

The Revelation of
Yeshua The Messiah To Yochanan (John)

Study Notes

Chapter 17 PT. 1: Mystery Babylon - The Harlot

The Harlot: Deception

Revelation 17:1-7 (NASB) – “¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, ‘Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of sexual immorality*, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality.’ ³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls, holding in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her sexual immorality, ⁵ and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery: ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.’ ⁶ And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. ⁷ And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? 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.”

Review:

The Golden Bowls/Censers/Vials



They have just been poured out. The end of the greatest judgment of sin has ended and John is taken backwards in time to bring understanding in **Chapters 17-18**.

Question:

Understanding of What?

Answer:

Understanding of what caused the whole earth to be deceived!

Two Main Figures - The Harlot and The Beast

Remember:

- This is the “why”.
- This is the “how”.
- This is “symbolism that gives revelation”.

Note: To start **chapter 17**, you must remember where **chapter 16** ended.

Revelation 16:19 (NASB) – “The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of G-d, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.”

Key: Remember this as we move forward.

Who is Babylon?

Verse 1

Revelation 17:1 (NASB) - “Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, ‘Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters,’”

Understanding: One of the seven Angels that has just poured out one of the Bowl Judgments comes to John.

- First thing to note is the Angel has a purpose.
- The purpose is to show John the Judgement of the Whore (Great Prostitute).
- The position of the Prostitute; “she sits on many waters”.

Judgement-(Greek)-*krima*-a decision, avenge, condemned, go to law.

Whore-(Greek)-*porn'e*-idolator, harlot; the one who yields themselves to defilement for the sake of gain.

Key: Scripture then goes on to tell you “with whom did she cause to commit harlotry/idolatry”.

Verse 2

Revelation 17:2 (NASB) - ““with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* sexual immorality, and those who live on the earth became drunk with the wine of her sexual immorality.””

Understanding: Remember...this is all symbolism in natural language to describe a spiritual condition; this is spiritual fornication.

Who Is Babylon? Babylon is a Religious System.



- Religious Prostitution (Mixture-Denominationalism).
- Religious System that prostitutes TRUTH (The Great Deception Enters).

Note: This is not something new, it has just taken over the whole earth at this point.

Israel: Prophet Jeremiah



Jeremiah 3:6-8 (NASB) – “Then the LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah, “Have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every leafy tree, and she prostituted herself there. ⁷ Yet I thought, ‘After she has done all these things she will return to Me’; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. ⁸ And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a certificate of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and prostituted herself also.”

Nineveh: Prophets Nahum and Jonah



Note: Nineveh was a chief city in the Assyrian empire. Nineveh was "completely full of lies". Jonah and Nahum both prophesied against the great Assyrian metropolis Nineveh.

Nahum 3:1 (NASB) – “Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies *and* pillage; *Her* prey does not leave.”

Nahum 3:4-5 (NASB) – “⁴ *All* because of the many sexual acts of the prostitute, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her sexual acts, And families by her sorceries. ⁵ ‘Behold, I am against you,’ declares the LORD of armies; ...”

Understanding: These kings were not just compromised by sin any longer, they were drunk with it! Religious prostitution is always accompanied by:

- Sorcery.
- Witchcraft.
- Demons that bring deception.

Verse 3

Revelation 17:3 (NASB) - “And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness;...”



Key: “The Wilderness” is where false religion takes all those who drink from its cup!



Revelation 17:3 (NASB) - "...I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns".

"The Harlot"



Understanding: The woman riding the Beast is symbolizing her position of control.

- The Harlot (Religious System), in the beginning of the relationship with the Beast (The Anti-Christ), is in control.
- The control does not last long.
- The Anti-Christ and the 10 Kings eventually turns on the Religious System.

"Full of Blasphemous Names"

Blasphemy-(Greek)-*blasphemia*-railing, evil speaking, slander, speech injurious of another's good name.

Note: Blasphemy not only permeates from the Anti-Christ but also from the Religious System (They are drunk).

Verse 4

Revelation 17:4 (NASB) - "The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls, holding in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her sexual immorality,"

Key: How the Harlot is dressed helps to identify her in the last days.

- Adorned in Purple and Scarlet: colors of wealth in biblical times.
- Adorned in gold, precious stones and pearls: jewels that signify royalty.



Note: The end time Religious System (One World Religion) will not just have great wealth but those who are its leaders are considered royalty in the earth. Their status will be far above most on the earth.

Outward Adornment - Deception Enters Through The Eye Gate

- It is this outward adornment that causes the whole earth to follow.
- The wealth and beauty cause them to appear to have the advantage and worthy of being followed.

Inward Full of Abominations - Inside (The Cup) Is Full Of Unclean Things

- Haughty eyes.
- A lying tongue.
- Hands that shed innocent blood.
- A heart that devises wicked plans.
- Feet that run rapidly to evil.
- A false witness who declares lies.
- One who spreads strife among brothers.

Verse 5

Revelation 17:5 (NASB) - “and on her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery: ‘BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.’”

The Origin Of False The Religious System



Note: The origins of the End Times False Religious System started in **Babylon (540 B.C.)**.

- Located in the Plain of Shinar.
- The Plain of Shinar was a district in Babylonia, in southern Iraq, and included the cities of **Babel (Babylon)**, Erech (Warka), and Accad.
- Shinar means "country of two rivers" and refers to the alluvial tract where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet.
- Man still thinks they can reach G-d.
- The Mother is “**Babylon**”.

Mystery-(Greek)-*mysterion*-means "mystery" or "secret rite".

- A religious secret that is only known to the initiated.
- A concealed power or principle.
- A hidden meaning of a symbol.

“Mysterion”- Defined for a Christian or a Believer as a divine secret of truth that is hidden from human understanding but revealed by G-d through Holy Spirit. Also known as G-d’s Redemptive Plan.

Key: The Woman remains a “mystery” until the angel takes John **“In The Spirit” (Verse 3)** to reveal “Who she is and How she deceives”.

Spirit-(Greek)-*pnuema*-Spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit of G-d, Spirit of the Lord, Spirit of Truth, Spirit of Christ.

Key: The number one use of this word is the Third Person of the Triune G-d, the Holy Spirit; coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son.

1. Sometimes referred to in a way which emphasizes His personality and character **(the "Holy" Spirit)**.
2. Sometimes referred to in a way which emphasizes His work and power **(the Spirit of "Truth")**.
3. **Never** referred to as a depersonalized force.

Understanding: The ONLY way to not be deceived in the last days is **YOU MUST** have **Holy Spirit** fully operating in your life! You cannot see a lie without the **Spirit of Truth!**

- JESUS needed Holy Spirit.
- JOHN needed Holy Spirit.
- YOU need Holy Spirit.

Verse 6

Revelation 17:6 (NASB) - “And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly”.

Key: What John felt was deeper than the word “wondered”. This is a weak translation.

“The Woman Is Drunk”

- This Religious System is drunk on its wealth.
- The Religious System is drunk on its status and appearance.



Wonder-(Greek)-*thaumazo*-to be astonished, to marvel. The root word-*thauma*, better translates his utter amazement and astonishment.

Key: John was astonished and amazed. The deception on the outside was hard to even process once he was shown what was truly operating in this False Religious System on the inside. In “**A Gold Cup**” - Her abominations were hidden inside.

Key: Guard against marketing and bait and switch tactics to draw people to you. Holy Spirit gets pushed aside for marketing campaigns and branding.

The Bible warns against those who "speak lies" and "flattering lips" (**Proverbs 26:28, Psalm 12:2-3**). Manipulators often present partial truths or distort facts to suit their agenda.

Verse 7

The Angel Responds to John with “WHY”

Revelation 17:7 (NASB) - “The angel said to me, ‘**Why do you wonder?** 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.’”

Note: Don’t be amazed when Holy Spirit shows you things others without Him cannot see.



The End