

Introduction to the Book of Revelation-Part 11

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We will spend 3 more weeks on this series wrapping up at the end of October and moving back to men's and women's groups or the RCU groups.

Revelation

17 & 18

Revelation 17: In this chapter of Revelation, John draws our attention to a city, the "great harlot" also known as Babylon the Great!

- Descriptions of the "great harlot" are: the mother of harlots—"harlotry is the standing symbol in the word of God for a debauched or perverted worship, idolatry, and false devotion." She is the influence of fornications, clothed in purple scarlet, gold, precious stones and pearls. She holds a golden cup full of abominations and filthiness and is drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of God. **She is the false church!**
- Babylon the Great: begins in Gen. 9:22-26, 10:8-10, 11:2-4 "Ham begat a son named Cush, and he became the father of Nimrod who was the first one after the Flood to organize rebellion against God (the tower of Babel). From that rebellion came the mysteries of idolatry, and every heathen system in the world.
- From Babylon a mysterious religion spread to all the surrounding nations as the years went on, and the world was populated by the sons of Noah. (Egypt, Assyria, Media- Persia and Greece into the era of Rome)
- Abraham was separated by divine call.
- With this same evil cult, the nation of Israel had constant conflict until, under Jezebel, a Phoenician princess!
- In the days Ahab, this harlot of the Babylon practices caused the northern Kingdom of Israel to go into captivity.
- Rome became the headquarters of Babylonians.
- Though Babylon as a city is long gone, her mysteries have not died.
- **Today the Roman Catholic church has fully endorsed the Babylonian mysteries!**

The scarlet woman is both a religious system and city (Revelation 17:18) which will “ride the beast” for a while. But finally, when the worship of the Beast is set in place (Revelations 13:4, 14, 15), the coalition of kings will resist her chokehold on their freedom and finances and react with vengeance. She will be destroyed by the very beast (forces of Antichrist) upon which she rode to influence and power.

References:

- Ezekiel 38:2, 14-17
- Daniel 11:36
- Matthew 24:15-21
- 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4, 9

In Rev 17, verses 7-11, the angel acknowledges to John the meanings behind the mystery of some of these symbols. He focuses on the beast which has seven heads and ten horns. This final beast empire represents all the previous seven beast empires, five of which had come and gone (“five have fallen”), “one is” and one was still to come in the future and would “continue for a short time.”

The ten horns in 17:12-13 are said to represent the ten-nation confederation which will give its power and strength to the beast (compare Daniel 7:23-24 with Revelation 13:1). United, they will gather to make war with the Lamb, seeking to prevent Him from setting up His universal messianic kingdom (Revelation 19:19). Armageddon decides their awful fate.

Revelation 18: Seven voices describe the fall of Babylon as an accomplished fact—some are in thanks, and others in hysteria. Babylon is a symbol of sinful humanity, self-delusion, ambition, pride and demonized depravity. In other words, rebellion against God!

Question:

Why is it important that we be informed as to the character and signs of the antichrist? What do these scriptures tell us about him?