

again. Israel will have to go through the Great Tribulation, but the church is not mentioned. Just like with the last judgment on the whole earth, God called one up and sealed one to go through. Enoch was taken up prior to the flood, but Noah was sealed in the arc so he could go through it.

16:21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

How much does each hail stone weigh? Is there any precedence in the Lord using hail stones for judgment?

The hail stones weigh a talent Greek 56lbs or Jewish 114 lbs. This has happened before see Joshua 10:11.

Chapter 17

Introduction:

The Great Tribulation has now been poured out, so chapters 17 and 18 are going to focus on the Judgment that will come on the two Babylons – Ecclesiastical (17) and Commercial (18). Two cities? Two Systems?

Ecclesiastical Babylon	Commercial Babylon
Destroyed by the Wild Beast	Destroyed by Christ on His Return
Hated by the Beast	Loved by the World
Destroyed at the beginning of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation	Destroyed at the end of the last 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation

Revelation 17:1-2 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

What is significance of the symbolism? The Beast represents? Why does it say Kings are committing adultery with the Harlot?

The Beast is presumed to be the revived Roman Empire by most Theologians. The church of Thyatira permitted Jezebel to teach, but that will be minor compared to this. Many waters speak of great masses, nations or peoples. Kings fornicating likely speaks of the unholy alliance of Church and State.

Today, we have two types of Churches (Philadelphia & Laodicea). Philadelphia represents the true Church and it is given the promise of the rapture (rev. 3:10). Laodicea represents those apostate churches that go straight into the Tribulation.

Past chapter four the Laodicea church is no longer the bride of Christ, so what is it called? Why?

In that day, the church will sell out to the World system and compromise so it can be a top the scarlet beast as described in Chapter 13. Being unfaithful, the apostate church becomes the harlot instead of the bride. Did you know in the Old Testament, punishment for prostitution was being burned at the stake?

Does the apostate church co-exist today with the true church of Jesus? What do we do about it?

Just as Joshua said when he was old in front of all the people, choose today whom you will serve, but for me and my house we will serve the Lord!

Revelation 17:3-5 –So, he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

What is the significance of the colors of purple & scarlet? Why is she called the “Mother of All Harlots”?

Golden cup with abominations stands in contrast to the Golden cups used in the altar with Blood for atonement. Purple & scarlet were the colors of the Roman Imperials. The precious stones likely speak of the material wealth and the appearance of true religion. Why Harlot? Woman designed in the Garden of Eden for man to be the most beautiful and wonderful creation. Specifically, designed to complement man and lift him to new heights, to satisfy him in a covenant relationship that is meant to reflect the love of the father for us. However, the Harlot speaks of what the devil does to corrupt. It speaks of enslaving women as sexual objects for the purpose of tearing down man. The “Mother of All Harlots” speaks to this being the parent with other churches or denominations under her. The Harlot influence has fully metastasized, like cancer, throughout the church at large.

Revelation 17:6-9 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

The blood of two groups Saints (OT) and martyrs (NT) are being referenced here. Remember, as we discussed last week Israel is called to go through it not called out of it. Babylon in the Old Testament was the one who put the children in the furnace for not worshiping their gods!

What is the mystery? Why is John astonished? What could it be?

The mystery could be that some form of the Church remained on Earth. Up to now, John has not seen the Church on earth. This has got to be a shock that any church would remain and become apostate.

Why are the inhabitants of the earth astonished? The beast was, was not (Rev 13:3-4) and will come out of abyss for Destruction (Rev 20:7-10). Why is it stated “once was, was not and is to come”?

Wild Beast speaks of the History of the Roman Empire (was, was not & is to come).

What is the city that is known for seven hills? Where will the harlot’s headquarters be?

The Woman is identified as the city of Rome.

Revelation 17:10 – 13 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

What does fallen refer to in this context? What can be meant by 7 kings, and was, was not an eighth king?

Seven heads could speak of either Kings or forms of Government of Rome or great powers: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, and the future Roman Empire, Kings, J. Caesar – assassinated, Tiberius poisoned, Caligula assassinated, and Claudius poisoned, Nero suicide, Dementias assassinated. Antichrist yet to come. Government: kings, councils, ruling tribes, imperial, dictators, democracies, and satanic.

Revelation 17:14-18 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

Why would the beast hate the Harlot/Woman enough to eat her flesh and burn her? What city might this Harlot represent? Do you see that even though it is confusing God even translates some of it for us? Why?

Antichrist is little horn of Daniel. He puts down three kings in a brilliant take over probably without violence. The seven hills clearly identify this as Rome. He is the Seventh Empire and part of the revived Roman Empire. The beast clearly hates the Harlot and at this point is no longer will to share time or worship with them. Initially, due the unholy alliance, he coexisted with the Harlot. But sharing worship with even the false church is too much for the antichrist to handle.

God uses The Antichrist as Judgment against the False Church. The Woman is identified as the city of Rome. This is a dark hour for Religion. All obstacles are cleared so the Antichrist can receive all worship on Earth.

What's next?

Chapter 18 – The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapter 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead's final Doom

Chapter 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapter 22 – Closing