

The Revelation –The Adulterous Woman

This week we will continue our series of lessons on the Revelation by looking at the judgment of what God refers to as the great whore. We find this in Revelation 17, which reads:

- (1) And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:
- (2) With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.
- (3) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.
- (4) And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:
- (5) And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
- (6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.
- (7) And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.
- (8) The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
- (9) And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.
- (10) And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.
- (11) And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.
- (12) And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
- (13) These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.
- (14) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.
- (15) And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.
- (16) And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

- (17) For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.
- (18) And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

It is clear that there is a lot of allegory in this chapter. In looking at this I would like to start from the last first. The woman, who is the center of attention here, is said in verse 18 to be that great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth. If we look at this woman, then, we should be able to learn some things about antichrists kingdom.

First of all we see that the woman is very lavish. Antichrists kingdom will be built upon prosperity. We have seen this before when we pointed out that one of the centerpieces of the kingdom is his economic policy. But what is his economic policy? Well, that's not an easy question to answer. Some here in America and other market economies have associated it with communism. It does have some marks of socialism, especially when the mark of the beast is issued. It does not appear, though, that it is purely a communist economy. There appears to be some elements of a market economy also. Look at how the people of the world have flocked to this great woman.

It also appears that this economy is based on personal gratification. Sex, money, and anything that can be desired is at the center of this economy. Does that sound like America to you?

We see, also, that this kingdom develops a distinct hatred toward God. You see, blasphemy is speaking anything which contradicts the Word of God. This means that any religion which does not recognize that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is blasphemous. So the woman will hate Christians but will embrace any religion which stands against God.

As we look further we see that the woman is not the complete kingdom. As a matter of fact, as the end approaches there is dissension between the different parts of the kingdom, and the great whore is the loser to the military and political powers. You see, absolute power is deemed necessary due to the perilous times.

Many people think that the description of the beast here is referring to Rome, often associating it with the Roman Empire or with the Vatican. I do think that there is some truth to this, but I think that it is much more than just this. I think that it is an empire which combines these with Babylon (indicated here) along with Jewish tradition.

I think that much of this chapter is self explanatory so I'm not going to go into great detail. In the next lesson we'll find the judgment of the woman, and it's not going to be pretty. You see, God hates sin, and God will judge sin and the sinful nation.

Yours in Christ,

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