**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Beauty and the Beast |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 17 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2357 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Revelation 17 tells of a Babylonian mother and a Babylonian monster.
      1. It deals with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the end of the age.
      2. Man has always wanted to look into the future; people make prognostications about future events, but they fail.
      3. The Bible is the only book that has a perfect record in prophesying what is to come.
   2. No Christian can afford to be ignorant of prophecy in these days in which we live.
      1. We are standing on the threshold of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church.
      2. The things that are prophesied in the Bible are imminent.
         1. There is a beast, the antichrist, lurking in the shadows getting ready to take the stage.
      3. We need to know of these events because of the intercession factor.
         1. We need to pray like never before.
      4. We need to know because of the soul-winning factor.
         1. We need to make sure our loved ones have heard the Good News of the Gospel and have had the opportunity to know Jesus.
      5. We need to know for the family instruction factor.
         1. We need to prepare our loved ones for the things that are coming.
      6. We need to know for the comfort factor.
         1. We may feel as though things are coming apart, but everything is fitting into the sockets of prophecy.
   3. The time period in Revelation 17 is the Great Tribulation.
      1. The rapture has already taken place.
      2. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bride of Christ, has been taken out.
      3. The false bride, the false church which is referred to as the harlot or the woman in this passage, shows herself.
2. THE WOMAN AND HER MYSTERIOUS CHARACTER (Revelation 17:1-5)
   1. This woman represents an apostate and a false worldwide religion.
      1. The woman in Bible prophecy is always a symbol of religion, whether it be good or bad.
         1. For example, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is called the bride of Christ.
      2. This woman mentioned in Revelation 17 is the antithesis, the false church and the antichurch.
         1. The antichrist will have an antichurch.
      3. Loyalty to Jesus is called spiritual purity.
         1. James 4:4
            1. If we flirt with this world (this harlot world), then we’ve become enemies of our Lord, the Bridegroom.
         2. 2 Corinthians 11:2
            1. The church is the virgin who will be presented to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.
         3. Revelation 17:2
            1. This woman of false religion has seduced the nations.
   2. Babylon also represents false religion.
      1. When the Bible uses the term “Babylon,” it is referring to more than just Babylon the city.
         1. Babylon is a literal place.
            1. It is modern-day Iraq.
         2. In this Scripture, Babylon is a code word, and the Bible uses the term in a larger sense.
            1. Babylon is an historical city and steeped in antiquity.
            2. Babylon is great in iniquity, prophecy and is the cradle and the grave of false religion.
      2. All false religion has its roots in Babylon.
         1. Genesis 10-11
            1. Babylon was first built by a man named Nimrod.

The name Nimrod means “rebel.”

Nimrod is a type, a prophecy of the antichrist to come.

* + - * 1. Nimrod built the Tower of Babel.

The top of this tower was a place for pagan worship.

It was here that man first began pagan, idolatrous worship.

* + - 1. Daniel 5:7
         1. As far back as in Daniel’s day, Babylon had magicians, soothsayers and astrologers.
  1. Satan is not against religion; in fact, he is working for a worldwide religion.
     1. The first temptation from Satan in the Garden of Eden was not against religion, rather it was for religion.
        1. The devil was trying to tell Eve how to be “godly.”
        2. It wasn’t a temptation to fall down; it was a temptation to climb up, to be godly but in the devil’s way.
           1. Genesis 3:1-6
  2. During The Great Tribulation, the world will be unified by the beast with a false religion.
     1. This false religion will have all of the resources it will ever need.
     2. Revelation 17:4
     3. When the Bible links this woman with Babylon, the mystery is unlocked.
        1. She is deeply involved in apostate, false religion; it will be a worldwide religion.

1. THE WOMAN AND HER MISCHIEVOUS CHILDREN (Revelation 17:5)
   1. The woman, who had her origin in Babylon so long ago, has spawned many children across the world.
      1. She has given birth to all the false religions of the world.
         1. She has taught her daughters, these religions, to prostitute themselves.
         2. She is a mother of harlots.
         3. Some of the daughters of this false religion include:
            1. New Age religion
            2. Satan worship
            3. Mother Earth worship
            4. Globalism
            5. Hinduism
            6. Islam
            7. Apostate Christianity
      2. The world today has been engulfed by the New Age movement.
         1. It is a syncretism of all the world’s religions.
         2. Monism is the theory that all reality is a unified whole.
            1. This theory holds that any perceived differences are not real.
         3. Pantheism believes that everything is God.
         4. Therefore, in the New Age religion, there is no distinction between the Creator and the creation, and the people of the world are trying to unify the religions of the world.
   2. Just as there is coming a one-world government, there is also coming a one-world religion.
      1. There are movements today to unite world religions.
2. THE WOMAN AND HER MURDEROUS CONDUCT (Revelation 17:6)
   1. This woman, who is beautiful on the outside but hideous on the inside, is not only a prostitute but also a murderess.
   2. False religion has always been a bloody thing.
      1. This is one reason why Christianity is not truly a religion; it is a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.
   3. This woman of false religion is drunk with the blood of the saints.
   4. During the Great Tribulation, there will be coerced conversion.
      1. For those who are alive during this time, they will either believe and bow the knee to the beast, or they will be martyred.
      2. Revelation 13:15
         1. As Christians, we do not believe in forced conversions.
         2. One of the great mistakes that has blackened the pages of so-called Christianity is the Crusades
         3. We desire the right to try to persuade anyone to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but we resist any type of forced conversion.
   5. More people died in the Twentieth Century for the cause of Christ than all of the centuries since the ascension of Jesus Christ.
3. THE WOMAN AND HER MONSTROUS CONSORT (Revelation 17:3, 7-13)
   1. The woman of false religion keeps company with the beast.
      1. Revelation 17:3
      2. The beast is the antichrist and his kingdom.
      3. This is the ultimate alliance of church and state.
   2. The place from which the beast comes:
      1. Revelation 17:8
      2. He will come from the bottomless pit.
         1. He has died and is incarcerated in the bottomless pit and will ascend from the pit.
      3. The beast will be catapulted into power with a satanic miracle.
         1. The devil always wants to imitate and take the place of Almighty God.
         2. The devil will give his false Christ, the antichrist, a resurrection or resuscitation.
            1. Revelation 13:3
            2. The beast will die or appear to die from a mortal wound.
            3. This will be an imitation of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
      4. This will cause all the world to wonder after the beast.
   3. The purpose for which the beast comes:
      1. Revelation 17:8
      2. His purpose is to deceive.
         1. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
         2. If you hate the truth, then you will embrace a lie.
   4. The power with which the beast comes:
      1. Revelation 17:9
         1. Rome is a city built upon seven hills.
      2. This power will be concentrated in Rome.
         1. In 1957, the Treaty of Rome, originally signed by six European nations, created the European Common Market.
         2. This was a re-unification of Europe, or the reestablishment of the Roman Empire.
      3. The beast will concentrate his power and consorting with religion at Rome.
   5. The period when the beast comes:
      1. Revelation 17:10-11
      2. John sees in prophecy seven world leaders.
         1. Five of these seven kings had fallen.
            1. In John’s day, there were five Roman emperors who had lived and died.
         2. There was a Roman emperor on the throne when John wrote the book of the Revelation, and he wrote that the other is yet to come.
         3. There is coming a final Caesar, the last ruler of the world empire of Rome who will be the antichrist.
            1. Revelation 17:10-11
            2. The seventh beast is the one who goes down into the grave; and when he comes out, he will be the eighth.

He goes into the grave a human.

He comes out a super-human, the antichrist.

* 1. The people with whom the beast comes:
     1. Revelation 17:12-13
        1. In Bible prophecy, a horn speaks of power.
        2. These ten horns are ten kings.
           1. They are puppet kings out of the unified Roman Empire.
     2. Europe will be unified, federated under ten nations.
        1. Ten is the complete number.
     3. The beast himself will be the genius of this federation and will be the unifying factor in Europe.
     4. A one-world government will be in place.
     5. The western world will be of one mind, which is to submit to the beast and acknowledge his lordship.
  2. The passion with which the beast comes:
     1. Revelation 17:14
     2. When all the nations of the world come to the Battle of Armageddon, they will not be coming primarily against Israel, but against the Lord Jesus Christ.
        1. The devil in his insanity will still think that he can overthrow the Lamb of God.
     3. The beast comes to make war with the Lamb.
     4. His one passion is to defy Jesus Christ.
     5. The beast will meet his demise at Armageddon.

1. THE WOMAN AND HER MOMENTOUS CALAMITY (Revelation 17:14-18)
   1. The Babylonian monster will turn around and destroy the Babylonian mother.
      1. The beast, or antichrist, will destroy the woman.
      2. He is going to detest her.
         1. As in any marriage of convenience, the honeymoon period will end; and the beast will hate the woman of false religion.
      3. He is going to desolate her.
         1. He will see all of the riches that she has and will want them for himself.
      4. He is going to disgrace her.
         1. He will expose all of her moral vileness; scandals will be exposed.
      5. He is going to devour her.
      6. He is going to destroy her with fire.
   2. Why is the antichrist going to do this?
      1. Practical reasons
         1. He wants to be the ruler of the world and doesn’t want any competition, even religion.
      2. Providential reasons
         1. God will put it in their minds.
            1. Revelation 17:17
            2. The beast does not rule; God rules.
            3. The devil is on a leash.
      3. Political reasons
         1. He wants to rule the world.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. There is coming a world religion and a world government.
   2. We do not belong to this world government; we belong to Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
   3. We do not belong to this harlot church; we are the bride of Christ.
   4. Though we are not yet in the Great Tribulation, coming events cast their shadows ahead of time.
   5. We are to be loyal to the heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. We should not flirt with false religion.
   6. We need to get a bulldog grip on the truth.
      1. Great pressure is going to come, and we need to be able to stand and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16