WEEK 11: THE SEVEN BOWLS AND THE FALL OF BABYLON (15:5-19:10)

BIBLE BOOKENDS
Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of all Nations. Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgments have been revealed.

Revelation 15:3b-4
Hallelujah! For the Lord God the almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure.

Revelation 19:6b-7
HISTORICAL AXIOM

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HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

2000 – 1700 BC

- Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Ishmael
- Land of Moriah - Binding of Isaac
- Genesis 22:1-19
- Where? Jerusalem
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

1050 – 922 BC

- United Monarchy of David and Solomon
- Solomon builder of First Temple
- 1 Kings 8 – Dedication of the Temple
- Where? Jerusalem
586 – 539 BC

- Northern Kingdom falls in 721 BC to Assyrians
- Judea falls in 586 BC to Babylon; First Temple destroyed
- “Babylonian Captivity”
- Comfort and return – Isaiah 40, Nehemiah and Ezra
- Where? Jerusalem
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

323-31 BC

- Greek influences abound in Mediterranean region (Hellenism)
- Language (NT), culture, commerce, travel, religion
- Where did it influence? Jerusalem
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

63 BC

• Roman occupation of Holy Land and entire Mediterranean region
• Roman culture, commerce, travel, religion
• Where did it influence? Jerusalem
37 - 4 BC – Herod the Great

- Non-Jew, tyrannical rule
- Vassal of Roman Empire
- Wise men in Matthew 2:1-12
- Slaughter of innocent children in Matthew 2:16-18
- Second Temple expansion and other building projects
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

4 BC – 29 AD

- Jesus of Nazareth
- Simon the Zealot
- “Turn other cheek” from Sermon on Mount (Mt. 5:39)
- “Render to Caesar… render to God” (Mt. 22:21)
- Pontius Pilate (Mt. 27)
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

54-68 AD – Emperor Nero

- First emperor to persecute Christians in Rome – “Made war on the Saints” (Rev. 13:7)
- Nero = 666
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

66-73 AD

- First Jewish Revolt
- 70 AD Jerusalem sacked
- Second Temple destroyed
- 73 AD – Masada stronghold falls
REVELATION AND ROME

• Babylon is code for ‘Rome’ after 70 AD
• Rome as a Harlot (Revelation 17:1-18)
• Just as Rome burned while Nero was Emperor, the harlot is also killed.
132-135 AD

- Second Jewish Revolt
- Emperor Hadrian
- Jerusalem becomes Aelia Capitolina
- Mount Moriah becomes a temple to god Jupiter
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY ARE IMPORTANT

306-337 AD

- Constantine the Great
- Helena, his mother
- Stopped persecution of Christianity; legalized it.
- Later converted to Christianity
LET’S READ OUR BIBLES
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

• How has the Christian faith and its historical context intertwined in the past. Share examples together.
• Rome is accused of self-centeredness. The churches of Asia Minor are encouraged to resist social currents of luxury and power. How can we relate to this call today?
• Hallelujah means ‘Praise the Lord’. Handel’s ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ brings much joy musically. How does God bring joy to our world?
HOMEWORK

• Read Revelation 19-22
• Pray Revelation 21:3-4
• Read it multiple times. Light a candle. Sing it. Memorize it. Write it on your mirror.
• Invite someone else to join us next week!
• Email Pastor Matthew any questions that crop up or things that you’re still curious about.
The Tabernacle

This portable temple was built in the wilderness by the Israelites circa 1450 BC after they were freed from Egyptian slavery. The Tabernacle was the first temple dedicated to God and the first resting place of the Ark of the Covenant. It served as a place of worship and sacrifices during the Israelites’ 40 years in the desert while conquering the land of Canaan.