

November 13th, 2022

Sermon: The Incomparable Christ Series Part 4

Text: Rev. 14-19 (14:6-7; 15:1-4, 5-8; 16:1-2, 5,10-11, 14-16; 17:9; 18:1-2, 4, 20-21; 19:1-2; Matt. 11:28)

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. John is presented with a vision of (starting in Rev. 4) 24 elders that we read of here again. What is your understanding of these entities? Note that in Matt. 19:28, Luke 22:30 Jesus tells his disciples that they will “sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

2. When we see an apparent symmetry or use of repetition as we do in the case of the 7 bowls/plagues presented in Rev. 15 with those of the 7 trumpets in Rev. 8 and the plagues sent on Egypt in Exod. 7, what does that say to us? What might be the purpose of this type of narrative? What does it tell us about the nature of God and how He engages with humanity?
 - a). Remembering that the use of the number 7 relates to notions of completeness, perfection, and order, how might those be reflected here?

3. When you review the 7 different plagues sent upon different parts of the world, which do you think would be the worst to experience?
 - a). If you were to experience such a thing, or see it happening around you, how do you think you might respond?
 - b). How should the Church, if it were to exist on the earth during this time of judgement, be prepared to respond?

4. Have you experienced confronting someone with an injustice for which they were wholly or partially responsible? How did they react?

5. In Rev, 14, 17, and 18, we are given different images of Babylon. See also Is. 21, Jer. 51 - images of worldly power, false religion, or even kingdoms that have oppressed God's people (the ancient Babylonian or, in John's time, Roman empires). What is your interpretation of the nature of the Babylon John sees wiped out by God's judgement?
 - a). Pastor Clyde quoted an African minister who called Babylon “anywhere there exists idolatry, prostitution, self-glorification, pride, complacency, reliance on luxury and wealth, or violence against life.” Either in your life before

coming to know Christ, or something that you might be struggling with now, what form(s) of Babylon were you/are you being called out of? (See Rev. 18:4)

6. Of the 3 encouragements mentioned by Pastor Clyde,

- God is a judge
- God will judge rightly
- God will judge with grace and truth

Which means the most to you or gives you the most hope? Why?

Are there any that you find harder to accept or understand?
