



Don't be duped; treasure Christ and fall in love with his people

1. Babylon, the Great City
2. The Fall of Babylon
3. The True Glory and Beauty of the Lamb and His Bride

#1:

“The Bible is very clear that we do tend to exchange worship and service of the Creator for a functional worship and service of the creation...There is a war for each of our hearts that is taking place in every circumstance, relationship, and location of daily life. It is a war about what kind of glory will attract my attention, command my affection, and control my behavior. Will my life be shaped by the unsurpassed glory of knowing, loving, and serving God? Or will it be shaped by pursuing the glories of the surrounding world? When I begin to struggle with the Lord's rule in midlife, what is glorious no longer looks glorious, what is wise no longer looks wise, and what is loving doesn't seem loving. Because I am not amazed at God's glory, I will be all the more tempted to find life, peace, happiness, security, pleasure, identity, etc. in the shadow-glories of the world around me. This can mean eating too much or spending too much, or it can mean struggling more than ever before with lust. This can mean buying a sports car or taking a lavish vacation. Or it can mean a subtle migration away from a God-centered life into a functional worldliness. Typically this person will still hold onto the external habits of the faith, but love of the world has replaced love of God as that which gives their life shape and direction.”

Paul Tripp  
Lost in the Middle

#2:

“One of life's great ironies is that the poor and humble man who walks with God is rewarded with prosperity, gradually turns his attention away from the Lord, then finally becomes the proud rich man who comes under God's judgement.”

Randy Alcorn  
Money, Possessions, and Eternity

#3:

“Materialism is the two things God hates most - idolatry and adultery. The magnitude of God's abhorrence for materialism and its antichrist nature is demonstrated in the final great act preparatory to the return of Christ - the once and for all destruction of the secularistic, materialistic system of this world, called 'Babylon the Great.' It is said of this Babylon, 'The kings of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries... The merchants who gained their wealth from this corrupt materialistic philosophy will say, 'Woe! Woe, O Great city...' '(Rev 18:16-17). Ultimately, all heaven is to rejoice at the destruction of materialism's stronghold...God's hatred for materialism is rooted in its idolatrous and adulterous nature. But materialism brings with it countless other dangers to the individual, family, church, and society.”

Randy Alcorn  
Money, Possessions, and Eternity



#4:

“Today Babylon looks to John’s readers like a confident and beautiful queen, a city teeming with energetic activity and overflowing with the good things of life. In reality, however, Babylon is even now a hag, a hollow husk, and the haunt of demons, defilement, and death. That inward reality will become outwardly visible at Babylon’s fall, when her mask is torn away.”

Dennis Johnson  
The Triumph of the Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation

#5:

“Confidence in God’s sovereignty in all that influences us is crucial to our trusting Him. If there is a single event in all of the universe that can occur outside of God’s sovereign control then we cannot trust Him.”

Jerry Bridges  
Is God Really in Control? Trusting God in a World of Hurt

#6:

“The historical doctrine of God’s providence clearly affirms that we can indeed trust God. God does care for us, and He constantly - not just occasionally - governs all the affairs of our lives.”

Jerry Bridges  
Is God Really in Control? Trusting God in a World of Hurt