

LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

Rev. 17

In Revelation 14, we saw that the final half of the tribulation would produce two great _____:

- The final ingathering of those _____ during the seven year tribulation
- The wrathful judgment of Holy God upon the _____ wicked

In Rev. 15 and 16 we read descriptions of how that wrathful judgment of God will be poured out _____ strength, undiluted by _____ upon men and women who refuse to turn in faith to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

In Rev. 17, 18, and 19 we will see the impact these judgments have upon the _____ and the powers ruling over the earth in unrighteousness and iniquity.

As we study chapter 17, we will do well to read the entire chapter before considering the detail of verses or paragraphs.

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

The first question that comes from this passage is _____ **OR** _____ **IS THE GREAT HARLOT?** We are told several things immediately:

1. The Great Harlot will be _____.
2. During the tribulation she sits on many _____. Verse 15 says the waters are peoples, multitudes, _____, and tongues. In other words she rules or at least exercises great influence or authority over all the _____ of the earth.

The kings (heads of _____) have committed _____ with the Great Harlot. We better look at how Scripture uses that word fornication. When we search on "fornication," we quickly find that its sister word used in the OT is "adultery." And while it is used of literal adultery, it is very often used in a _____ sense, meaning _____ God and worshipping and following _____ gods.

Jeremiah 3:8 Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but went and played the harlot also.

	<p>3. We are also told that the inhabitants of the earth are made drunk with the _____ of the Great Harlot's fornication. What does this mean? For next week, for extra credit!!!, search where in Scripture <u>both</u> the word "wine" and "fornication" appear in the same verse and discover what this means.</p>
<p>3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.</p>	<p>We will return to explore why the Holy Spirit carried John into the wilderness to show him the harlot woman.</p> <p>The great Harlot is sitting on a scarlet beast which is full of names of blasphemy, has seven heads, and ten horns. This should sound familiar! Revelation 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.</p> <p>When studying Rev. 13, we identified this beast as the _____ and his _____.</p>
<p>4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.</p>	<p>Do you want to see something both enlightening and frightening? Do a Google image search on the following: Purple scarlet gold cup. See what comes up?</p>
<p>5 And on her forehead a name was written:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,</p> <p>THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.</p>	<p>Next she is identified with words. The word "mystery" appears 25 times in the NT and in general refers to God's _____ that were _____ during OT times but have been or are being revealed through _____ in NT times and following.</p> <p>The mystery now being revealed is that this Great Harlot being supported by the _____ and his kingdom who exercises authority over the people of the earth is none other than the famous _____ of Babylon. She is here called the _____ of harlots and of abominations.</p> <p>Why? Because the first mention of Babylon is _____ of Gen. 10 and 11 following Noah's flood, where rebellious men built a</p>

	<p>tower of bricks to _____ false gods, and the Lord had to confuse their _____ to get them to disperse and repopulate the earth.</p> <p>From that time on, Babylon became the capital city for _____ – the mother of spiritual harlotry and abominations. This ancient city began its rise from the ashes in the desert of _____ during the reign of Saddam Hussein. But it shall rise to full power and prominence during the reign of _____.</p>
<p>6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.</p>	<p>This Great Harlot kills so many followers of Jesus that she is intoxicated by their blood. Who else besides the antichrist is said to kill believers? The _____ Rev. 13:15</p>
<p>7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? 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 will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.</p>	<p>Now the angel offers more explanation of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that we met in Rev. 13 and identified as the antichrist and his _____. He was and is not is a reference to his _____ from a mortal wound. The reference to the one who ascends from the bottomless pit but later goes to perdition is a reference to the antichrist being _____ by Satan himself. Lost people will marvel at the antichrist who lived, died, and _____ again.</p>
<p>9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.</p>	<p>The seven heads are said to have a dual meaning. 1. Seven mountains on which the Great Harlot sits - What city is known as having seven mountains or hills? _____ (While not spelled out, there clearly is a _____ between both antichrist and the false prophet and Rome. Daniel also shows a link.)</p>
<p>10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.</p>	<p>2. Seven _____. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five fallen – Egypt, _____, Babylon, Persia, and Greece • One who is (in John’s time) - _____ • One who is yet to come - _____ Roman Empire of the antichrist (only continues for a short time) </p>

	<p>Was and is not - antichrist was killed and rose from the dead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eighth but one of the seven - the kingdom of antichrist began as a _____, but changed to a _____ at the midpoint of the tribulation.
<p>12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”</p>	<p>Ten _____ (heads of state) will align themselves with antichrist for a brief time. These are the kings being summoned by the demonic spirits to come make war on God at Jerusalem. But there they shall meet King Jesus face to face at the Battle of _____.</p>
<p>15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.</p>	<p>Who or what is the Great Harlot? She is the apostate _____ system of the last days that rides to its place of world power on the back of the antichrist and as a part of his kingdom. The False Prophet shall lead her. She is probably the one _____ religion combining Catholicism, _____, and the other non-Christian religions of the earth.</p>
<p>16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”</p>	<p>These ten kings (before Armageddon) will unwittingly do the will of _____ by wrecking havoc upon this world religion. There is a union within this one world religion that _____ the cities of _____ and Babylon.</p>

Next week: The Fall of Babylon the Great – chapter 18