

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Seventeen

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT

Focus Verses: **Revelation 17:5**

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

I. Lesson Review - What Has Been Dealt With

- A. The epistles (letters) to the Seven Churches (Chapters 1-3)
- B. The event just before the Tribulation (Chapter 4): _____
- C. The exaltation of a Person (Chapter 5): the _____
- D. The exacting of judgements upon this world (four treks through the Tribulation):
 1. The seven _____ judgements
 2. The seven _____ judgements
 3. The seven _____
 4. The seven _____ judgements (previous lesson)

II. Lesson - Mystery, Babylon The Great (17:1-18)

CONTEXT: We are now going to deal with a REAL mystery. We are going to see some things that are going to look mysterious, and unusual, but ultimately will explain a great deal of history, and unlock the future for those who are Bible believers. Remember that the “mysteries” in the Bible are not secrets to the Bible believer since they are revealed unto the student (Rev 21:9,10), and hidden to the sceptic who wont believe plain words in a Book (see the parables of Jesus being completely hidden to the Pharisees in Luke 8:10).

A. The Mother of Harlots Envisioned (17:1-6)

1. A Great _____ (17:1-6)
 - a. Her title is that of a *WHORE!* (17:1) – what a way to describe this woman.
 - b. Her home is upon *many waters* (17:1)
 - c. Her colours are *Purple* and *Scarlet* (17:4)
 - d. Her affections are for *riches* (17:4)
 - e. Her name is “*MYSTERY*” (17:5)

Note the block capital letters for emphasis! (See Matt 27:37; Exodus 3:14)

- 1) This woman is connected with Babylon
- 2) This woman deals in mysteries:

NOTE: Isn't it something how the world LOVES a “mysterious woman” who wears red and loves diamonds, and everyone knows that she really is TROUBLE. The most popular books are what kind of books? _____! I wonder why?

- f. Her time is spent *drinking* (17:6)

This is a drunken whore! See how things that make you drunk are compared to blood, and that are ALWAYS associated with JUDGEMENT! Therefore, an “alcoholic” is a cursed person, just like a sodomite is!

- 1) This woman kills Christians (the saints)
- 2) This woman is much like _____ (Rev 2:20-24)

2. A Scarlet Coloured Beast (17:3). Haven't we seen this beast before? See Rev 13:1-4,6

- a. Full of blasphemy - He has many names, all against God
- b. Full of heads - He has seven heads total (17:3,7)
- c. Full of horns - He has ten horns

3. A Golden _____ (17:4,6)

This woman touts a large golden cup that is full of BLOOD and abominations and her own filthiness! I wonder what all this means? Do you think that God is going to leave us hanging? Let's let the Bible explain itself:

B. The Mystery of Babylon Explained (17:7-18)

1. The Mystery of the _____ - This is the primary creature to be concerned with (17:8)!
 - a. The beast is "supporting" the woman.
 - b. The beast is something that WAS, and yet currently IS NOT, but SHALL ascend out of the pit (11:7), and then SHALL go into perdition (17:8)
2. The Mystery of the Seven _____ (17:9) The seven heads are said to be MOUNTAINS upon which the woman sits. The Mountains could be continents, for there are *seven* continents, and it would truly show her "realm." But, it more probably is quite literal! If so, then there is only ONE thing that is said to sit on seven mountains - a city - and that city is ROME! This will be more apparent soon.
3. The Mystery of the Seven _____ - There are seven KINGS associated with these heads
 - a. Five kings are fallen
 - b. One king currently is in power
 - c. One is yet to come into power
 - d. The beast that WAS and currently IS NOT is the eighth king, and is OF THE ORIGINAL SEVEN
 - 1) **Nimrod - Babel** (Gen 10:8-10)
 - 2) Pharaoh - Egypt (Gen 12:14,15)
 - 3) Sennacherib - Assyria (2 Kings 18:13)
 - 4) **Nebuchadnezzar - Babylon** (2 Kings 24:1)
 - 5) Darius - Media-Persia (Dan 5:28-31; 8:20)
 - 6) Alexander - Greece (Dan 8:21)
 - 7) **Caesar - Rome - Spiritual Babylon!!!** (Luke 2:1)
 - 8) **Antichrist - Rome Again** - "an integration of the previous Seven!"
4. The Mystery of the Ten _____ - The ten horns are TEN KINGS that aren't in power YET, but WILL receive power when the Beast comes to power (17:12,13,15)
 - a. Their purpose is to make war against the Lamb (Jesus). But the King of kings shall overcome them! NOTE those that are WITH Jesus: the three classes of Christians: (See Matt 22:14; I Cor 1:24,26; I Cor 4:2)
 - 1) The *called* - everyone is called. This is *salvation*.
 - 2) The *chosen* - not everyone is chosen
 - 3) The *faithful* - very few remain faithful
 - b. They shall turn against the whore and destroy her (17:16). Do you know why? Because God's WORD says that it is going to happen that way!!! That's all we need!
5. The Mystery of the Many _____ (17:1,15)
 - a. These are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues
 - b. Does this mean all the previous symbols relating to water are people too (ie, seas of 4:6 and 13:1)? Most certainly NOT! The two are DIFFERENT, and only the Bible has the authority to define its own terms!
6. Explaining The Mystery of the _____ (17:16-18)
 - a. She is a CITY (a great one at that) - Rome
 - b. She, as a city, reigns over the kings of the earth - "*many waters*"

NOTE: Notice the wording of 17:8 and 17:18. Dealing with 'tenses' as in present, past and yet future. This is city at the time of John's writing (I wonder which city was being referred to?), and this city is going to again run the kings of the earth! Therefore:

- c. This city is connected with the murder of Christians throughout history – drunk with blood
 - d. This city practices a Babylonian-type religion:
 - 1) Worship of Ishtar (Easter) – the worship of a woman!
 - 2) Goddess of fertility, love, war, and sex.
 - e. This city went from a visible reign over kings (ancient Rome) to a “mysterious” form of kingdom called the Holy _____ Empire, always maintaining dominion by religion.
 - f. This city will be used by the Beast to control the world during the Tribulation
 - g. Ultimately, the Beast will do away with this religion since he won’t need its influence anymore
7. So in summary:
- a. This Babylon, is a CHURCH (Satan’s counterfeit church)
 - b. It is a *WHORE!* It gets what it wants by seduction and providing pleasure to the leaders of the world.
 - c. She is world-wide (*many waters*)
 - d. Her colours are *Purple* and *Scarlet* – the colours of the Catholic Church
 - e. Her affections are for *riches* – probably the wealthiest organization on earth
 - f. Her name is “*MYSTERY*” – a mysterious kind of a kingdom that would take over the world.
 - g. Her time is spent *drinking* – drunk with the slaughter of saints (Bible believing Christians)
 - h. Full of blasphemy - He has many names, and much preaching, all against God
 - i. She rules from the seven mountains (world wide)
 - j. She is USED by the antichrist (Beast) to gain control of the world, and then discarded
 - k. Ten kings will overthrow her, and then give all power to the Beast

III. Conclusion - Next Chapter: The World’s Reaction to The Destruction of This City (18:1-24)

IV. Some Questions

- A. Babylon is called the great _____ (17:5)
- B. Out of the seven kingdoms of history, three are directly related to what kingdom? _____
- C. What is the large golden cup full of in the woman’s hand in 17:4-6? _____
- D. Babylonian religion surrounds the worship of what? _____