

Revelation 17:1-18

“The Unsuccessful War Against the Lamb”

Intro: Great ironies in the Christian life

- One great irony: There is progression and growth in the Christian life, but the Christian never gets far from where it all started.
- One foundational truth to keep coming back to: 'Do not love the world or anything in the world..' (1 John 2:15)
- The word 'world' in Scripture: Frequently used as an ethical term to describe fallen, sinful humanity in rebellion against God.
- One great question to consider in light of the book of Revelation: Do you belong to the corrupt, godless city of 'Babylon' or to the heavenly city known as 'the new Jerusalem?'

We must recognize that _____ governments work hand-in-hand with this fallen, sinful _____ in waging an unsuccessful _____ against the King of kings and Lord of lords.

- One possible reason for John's marveling: The appearance and actions of Babylon are reminiscent of the ungodly queen known as Jezebel.
- Another possible reason for John's marveling: He heard of Babylon's judgment, but she appears to be quite prosperous at first.

- Evil kingdoms and evil governments: Used by the evil one and are even portrayed as being in the image of the evil one.
- The beast's description of 'was, is not, and is to rise from the bottomless pit': An unsuccessful attempt to imitate Jesus.
- The manifestation of the beast in the first century: The Roman Empire.
- One way of waging war against the Lamb: Attacking His people.
- Another way of waging war against the Lamb: Attacking divine institutions.
- Yet another way of waging war against the Lamb: Attacking His truth claims.
- A great truth to preach to yourself day after day: Jesus' teaching that 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'
- Augustine's classic book, 'The City of God': Largely the tale of two cities - the city of God & the city of mankind.

Personal Application:

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