

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** Beauty and the Beast

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Revelation 17

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2357

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 17 tells of a Babylonian mother and a Babylonian monster.
  - i) It deals with the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the end of the age.
  - ii) Man has always wanted to look into the future; people make prognostications about future events, but they fail.
  - iii) The Bible is the only book that has a perfect record in prophesying what is to come.
- b) No Christian can afford to be ignorant of prophecy in these days in which we live.
  - i) We are standing on the threshold of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church.
  - ii) 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.
  - iii) We need to know of these events because of the intercession factor.
    - (1) We need to pray like never before.
  - iv) 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.
  - v) We need to know for the family instruction factor.
    - (1) We need to prepare our loved ones for the things that are coming.
  - vi) 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.
- c) The time period in Revelation 17 is the Great Tribulation.
  - i) The rapture has already taken place.
  - ii) The church of the Lord Jesus Christ, the bride of Christ, has been taken out.
  - iii) 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)

- a) This woman represents an apostate and a false worldwide religion.
  - i) 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.
  - ii) This woman mentioned in Revelation 17 is the antithesis, the false church and the antichurch.
    - (1) The antichrist will have an antichurch.
  - iii) Loyalty to Jesus is called spiritual purity.
    - (1) James 4:4

- (a) If we flirt with this world (this harlot world), then we've become enemies of our Lord, the Bridegroom.
- (2) 2 Corinthians 11:2
  - (a) The church is the virgin who will be presented to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.
- (3) Revelation 17:2
  - (a) This woman of false religion has seduced the nations.
- b) Babylon also represents false religion.
  - i) When the Bible uses the term "Babylon," it is referring to more than just Babylon the city.
    - (1) Babylon is a literal place.
      - (a) It is modern-day Iraq.
    - (2) In this Scripture, Babylon is a code word, and the Bible uses the term in a larger sense.
      - (a) Babylon is an historical city and steeped in antiquity.
      - (b) Babylon is great in iniquity, prophecy and is the cradle and the grave of false religion.
  - ii) All false religion has its roots in Babylon.
    - (1) Genesis 10-11
      - (a) Babylon was first built by a man named Nimrod.
        - (i) The name Nimrod means "rebel."
        - (ii) Nimrod is a type, a prophecy of the antichrist to come.
      - (b) Nimrod built the Tower of Babel.
        - (i) The top of this tower was a place for pagan worship.
        - (ii) It was here that man first began pagan, idolatrous worship.
    - (2) Daniel 5:7
      - (a) As far back as in Daniel's day, Babylon had magicians, soothsayers and astrologers.
- c) Satan is not against religion; in fact, he is working for a worldwide religion.
  - i) 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.
      - (a) Genesis 3:1-6
- d) During The Great Tribulation, the world will be unified by the beast with a false religion.
  - i) This false religion will have all of the resources it will ever need.
  - ii) Revelation 17:4
  - iii) 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.

### 3) THE WOMAN AND HER MISCHIEVOUS CHILDREN (Revelation 17:5)

- a) The woman, who had her origin in Babylon so long ago, has spawned many children across the world.
    - i) 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:
        - (a) New Age religion
        - (b) Satan worship
        - (c) Mother Earth worship
        - (d) Globalism
        - (e) Hinduism
        - (f) Islam
        - (g) Apostate Christianity
    - ii) 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.
        - (a) 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.
  - b) Just as there is coming a one-world government, there is also coming a one-world religion.
    - i) There are movements today to unite world religions.
- 4) THE WOMAN AND HER MURDEROUS CONDUCT (Revelation 17:6)
- a) This woman, who is beautiful on the outside but hideous on the inside, is not only a prostitute but also a murderess.
  - b) False religion has always been a bloody thing.
    - i) This is one reason why Christianity is not truly a religion; it is a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - c) This woman of false religion is drunk with the blood of the saints.
  - d) During the Great Tribulation, there will be coerced conversion.
    - i) For those who are alive during this time, they will either believe and bow the knee to the beast, or they will be martyred.
    - ii) 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.
  - e) More people died in the Twentieth Century for the cause of Christ than all of the centuries since the ascension of Jesus Christ.

- 5) THE WOMAN AND HER MONSTROUS CONSORT (Revelation 17:3, 7-13)
  - a) The woman of false religion keeps company with the beast.
    - i) Revelation 17:3
    - ii) The beast is the antichrist and his kingdom.
    - iii) This is the ultimate alliance of church and state.
  - b) The place from which the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:8
    - ii) He will come from the bottomless pit.
      - (1) He has died and is incarcerated in the bottomless pit and will ascend from the pit.
    - iii) 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.
        - (a) Revelation 13:3
        - (b) The beast will die or appear to die from a mortal wound.
        - (c) This will be an imitation of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
    - iv) This will cause all the world to wonder after the beast.
  - c) The purpose for which the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:8
    - ii) His purpose is to deceive.
      - (1) 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
      - (2) If you hate the truth, then you will embrace a lie.
  - d) The power with which the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:9
      - (1) Rome is a city built upon seven hills.
    - ii) 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.
    - iii) The beast will concentrate his power and consorting with religion at Rome.
  - e) The period when the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:10-11
    - ii) John sees in prophecy seven world leaders.
      - (1) Five of these seven kings had fallen.
        - (a) 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.

- (a) Revelation 17:10-11
  - (b) The seventh beast is the one who goes down into the grave; and when he comes out, he will be the eighth.
    - (i) He goes into the grave a human.
    - (ii) He comes out a super-human, the antichrist.
  - f) The people with whom the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:12-13
      - (1) In Bible prophecy, a horn speaks of power.
      - (2) These ten horns are ten kings.
        - (a) They are puppet kings out of the unified Roman Empire.
    - ii) Europe will be unified, federated under ten nations.
      - (1) Ten is the complete number.
    - iii) The beast himself will be the genius of this federation and will be the unifying factor in Europe.
    - iv) A one-world government will be in place.
    - v) The western world will be of one mind, which is to submit to the beast and acknowledge his lordship.
  - g) The passion with which the beast comes:
    - i) Revelation 17:14
    - ii) 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.
    - iii) The beast comes to make war with the Lamb.
    - iv) His one passion is to defy Jesus Christ.
    - v) The beast will meet his demise at Armageddon.
- 6) THE WOMAN AND HER MOMENTOUS CALAMITY (Revelation 17:14-18)
- a) The Babylonian monster will turn around and destroy the Babylonian mother.
    - i) The beast, or antichrist, will destroy the woman.
    - ii) 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.
    - iii) He is going to desolate her.
      - (1) He will see all of the riches that she has and will want them for himself.
    - iv) He is going to disgrace her.
      - (1) He will expose all of her moral vileness; scandals will be exposed.
    - v) He is going to devour her.
    - vi) He is going to destroy her with fire.
  - b) Why is the antichrist going to do this?
    - i) Practical reasons

- (1) He wants to be the ruler of the world and doesn't want any competition, even religion.
- ii) Providential reasons
  - (1) God will put it in their minds.
    - (a) Revelation 17:17
    - (b) The beast does not rule; God rules.
    - (c) The devil is on a leash.
- iii) Political reasons
  - (1) He wants to rule the world.

## 7) CONCLUSION

- a) There is coming a world religion and a world government.
- b) We do not belong to this world government; we belong to Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
- c) We do not belong to this harlot church; we are the bride of Christ.
- d) Though we are not yet in the Great Tribulation, coming events cast their shadows ahead of time.
- e) We are to be loyal to the heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - i) We should not flirt with false religion.
- f) We need to get a bulldog grip on the truth.
  - i) Great pressure is going to come, and we need to be able to stand and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- g) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- h) 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.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16