

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

1	2-3	4	22
C H R I S T	Letters to Seven Churches	Prophecy of Things to Come	

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

4	Great Tribulation – 7 Years		18	
Seals 1-6		7 th Seal		
		Trumpets 1-6	7 th Trumpet	
		Bowls 1-7		
Parenteses:	❶	❷	❸	❹
Chapter:	7	10-11a	12-14	17-18

- ❶ – the elect of God preserved
- ❷ – John and the 2 witnesses
- ❸ – Spiritual realities
- ❹ – 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

Babylon in Scripture

- ▶ 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

Babylon in Scripture

- ▶ 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

Babylon in Scripture

▶ Babylonian Empire

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

Babylon in Scripture

- ▶ 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 – 5th 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