

5/30/04

Revelation 17

Once again we have a parenthetical passage of greater detail that fits into the seven year period of Tribulation and Great Tribulation in chapter 17-18.

- 1) Revelation seventeen gives us Religious Babylon and her judgment by God at the hands of the Antichrist.
 - This will take place at the middle of the 7 years or the beginning of the last 3 1/2 years of Great Tribulation. Rev. 17:15-18
- 2) Rev 18 gives us Commercial Babylon and her judgment by God at the end of end of the 7 years.
 - Babylon will be the religious, commercial and political capital of the world for Satan's Antichrist.
 - Babylon is mentioned in the Scriptures more than any city besides Jerusalem and is the second oldest city, Enoch being the oldest. Gen 4:17

The two chapters belong together and are an extended appendix to the seventh bowl judgment, the religious and political system that blossoms into a very lucrative commercial system. Rev. 14:8; 16:19

These chapters also stand as a sharp contrast to the bride of Christ and the eternal city of God. Rev. 21-22

17:1-6 The vision of the Scarlet woman and the Beast.

17:1-2 The angel reveals the woman and the beast.

- 1) The angel was one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls. vs. 1
 - a) The angel came and talked with John, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
 - b) Come, I will show.
 - 1)) To see the church. Rev. 4:1
 - 2)) To see the great harlot. Rev. 17:1
 - 3)) To see the bride, the Lamb's wife. Rev. 21:9
 - c) The harlot who sits on many waters.
 - 1)) A harlot "porne" is one who provides sexual pleasures to one who is not her husband or in addition to her husband for money Rev. 14:8.
 - * Here is spiritual unfaithfulness.
 - 2)) A woman-is always used for religion in the Bible in symbols or types of false worship. Is. 1:21; Ezk. 16:14-18
 - 3)) Thyatira allowed Jezebel error and sexual immorality. Rev. 2:20

- 4)) Woman introducing leaven in Kingdom Parables. Matt. 13:33
- 5)) She sits on many waters, representing masses and multitudes. Jer. 51:13
- 2) The angel discloses her cliental. vs. 2
 - a) The kings of the earth committed fornication, her power of seduction.
 - * This is spiritual unfaithfulness to the true and living God. Jer. 51:7
 - b) The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.
 - * This is the effect of the Harlot over the lives of those contaminated by her, being one with her.

17:3-4 The angel reveals the relationship between the scarlet beast and the woman.

- 1) John was carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. vs. 3a
 - * This is repeated as the mode of revelation. Rev. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:0
- 2) John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy. vs. 3b
 - a) The best is the anti-christ who rose out of the sea. Rev. 13:1
 - b) She is a religious prostitute who robs and destroys people's souls under imperial authority.

- c) She is in opposition to God and in control of the beast, the anti-christ and will be the one to promote him to world dominance.
- d) This is the up close look at her, that reveals her true character!
- 3) Having seven heads and ten horns. vs. 3c
 - a) She operated with complete authority.
 - b) She resides over a ten nation confederacy.
- 4) The woman was arrayed luxuriously, evidence of her prosperity. vs. 4
 - a) She is arrayed in purple and scarlet, representing royal imperialism and religious authority but also her oneness with the Red Dragon. vs. 4a
 - * Some of the most horrible atrocities have been committed in the name of religion for wealth and power.
 - b) She is adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, displaying her wealth. vs. 4b
 - 1)) The wealth of Rome can not even be estimated, it is so vast, diverse and hidden.
 - 2)) She stands in sharp contrast to the bride of Christ and the heavenly Jerusalem.
 - c) She has in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication, declaring her extent

of her debauched and evil character.
vs. 4c

- 1)) She entices those to drink.
- 2)) She invites those to drink.
- 3)) Beauty and wealth often is associated with corruption and evil. Ezk. 16, 23

17:5 The angel reveals the evil influence of the woman.

1) Mystery Babylon the Great.

- a) The reference to the word “mystery” is that which was previously hidden in the Old Testament but now revealed just as the church was in the new Testament. Eph. 3:1-9
- b) The tile on her forehead, like the custom of prostitutes to wear their names in the fillet that encircled their brows, depicting her character. Rev. 14:8, 16:19
- c) The title focuses on the massive ecumenical religious system that will embrace many beliefs under her covering.
- d) The beast comes out of the sea, full of names and blasphemies and rules through the seven heads and ten horns confederacy of nations. Rev 13:1
- e) The birth of religion at the tower of Babel. Gen 11

f) To reach up to heaven, worshipping the zodiac and make a name for themselves. Gen 11:4

* The word “bab-el” means gate of God, the word “bab-al, means confusion.

g) Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord, meaning he led men’s souls away from God. Gen 10:8-9

h) The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and he built many other cities, one being Nineveh. Gen 10:10-12

2) The Mother of Harlots.

- a) She is not only the Mother as the original source of religion but she has reproduced herself in kind but not always identical, yet always in opposition to God.
- b) Sameramis was the wife of Nimrod who had a son Tammuz which became the worship of “Mother and Child”, under different names, Iris and Osiris, Fortuna and Jupiter, Aphrodite and Eros, Venus and Cupid.
- c) When Constantine made the church a state religion under Rome by forcing people to become Christians, he converted all the pagan temples into churches, made the pagan idols saint and the pagan festival became.

- d) The Catholic Church turned it into Mary and the Christ child.
- 3) The abominations of the earth.
 - a) This certainly included the Roman Catholic system but it will include also apostate Protestantism.
 - b) She is responsible and the source of all the abominations of the earth, which represents all forms of things that are detestable to God, idolatry, astrology, fortune telling, spiritualist mediums, magic, witchcraft, soothsayers, necromancy, Satanism, heathenism and humanism, etc.
 - c) The women were burning incense to the Queen of Heaven. Jer. 44:17-19
 - d) The women weeping for Tammuz. Ezk. 8:14
 - e) Tammuz was said to be killed by a wild boar and said to be risen after 40 days, being celebrated by colored eggs, a sign of fertility and life, corresponding with the 40 days of "lent" of the Catholic Church.
 - f) 312-600 A.D. Pergamos was the period of church history when Constantine married the church to the world and made Christianity a state church.

- g) 600-1500 A.D. The church of Thyatira was the full development of the Catholic Church system.

17:6 The angel reveals the guilt of the woman.

- 1) John saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. vs. 6a
 - a) She has been responsible for the lives of those who have trusted God and not her system, the blood of the saints.
 - b) Those in the past and during the Great-tribulation, the martyrs of Jesus. Rev. 6:9, 13:8; 18:24
 - c) The inquisition is but one of her injustices in history, between the years of 1540-70, there were 900,000 Protestants were put to death by her.
- 2) When John saw her, he marveled with great amazement. vs. 6b-c
 - a) John was probably astonished at her descriptive Treachery.
 - b) The priest of Babylon wore a crown in the form of a fish head in honor of Dagon, the fish god.
 - c) The title "Keeper of bridge" was on it meaning the bridge between man and Satan.

- d) Caesars of Rome wore the equivalent “Pontifex Maximus” which is worn by the Pope today.
 * Two Babylonians, Hislop, Babylon Mystery Religion, Ralph Woodrow.

17:7-18 The interpretation of the Vision.

17:7 The angel clears up the mystery of the woman.

- 1) The angel asked John, “Why did you marvel?”
- 2) The angels would explain the relationship of the woman and the beast that carried the woman.
- 3) The repetition of the seven heads and ten horns is for emphasis and clarity.
 * The seven heads and ten horns are the same as Daniel's ten horns and ten toes, of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the confederacy of ten nations, the Common Market.

17:8 The angel identifies the beast.

- 1) He was in the past.
- 2) He was not at the time of John.
- 3) He will ascend out of the bottomless pit, the abuzo or shaft, where demons are incarcerated and goes to perdition.
2Thess. 2:3; Rev. 19:20

- a) Satan had the key to the bottomless pit, the abyss. Rev. 9:1-2; 11:7
- b) The dragon gives the beast his authority to rule. Rev. 13:4
- 4) Those who dwell on the earth, literally “earth dwellers”, will marvel at the anti-christ, the beast as he recovers from a deadly head wound. Rev. 13:3, 12, 14
 - a) Whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world.
 * God will give them over to a strong delusion as in the days of Isaiah.
Is. 66:3-4; 2Thess. 2:10-12
 - b) When they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

17:9 The angel identifies the location of the woman.

- 1) The location is prefaced by an admonishment for wisdom.
 * Here is the mind which has wisdom:
- 2) The identity of the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.
 * Rome sits on seven hills, this can identify only the Roman Catholic Church, no other.

17:10 The angel identifies the seven kings.

- 1) Five have fallen, refers to Roman emperors not empires.

- a) Tiberius.
- b) Caligula.
- c) Claudius.
- d) Nero.
- e) Vespasian.

2) One is.

* Domitian, at the time of the writing, is the sixth.

3) Other not yet come.

* Trojan is the seventh, who reigned for a short time.

17:11 The angel identifies the beast again.

1) The beast was in the past and was not a John's day.

2) The beast is the eighth.

3) The beast is of the seven.

4) The beast is going to perdition or destruction. vs. 8c, 2Thess. 2

* Chuck Smith believes that the same demon that possessed Nero will possess the antichrist, he was known as the "Beast".

17:12 The angel identifies the ten horns in relations to the beast.

1) They are ten kings who have received no kingdom as of yet. vs. 12a

* Horns as well as mountains are symbolic of authority!

2) They receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. vs. 12b

* The "little horn" of Daniel Dan. 7:7-8, 20-21, 24

a) "The hour that will come upon the whole earth to try them". Rev. 3:10

b) The hour refers to the seven years.

1) For a set purpose.

2) For a set time.

3) For the fulfillment of Scripture. Rev. 18:10, 17, 19

17:13 The angel indicates that the ten nation confederacy will give their power and authority to the beast, being of one mind.

1) These ten kings are of one mind with the beast, the anti-christ. vs. 13a

* They will be in full agreement with him in everything he plans and says!

4) These ten kings will give their power and authority to the beast. vs. 13b

* The Antichrist will rule supremely as the head of the ten nation confederacy with full and complete authority. Dan. 7:7-8, 20-21, 24

a. In May 25, 1957, the Treaty of Rome was signed that brought about the Common Market. the E.E.C. with six nation, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and West Germany and the Netherlands formed the Europeans Community.

- b. In January 6-7, 1958, nine commissioners were designated and were sworn into office in Brussels.
- c. In 1986 the EEC officially adopted the goal of a political unified Europe.
- d. In the 1980's the lofty goals of the EEC crumbled, and the members seemed to have no unity till the threat of the United states and Japan forced the EEC nations to abandon their nationalistic protectionism.
- e. In 1992 they overcame their first obstacle when they unified product standards and eliminated tariffs and trade quotas.

17:14 The angel indicates the intent of this confederacy.

- 1) The intentions of the ten nations and the beast is to make war with the Lamb, Armageddon.
- 2) The Lamb will overcome them for He is Lord of lords and King of kings. Rev. 19:16
* Yahweh told Jeremiah to take of the cup of the Lord's wrath and make all the nations to drink of it, through Babylon and ultimately Babylon herself. Jer. 25:15-26
- 3) The company with Him is the church, called chosen and faithful. Rev. 19:7-8

* Rev. 14:20; 16:14, 16; 19:11-21; Ps. 2

17:15 The angel indicates further the location of the woman.

- 1) The site is identified with the waters where she sits. vs. 1d
* Sitting is indicative of reigning in power and authority.
 - 2) The woman is identified with the Harlot. vs. 1d, 5
* She is one and the same, the enemy of God.
 - 3) The city where the woman reigns is described by her multicultural mixture. vs. 1, 9; Jer. 51:13
 - a. Peoples.
 - b. Multitudes.
 - c. Nations.
 - d. Tongues.
- * This is the epitome of the P.C. one world Kingdom, Rome!

17:16 The angel indicates the destruction of the woman.

- 1) The one mind of the ten nations and the antichrist will be manifested in hate for her. vs. 16a-b
 - a) The woman will be used by the anti-christ and Common Market.
 - b) The woman will reap to all she has sown, throughout history.

- c) There is an allusion to the allegory of Ohholibah who plays the prostitute with Assyria and Babylon. Ezk. 23:11-35
- 2) They will destroy her, eliminating her control and influence over them at the beginning of the last 3 1/2 years. vs. 16c-d
- * The language is highly figurative but has a literal application!
- a) They will make her desolate “ermoo”, despoil her and strip her of her treasures.
- b) They will make her naked “gumnos”, openly humiliate her by her abasement.
- c) They will eat “phago” her flesh consume her as a meal to their benefit.
- d) They will burn her with fire, indicative of her extinction and being forgotten.
- * Antichrist will destroy the Religious system that promoted him by the false Prophet at the middle of the 7 years.

17:17 The angel indicates the reason for all that will happen to the woman.

- 1) God put it in their hearts.

- 2) God put it in their minds to be of one mind.
- 3) God put it in the mind of the ten to give their power to the beast.
- 4) God set the time, until the word of God should be fulfilled.
- a) God uses Satan as His tool and instrument, even as He solicited the temptation of Job!
- b) Satan cannot stand competition or control.

17:18 The angel identifies the city one last time.

- 1) The woman is once again identified and related to the city.
- * The kingdom of the anti-christ.
- 2) The city is identified as that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.
- a) This city is known for its ruling power, throughout the history of man, it can be no other than Rome. vs. 1, 9, 15
- b) Jerusalem is the other city called this. Rev. 11:8