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## **“The Vortex”**

*“For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me...” (2 Timothy 4:10)*

### **Memories of Bygone Devotion**

**Jeremiah 2:1-7** – (1) “The word of the LORD came to me, saying, (2) ‘Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, ‘I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. (3) Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD.’ (4) Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. (5) Thus says the LORD: ‘What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? (6) They did not say, ‘Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’ (7) And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.”

**2 Corinthians 11:2-3** – (2) “I feel a divine jealousy for you, for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (3) But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

**Key Point: The Non-Devoted will be Sucked into the World/Vortex**

### **Babylonization**

**Revelation 17:1-2, 5-6** – (1) “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, (2) with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk. (5) And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: ‘Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.’ (6) And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.”

## **To Keep from being Sucked into the World/Vortex:**

### **(1) Maintain some Distance**

“But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself... At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king’s food.” (Daniel 1:8, 15)

### **(2) Be Ready to Depart**

“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; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.’” (Revelation 18:4-5)

### **(3) Devote Yourself to Jesus Today**

“But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’” (Matthew 25:6-8)

## **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Have I allowed myself to become overly influenced by the prevailing ideas of the world? (Col. 2:8; 1 John 2:15-16)

Do I recognize the assimilating world system in which we currently reside? (Gen. 10:8-10, 11:3-4; John 15:19; Rev. 13:12, 16-17)