

Judgment of the Great Harlot (Part 2 of Message # 39)

Revelation 17: 7-18

Tonight I want to continue our study of [Chp.17](#) dealing with God's judgment of the Babylonian religious system, the great harlot. Remember that [Chp.17](#) deals with the destruction of the false religious system and [Chp.18](#) will deal with the destruction of the political and economic system of the beast. Last Sunday night we dealt with [Vv.1-6](#) concerning:

I. The Manifestation of the Harlot

A. The Advancement of Her System (1)

B. The Attraction of Her System (2)

C. The Alliance of Her System (3)

D. The Affluence of Her System (4)

E. The Abomination of Her System (5)

F. The Atrocity of Her System (6)

Tonight as we look at the remaining verses concerning: [Judgment of the Great Harlot](#), I want to deal with the **Mystery of the Harlot** and the **Massacre of the Harlot**.

II. The Mystery of the Harlot (8-14) – We find in [V.6](#) that [John was filled with astonishment as he beheld the harlot](#). He was shocked at what he saw. He wondered how men could abandon the worship of Christ the Lord for such a defiled belief system. He must've been astonished at the harlot's prominence, her seduction, and the worldwide support that she received.

- Remember that John had walked with Jesus; he had learned of Him and leaned upon His breast. John was there at the cross; he saw the empty tomb, ate fish and bread with Him on the shores of Galilee after the resurrection, and saw His glorious ascension.
- Here on Patmos John saw Jesus in His heavenly glory. John was a devout believer and was astonished at the depravity and outright rejection that he saw. The angel recognizes his astonishment and unveils the mystery. These are difficult verses, but I hope as we look at them tonight, we will have a better understanding. Notice:

A. The Rise of the Beast (8-11) – The mystery that the angel unveils deals with the beast. Keep in mind that we are dealing with an unholy trinity: Satan the dragon, Antichrist the beast,

and the false prophet. As I shared last week, Antichrist will be the catalyst for this one world religion. He will be the source of power and influence for the great harlot. Let's look at his rise.

V.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. The phrases “*was and is not*” and “*the beast that was and is not, and yet is*” deal with the miraculous fatal wound and resurrection of the beast (Rev.13:3; 14). Whether his resurrection is staged or real we don't know, but all the world will believe on Antichrist because of his apparent resurrection. *The earth dwellers, those whose names are not found in the book of life, will wonder after him.*

- We find that he *shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition*. This reveals his hellish origin and ultimate demise. The beast will ascend from the depths of hell, empowered by Satan, but will be bound and cast into the lake of fire.

V.9 – *And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.* We dealt with this last week, the seven heads are 7 mountains. As I said, many believe this to be Rome, the city on 7 hills, and the Roman Catholic Church playing heavily in the Tribulation. That may well be, or it could refer to a universal following on each of the seven continents.

Vv.10-11 – *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.* These are interesting verses. They speak of 7 kings of whom 5 are fallen, one is, and another is yet to come. To understand these kings we need to look back at history. Keep in mind that this world system stands in rebellion to all that is godly and in open defiance of the Lord. It has existed, at least in part, throughout history.

- The 5 fallen kings are the empires that dominated the world prior to John writing Revelation: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, the Medo-Persian Empire, and the Greeks. They all subscribed to the anti-God philosophy. The king that *is* refers to the Roman Empire, ruling in John's day. The beast is the king that is *yet to come*. He will succeed where the others failed in bringing worldwide domination and rule.

- But what about V.11? He will be crowned the 7th king of evil influence, supposedly die and rise again, becoming, in effect, the 7th and the 8th king.

B. The Reign of the Beast (12-13) – [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.](#) Here we find an alliance formed with the beast. The ten horns are 10 kings. These kings have never reigned; they [have received no kingdom as yet](#). It appears that Antichrist will appoint these kings to reign under him, ensuring his complete domination of the world scene.

- Their reign will be short lived, however. They will rule [one hour with the beast](#). This is likely figurative of the brief time that these kings will rule. They will enjoy a season of dominance, but it will not last.

- [V.13 – These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.](#) Here we see the determination of the beast and those who follow him. The world has submitted to his evil influence, even the kings of the earth, all uniting under a banner of sinfulness and rebellion.

C. The Ruin of 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.](#) This is yet another reference to the battle of Armageddon. The nations of the earth will gather to wage war against the Lamb of God. Jesus will overcome the beast and his allies, fully defeating the world system they have created.

- Our blessed Redeemer is right now Lord of lords and King of kings. One day the whole world will see and know as they face His fury and the abundance of His wrath.

- There is an interesting phrase attached to the end of [V.14 – and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful](#). This speaks of the redeemed, the Lord's bride. The saved, you and me, are coming back with the Lord as He does battle with the Antichrist. We will watch as the Lord defeats the enemy, shouting the victory as we behold His power against the wickedness of the earth.

I. The Manifestation of the Harlot (1-6)

II. The Mystery of the Harlot (8-14)

III. The Massacre of the Harlot (16-17) – This evil influence of a one world religious system will enjoy a season of prosperity and deception, but it is destined for destruction. God has always hated and dealt with false religion and the great harlot will be no exception. Her massacre will put an end to all the false religion of men, but it is surprising how all of this comes about. Notice:

A. Her Massacre is Ominous (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.* As the Tribulation draws to a close, the beast and his followers will turn on the harlot. They shall hate her and see no more need of her. They have used her to establish their dominance, but just like a woman of the night, she will be used and rejected. They will utterly destroy her.

B. Her Massacre is Ordained (17-18) – *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. [18] And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.* The beast and his world system are actually pawns in the hand of Almighty God. As they destroy the harlot, they are simply fulfilling the will of God. God hates her system of false religion and He will one day use the very source of her power to bring about her destruction. The very one who served as the catalyst for her rise will be the source of her fall and ultimate demise.

- Aren't you glad for a sovereign God? There is reason to rejoice in this verse. It confirms to us that God is in control of every situation. The world that we live in is filled with evil. It seems as if even the leaders in America have forsaken God, leading our nation deeper into the depths of sin, but God will accomplish what He pleases! The beast will hate the Lord and all that he stands for, but in the end he will submit to the power of God and destroy the very thing that he created.

These verses confirm the deception of men. Our world is filled with those who have put their trust in a false system of beliefs. It is clear that Jesus is the only way to life eternal. He is the only way to be accepted of God. Jesus will one day defeat the religion of men, paving the way for His rule upon the earth as He establishes His kingdom in the Millennial reign.

My question to you is, will you be in that number that returns with the Lord as He defeats the beast? Are you trusting in the saving blood of Jesus or have you placed your trust in a false religion? The Lord will bring judgment on those who have denied Him. The only way to find forgiveness and escape the wrath of God is through Jesus Christ. Don't wait until it is too late; the trumpet could sound at any moment and you would be left behind.