

## REVELATION CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

### BOOK OF THE REVELATION

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of the book of the Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Revelation represent a compilation of things learned from such men as Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Arno C. Gabelein, John Walvoord, Hal Lindsay, Dwight Pentecost, along with an exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Revelation

Lesson 122

6-12-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of The Revelation. We are in lesson 122.
2. Last week I finished Revelation chapter sixteen and when time expired we were looking at several introductory points.
3. Before returning to the introduction I want to give you the King James Version of chapter seventeen with several annotations.

Rev 17:1 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 [ecclesiastical Rome - the Global Church] that sitteth upon many waters [The Gentile nations influenced by the Global Church]:

Rev 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth [political entities to include both the Gentile Nations and Israel] have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication [been influenced by her false doctrines].

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman [Global Church] sit upon a scarlet coloured beast [the Satan indwelt Antichrist], full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads [seven hills of Rome] and ten horns [the Ten Nation Federation led by the Antichrist].

Rev 17:4 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 [the very wealthy Global Church]:

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 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 astonishment [The true church is persecuted by the Antichrist whose work is abetted by the Global Church].

Rev 17:7 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.

Rev 17:8 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.

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Rev 17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen [Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece], and one is, [Roman Empire at the time of John's writing] and the other is not yet come [ten nation federation waiting to give its authority to the Antichrist]; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space [a short lived period of time].

Rev 17:11 And the beast [Satan] that was, and is not, even he is the eighth [the Antichrist indwelt by Satan], and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

Rev 17:12 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.

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Rev 17:14 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.

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Rev 17:16 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.

Rev 17:17 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.

Rev 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Now we are ready to return to our introduction:

1. Chapter 17 describes the coming judgment of God on a religious system that has enslaved the human race in superstitious darkness for centuries.
2. Chapters 17 and 18 of the book of the Revelation are dedicated to the description of the final destruction of Rome as first the center of world religion and then Rome as the center of international commerce and politics.
3. Neither chapter seventeen nor eighteen advance the narrative; these chapters are simply detailed descriptions of Rome first in its ecclesiastical form and then in its political form.
4. It is evident from these chapters that the events described, especially those in chapter

17, precede by some considerable period the events represented in the seven vials.

5. The events of chapter 17 occur at the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

6. It must be remembered that from John's point of view all of the events of the Book of the Revelation were future, and it pleased God to reveal various aspects of future events in other than a chronological order.

7. In general, however, it is helpful to consider chapter 17 as dealing with Babylon as an ecclesiastical or spiritual entity and chapter 18 as dealing with Babylon as a political/commercial entity.

8. It is also helpful in chapter 17 to distinguish the vision in verses 1 through 6 from the interpretation in verses 7 through 18.

9. Babylon then is taught in these two chapters from two different perspectives.

10. In chapter 18 Babylon seems to be some city along a great river, crowded with the ships of the merchants of the earth, details that are not present in chapter 17.

11. Wycliffe in his commentary provides a good concise introduction. Let me give you his introduction in a series of points. Again, let me remind you I am quoting:

11.1 "There are three groups to be identified in this opening paragraph: the beast, who has seven heads and ten horns; the harlot herself who rides the beast; and those referred to by many waters, later said to be "peoples and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

11.2 The ten horns, we are later informed, are ten kings (Rev 17:12), certainly contemporaneous; and the seven heads are seven mountains (Rev 17:9-10), which also represent kingdoms.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings ...

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Rev 17:10 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.

11.3 We must never forget that every federation of kings in the Old Testament, and here, is always opposed to God and the people of God.

Dan 2:41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

Dan 2:42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

Dan 2:43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Dan 2:44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

Psa 2:6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psa 83:1 O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still.

Psa 83:2 See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads.

Psa 83:3 With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish.

Psa 83:4 "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more."

Psa 83:5 With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you--

Psa 83:6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites (south Arabia),

Psa 83:7 Gebal (northern Lebanon), Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre.

Psa 83:8 Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot. Selah

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and ñ on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

Rev 16:12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.

Rev 16:13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev 16:14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

11.4 This woman, called THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS (Rev 17:5), commits fornication with the kings of the earth (Rev 17:2), and for a while dominates them. Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:2 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.

11.5 To whom or what does this woman refer? The majority of commentators, since the time of the Reformation, identify her with the papacy, as Luther, Tyndale, Knox, Calvin, Alford, Elliott, Lange, and many others.

11.6 The Roman Catholic Church itself identifies this woman with Rome - but of course pagan Rome, now past.

11.7 She is definitely some vast spiritual system that persecutes the saints of God, betraying that to which she was called.

11.8 She enters into relations with the governments of this earth, and for a while rules them.

11.9 I think the closest we can come to an identification is to understand this harlot as symbolic of a vast spiritual power arising at the end of the age, which enters into a league with the world ...

11.10 Instead of being spiritually true, she is spiritually false, and thus exercises an evil influence in the name of religion.

11.11 The kings of the earth now, having one mind, federate, and give their authority unto this great enemy of God, the beast, and go out to make war against the Lamb. (Rev 17:13-14)

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

11.12 When this hour is come, the beast, with the power of the kingdoms of the earth, turns upon the harlot, this pseudo-spiritual force, and destroys her. (Rev 17:16)

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

11.13 There is a very comforting statement in verse 17 - "God did put in their hearts to do his mind, and to come to one mind ... until the words of God should be accomplished."

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.

12. So much for Wycliffe and his concise overview, now let's see what we can learn from verses one and two:

KJV

Rev 17:1 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:

Rev 17:2 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.

NIV

Rev 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

Rev 17:2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

1. John is shown the vision of the destruction of Babylon, as representing false religion. The revelation is provided by one of the seven angels who had the seven vials.

2. He is invited to behold the judgment of a woman, Babylon. She is described as the great whore (whore is a translation from the Greek porne, usually translated "harlot"), she is seen sitting on many waters.

3. Four times this false religious system of the Tribulation is characterized as a harlot.

Rev 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

Rev 17:5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

4. Furthermore, she is labeled in verse one "the great (from the common Greek adjective megas) harlot," indicating that she represents the epitome of unfaithfulness.

5. Also, "she sits on many waters," indicating that her system will eventually stretch around the world. Waters being a common metaphor for gentiles.

6. When believers are taken to heaven by the Rapture, religion does not disappear from the earth.

7. Indeed, religion will flourish under this unfaithful prostitute for the first three and one half years of the Tribulation.

8. The global church will likely build on the remnants of the professing Christian churches that existed before the Rapture.

9. Given the imminency of the Translation of the Church, the Mystery Prostitute is the Roman Catholic Church, as a central world church which will welcome the apostate denominations into their Global Ecumenical fold.

9.1 Nominal Christians not raptured will remain to form the base of this "global church." Tribulation saints will oppose the organized global apostasy.

9.2 Since we lead a protected life, let me review how blasphemous has become denominational Christiandom.

9.2.1 A recent survey showed about half of professing Christians believe God didn't create the world by fiat but rather he used evolution.

9.2.2 The Episcopal Church is ordaining women as pastors and deacons.

9.2.3 The Presbyterians recently made the news because they had to lay off many workers due to "falling" revenues, they think caused by their decision to ordain homosexuals as pastors.

9.2.4 Baptist churches are at odds with one another because many do not agree the Bible is without error. Many Baptist churches are ordaining women both as evangelist, deacons and pastors.

9.2.5 Billy Graham's daughter is on the road holding evangelistic meetings.

9.2.6 Main line protestant churches like the Church of God, Assembly of God, Church of the Nazarene, Four Square, Community Church, the Christian Church, the Church of Christ, the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Lutheran Church and the Mormon Church, these all deny eternal security - the doctrine which teaches salvation comes from faith alone in Christ alone.

9.2.7 It is not difficult therefore to conceive of a time when all these apostate denominations will get together to make the world a better place under a giant and very wealthy ecclesiastical umbrella headquartered in Rome.

10. The harlotry of this system will extend to "many waters," a metaphor to teach that the Global Church will extend to many people in close alliance with the political leaders of the earth.

10.1 Given the Antichrist's early overtures toward Israel and his protection of her during the first three and one-half years, it is easy again to see how attractive such actions will be to many in the fundamentalist movement.

10.2 The May 23, 2002 Wall Street Journal had a front page article about right wing fundamentalist Churches coming to the aid of the nation Israel due to the recent attacks on her. Many it said are holding Passover celebrations with Rabbis participating in order to show solidarity. The article went on to say fundamentalist are now saying both they and Israel worship the same Holy God. The article further took note of the fact that money was being collected in right wing Churches to aid Israel's recovery from terrorist attacks.

10.3 The Antichrist's overtures and protection of Israel would no doubt be well received today among many in Christianity.

11. In other words, the power of this church will be enhanced by political alliances while providing support and popular doctrines to counter the criticisms of the many small cadres of Bible believing Christians, the believers who remain true to the Word.

12. The inhabitants of the earth are further declared to have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. People will be delighted with the "do gooder" programs which are designed to show a special religious tolerance.

13. The picture of the woman as utterly evil signifies spiritual adultery, we find a picture of those who outwardly and religiously appear to be joined to the true God but in fact are apostate.

14. The symbolism of spiritual adultery is not ordinarily used of heathen nations who know not God, but always of people who outwardly carry the name of God while worshiping and serving false gods.

15. The concept of spiritual adultery is frequently used in describing the apostasy of Israel (compare Ezekiel 16 and 23 and all of Hosea).

An Allegory of Unfaithful Jerusalem

Eze 16:2 "Son of man, confront Jerusalem with her detestable practices ...

Eze 16:4 On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

Eze 16:5 No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

Eze 16:6 "Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, "Live!"

Eze 16:7 I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare.

Eze 16:8 "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine...

Eze 16:11 I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck ...

Eze 16:14 And your fame spread among the nations on account of your beauty, because the splendor I had given you made your beauty perfect, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Eze 16:15 "But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his."

#### Two Adulterous Sisters

Eze 23:1 The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,

Eze 23:2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother:

Eze 23:3 And they committed whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth: there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

Eze 23:4 And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister: and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

#### Hosea's Wife and Children

Hos 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

16. Characteristically, the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the husband of Israel (compare Isa 54:1-8 and Jer 3:14 and 31:32).

#### The Future Glory of Zion

Isa 54:1 "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband," says the LORD.

Isa 54:2 "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

Isa 54:3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.

Isa 54:4 "Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

Isa 54:5 For your Maker is your husband-- the LORD Almighty is his name-- the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth.

Isa 54:6 The LORD will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit-- a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God.

Isa 54:7 "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

Isa 54:8 In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

Jer 3:14 "Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. I will choose you-- one from a town and two from a clan-- and bring you to Zion.

Jer 31:32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.

17. In the New Testament the church is viewed as a virgin destined to be joined to her husband in the future (2Cor 11:2), but she is warned against spiritual adultery.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Jam 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

18. The alliance of the apostate church with the political powers of the world not only debauches the true spiritual character of the church and compromises her testimony but has the devastating effect of inducing a religious drunken stupor on the inhabitants of the earth.

End Lesson Taught 6-12-2002

Revelation

Lesson 123

6-19-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 123.

2. Last week I was about to conclude a study of Rev 17:1-2. We were finishing up several summary points when time ran out.

3. Before returning to the summary I want to give you an expanded translation of verses one and two of our chapter seventeen.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the global church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the global church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many adulteries;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the global church of Rome and her false doctrines.

1. John is shown the vision of the destruction of Babylon, with Babylon representing false religion. The revelation is provided by one of the seven angels who had one of the seven vials.

2. He is invited to behold the judgment of a woman, Babylon. She is described as the great whore sitting on many waters.

3. Four times in our chapter seventeen this false religious system of the Tribulation is characterized as a harlot. Rev 17:1, 5, 15 and 16.

4. Furthermore, she is labeled in verse one "the great harlot," indicating that she represents the epitome of unfaithfulness.

5. Also, "she sits on many waters," a picture of how her religious system will eventually stretch around the world. Waters being a common metaphor for gentiles.

6. When believers are taken to heaven by the Rapture, religion does not disappear from the earth.

7. Indeed, religion will flourish under this unfaithful prostitute for the first three and one half years of the Tribulation.

8. The global church will likely build on the remnants of the professing Christian churches that existed before the Rapture or as will be later noted it could include other faiths.

9. Assuming the rapture occurs soon, the Roman Catholic Church will be the Babylonian whore church.

9.1 Nominal Christians, and perhaps even those of other religions like that of Islam, will form the cadre for this "global church." They will gather under the Roman umbrella to form a matured "World Council of Churches."

9.2 Believers of the Tribulation will oppose the global apostasy.

10. The harlotry of this system will extend to "many waters," a metaphor to teach that the Global Church will extend to many; the church will operate in close alliance with the political leaders of the earth and in fact greatly influence even the Antichrist himself.

10.1 Given the Antichrist's early overtures toward Israel and his protection of her during the first three and one-half years, it is easy again to see how attractive such actions will be to many in the fundamentalist movement.

10.2 The May 23, 2002 Wall Street Journal had a front page article about right wing fundamentalist churches coming to the aid of the nation Israel due to the recent attacks on her. Many it said are holding Passover celebrations with rabbis participating in order to show solidarity. The article went on to say fundamentalist are now saying both they and Israel worship the same holy God. The article further took note of the fact that money was being collected in right wing churches to aid Israel's recovery from terrorist attacks.

11. The Antichrist's overtures and protection of Israel would no doubt be well received today among many in Christianity, and rightly I might add.

12. The inhabitants of the earth are further declared to have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. People will be delighted with the "do gooder" programs which are designed to show a special religious tolerance and improvement of world conditions, especially for the down trodden.

13. The woman is pictured as a spiritual adulteress.

14. The symbolism of spiritual adultery is not ordinarily used of heathen nations who know not God, but always of people who outwardly carry the name of God while worshiping and serving false gods.

15. The concept of spiritual adultery is frequently used in describing the apostasy of Israel (compare Ezekiel 16 and 23 and all of Hosea).

16. In the New Testament the church is likewise viewed as a virgin destined to be joined to her husband in the future, but she is warned against spiritual adultery.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Jam 4:4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

17. The alliance of the apostate church with the political powers of the world not only corrupts the true spiritual character of the church but it also debauches her testimony. The result is said to induce a drunken religious stupor.

18. False religion is always the worst enemy of Christianity, and the moral wickedness involved in the union of the church with the world imposes an even greater danger. An amalgamation of demonic religion in league with a demon possessed international head of state will soon lead to "a world aflame".

19. The hardest people to win to Christ and the most difficult to instruct in spiritual truth are those who have previously embraced false religion with its outward show of worship.

20. The concept here presented, enlarging on that described in Rev 14:8, makes plain that the apostate church has eagerly sought and solicited the adulterous relationship with the world political powers and therefore is an object of special blame.

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Let's again take a look at an expanded translation of verses one and two.

Rev 17:1 One of the seven angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many adulteries;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrine.

Now let's see what we can learn from verses three and four of Revelation chapter seventeen.

KJV

Rev 17:3 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.

Rev 17:4 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:

NIV

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

1. Accepting the invitation of the angel, John is carried away in the spirit to a place described as the wilderness or literally from the Greek "an uninhabited area."
2. From this vantage point John is able to see the woman previously introduced as the great harlot.
3. She is seen seated on a scarlet colored beast upon whose body are written various names of blasphemy; the beast also has seven heads and ten horns.
4. The scarlet beast is the same one described in Rev 13:1 where the beast is the Revived Roman Empire - the center of world government.
5. The Beast is clearly the man of sin described in Rev 13:1-10.

Rev 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Rev 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

6. The startling feature of this scene is that the whore is sitting on the Beast, indicating that she will at first have power over him.

7. This event must occur during the first part of the Tribulation before the man of sin overthrows religion and requires everyone to worship him.

7.1 Let me quote what J. Vernon McGee has written in order to help set the stage for our study:

"The true church will not go through the Great Tribulation; it will be raptured before the Tribulation begins. Let's be specific: who will be raptured? Not certain denominations and not just individual churches, but His church. A collective term meaning all true believers, those who are in Christ. That is the group that will be taken out at the Rapture, and the rest of the church members will be left here on this earth to go through the Great Tribulation. As Dr. George Gill used to say, some churches will meet the Sunday after the rapture and will not miss a member. But let's clearly understand that they are not true believers. They are not part of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He never calls them His church; He calls it a harlot! It is a pseudo religious system, which controls the wild Beast during the first half of the Tribulation, yet it is hated by him. During the last half of the Tribulation, the Beast destroys the harlot in order to set up his own religion."

7.2 Dr. Dwight Pentecost writes of the events now being studied

"The Beast, who was dominated by the harlot system (Rev 17:3), rises against her and destroys her and her system completely. Without doubt the harlot system was in competition with the religious worship of the Beast, promoted by the False Prophet, and her destruction is brought about so that the Beast may be the sole object of false worship as he claims to be God."

8. The harlot in Rev 17:4 is bedecked with splendor, signifying the glory and wealth with which she will entice people.

9. Even amid the awful judgments of the first part of the Tribulation this false "church" will try to take people's minds off what is happening and allure them with false comfort.

10. Let me now give you an expanded translation of verse three and four:

Expanded Translation:

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. It was there I saw a woman, the Global Church sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; he was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the seven hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation; the world church and world government worked closely together in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

11. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 17:5

KJV

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

NIV

Rev 17:5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

1. She is in reality a counterfeit, vs. 5a. Her name is called "a mystery." (The word "mystery" is not an adjective as in "mystery Babylon" but a noun in apposition to Babylon "mystery, Babylon.")

2. By the use of this word "mystery" this Babylon is not the city on the Euphrates but a secret use of the word alluded to in Rev 17:9 and 18 and earlier taught in a series of points supporting Rome as Babylon.

Rev 17:9

Here is the intelligence that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills. The woman is seated upon them. And there are seven kings. The five fell the one is. The other one has not yet come.

Rev 17:18

And the woman whom you saw is the city, the great one, which possesses imperial power over the kings of the earth.

2.1 Daniel prophesied of four empires naming the three Babylon, Persia and Greece. We have seen the fourth historically - Rome.

2.2 Daniel clearly speaks of two Roman Empires with a veiled description of a Revived Roman Empire consisting of ten nations. In our retrospective view of the Roman Empire we saw no ten nation federation - therefore it must be a future event in a future Roman Empire, i.e., The Revived Roman Empire.

2.3 Daniel predicts the Romans shall come to destroy Jerusalem before the Second Advent of Christ. Historically this occurred in August of A.D. 70.

Dan 9:26 And after that Palm Sunday ... shall the Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

2.4 There is a return of the Roman Empire, called by many the Revived Roman Empire, just as there will be a return of Israel as a priest nation.

2.5 Babylon at the time of John's writing was just a village on the Euphrates; the city is today under the desert sand near Baghdad Iraq.

2.6 Babylon was the mother of idolatry which swept the world, ultimately affecting the early Christian church.

2.7 There is also a reference to Babylon 1Pe 5:13 which most early expositors agreed was Rome. This is generally so interpreted today; the Catholic Church has long believed the reference to Babylon in 1Pe 5:13 is Rome.

1Pe 5:12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.  
1Pe 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.

3. Since the true church is also called a mystery (Eph 5:31-33), this apostate church is a counterfeit.

Eph 5:31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

Eph 5:32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Eph 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

4. The interpretation of "waters" is that these are the many nations ruled by Babylon. The woman is further described as having committed fornication with the Kings of the earth, a reference to her alliance with his nefarious programs of international apostasy and subversion of God's protocol.

5. Wycliffe writes of the judgments upon Babylon as follows:

5.1 "One-eighth of the entire book of Revelation is devoted to the subject of judgment upon Babylon (Rev 14:8-10, 16:19 through 18:24).

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb.

Rev 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Rev 16:20 Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.

Rev 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

### The Fall of Babylon - The Global Religion - Wuest Translation

Rev 17:1-5:

And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls. And he spoke with me, saying, Come here. I will show you the condemnation and punishment of the prostitute, the great one, who is sitting on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication; and those who dwell on the earth were made drunken by the wine of her fornication. And he carried me away into an uninhabited place in [my] spirit. And I saw a woman sitting on a Wild Beast, a scarlet one, filled with names reproachful and injurious to the divine majesty of God, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and was adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand filled with abominations and unclean things. And on her forehead a name has been written in a permanent inscription, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth.

Rev 17:6-8

And I saw the woman intoxicated, the source of her intoxication being the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And I wondered, seeing the woman, with a great wonder. And the angel said to me, Why did you wonder? As for myself, I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the Wild Beast who is carrying her who [the Wild Beast] has the seven heads and the ten horns. The Wild Beast whom you saw was, and is not, and is destined to be ascending out of the bottomless place, and he goes off into perdition. And those who dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names have not been permanently inscribed upon the scroll of the life from the time of the foundation of the universe, when they see the Wild Beast, how that he was and is not and shall come.

Rev 17:9-10

Here is the intelligence that has wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills. The woman is seated upon them. And there are seven kings. The five fell The one is. The other one has not yet come. And whenever he comes it is a necessity in the nature of the case for him to continue for a brief time.

Rev 17:11-14

And the Wild Beast who was and is not is himself also an eighth king and is out of the seven as a source. And into perdition he goes off. And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings of the kind which did not yet receive royal power, but they will receive authority as kings one hour with the Wild Beast. These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the Wild Beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall gain the victory over them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and they shall also gain the victory who are with Him, the called and the chosen and the faithful.

Rev 17:15-18

And he says to me, The waters which you saw, where the prostitute is sitting, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns which you saw and the Wild Beast, these shall hate the prostitute and shall make her a ruin "and reduce her to nakedness. And her flesh they shall eat. And they shall consume her with fire, for God did put it into their hearts to do that which was in His mind, and to come to one mind and to give their royal power to the Wild Beast until the words of God should be accomplished. And the woman whom you saw is the city, the great one, which possesses imperial power over the kings of the earth.

End Lesson Taught 6-19-2002

Revelation

Lesson 124

6-26-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of The Revelation. We are in lesson 124.
2. Last week I taught Rev 17:3-4 and when time ran out I was analyzing Rev 17:5. We were looking at several summary points when time expired.
3. Before returning to the summary I want to give you an expanded translation of verses one, two, three and four of our chapter seventeen.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many adulteries;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrines.

Rev 17:3 The angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. It was there I saw a woman, the Global Church, sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; the Beast was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the 7 hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation; the world church and world government worked in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

Now let's return to our study of Rev 17:5

KJV

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

NIV

Rev 17:5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

1. The organized religion of Rome is in reality a counterfeit. Her name is called "a mystery." (The word "mystery" is not an adjective as in "mystery Babylon" but a noun in apposition to Babylon "mystery, Babylon.")

2. By such use of this word "mystery," it becomes clear that Babylon is not the city on the Euphrates; it is a cryptic use to describe Rome.

3. The interpretation of "waters" is a metaphor for the many nations ruled by political Rome and influenced by ecclesiastical Rome.

4. The Global Church is further described as having committed fornication with the Kings of the earth, a reference to her alliance with the nefarious programs of international apostasy designed to subvert God's protocol.

5. With reference to the judgments of Babylon we find:

5.1 One-eighth of the entire Book of The Revelation is devoted to the subject of judgment upon Babylon (Rev 14:8-10; Rev 16:19 through Rev 18:24).

5.2 In the Old Testament the name Babylon takes its origin from Babel, which of course has always symbolized revolt against God, and confusion.

5.3 Babylon was the conqueror of the kingdom of Judah, the theocracy.

5.4 With Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, began the "times of the Gentiles" (Jer 27:1-11; Dan 2:37-38).

Judah to Serve Nebuchadnezzar

Jer 27:1 Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

Jer 27:2 This is what the LORD said to me: "Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck.

Jer 27:3 Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.

Jer 27:4 Give them a message for their masters and say, 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Tell this to your masters: –

Jer 27:5 With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.

Jer 27:6 Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.

Jer 27:7 All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him.

Jer 27:8 If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy it by his hand.

Jer 27:9 So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon.'

Jer 27:10 They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands; I will banish you and you will perish.

Jer 27:11 But if any nation will bow its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let that nation remain in its own land to till it and to live there, declares the LORD.

Dan 2:37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory;

Dan 2:38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

6. Babylon is set before us in these two chapters from two perspectives.

7. In chapter 17, she is identified with the great harlot, a woman the whore - world religion.

8. In chapter eighteen Babylon is a city located beside a great river crowded with the ships of the merchants of the earth - a metaphor to describe great economic activity and influence.

9. No doubt a great city of world commerce and political power.

10. Wycliffe on Babylon and its history has written:

10.1 "At the beginning of the Christian era only a small group of astronomers and mathematicians were living in Babylon.

10.2 Many of the cities in the vicinity, such as, used the sun-dried and oven baked bricks of the once great city to build new walls, houses, and dams, even as prophesied (Isa 13:19-22; Jer 50:23-26; 51:24-26).

Isa 13:19 Babylon, the jewel of kingdoms, the glory of the Babylonians' pride, will be overthrown by God like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Isa 13:20 She will never be inhabited or lived in through all generations; no Arab will pitch his tent there, no shepherd will rest his flocks there.

Isa 13:21 But desert creatures will lie there, jackals will fill her houses; there the owls will dwell, and there the wild goats will leap about.

Isa 13:22 Hyenas will howl in her strongholds, jackals in her luxurious palaces. Her time is at hand, and her days will not be prolonged i.

Jer 50:23 How broken and shattered is the hammer of the whole earth! How desolate is Babylon among the nations!

Jer 50:24 I set a trap for you, O Babylon, and you were caught before you knew it; you were found and captured because you opposed the LORD.

Jer 50:25 The LORD has opened his arsenal and brought out the weapons of his wrath, for the Sovereign LORD Almighty has work to do in the land of the Babylonians.

Jer 50:26 Come against her from afar. Break open her granaries; pile her up like heaps of grain. Completely destroy her and leave her no remnant.

Jer 51:24 "Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion," declares the LORD.

Jer 51:25 "I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.

Jer 51:26 No rock will be taken from you for a cornerstone, nor any stone for a foundation, for you will be desolate forever," declares the LORD.

10.3 Babylon will thus live only in the building of a new city or cities.

10.4 In the New Testament, therefore, the references in Rev 14:8; 16:19 and 17:18 to Babylon are a reference to the city of Rome.

Rev 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Rev 16:19 The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

10.5 Tertullian, Jerome, and Augustine so viewed these references."

11. Babylon as we have earlier noted had a long and consistently dishonorable history. It had its beginnings around 3000 B.C. under Nimrod."

12. Charles C. Ryrie in his book "Revelation" has written of Babylon:

"The tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) was built to prevent people from scattering throughout the earth, in direct defiance of God's command to do so. Hammurabi made Babylon a religious power in about 1600 B.C. by making Marduk god of the city of Babylon and head of a pantheon of 1,300 deities."

Gen 11:1 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Gen 11:2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Gen 11:3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

Gen 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Gen 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Gen 11:6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Gen 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Gen 11:8 So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.

Gen 11:9 That is why it was called Babel-- because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

13. As we have seen in Pentecost's book Things to Come, extra-Biblical sources indicate that the wife of Nimrod became the head of the Babylonian mysteries, which consisted of religious rites that were part of the worship of idols in Babylon.

14. Her name was Semiramis, and she supposedly gave birth to a son, Tammuz, who claimed to be a savior and the fulfillment of the promise given to Eve in Genesis 3:15.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

15. This anti-God Babylonia and her religion is alluded to in Eze 8:12-15, Jer 7:18-19, and Jer 44:17-19, 25 ...

Eze 8:12 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'"

Eze 8:13 Again, he said, "You will see them doing things that are even more detestable."

Eze 8:14 Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz.

Eze 8:15 He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this."

Jer 7:18 The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.

Jer 7:19 But am I the one they are provoking? declares the LORD. Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?

Jer 44:17 We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

Jer 44:18 But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine."

Jer 44:19 The women added, "When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes like her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?"

Jer 44:25 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have shown by your actions what you promised when you said, 'We will certainly carry out the vows we made to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.' "Go ahead then, do what you promised! Keep your vows!

15.1 The worship of Baal, characteristic of pagan religion in Canaan, was another form of this same mystery religion originating in Babylon.

15.2 Baal is considered identical to Tammuz, the Queen of Heaven.

15.3 The doctrines of the mystery religions of Babylon seem to have permeated the ancient world, giving rise to countless mystery religions, each with its cult and individual beliefs offering a counterfeit religion and a counterfeit god in opposition to the true God revealed in the Scriptures.

15.4 Babylon as an evil woman is portrayed in the prophecy of Zec 5:1-11 where the woman of verse seven is described as personifying wickedness in verse 8.

Zec 5:1 I looked again-- and there before me was a flying scroll!

Zec 5:2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a flying scroll, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide."

Zec 5:3 And he said to me, "This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished.

Zec 5:4 The LORD Almighty declares, 'I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.'"

The Woman in a Basket

Zec 5:5 Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, "Look up and see what this is that is appearing."

Zec 5:6 I asked, "What is it?" He replied, "It is a measuring basket." And he added, "This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land."

Zec 5:7 Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman!

Zec 5:8 He said, "This is wickedness," and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed the lead cover down over its mouth.

Zec 5:9 Then I looked up-- and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth.

Zec 5:10 "Where are they taking the basket?" I asked the angel who was speaking to me.

Zec 5:11 He replied, "To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."

15.5 John Walvoord writes: "The Babylonian cult eventually made its way to other cities including Pergamos, the site of one of the seven churches of Asia and representing the universal church from A.D. 300 to 800."

Rev 2:12 "To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

Rev 2:13 I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city--where Satan lives.

Rev 2:14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality.

Rev 2:15 Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Rev 2:16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

15.5.1 The message to the church at Pergamos follows similarly that written to both Ephesus and Smyrna.

#### CHART SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

15.5.2 Pergamos was one of the most prominent cities of Asia.

15.5.3 It was located north of Smyrna and about twenty miles from the Mediterranean Sea, it was a wealthy city with many temples devoted to idol worship, and full of sacred groves.

15.5.4 It was an important religious center where the pagan cults of Athena, Dionysus and Zeus were prominent. There was a large temple dedicated to the worship of Asklepios, a pagan god whose symbol was a serpent.

15.5.5 Many think the statement "Satan's seat" is a reference to the temple of the serpent god Esculapius as it was also known.

15.5.6 Christ is said here to be the One "Who hath the sharp sword with two edges," a description given to Him earlier in Rev 1:16. Again it is not the Roman machaira but rather it is the romphaia - a two edged and sharp "broad sword."

15.5.7 In verse 13 Christ extends a word of commendation. He first notes the fact that they were dwelling "where Satan's seat is."

15.5.8 Satan here is "Satana" meaning adversary or opponent. The mention of Satan's throne is referred to again at the end of the verse where the Greek is once more "Satana."

15.5.9 The phrase "where Satan dwelleth," is a reference to the satanic power in the evil religious character of the city of Pergamos with its many idols and temples.

15.5.10 Christ notes that in spite of their evil environment the church at Pergamos has held fast His "name" and His "faith."

15.5.11 In extending the problems attendant in Pergamos to the universal church of the second century when Constantine began to rule we find similarly numerous false doctrines developing like infant baptism, purgatory, buying blessings, worship of Mary, last rites; confession booths; the mortal sin of suicide; abstinence from certain foods etc. all of these and the more put pressure on the faithful to hold to "what the Bible said."

15.5.12 To those who hold to the Word of God as their foundation, commendation is all the more generous. The faithfulness of the church at Pergamos and the 2nd century church was no doubt just such a challenge; such were the temptations during the Pergamum period - 300-800 A.D.

15.5.13 We must today like these saints of old stand true even when engulfed by the evils of this present world, the apostasy within the ranks of religion, and the temptation to compromise Biblical truths. In Thyatira - representing the period of the universal church 800 - 1517, the evils will proliferate "in spades."

15.5.14 As a symbol of the faithfulness of these saints in Pergamos, one of the early martyrs is named as "Antipas" called "my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

15.5.15 No one knows anything about this man though it would seem he was martyred most likely in the temple of Asklepios.

End Lesson Taught 6-26-2002

Revelation

Lesson 125

7-3-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 125.
2. Last week I was analyzing Rev 17:5 when time expired. We were looked at a brief history of the early church and how Babylon has forever been a symbol of false doctrine.
3. Before returning to our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 17:1-4.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth had committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many indiscretions;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrines.

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. It was there I saw a woman, the Global Church, sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; the Beast was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the seven hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation; the world church and world government worked in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

4. Now let's return to our study of Rev 17:5

KJV

Rev 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

NIV

Rev 17:5 This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

1. Babylon is not the city on the Euphrates; in chapter seventeen it is a cryptic appellative used to describe Rome as the center of the apostate church which prospers during the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation.

2. Wycliffe has written of Babylon:

2.1 The references in Rev 14:8; 16:19 and 17:18 are a reference to the city of Rome.

2.2 Early expositors such as Tertullian, Jerome, and Augustine have so viewed Babylon as Rome. Many later expositors have taken these references to Babylon as Rome." Such are Lewis Sperry Chafer, H. A. Ironsides, R. B. Thieme, Dwight Pentecost, Charles Ryrie, J. Vernon McGee, David Jeremiah and John Walvoord.

2.3 Babylon as we have earlier noted had a long and consistently dishonorable history. It had its beginnings around 3000 B.C. under Nimrod.

2.4 Charles C. Ryrie in his book "Revelation" has written of Babylon:

"The tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) was built to prevent people from scattering throughout the earth, in direct defiance of God's command to do so. Hammurabi made Babylon a religious power in about 1600 B.C. by making Marduk god of the city of Babylon and head of a pantheon of 1,300 deities."

3. As we have seen in Pentecost's book *Things to Come*, extra-Biblical sources indicate that the wife of Nimrod became the head of the Babylonian mysteries, which consisted of religious rites that were part of the worship of idols in Babylon.

4. Her name was Semiramis, and she supposedly gave birth to a son, Tammuz, who claimed to be a savior and the fulfillment of the promise given to Eve in Genesis 3:15.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

5. This anti-God Babylonia and her religion is alluded to in Jer 7:18; Jer 44:17 and 25.

Jer 7:18 The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.

Jer 44:17 We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

Jer 44:25 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have shown by your actions what you promised when you said, 'We will certainly carry out the vows we made to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.' "Go ahead then, do what you promised! Keep your vows!

5.1 The worship of Baal was another form of this same mystery religion originating in Babylon.

5.2 Baal is considered identical to Tammuz the son and the Queen of Heaven is Semiramis his "virgin" mother.

5.3 The doctrines of the mystery religions of Babylon seem to have permeated the ancient world, giving rise to countless mystery religions, each with its cult and individual beliefs offering a counterfeit religion and a counterfeit god in opposition to the true God revealed in the Scriptures.

5.4 The Babylonian cult eventually made its way to other cities including Pergamos and Thyatira, two of the seven churches of Asia mentioned in the Book of The Revelation chapters two and three.

5.5 Pergamos and Thyatira also represented the universal church from A.D. 300 to 800 and 801 to 1517 AD respectively."

5.6 In extending the problems attendant in Pergamos and Thyatira to the universal church of the fourth century when Constantine began to rule we find similarly numerous false doctrines developing like infant baptism, purgatory, buying blessings, worship of Mary, last rites; confession booths; the mortal sin of suicide; abstinence from certain foods etc., all of these put pressure on the faithful to hold to what the Bible said.

5.7 We have previously reviewed the beginning and early development of the "global church" under Constantine in about 320 AD.

5.7.1 Let's see what the Grolier Encyclopedia has to say of Constantine:

"Flavius Valerius Constantinus, better known as Constantine the Great, was the first Roman emperor to adopt Christianity. He was born at Naissus (modern Nis, Yugoslavia) about AD 280, the son of CONSTANTIUS I ... In 305, Constantius became senior emperor (Augustus) in the West. However, when he died at York in 306 and the British troops proclaimed Constantine Augustus in his place, the Eastern emperor GALERIUS refused to recognize the claim, offering Constantine the lesser rank of caesar. (A five year civil war between east and west ensued.)

Constantine survived the civil war ... and by 312 he was in a position to challenge Maxentius, the self-appointed caesar who controlled Italy and Africa. Constantine's defeat (Oct. 28, 312) of Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge outside Rome not only removed a dangerous rival but secured his share in the new government ... The arch commissioned by the Senate in Rome to mark his victory bears an inscription that attributes Constantine's success to the prompting of a deity.

"The Senate undoubtedly had in mind a pagan deity, but later Christian writers credited the victory to the intervention of the Christian God, who (they asserted) had declared his support of Constantine in a vision. The nature of Constantine's conversion to Christianity has long been a matter of dispute--primarily because the sources, all of them Christian, offer conflicting testimony.

"The outlines of his religious development, however, are clear enough. Before 312, Constantine seems to have been a tolerant pagan, willing to accumulate heavenly patrons but not committed to any one deity. Between 312 and 324, however, he gradually adopted the Christian God as his protector and on several occasions granted special privileges to individual churches and bishops. ... The death of Galerius in 311-- and that of his successor in the East, Maximinus Daia in 313--left Constantine and Licinius in control of both halves of the empire. The two rulers were soon at odds. In the ensuing civil war, politics and religion became so entangled that contemporaries described Constantine's conflict with Licinius (a pagan) as a crusade against paganism. Soon after his victory over Licinius at Chrysopolis (Sept. 18, 324), Constantine openly embraced Christianity. The following year, Constantine assembled the bishops in a council at Nicaea (see NICAEA, COUNCILS OF) to debate the doctrines of Arius, a presbyter of Alexandria in Egypt, who argued that Christ was a created being and therefore not divine.

“Although this was not Constantine's first attempt to reconcile orthodox and heretical factions in Christianity, it was the first time he had used the imperial office to impose a settlement. Following a lengthy and heated debate, the bishops condemned ARIANISM and adopted a CREED (the Nicene Creed) that affirmed the divinity of Christ ...

“More important to the pagan majority in the empire, whose beliefs Constantine had rejected but continued to tolerate, were the secular problems that required new and vigorous solutions. Meeting the invasions of the GOTHs and other tribal groups along the western frontiers; the attempt to secure the provinces by dividing the army, increasingly recruited from the barbarian population of the empire, into stationary frontier units and a more mobile reserve; the reform of the coinage to prevent further inflation; the expansion of the bureaucracy to meet the real or imagined needs of an increasingly centralized government--in his own day Constantine's reputation rested more on his handling of these issues than on his arbitration of Christian disputes. In historical terms, though, these actions were less influential than his unexpected, and largely unexplainable, adoption of Christianity. Even the founding in 324 of Constantinople (modern ISTANBUL), the "new Rome" that survived the collapse of the Western empire, was a less important innovation. Embellished with monuments pirated from pagan sanctuaries, Constantinople itself was not only the new capital of the empire but the symbol of the Christian triumph.”

6. Although history "credits" Constantine for the consolidation of Christianity into a one world universal church, the trend toward central control had earlier begun.

6.1 As the third century (200-299) began, the early churches enjoyed relative peace. Each local assembly was an independent functioning unit under a pastor teacher.

7. In spite of the persecutions in Rome from the idolatrous Caesars, it was an era of great expansion in most parts of the "Roman World" and with their expansion and prosperity came revisions in their organization.

8. These developments prepared it for greater changes to come and a gradual diminution of local control. Thus the seeds for consolidation were planted.

9. In some places various local assemblies came together to celebrate the Eucharist and these consolidations ultimately resulted in what was known as a "paroikia" (a parish) over which a Bishop was recognized.

10. Chosen by the congregations the Bishops were ordained with a laying on of hands by neighboring pastors as a quasi-recognition of his authority.

11. The Bishops administered the financial affairs of the local assemblies; they chose and ordained their ministers; they enforced discipline and presided at their baptismal and Eucharistic assemblies.

12. As might be expected there was a growth in a number of offices to "serve" the local assemblies.
13. Soon the Bishop's authority extended to more than one city.
14. The church began to acquire property. The Roman church in fact acquired substantial properties. The acquisition of which meant additional administrative burdens but with their acquisitions came a potential source of income.
15. Finally, early in the third century, we see the development of a central organization above the local assembly level.
16. Councils of Bishops met regularly to discuss and rule on common problems.
17. It soon developed that many of these Bishops were recognized as having special powers, eminence and authority.
18. In Alexandria, Antioch and Carthage the authority of certain Bishops extended over more than one Roman province. It was to these "special Bishops" who were so recognized that the style "pope" came regularly to be applied.
19. The time was ripe for Satan to move the global ecumenical evil forward. Poor Constantine had been selected. His first act was to assign to his staff a Spanish Bishop by the name of Cordova; he would become his ecclesiastical advisor.
20. To Constantine there was little difference between the monotheism of Christianity and the Suncult which he professed.
21. Nevertheless Constantine was convinced it was the Christian God who had brought him victory before the walls of Rome and it was upon this Christian God he relied to provide continued prosperity to his Empire.
22. Constantine from his Byzantium Palace would become the first head of state who sponsored a world religion.
23. He came to regard the fostering of the Christian church as his sacred duty.
24. Walvoord again has written: "The parallel in the history of the early church, (particularly 300 to 800) with the church at Pergamos is all too evident ... With the so-called conversion of Constantine ... the time of persecution which the church had previously endured was replaced by a period in which the church was favored by the government. The edicts of persecution which had characterized the previous administration were repealed and Christians were allowed to worship according to the dictates of their conscience."

25. Under these circumstances it suddenly was popular to be a Christian. Doctrines developed by man from central headquarters soon came pouring forth.
26. It became difficult to maintain a clear distinction between the church and the world and to preserve the purity of Bible doctrine.
27. False doctrine pervaded under the guise of "we bishops who sit in pomp and ceremony apart from the world know best - don't question."
28. The church soon lost its hope of the early return of Christ and Biblical "simplicity" was replaced by a complicated church organization which substituted human creeds, for Biblical doctrines.
29. It was this growing Apostate church originally begun in Babylonia which would rule Christendom until the 1517 Reformation.
30. The chief priests of the Babylonian cult wore crowns in the form of the head of a fish, in recognition of Dagon the fish god, with the title "Keeper of the Bridge," (formerly under the Roman pantheon a phrase meaning, the "bridge" between man and Satan) being imprinted on their Dagon crowns.
31. Walvoord writes:
- "The Roman equivalent of the title, Pontifex Maximus, was used by the Caesars and later Roman emperors, and was also adopted as the title for the bishop of Rome. In the early centuries of the church in Rome, incredible confusion arose; and attempts were made to combine some of the features of the mystery religion of Babylon with the Christian faith, a confusion which has continued down to the present day."
- In this chapter in Revelation, the last stage of counterfeit religion is revealed as it will be in existence in the period before the return of the Lord to earth. It is a sad commentary on contemporary Christendom for it shows an overwhelming desire on the part of millions to return to Rome in spite of Rome's evident apostasy from a true biblical Christianity."
32. In fact, modern protestant liberalism has outdone Rome in its departure from the theology of the early church, it will have little to lose by a return to Romanism.
33. Apostasy, which is seen in its latent form today in numerous apostate liberal denominations, will flower in its ultimate form in this future super church which will apparently engulf all organized religion.
34. Ryrie again has written:

"Babylon is both a city and a system and that seems to be the way it is used in these chapters. This is much the same way Americans speak of Wall Street or Madison Avenue. They are actual streets, but they also stand for the financial or advertising enterprises. Babylon is used in a similar sense in these chapters, standing for a religious and political system in chapter 17 and a commercial empire in chapter 18."

35. Before we look at Rev 17:6-7, I want to give you an expanded translation of verse five:

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name has been written in a permanent inscription: Mystery Babylon The Great The Mother of Prostitutes And of The Abominations of The Earth.

36. Now for Rev 17:6-7:

KJV

Rev 17:6 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.

Rev 17:7 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.

NIV

Rev 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.

1. The woman is pictured not only as the source of all evil in apostate Christendom but also as the one who is actively engaged in the persecution of the true saints.

2. Her wickedness in this regard is demonstrated by the description that she is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

3. Here the primary reference is not to ancient Babylon but to Babylon perpetuated in apostate Christendom especially in its future form.

4. The history of the church has demonstrated that apostate Christendom is unsparing in its persecution of those who attempt to maintain a true faith in Jesus Christ.

4.1 This was evident in the early history of the Catholic church when protestant cadres were persecuted and many put to the torch; such persecution was also seen in organized pogroms designed to convert or execute those Jews who refused their evangelical offerings.

4.2 Certainly Spain under Isabella was infamous for its persecution of Spanish Jews.

5. What has been true in the past will be brought to its ultimate in the Tribulation when martyrs will be beyond number from every kindred, tongue, and nation.

6. The blood shed by the early apostate church is exceeded only by that of the martyrs who refuse to worship the beast in the Great Tribulation.

7. As John contemplates the woman, he records, "I wondered with great admiration," or more literally, "I wondered with great wonder" (the verb in the Greek, *thaumazo*, has the same root as the noun *thauma*, both meaning "to regard with wonder or astonishment").

8. The angel, perceiving that John wonders at what he sees, states that he will declare the mystery of the woman and of the beast.

9. He does so however, by describing the beast first in detail, then the woman and subsequent action relating to her.

10. Few passages in Revelation have been the subject of more dispute among scholars.

11. Great care, therefore, must be exercised in determining precisely the component parts of the divine revelation herein given.

12. Let's stop for the moment and get an expanded translation of Rev 17:6-7.

Rev 17:6 I, John saw that the Global Church was drunk with the blood of the believers of the Tribulation, those who held openly to their faith in Christ. When I saw her, I was absolutely appalled and I wondered what all this meant.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why do you wonder as to whom she might be? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and the beast she rides; I will also explain the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns.

13. Now let's see what principles we can glean from Rev 17:8.

KJV

Rev 17:8 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.

NIV

Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

1. The angel first gives a detailed description of the beast in his general character.
2. The beast is explained chronologically as that which was, is not, and is about to ascend from the abyss and go into perdition.
3. "The bottomless pit" (Greek abyssos, meaning "bottomless," or "the abyss") is the home of Satan and his demons.
4. The word perdition (Greek apoleia) means "destruction" or "utter destruction," referring to eternal damnation.
5. The power of the political empire in the last days is going to cause wonder as indicated in the questions of Rev 13:4: "Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

6. The overwhelming satanic power of the final political empire of the world will be most convincing to the great masses of mankind.
7. The descriptions afforded Satan in Rev 9:11; Rev 11:7; Rev 13:3 and 17:8 make clear the close relationship of Satan to the Antichrist and his kingdom.

Rev 9:1 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

Rev 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Rev 11:8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

8. There is clearly an identification of Satan with the future world ruler and his world government. It is he who comes out of the abyss to indwell and control the Antichrist who heads the Revived Roman Empire.

8.1 Only Satan himself actually comes from the abyss. The world government which he promotes is entirely satanic in its power and is not only identified with Satan but is a direct product of his will.

8.2 It is the Antichrist who revives the Roman Empire. The Antichrist, however, gets his power and authority from Satan.

8.3 The fact that Satan and the world ruler are referred to in such similar terms indicates their close relationship one to the other.

8.3.1 R. B. Thieme has concluded concerning the beast "he is Satan as he who indwells the Antichrist and he who revives the Roman Empire."

8.4 There have been those who have tried to demonstrate from this verse that the final world ruler is some resurrected person such as Judas Iscariot, Nero or some more recent world leader.

8.5 Such cannot be substantiated from a categorical analysis.

9. The statement describing the beast who "once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction" may describe his activities prior to his being chained, his tenure in chains and his release at the end of the Millennium when he again has a short lived function culminating in his demise.

End Lesson Taught 7-3-2002

Revelation

Lesson 126

7-10-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 126.
2. Last week I taught Rev 17:5, 6 and 7. When time expired we were looking at several principles relating to Rev 17:8.

3. Before returning to our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 17:1-7.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many indiscretions;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrines.

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. It was there I saw a woman, the Global Church, sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; the Beast was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the 7 hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation; the world church and world government worked in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name has been written in a permanent inscription: Mystery Babylon The Great The Mother of Prostitutes And of The Abominations of The Earth.

Rev 17:6 I, John saw that the Global Church was drunk with the blood of the believers of the Tribulation, those who held openly to their faith in Christ. When I saw her, I was absolutely appalled and I wondered what all this meant.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why do you wonder as to whom she might be? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and the beast she rides; I will also explain the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns.

4. Now let's return to our study of Rev 17:8

KJV

Rev 17:8 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.

NIV

Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

1. The angel first gives a detailed description of the beast in his general character.
2. The beast is explained chronologically as that which was, is not, and is about to ascend from the abyss and go into perdition.
3. "The bottomless pit" (Greek abyssos, meaning "bottomless," or "the abyss") is the home of Satan and his demons.
4. The word perdition (Greek apoleia) means "destruction" or "utter destruction," referring to eternal damnation.
5. The power of the political empire in the last days is going to cause wonder as indicated in the questions of Rev 13:4: "Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?"
6. The overwhelming satanic power of the final political empire of the world will be most convincing to the great masses of mankind.
7. The descriptions afforded Satan in Rev 9:11; Rev 11:7; Rev 13:3 and Rev 17:8 make clear the close relationship of Satan to the Antichrist and his kingdom.
8. There is clearly an identification of Satan with the future world ruler and his world government. It is he who comes out of the abyss to indwell and control the Antichrist who heads the Revived Roman Empire.
  - 8.1 Only Satan himself actually comes from the abyss. The world government which he promotes is entirely satanic in its power and is not only identified with Satan but is a direct product of his will.
  - 8.2 It is the Antichrist who revives the Roman Empire. The Antichrist, however, gets his power and authority from Satan.
  - 8.3 The fact that Satan and the world ruler are referred to in such similar terms indicates their close relationship one to the other.
    - 8.3.1 R. B. Thieme has concluded concerning the beast "he is Satan as he who indwells the Antichrist and he who revives the Roman Empire."
  - 8.4 There have been those who have tried to demonstrate from this verse that the final world ruler is some resurrected person such as Judas Iscariot, Nero or some more recent world leader.
  - 8.5 Such cannot be substantiated from a categorical analysis.

9. The statement describing the beast who "once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction" may describe his activities prior to his being chained, his tenure in chains and his release at the end of the Millennium when he again has a short lived function culminating in his demise.

10. The statement "The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast" is a reiteration and fulfillment of that prophesied about Satan.

10.1 At his demise all those unbelievers who have been so impressed with Satan and his work are astonished to see him weak, impotent and defeated.

Eze 28:13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

Eze 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Eze 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Eze 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Eze 28:19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

11. When Satan and his demons are cast into the lake of fire, people will finally recognize that they had been deluded by a real live Satan with an army of demons.

12. Kings, Caesars, Prime Ministers and Presidents will be astounded to learn they had been influenced by special demons assigned especially to them.

13. Past presidents who sent boys to war to support global causes will then know it was Satan who had influenced them.

14. Church leaders who supported liberal causes, ordained females and homosexuals, put down nationalism and taught diversity and toleration in the name of Christ will be amazed that their actions were motivated and aided by Satan and his demons.

15. Before studying Rev 17:9-11 I want to give you an expanded translation of verse eight:

Rev 17:8 The beast which you saw is Satan, he once operated in his own world under the permissive will of God but during the millennial reign of Christ he will be chained in the abyss and then at the end of the millennium he will be released for a short time and will come up out of the abyss only to fail once again and then he will go to his destruction. The unbelievers called before the GWT will be astonished when they see that he has been judged and placed forever in the lake of fire.

16. Now let's see what principles we can glean from Rev 17:9-11.

KJV

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Rev 17:10 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.

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

NIV

Rev 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

1. The explanation of the beast introduced by the unusual phrase "here is the mind which hath wisdom" anticipates the difficulty and complexity of the revelation to follow.

2. The reader is warned that spiritual wisdom is required to understand that which is provided.

2.1 Spiritual wisdom comes only to believers who are willing to name sin back to God and show up to hear the Word of God.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

1Co 2:6 Therefore we speak wisdom among them who are positionally perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, who shall in the end come to nothing:

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God - a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world for our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world can know: for had they understood the truth, they would not have crucified Christ, the Lord of glory.

1Co 2:9 Just as it has been written in Isa 64:4: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has such entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love him.

1Co 2:10 But God has revealed these things unto us through and by means of his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes even the deep things of God.

1Co 2:11 For what the natural man knows he learns from the spirit of the world by means of secular processes such as empiricism and/or rationalism but the things of God can only be learned from the Spirit of God.

1Co 2:12 As believers we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit which has been given to us by God; this in order that we might know the things which have been given freely to us from God.

3. The first key to an understanding of Rev 17:9-11 is found in the statement "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth."

4. Most expositors, including yours truly, believe this is Rome.

4.1 Seven hills formed the nucleus of the ancient city on the left bank of the Tiber.

4.1.1 These hills received the names of Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Viminal, Quirinal and Capitoline.

4.2 As Rome grew many other hills were made part of the city.

4.3 Throughout its history Rome has been described as the city of seven hills as indicated from history and as found on coins. In fact there are countless allusions in Roman literature to Rome as the city of seven hills.

4.4 The passage in Rev 17:9 is taken, therefore, to indicate that the seat of the ecclesiastical power will rest in Rome rather than in Babylon.

Rev 17:9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills, on which the woman sitteth.

5. The woman sitting on the seven hills has already been identified as the Global Church headquartered in Rome.

6. Now let's take a look at the eight kings of which the Scripture says: "Five of the kings have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while ... The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king.

Rev 17:10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

7. John was told the seven hills are also seven Kings of which five are fallen, the one is, that is, was standing, at that moment, and the seventh is not yet come, and when he shall come, he must continue a little time."

8. What Kingdom was in power at the time John wrote? There can be no question on that point; it was the Roman Empire. Thus, then, we ascertain and identify the sixth in the list, this also shows what sort the other kings are.

9. Of the same class with the Roman Empire, and belonging to the same category, there are six others - five of which had already run their course and passed away.

10. But what five empires like Rome had earlier been but now were not? History does not obscure them, in fact history makes unmistakably clear the identification of the five.

11. Preceding Rome the world had but five such empires like imperial Rome. As Seiss has written: "their identification is so sure even a schoolboy could not miss."

12. The five are Greece, Persia, Babylon, Assyria, and Egypt; no more, and no less. And to these five we add Rome.

13. These all were imperial powers. These are the six empires represented by six of the seven kings; the seventh is yet to come.

14. When the seventh yet comes it shall last but a short time. This implies that each of the others will continue a long time. The seventh empire is the European ten nation federation prior to their giving themselves over to the leadership of the Satan indwelt Antichrist.

15. Thus by a clear Scriptural record we see that these seven kings are seven great world powers, stretching from the beginning of our present world to the early part of the Tribulation.

16. Seiss has again written:

"Daniel makes the number less; but he started with his own times, and looked only down the stream. Here the account looks backward as well as forward. That which is first in Daniel is the third here, and that which is the sixth here is the fourth in Daniel. Only in the commencing point is there any difference. The visions of Daniel and the visions of John are from the same Divine Mind, and they perfectly harmonize, only that the latest are the amplest."

17. This great Harlot, ecumenical Rome, is said to be carried about, i.e., she is said to ride upon these seven empires.

18. On these she rides, according to our vision. It is not upon one alone, nor upon any particular number of them, but upon all of them she is said to sit.

19. These seven powers, each and all, support the Woman and she accepts and uses them, and sways their administrations, and rides in glory by means of them.

20. Seiss again has written:

"They are her devotees, lovers, and most humble servants, and she is their patronizing and most noble lady, with a mutuality of favors and inter communion belonging to her designation. This is the picture as explained by the angel."

21. The final form of world government symbolized by the eighth beast is the world empire of the Great Tribulation.

22. The revived Roman Empire which will come into being immediately after the rapture of the church is apparently indicated by the seventh head, while the beast, described in verse 11 as the eighth is the world empire which is destroyed by Jesus Christ at His second coming.

23. In summation:

23.1 What is described in Rev 17:8-11 is the final form of Gentile world power in alliance with apostate religion symbolized by the harlot. That world gentile powers have always done the will of Satan is also made clear.

Rev 17:8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Rev 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

Rev 17:10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

23.2 John is referring to those great world empires from the time of the original Babylon of Nimrod's day.

23.3 The first kingdom was Assyria with its occult mad capital city of Nineveh. (Nah 3:1-4)

Woe to Nineveh

Nah 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;

Nah 3:2 The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots.

Nah 3:3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:

Nah 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the well favored harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

23.4 The second was Egypt, which devoted much of its total wealth to the construction of pyramids.

23.4.1 The pyramids were all built according to astrological specifications. Egypt was also given to black magic. (Exo 7:11, 22; 8:7, 18; 2Ti 3:8-9)

Exo 7:11 Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

Exo 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Exo 8:7 And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt.

Exo 8:18 And the magicians did so with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast.

2Ti 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

2Ti 3:9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

23.5 The third was the neo Babylonian empire of Daniel's day, which really perfected the black arts. The fourth was Medo-Persia, which conquered Babylon but was in turn enslaved by the Babylonian religion.

23.6 The fifth was the Greek empire. A study of ancient Greece and her temple sites will convince even the most insouciant of her occult beginnings.

23.7 Running through the culture of all these great past empires was an underlying belief in astrology. This was the cohesive force which bound together all the witchcraft, sorcery, and magic.

23.8 Kings would seldom make a move without consulting advisors steeped in the ancient art of Babylonian religion. The ancient priests enjoyed royal stature and power, especially in Egypt.

23.9 When John speaks of the "five kingdoms that have fallen" he means the five just mentioned.

23.10 Then he says, "One is." This has to refer to the great empire of his day, Rome, which was filled with the same demonic beliefs that had originated on the plains of Shinar in ancient Babylon. This was the sixth kingdom of John's vision.

23.11 John looks to the future when he says of the seventh head (kingdom) that ". . . the other is not yet come; and when it comes, it must continue a short while."

Rev 17:10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.

23.12 This seventh king is the early Roman empire - before becoming self-deceived pawns of the Antichrist.

23.13 This seventh head is different from all the other six because it has ten horns. This indicates that this seventh kingdom will be made up of ten nations from the old Roman Empire (the sixth head) which will have confederated.

23.14 That the spirit of the Antichrist is in the world today can be seen by the rise of the European Economic Community, many, like Hal Lindsay, believe the ECC is destined to bloom into the last great world empire represented by the seventh head with the ten horns.

23.15 This Revived Roman Empire will become dominated by the same Babylonian religious system that has ridden herd on the past great world empires.

End Lesson Taught 7-10-2002

Revelation

Lesson 127

7-17-2002

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the book of the Revelation. We are in lesson 127.
2. Last week I taught Rev 17:8, 9, 10 and 11. When time expired we were about to start our study of Rev 17:12-14.
3. Before returning to that study I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 17:1-11.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many indiscretions;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrines.

Rev 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. It was there I saw a woman, the Global Church, sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; the Beast was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the 7 hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation; the world church and world government worked in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name has been written in a permanent inscription: Mystery Babylon The Great The Mother of Prostitutes And of The Abominations of The Earth.

Rev 17:6 I, John saw that the Global Church was drunk with the blood of the believers of the Tribulation, those who held openly to their faith in Christ. When I saw her, I was absolutely appalled and I wondered what all this meant.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why do you wonder as to whom she might be? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and the beast she rides; I will also explain the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:8 The beast is Satan, he once operated in his own world under the permissive will of God but during the millennial reign of Christ he will be chained in the abyss and then at the end of the millennium he will be released for a short time and will come up out of the abyss only to fail once again and then he will go to his destruction. The unbelievers called before the GWT will be astonished when they see that he has been judged and placed forever in the lake of fire.

Rev 17:9 "To understand this verse requires a spiritual understanding. The seven heads are seven hills representing the seven hills of Rome where the Global church is located.

Rev 17:10 The seven kings are also seven empires. Five of the seven empires, Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece have fallen, one, the Roman Empire, is and the other has not yet come; but when that seventh empire, the original European Federation, does come it will only last for a short time.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is Satan as the leader of the eighth empire, The Revived Roman Empire, who by indwelling the Antichrist will call the shots but only under the permissive will of God. In God's timing both the eighth empire together with its leaders will be destroyed.

4. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 17:12-14 where we find further description of the European Federation and their giving over their powers to the Satanically indwelt Antichrist.

KJV

Rev 17:12 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.

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Rev 17:14 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.

NIV

Rev 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Principles:

1. Further detail is given concerning the final stage of the world empire as having a nucleus of ten kings apparently joined in a confederacy represented by the ten horns.

1.1 The ten horns are the powerful ten nation coalition rising shortly after the Rapture; most think this will be a European Federation.

1.2 It is from within this Federation that the Antichrist shall rise to power. He comes from one of the insignificant members of the federation and soon takes over two other nations.

1.3 Soon all ten nations give over their power to the Antichrist.

2. The ten horns mentioned in verse twelve rule not in succession but simultaneously at the end time.

2.1 From our study last week you will remember the seven heads represented Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the Ten Nations.

3. The eighth King you may recall is the final Kingdom of the Antichrist.

4. The rulership of the ten nation federation is brief.

4.1 They are simply a phase in the transmission of power to the world dictator, the beast of Revelation chapter thirteen.

4.2 This is shown by Rev 17:13 where it is said these have one mind and shall give their power and strength to the beast.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

5. They are further described as making war with the Lamb.

5.1 The Lamb is a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ and clearly from verse fourteen we find a description of their ultimate defeat by the Lamb of God.

Rev 17:14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.

5.2 Their defeat and subjugation will occur at the Second Coming of Christ.

6. In verse 14 the Lamb is prophesied to overcome them as Lord of lords and King of kings.

7. Those on the side of the Lamb are called, chosen and faithful.

8. In summation:

8.1 After having given John a panoramic view of all the past world powers and their seduction by the Harlot of Babylon, the angel now narrows his focus to the "beast" in its final form.

8.2 Looking from this perspective, he says the beast was, and is not, and then will exist again and be destroyed. This is a reference to the fact that Rome existed in John's day, but that a day would come when it would no longer exist.

8.3 Of Rome, the verse further predicts, it will, after a period when it is not, rise again and be destroyed just as will its chief protagonist and mentor, Satan and his agents.

8.3.1 A review of the history of Rome indicates it was never conquered by anyone; it fell from within because of its own decadence.

8.3.2 For nearly fifteen centuries Rome has not existed as a viable world political power. However one day there will be a move in Europe to put the old Roman Empire back together again.

8.4 Few in the world today understand the certainty of this prophesy.

8.5 All the nations who are banding together in the European Economic Community have roots in the old Roman culture and civilization. Rome is the "beast" that was in John's day, but now is not, but will one day rise up and then be destroyed.

8.6 Thus the Revived Roman Empire is referred to as a beast, as is the scintillating world leader who will control that empire - the Satan indwelt Antichrist.

8.7 Although the "beast" we are looking at in this chapter has only seven heads, John says that it briefly sprouts another, an eighth head, but this head is really only an outgrowth of the seventh (the Ten Nation Federation) and is soon destroyed.

9. Before we move to the THE EXPLANATION OF THE WATERS in verse fifteen I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 17:12-14.

Rev 17:12 John is told "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, these ten will come onto the international scene just after the Rapture; they will rule their individual kingdoms along with the Antichrist who will serve as the leader of one of the ten.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and that is to hand over their power and authority to the beast who will then rule as the political leader of the Ten Nation Federation.

Rev 17:14 The confederation under the leadership of the Antichrist will make war against our Lord, but the Lamb of God will overcome them when he returns at His Second Advent; this because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

10. Now let's see what we can learn from verse fifteen and an interpretation of the waters.

KJV

Rev 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

NIV

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.

1. In the first verse of the chapter the harlot is seen sitting upon many waters.
2. Here the description and the symbolic meaning of the waters are given as referring to people, multitudes, nations, and tongues.
3. Generally speaking, when water is mentioned in Revelation, it should be taken literally.
4. The fact that a symbolic meaning is specifically assigned here indicates that we have an exception to the usual rule.
5. The situation described here is one of great political power on the part of the beast, the Antichrist, but a sharing of rule with the woman, the World Global Church, who controls the multitudes of the world.
6. Now let's take a look at an expanded translation of Rev 17:15.

Expanded Translation

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are the various nations of the world.

7. Now for the judgment of the prostitute - Rev 17:16-18 and the end of our chapter.

KJV

Rev 17:16 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.

Rev 17:17 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.

Rev 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

NIV

Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Principles:

1. Hal Lindsey in his book *There's A New World Coming* calls the Antichrist and his kingdom ... "a wart which grows out of the Ten Nation Federation to fully mature during the last half of the Tribulation. It will be an extension of the Revived Roman Empire which comes into existence when the Rapture takes place and seems for three and one-half years to be the answer to the hopes and dreams of the world for peace and prosperity."

1.2 Mr. Lindsey would seem to have captured the essence of the Antichrist's rise after the rapture.

2. When Satan is cast out of heaven in the middle of the Tribulation, his kingdom takes on a different tone.

3. The whole world will worship the Beast instead of the Harlot. Likewise the Jewish church operating out of the new Temple will no longer be permitted their Sabbath practices for they too must worship the beast.

4. He will rule with force and deception, the people of the world will be completely spellbound by his clairvoyant abilities and raw power.

5. Lindsey goes on to write:

"On the basis of John's prophecy of the rise of Babylon the Great and on the basis of the latest evidence of current events, I believe the stage is very nearly set for the resurrection of this great, satanic religious system. Eastern culture has always been open to various forms of the occult but now the West is also experiencing a great fascination with the black arts and dark religions."

6. To bring into focus what we have said so far, Babylon the Harlot symbolizes the great religious system which seduces and dominates the government of the world with her false teachings.

7. The seven headed beast represents the six great powers which have had dominion over the world, and a seventh kingdom which will come.

8. When it does come it will be a ten nation revival of the sixth head (the old Roman Empire), and is pictured by the beast's ten horns.
9. For the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation the Antichrist of Rome finds it expedient to go along with the Harlot.
10. The Antichrist is her biggest paramour, but they are strange bedfellows. Each is trying to use the other, and there is no love lost between them.
11. The fact that the harlot rides the beast indicates that the religious system early dominates the kingdom but then, using a Lindsey metaphor the "wart turns."
12. In the middle of the Tribulation the Roman Antichrist working with the Jewish False Prophet, finds that he no longer needs the support of the religious systems of either the Global church and/or the Jewish church.
13. Possessed by Satan, he proclaims himself God in the Temple. One of his next acts will be to turn on the great Harlot and destroy her.
14. God's judgments are all so poetic: since this great religious whore is drunk with the blood of true believers, notice what He in turns dishes out:
- Rev 17:16 ... God put it in the hearts of her paramours to turn on her and destroy her! They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
- Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose ...
15. In Rev 17:16 the ten horns, previously seen as ten kings, destroy the woman riding the beast in a most graphic action. The best reading indicates that both the ten horns and the beast combine in this effort.
- Rev 17:16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute ...
16. The expression "upon the beast" found in the KJV is better translated according to the better manuscripts "and the beast."
17. The action of this verse is cast in the future tense which must be understood as future from John's point of view.
18. The destruction of the harlot reduces all her pomp and gorgeous robes to nothing. She is stripped, her flesh is eaten, and she is burned with fire.
- 18.1 These graphic words clearly picture the downfall of the apostate world church of the future.

19. By comparison with other Scriptures, the time of the event may be placed approximately at the midpoint of the seven years of Daniel's seventieth week, which leads up to and climaxes in the second coming of Christ.

20. During the first half of the seven years, apostate Christendom and Judaism prosper.

20.1 During this period there is a measure of religious freedom at least for the Global Church and Israel. (Dan 9:27).

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

21. There is also widespread preaching of the gospel in this same period; much of it furtive from numerous underground "tribulation forces".

21.1 The triumph and growth of the world ecumenical movement occurs simultaneously with numerous Christian conversions.

22. All religions of the world, apart from a true faith in Christ, gather in one great world church.

22.1 Only those who are truly saved, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life and who know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord seem to escape this movement toward unification.

23. With the beginning of the second half of the seventieth week, the ruler of the revived Roman Empire, who is the political head of the world empire is himself designated as God; he then is able to proclaim himself dictator of the whole world.

24. In this capacity he no longer needs the help and power of the harlot.

24.1 He therefore destroys the world church and substitutes for this ecclesiastical apostasy the worship of himself as god.

25. According to Rev 13:8, all men shall worship the beast except the true believers in Christ.

Rev 13:8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

26. There is in Dan 11:36-37 a parallel where the willful king likewise puts aside all other deities in favor of the worship of himself.

Dan 11:36 "The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place.

Dan 11:37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will ...he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

27. The divine judgment inflicted upon apostate Christendom follows a pattern which can be observed in other judgments upon wicked nations and ungodly rulers.

28. Ancient Babylon was used to bring affliction upon the people of Israel, as were also the governments of Egypt and Assyria. But in due time the same nations who inflicted divine judgment were themselves the objects of God's wrath.

29. John Walvoord writes of the application of this principle of Divine sovereignty as it relates to Rev 17:16-17:

"Their action, though inspired by a blasphemous attempt to institute a world religion utterly contrary to divine revelation, nevertheless fulfills God's will that the kingdoms of the world should come under the domain of the beast in fulfillment of prophecy until the end of the age, indicated in the phrase "until the words of God shall be fulfilled." Thus the plan of the ages unfolds majestically, and Scripture indicates that God sovereignly permits the increment of wickedness until the cup of iniquity overflows."

30. At the close of our chapter, the woman is again identified with the great city which reigned over the kings of the earth as an ecclesiastical power.

31. As we studied extensively the control of the political by the ecclesiastical actually began in the fourth century and will have its climax in this future period.

32. The "great city" of Rev 17:18 is obviously a reference to Babylon in its religious rather than its historical significance.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

33. The influence of Babylon on Roman Christianity was partly responsible for the assumption by Rome of political power, namely, the authority of the church over the state.

34. Just as ancient Babylon conquered kings in a political way, so its religious counterpart would dominate political states during the period of Roman papal power.

35. Uncharacteristically Walvoord writes of the historical school:

"The interpretation that this [the great city] is a reference to pagan political Rome as advanced by the historical school of interpretation or that it refers to a future literal city of Babylon is wrong. The city as we have earlier noted is a mystery, not a literal city. The entire context of chapter seventeen supports this interpretation, distinguishing as it does between the city identified with the woman and the political power referred to as the beast and the ten horns."

36. After the disposal of Babylon in its religious form at the hands of the beast, we now move to the prophetic revelation of the destruction of political/commercial Babylon described in chapter eighteen.

37. This destruction will occur three and one-half years later.

38. Before we leave chapter seventeen, let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 17:16-18:

#### Expanded Translation

Rev 17:16 "The Satanically indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the ten nation federation will grow to hate the leader of the global church and her congregates. The Beast decides the church is no longer useful so he orders the execution of her leader and the destruction of her churches; her followers are required to worship only the Antichrist.

Rev 17:17 It was God the Father who motivated the Antichrist and the leaders of the federation to implement this plan; this includes his decision to require all to worship him as god.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the leader of the Global church headquartered at Rome.

38. In closing our study of the chapter I want to give you an expanded translation of Revelation chapter seventeen.

Rev 17:1 One of the angels who had delivered one of the seven vials came over to me and said, "Come over here, I want to show you the demise and punishment of the great prostitute," a metaphor for the Global Church of the Tribulation, "she is seen atop the many waters," a description of her close relationship with the international leaders of the world.

Rev 17:2 The angel went on to say, "With the Global Church the political leaders of planet earth have committed spiritual adultery; the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her many indiscretions;" this seems to be a metaphor to describe how impressed were the people of the planet with the Global Church of Rome and her false doctrines.

Rev 17:3 The angel carried me away in the Spirit into a vast wilderness. There I saw a woman, the Global Church, sitting on a scarlet Beast representing the Satan indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the Revived Roman Empire; the Beast was covered with blasphemous names and he had seven heads representing the 7 hills of Rome and ten horns representing the 10 nations making up the European Federation.

The world church and world government worked in close alliance.

Rev 17:4 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and she glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls; the church was awash in wealth. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with the filthy and nasty things she had done.

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name has been written in a permanent inscription: Mystery Babylon The Great The Mother of Prostitutes And of The Abominations of The Earth.

Rev 17:6 I, John saw that the Global Church was drunk with the blood of the believers of the Tribulation, those who held openly to their faith in Christ. When I saw her, I was absolutely appalled and I wondered what all this meant.

Rev 17:7 Then the angel said to me: "Why do you wonder as to whom she might be? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and the beast she rides; I will also explain the meaning of the seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 17:8 The beast which you saw is Satan, he once operated in his own world under the permissive will of God but during the millennial reign of Christ he will be chained in the abyss and then at the end of the millennium he will be released for a short time and will come up out of the abyss only to fail once again and then he will go to his destruction. The unbelievers called before the GWT will be astonished when they see that he has been judged and placed forever in the lake of fire.

Rev 17:9 "To understand this verse requires a spiritual understanding. The seven heads are seven hills representing the seven hills of Rome where the Global church is located.

Rev 17:10 The seven kings are also seven empires. Five of the seven empires, Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece have fallen, one, the Roman Empire, is and the other has not yet come; but when that seventh empire, the original European Federation, does come it will only last for a short time.

Rev 17:11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is Satan as the leader of the eighth empire, The Revived Roman Empire, who by indwelling the Antichrist will call the shots but only under the permissive will of God. In God's timing both the eighth empire together with its leaders will be destroyed.

Rev 17:12 John is told "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, these ten will come onto the international scene just after the Rapture; they will rule their individual kingdoms along with the Antichrist who will serve as the leader of one of the ten.

Rev 17:13 They have one purpose and that is to hand over their power and authority to the beast who will then rule as the political leader of the Ten Nation Federation.

Rev 17:14 The confederation under the leadership of the Antichrist will make war against our Lord, but the Lamb of God will overcome them when he returns at His Second Advent; this because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

Rev 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are the various nations of the world.

Rev 17:16 "The Satanically indwelt Antichrist as the leader of the ten nation federation will grow to hate the leader of the global church and her congregates. The Beast decides the church is no longer useful so he orders the execution of her leader and the destruction of her churches; her followers are required to worship only the Antichrist.

Rev 17:17 It was God the Father who motivated the Antichrist and the leaders of the federation to implement this plan; this includes his decision to require all to worship him as god.

Rev 17:18 The woman you saw is the leader of the Global church headquartered at Rome.

End Lesson Taught 7-17-2002

