



CMBC Bible Study Revelation 17:1-17

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. 12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. 15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

The Wrath of The Lamb and the Mystery of Babylon the Great

As the Lamb continues to pour his wrath and judgment upon mankind, and upon the devil and his evil spirits, Babylon appears for the third time in the Revelation narrative, with an increasingly intense characterization that requires further scrutiny.

Inductive Study Questions for Revelation 17

Revelation 17:1

1. What does the angel's invitation to "show" John the judgment of the great whore reveal about Babylon, and God's intention ?



2. Why is the woman described as sitting upon “many waters,” and what does this personification of Babylon as a woman tell us about the world system?

Revelation 17:2

3. What does it mean that kings committed fornication with Babylon, and what spiritual implications does it carry?

4. Why are the inhabitants of the earth described as “having been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”, and what does this reveal about Babylon, and her relationship with humankind?

Revelation 17:3

5. What is the significance of John being carried into the wilderness to see this vision?

6. What does the scarlet beast with blasphemous names represent? (refer to V7-11)

Revelation 17:4

7. What does the woman’s luxurious clothing and ornaments symbolize, and what does it teach about Babylon and the world system?

8. Why is her golden cup filled with abominations, and what does this contrast teach?

Revelation 17:5

9. What is the meaning of the name written on Babylon’s forehead, and why is it called a mystery?



10. Why is Babylon called the “mother of harlots,” and what does this reveal about her influence?

Revelation 17:6

11. What does it mean that Babylon is drunk with the blood of saints, and what does this reveal about persecution and the world system? Why does John marvel with great amazement, and what does this teach about spiritual discernment?

Revelation 17:7

12. Why does the angel question John’s amazement, and what does this reveal about us, and God’s desire ?

13. What is the significance of the angel explaining the mystery of the woman and the beast? And if explained by the angel, what is the message and lesson to the church?

Revelation 17:8

14. What does it mean that the beast “was, and is not, and yet is,” and how does this mimic God’s eternal nature?

15. Why do those whose names are not written in the book of life marvel at the beast? How does this marvel compare/contrast with John’s, and what does it tell us about humanity? (compare with Rom.3:21-24)

Revelation 17:9

17. What is the meaning of the seven mountains, and how does this symbolize earthly power?



Revelation 17:10

18. What is the significance of the seven kings, five fallen, one present, and one to come?

19. Why is the final king described as continuing “a short space”?

Revelation 17:11

20. How can the beast be both the eighth and of the seven, and what does this reveal about continuity of rebellion?

21. Why is his end described as going into perdition?

Revelation 17:12

22. What does it mean that the ten horns receive power as kings for “one hour”?

23. Why do they receive authority with the beast?

Revelation 17:13

24. What does it mean that these kings have one mind?

25. Why do they give their power and strength to the beast?

Revelation 17:14

26. Why do these kings make war with the Lamb, and what does this reveal about spiritual conflict? What does it mean that the Lamb overcomes because He is “Lord of lords”?



Revelation 17:15

27. What do the waters represent, and why is this symbolic of global influence? How does this verse clarify the woman's reach over peoples and nations?

Revelation 17:16

28. Why do the ten horns turn against the woman, and what does this reveal about the instability of evil alliances?

29. What is the meaning of her being made desolate and burned with fire?

Revelation 17:17

30. What does it mean that God puts His will into the hearts of the kings?

31. Why is the fulfillment of God's words emphasized?

Revelation 17:18

32. What is the significance of the woman being identified as the great city ruling over kings?

33. How does this final identification tie the chapter together?

34. At this point in revelation 17, what should believers witness to non-believers concerning the Lamb's divine purpose for salvation?

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35. what does the imagery of intoxication suggest about the inhabitants of the earth? (verse 2)

36. Discuss how our current era may be witnessing the early stages of this prophesy and how we are being affected.

Q – With Babylon and the world and worldliness being so offensive to God that he'd reserve such fate to them, why does the church continue to "play the harlot," and to be "intoxicated" by and with the world, if we'd care to admit it? (see 1John 2:15-16; Rev 2)
