

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



Revelation 17

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

² with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”

³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

Chapter 17

THE DESCRIPTION OF BABYLON THE GREAT

- Why is it one of the seven angels who poured out the bowls of wrath that is coming and speaking to John?
- What does he want to show John (and us)?
- When is the last time we saw a reference to Babylon?
 - What was happening to her at that point?
 - So, what are we seeing in the next couple of chapters? (a closer, more granular look at the judgment of Babylon than Rev. 16:19 gives)
- What is Babylon sitting on?
 - What does v. 15 tell us about what the waters mean?
 - What does it mean to sit on them?
- Why is Babylon being called a great harlot?
- What had the kings of the earth done with her?
- Clearly this is metaphorical, what is meant by the kings of the earth committing acts of immorality with her?
- What does it mean that those who dwell on the earth are made drunk with the wine of her immorality?
- What does it mean to be caught away in the Spirit?
- What is the meaning behind this vision happening in a wilderness?
 - Who is this woman? (see v. 18)?
 - What other vision of a woman in the wilderness have we already seen?

- Where is this woman (Babylon the Great) sitting?
- What or who is this scarlet beast full of the blasphemous names, 7 heads,, and 10 horns? (see v. 8)
- What are we told about the 7 heads in vv. 9-11?
 - Where are there 7 hills?
 - Explain the 7 kings
 - 5 have fallen
 - one is
 - one has not yet come
 - and the beast is also an 8th
- What are we told about the 10 horns in v.12?
 - Explain how the 10 kings have not received a kingdom, but receive kingly authority with the beast for one hour?
 - How long can we expect one hour to be?
 - What is the purpose (v. 13) of the 10 horns according to vv. 16,17?
- How is Babylon dressed?
 - The meaning of purple and scarlet?
 - What is the meaning of her accoutrements (necklaces, bangles, rings, brooches, belts, and perhaps crown) being gold?
 - ...additionally adorned with costly stones and pearls?
 - What kind of cup does she hold?
 - What is in the cup?
 - What is on her forehead?
 - What made Babylon great earlier times?
 - What would it mean to be the “mother of harlots”?
 - ...and of the abominations of the earth?
 - And she’s drunk! With what?

⁴ The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

⁵ and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

⁶ And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.

When I saw her, I wondered greatly. ⁷ And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

⁸ “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. ⁹ “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, ¹⁰ and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. ¹¹ “The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. ¹² “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³ “These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

¹⁵ And he *said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. ¹⁶ “And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. ¹⁷ “For

- When John mentions that he “wondered”, what does he apparently mean — by the angel’s response?

- What is unique about him...?
 - ...he was, and is not, and is about to come
 - Where is this beast going to come our from (v. 8)?
- Who are his followers (13:8 and 17:8)?

- Looking to v. 13, who are the 10 kings giving their power to?

- What will these 10 kings be doing in serving the beast? (v. 14)

- What has “waging war” meant in the past in Revelation?

- But in an ironic twist, what will these 10 kings do to the harlot, Babylon?

- Why will they do this?
- Whose purpose will they be fulfilling?

God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. ¹⁸ “The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

- What is meant by “until the words of God will be fulfilled”?
- In what way does Babylon reign over the kings of the earth?