

Revelation 17

The Doom of Babylon

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 ^[a]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 ^[b]adorned with gold, precious ^[c]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, ^[d]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 ^[e]saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered ^[f]greatly. ⁷ And the angel said to me, “Why ^[g]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.

⁸ “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and ^[h]go to destruction. And those who live on the earth, whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was, and is not, and will ^[i]come.

⁹ Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman sits, ¹⁰ and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. ¹¹ The beast which was, and is not, is himself also an eighth and is *one* of the seven, and he goes to destruction. ¹² The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. ¹³ These have one ^[j]purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

Victory for the Lamb

¹⁴ These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful.”¹⁵ And he **said* to me, “The waters which you saw where the prostitute sits are peoples and multitudes, and nations and languages. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the prostitute and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.

¹⁷ For God has put it in their hearts to execute His [k]purpose [l]by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. ¹⁸ The woman whom you saw is the great city, which [m]reigns over the kings of the earth.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Paul’s observations and insights

1. John is shown the harlot of Babylon. It was there that evil had made its’ home and it receives its’ own unique judgement.
2. What is it to be ‘in the Spirit?’
3. Who is the woman?
4. What is an abomination?
5. Babylon the great is judged.
6. There is further insight into the beast.
7. We are re-introduced to the book of life with the names of all those who are in it, or not!
8. What are the seven heads, the seven mountains and the seven kings? Five are gone, one is and one is to come.
9. Who are the ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but have been given great power and great authority?
10. Are you one of the called, the chosen, the faithful?
11. God’s plan is to destroy all that is evil with evil, fulfilling what Jesus said in the gospels about a house being divided against itself.
12. The fulfilment of the words of God declared, are, as if they have happened!
13. The woman is the great city, Babylon.
14. Why has God shown John the destruction of this great city?
15. Babylon is known as the great satan.
16. What is it to be taken away in the spirit? And what is it to see?
17. What is to have blasphemous names?
18. What is it to be unclean?
19. Who are these witnesses of Jesus?
20. What is it to wonder? And why did John wonder?
21. How do you understand the statement ‘who was, and was not, and is to come’?
22. What is it to have a mind that has wisdom?

23. This one, who was not, and who is, and who is to come, is also a King.
24. The ten kings, who have authority as kings, but have no kingdom - why do they give allegiance to the beast for one hour?
25. These kings are at war with the Lamb.
26. The Lamb is King of Kings and Lord of Lords will overcome them all.
27. The beast had blasphemous names on his forehead.
28. The woman is presented in royal attire, a sense of nobility and extreme financial empowerment.
29. The names on her head reveal who she is and what she did.
30. God's common purpose at the end of the age, and it's a promise, is the destruction of evil.