



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 17

- **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. 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.”

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- **Rom 1:21** Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.
- Man is, and always has been interested in spiritual things and, in the words of some, "incurably religious", because he was made that way.
- But the sin nature does not afford man the luxury of clear thinking on God, sin has for more power and influence in our lives than we want to admit.

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- **Rom 7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.**
- **These are the words of Paul after his conversion – so I say again, sin is a powerful force in our lives and needs to be seen as such.**

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- Man was made in the image of God and part of what that means is that we are spiritual beings with a capacity for spiritual things – you might even say, “*we have a need for spiritual things*”.
- So ever since the fall, man has been looking for ways to meet his spiritual needs while hanging on to his sin – Cain is the first example of this.
- *On the whole, the idea of John 14:6 is anathema to the natural man* – we want desperately to sing with Frank Sinatra “I did it my way”.

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- Man always wants to fill this void in his life with something, or someone, bigger than himself, but he also wants his sin. So an opening is created for Satan and his schemes.
- 2nd Cor 2:11 so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- What we will find in the end times is that Satan has fully leveraged man's desire for religion with his own desire to be worshipped, and presto, we have a new world church/religion.

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- **Rev 17:1 “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters”**
- **Understand this – chapters 17 & 18 are about the destruction of the Satanic world church, and the Satanic world government in the end times.**
- **Chapters 17 & 18 fill us in on the details of what God was doing with the judgments leading up to the end of chapter 16 – on both the one world church, and the one world government.**

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- So let's talk about "the great harlot who sits on many waters".
- Jer 3:6 Then the Lord said to me in the days of Josiah the king, "Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she was a harlot there. 7 I thought, 'After she has done all these things she will return to Me'; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also. 9 Because of the lightness of her harlotry, she polluted the land and committed adultery with stones and trees.
- Throughout scripture the frequent metaphor for unfaithfulness to God in the spiritual realm, (idolatry) is prostitution, or marital infidelity in the physical realm.

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- **In verse #5 we read this – “and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”**
- **So here we see the end time one world false religion identified as “Babylon the Great, the Mother of all Harlots” – simply stated, all of the false religions that have flowed from Babel are summed up in its final form.**
- **And its final form is the open worship of the Devil, and the Beast.**

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- **Rev 12:1** Then I witnessed in heaven an event of great significance. *I saw a woman* clothed with the sun, with the moon beneath her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head.
- **Rev 19:7** Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and *his bride* has prepared herself.
- In chapter 12, Israel is a “woman”, and in chapter 19 the Church is a “bride”, but in chapter 17 the false religion is a harlot – and the contrast is intentional.

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- **Bear in mind that the end time system, and the end time religion are both referred to in one way or another as “Babylon”.**
- **Babylon, as a system and as a religion has its roots in a place founded by Nimrod (Satan’s first false religious leader) known as Babel.**
- **It was at Babel that Nimrod fashioned a tower, not to reach to Heaven, but most likely to protect the world against another flood because if God judged sin once with a flood, why wouldn’t He do it again?**

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- **The purpose of the tower of Babel was to honor a false god and it united the world around a false religion.**
- **When God destroyed it and scattered the people across the face of the earth, they took their false notions of God with them and spread their message of paganism.**
- **God also introduced new languages when He destroyed the tower, probably to dilute their unity and influence because they were united around a false god.**

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- **Rev 14:8** And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality.”
- **Idolatry started with the known world united around a false god in Babel, and it will be brought to an end with the world once again united around a false god, Antichrist.**
- **When the angel says “fallen, fallen” that is a prophecy that the coming one world system and church will not endure, but will be brought down and destroyed.**

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- **In the ancient world Babel came to mean “gate of God” – an appropriate meaning for a world looking to reach God on their own terms.**
- **This leads us to why John writes “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”**
- **The end time false religion has its roots in the one place from which all false religions spring – Babel.**

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- **You can see a convergence of truth and desire – on the one hand we have man’s desire for a religion that accommodates his sin, and soothes his conscience of the natural conviction sin brings.**
- **On the other hand, we have a world that is falling apart under the judgment of God to such a degree that the unsaved are desperately seeking a supernatural shield of protection.**
- **Couple both of those facts with Satan’s age old plan to be worshipped and out comes a false religion that is bigger, bolder, and more far reaching than any in history.**

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- **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.”
- Here we see that the world’s kings (political system) has joined forces with and even supports this new religion that comes to be identified as “Babylon the Great”.
- In the modern western world this is unheard of that the church and state should become entangled, but not in the east, and certainly not in the “end”.

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- **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.**
- **The woman (the great harlot when fully identified) is sitting upon a scarlet beast – in other words, the one world religion will be cooperating with the one world government and influencing it.**
- **And why not? At their core, where they are both ruled by Satan, they are really one in the same.**

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- Now, at this point we need to jump ahead a bit for further understanding and read verse #16.
- 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.
- At first, the political system tolerates the religious system because it is a means to an end, but at the mid point of the tribulation, the government turns on and crushes the religion so that there is no longer a division between the two.

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- Rev 13:12 He **(the false prophet)** exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. *And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed.*
- This is the place where the political consumes the religious into one Satanic system – no longer tolerating the silly religious desires of man.
- So whatever the final form of false religion takes it will be short-lived and hated by the devil, because while he will settle for mankind worshipping false gods, he really wants to be the world's object of worship.

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- Now let's connect the seven heads and ten horns – we saw these exact terms back in chapter 13.
- Rev 13:1 **And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.**
- Rev 17:12 **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.**

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- **We will talk more about this next week, but for now just note that the ten horns who do not have a kingdom just yet, will be part of a ten region confederacy in the final world government.**
- **So in the tribulation, when the world has been rid of those narrow minded Christians who taught there is only one way to God, the world will ironically unite around guess what doctrine?**
- **There is only one God (in their case a false one) and you must worship the Beast and him only.**

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- **17:4 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,**
- **The end time temporary false religion will be entwined with the state and will also be rich – as it turns out, the prostitute will be very prosperous.**
- **Arrayed in purple and scarlet, adorned with jewels, and even having extravagantly expensive gold cups – this one world religion seems to be quite well resourced.**

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- **The world religion, pictured as a prostitute, wants to get her members drunk before committing fornication with them so she entices them to drink from her cup of “abominations”.**
- **So what are these abominations? The abominations are the acts of idolatry that accompany every pagan and false religion.**
- **Abomination is the word used in the Bible for God’s strongest condemnation of sin and what can be worse than the sin of idolatry? (it is the exact counter to John 14:6)**

Chapter 17

**Is the one world, end time religion
already in place, and if so, can you
identify it?**

Questions