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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Run for Your Life!

Revelation 17-18

Series: The Return of the King – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Central Passage

*Revelation 18:1–5 (ESV) — 1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!** She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” 4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “**Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; 5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**”*

Central Thought: The Book of Revelation presents us with a stark choice as to whether we will remain in the Empire of man, with its demonic underpinnings, as it self-destructs under the weight of its lust, greed, pride, and exploitation of natural resources and human lives, or whether we will run for our lives to the kingdom of God, and submit to the loving, self-sacrificing ways of King Jesus, the Lamb of God.

- ❖ The Promise of Empire – offers immediacy, indulgence and exploitation, but delivers disillusionment, destruction and death.

Proverbs 14:12 (ESV) — 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

- ❖ The Peril of Empire – will always seek to destroy those who speak against or live contrary to its self-centered, beastly ways.

*1 Peter 4:1–3 (NLT) — 3 You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols. 4 **Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.** 5 But remember that they will have to face God, who stands ready to judge everyone, both the living and the dead.*

- ❖ The Ultimate Path of Empire – it will turn on itself and collapse under the weight of its own sins to the deep dismay of its sycophants, and the great joy of the righteous who have suffered under its tyranny.

*Philippians 3:17–21 (ESV) — 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 **Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.** 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*