

A STUDY IN REVELATION

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PART XXIII THE SCARLET CLOTHED WOMAN Revelation 17:1-18

Introduction: Chapter sixteen ends at the coming of Jesus as shown in chapter 19. Chapters 17 and 18 pull out the judgment of Babylon mentioned in Revelation 16:19 and present Babylon in detail including her judgment. It is important that this connection not be overlooked as confusion will result.

I. THE PRESENTATION OF THE WOMAN, V. 1-7.

- A. Presented by one of the vial-bearing angels.
 - 1. He commanded John to "come hither."
 - 2. He offered to show John the judgment of the great whore who sits upon many waters.
 - a. One with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication.
 - b. One who made earth inhabitants drunk with wine of her fornication.
 - 3. John was carried away in the spirit into the wilderness to see the woman.
- B. Description of the woman.
 - 1. The woman sat upon a scarlet-colored beast.
 - a. The beast was full of names of blasphemy.
 - b. It has seven heads and ten horns.
 - 2. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet.
 - a. She was decked with gold, precious stones, pearls.
 - b. She held a golden cup in her hand.
 - (1) It was full of abominations and filthiness.
 - (2) These were of her fornications.
 - 3. The woman had a great name upon her forehead: "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."
 - 4. The woman was drunk.
 - a. With the blood of saints.
 - b. With the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.
- C. The impact upon John.
 - 1. He wondered with great admiration.
 - 2. He was questioned about this by the angel.
 - 3. He was told the mystery of the woman by the angel.

II. ANGELIC EXPLANATION OF THE WOMAN AND THE BEAST, V. 8-18.

- A. The beast explained.
 - 1. It was, is not, yet shall be.
 - 2. It will ascend out of the bottomless pit.
 - 3. It shall go into perdition.
 - 4. It will cause the unspiritual to wonder.
 - 5. Its seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth.
 - a. They represent seven kings or kingdoms.
 - b. Five are fallen.
 - c. One is
 - d. One is yet to come.
 - e. The seventh will continue a short space.
 - f. The beast itself is the eighth and of the seventh.
 - g. He will go into perdition.

6. Its ten horns are ten kings.
 - a. They have no kingdom as kings.
 - b. But they receive power as kings one hour with the beast.
 - c. They are unified in mind and purpose and give power to the beast.
7. The beast shall be overcome in war with the Lamb.
- B. The woman explained.
 1. The waters where she sits are peoples and nations.
 2. She will be destroyed by the ten kings.
 - a. Because they hate her.
 - b. Because God has put it in their hearts to fulfill His will.
 - c. She shall be destroyed violently.
 3. The woman is that great city that reigns over kings.

III. GENERAL COMMENTS.

- A. What is Babylon?
 1. The capital city of ancient Babylonia.
 2. Begun as the second ecumenical movement at tower of Babel, Gen. 11.
 - a. It represents amalgamation of forces among men.
 - b. There are two major forces: physical and spiritual.
 - c. Physical force is the nature and reservation of civil government.
 - d. Spiritual force is delegated to religion.
 - e. Economic force is a by-product of the other two.
 3. Babylon (confusion) is the regimentation of governmental and religious power in the form of world empire.
 4. It has existed since Cain and will ultimately be destroyed at Jesus' return.
- B. What forms has Babylon existed in?
 1. First, Babylon, the world empire of Nebuchadnezzar.
 2. Second, the Medo-Persian empire.
 3. Third, the Grecian empire.
 4. Fourth, the Roman empire.
 5. Fifth, The Holy Roman empire with political power invested in the pope.
 6. The present politically powerless state of the Roman church which harbors all the principles of empires long dead. This is the deadly wound that arose with democratic principles of government, but the wound is healing as democratic principles weaken and work their way back to dictatorships.
 7. Seventh, yet future, will be brief world political dominion again in the rise of antichrist.
 8. The destruction of the woman, religious system, by the ten kings to enable antichrist to formulate the last form of Babylon which Christ will judge and destroy.
- C. Who is the woman?
 1. She is false religion bedecked as a queen, but full of filth and guilty of the blood of saints.
 2. She has taken many religious forms in ages past in ancient empires.
 3. Today, she is manifest in the Roman system together with her daughters of the Reformation and the many neo-reformation movements it gave rise to.
 4. She is also identified as that great city that reigns over kings.
 - a. This speaks of her reign through spiritual channels.
 - b. This may be Rome or it may be the total of false religions classified as a city.
 - c. Rome is historically renowned as the city of seven hills, note v. 9.