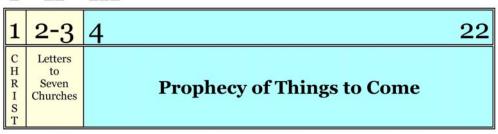
## Behold the Lamb of God

# The Woman on the Scarlet Beast Revelation 17 Lesson 17

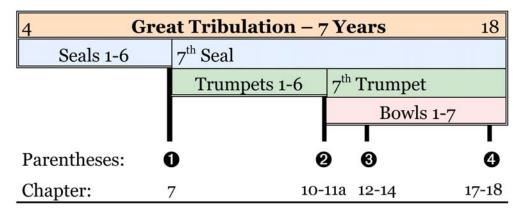
Trinity Bible Church Sunday School April 24, 2011

#### **Revelation – overview**

#### I II III



III Prophecy of Things to Come			
4 18	19	20	21-22
Great Tribulation – 7 Years	Return of Christ	1000 Year Reign	Eternal State



- **1** − the elect of God preserved
- **2** John and the 2 witnesses
- **3** − Spiritual realities
- **④** − Babylon the Great

#### The Woman on the Scarlet Beast

- ► The woman (17:1-6)
  - Prostitute
  - Great city
- ► The beast (17:7-14)
  - Demonic
  - Great kingdom
- ► The woman and the beast (17:15-18)
  - Hostile allies

# The judgment of the great prostitute

- ► Purpose of Revelation 17-18
- ► Angels with 7 bowls the purpose of the final judgments
- ► Seated on many waters peoples, multitudes, nations, languages (17:15)

#### Who is this woman?

- Corrupts the inhabitants of the earth
- Sitting on a blasphemous beast with 7 heads and 10 horns
- ► Purple, scarlet; gold and jewels and pearls
- Golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality
- ▶ Babylon the Great
- ► Mother of prostitutes
- ► Drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus

## **Prostitution and Adultery**

- A human activity that is condemned
- ► A spiritual metaphor for the way of sin
  - Giving devotion to something other than God
  - The object of affection is other gods or the world
  - Used to describe God's people as well as pagan people

## **Prostitution and Adultery**

- ▶ James 4:4-8 the world
- ► Isaiah 23:15-17 Tyre
- ► Nahum 3:4 Nineveh
- ► Jeremiah 2:20-31 Israel
- ► Ezekiel 16:17-19 Israel
- ► Ezekiel 23 Israel and Judah
- ► Hosea 2:5 Israel
- ▶ Proverbs 7:1-27; 9:13-19 adultery v. wisdom

#### The Mother of Prostitutes

- ► Entices kings and commoners (17:2)
- ► Full of abominations and impurities (17:4)
- ► Greatest sin: failure to love the LORD God without reserve (Matthew 22:36-38)

## **A Great City**

- ▶ 16:19 "God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of His wrath."
- ▶ 17:5 Babylon the Great is the name of the woman
- ▶ 17:18 The woman is the great city

- ► Genesis 2:10-14 Euphrates River
- ► Genesis 10:8-10 Nimrod
  - First to be a mighty man independent of God
  - Nimrod "we shall rebel"
  - Kingdom:
    - Beginning Babel, Erech, Accad, Calneh (Shinar)
    - Assyria Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, Resen

- ► Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
  - Nimrod's initial kingdom
  - Land of Shinar
  - Babel or Babylon = "Gate of God"
  - Babel (Hebrew) = "confusion"
  - Purpose: glory of man, not glory of God
  - Rebellion against mandate to subdue the earth

- Babylonian Empire
  - Babylon removes Judah/Israel and the temple
  - Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar's dream the head of gold

- ► Zechariah 5:5-11 the woman in the basket
  - Stork returns to its nest
  - Woman is "wickedness" to be taken to Shinar "its base"
  - Possibly indicates the rebuilding of Babylon at the end as a focal point of the final days and symbol of evil alternative to God

"What Babylon turns out to be is the great organized institutional embodiment of the society of Satan."

(S.L. Johnson)

- An attraction to draw from God
- ► The world

John 15:18-19 – chose you out of the world John 17:15-16 – in the world but not part of it 1 John 2:15 – love of world v. love of the Father James 4:4 – friend of world is enemy of God

#### Who is the scarlet beast?

- Beast from the bottomless pit
  - Rev. 11:7
  - Rev. 9 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet bottomless pit opened
  - Rev. 13:1 beast from the sea
- ► Was, is not, is about to rise (17:8 [x2], 11)
  - Existence before this time
  - Probably refers to mortal wound (13:3, 12)
  - A final prominent role
- Appearance
  - Full of blasphemous names (17:3)
  - 7 heads and 10 horns (17:3)
  - Satan (12:3)

#### Who is the scarlet beast?

#### ▶ 7 heads

- mountains on which the woman is seated
- Rome? probably not
- 7 kings (17:10)

#### ▶ 10 horns

- 10 kings to come
- 10 horns on terrible beast of Daniel 7
- 1 hour short reign at the end
- War against the Lamb saints

### Demonic powers behind nations/world

- Woman dominates the values and aspirations of the nations
- Beast dominates the political rule of the nations
- God is not in any of their thoughts (Psalm 10:4)

## The power of God

- Kings defeated by the Lamb
- Prostitute devoured by the Beast/kings
- God put it into their hearts

#### The Woman on the Scarlet Beast

- ► A prostitute and a great city the world
- ▶ A demonic alternative
- ► A tale of two cities a lesson for all ages
- ► (14:8) Fallen is Babylon the Great 2 cups