

**Redemption Church of Bristol**  
**Revelation 17-19 Worksheet**

**Notes & References:**

- Who is the prostitute?
  - In the narrow sense: Rome
    - “She sits on the many waters” - (i.e. [the Roman Empire](#))
    - “She sits on 7 hills” - [Rome sat on 7 hills](#).
    - “The great city that rules over the kings of the earth”
  - In the wider sense: Any oppressive system that seeks to gain power, hold power, and deny it to others.
- Babylon the Great
  - In the OT, Babylon is not just the literal kingdom, but the symbol of human pride, power, and wealth that seeks to displace God. See the Tower of Babel (Gen 11).
  - John is implying that Rome is the latest incarnation of Babylon. But by using the symbol, Revelation reminds us to be aware of the Babylon of every age..
- With her the kings of the earth committed adultery
  - Rome liked to rule with proxy kings like Herod. Local kings who got extremely wealthy by exploiting their local populations for the benefit of Rome.
  - In the OT, Israel was regularly warned against committing adultery and prostitution with the nations. Specifically, this meant not looking to powerful empires and kings for their wealth and security. God alone was meant to be their spouse, their one love, their source of provision and security.
- The Prostitute vs The Bride
  - In Isaiah 47, Babylon is called a “virgin daughter” or “queen.” Revelation also paints Babylon as a cruel woman, but uses much harsher language.
  - This Babylon is both the opposite of The Woman who symbolizes God’s faithful (Rev. 12), and the Heavenly Warrior Jesus, who comes to bring justice (Rev. 19).
- “She will be consumed by fire.”
  - A reference to Sodom (Gen 19), it means Rome will fall under God’s judgment.
- The Merchants
  - When Rome falls, those who mourn the most are the merchants.
  - The list of cargoes are luxury goods, ending with “bodies sold as slaves.” These merchants (and Rome) have grown rich on the backs of human suffering.
- The wedding of the lamb
  - In contrast to those who commit adultery with the prostitute, those who remain faithful to Christ will be brought into the eternal security and prosperity of God.

**Application:**

- Realize Babylon doesn’t love you, but God does.
- Ask yourself if your purchasing habits reflect care for the people providing your goods.
- When we withhold our money from Babylon, we free up our funds to help others. What’s one way you could give your time, money, or attention to the people Babylon doesn’t want you thinking about?