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

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## III  Prophecy of Things to Come

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### 4  Great Tribulation – 7 Years

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Parentheses:

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

Chapter: 7  10-11a  12-14  17-18
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
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