nothing else matters. If there’s any day you want to be known by Jesus… it is on the day, he calls His church home. Thankfully we don’t have to wait until then to find out. If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, you are known and sealed by him today.

This is the hope and confidence we have in Jesus.