Revelation Chapter 17

Babylon the Great is Judged

1. **The Angels Explanation of the Beast: verses 7-14**
   1. The beast: verses 7 and 8
      1. The beast and what it represents come and go in one form or another over the years.
      2. The abyss:
         1. This is the abode and place of all demons (Rev. 9:1-16).
            1. Not only is this the origin of the beast but also the final prison.
   2. The seven heads: verse 9a
      1. The seven hills points to Rome. Rome was known as the city of seven hills.
   3. The seven kings plus one: verses 9b-11
      1. Identity of the seven kings
         1. Speculation
         2. My approach
            1. The seven kings symbolize all earthly power that exercise tyrannical authority.
   4. The ten horns that wage war against the Lamb: verses 12-14
      1. Ten kings who did not receive a kingdom
         1. These could be lesser kings/rulers.
            1. Perhaps modern day examples would be Al-Qaeda or an ISIS.

Only their power to rule legitimizes their right to rule.

* + 1. The goal of the beast is to destroy the church.
       1. The war between God and the dragon is already over (Rev. 12:7).
          1. The dragon makes war against the church of Christ on earth.
          2. The target is the church but the war is against the Lamb.

It’s against the Lamb ultimately because Jesus is the champion and defender of God’s people.

The Lamb is not like the one led to the slaughter in humility and weakness (Isaiah 53:7; or Acts 8:32-33). The description of the Lamb here in Revelation is that of “Lord of lords and King of Kings.”

The followers of Jesus always face the enemy with the conquering Lamb before them.

1. **The Harlot’s demise: verses 15-18**
   1. These beast turns on the harlot
      1. The beast becomes an agent of God in her judgment.
         1. She is ruined (verse 16).
      2. The powers of evil were used by God to serve His purposes. (v17).
         1. In the Old Testament Babylon served God’s purposes in the captivity and exile of Judah. Eventually Babylon came under God’s judgment and was punished and brought to ruin by the Persians.
         2. In the end, all powers of wickedness serve God’s ultimate purpose: the salvation of His people and their deliverance from all enemies.