

THE SCARLET WOMAN -- 17:1-6

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT – THE AUTHORITY OF THE WOMAN -- v.1-3

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

Rev 17:3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:1-6

1. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT – v. 1 CF. 14:8; 16:16-19; 18:3, 9, 23; 19:2
2. THE AUTHORITY OF THE WOMAN

v. 1 "who sits on many waters," - Seen in the POSITION she has – "sits on many waters"

v. 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." - Seen in the PEOPLE she has influenced - cf. 14:8; 18:3, 9, 23; 19:2

v. 3 "sitting on a scarlet beast" v. 4 Seen in the position she has – "having seven heads and ten horns"

Rev 12:3 (Satan) - And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.
Rev 13:1 (The beast from the sea – coming world leader, the “antichrist”) - Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.
Rev 13:11 (The beast from the earth – religious antichrist) - Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.
Rev 17:7 (The “scarlet beast of chapter 17) - But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? 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.

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THE APPEARANCE OF THE WOMAN – v. 4

Rev 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet,

and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,

having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

INTERPRETATION

v. 4 THE APPEARANCE OF THE WOMAN

v. 4 “arrayed in purple and scarlet.” - The apparel of the woman - contrast 1 Timothy 2:9-10

v. 4 “adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls,” - The adornment of this woman - Cf. Rev. 18:16; 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3-5

v. 4 “having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.” - The abominations of this woman - cf. Jeremiah 51:6-8 (connects us to ancient Babylon); Examples: 1 Kings 14:22-24 (Rehoboam’s reign-full of sexual perversion); 2 Kings 21:2, 9 (Judah under Manasseh-abominations from the nations that God has said to cast out); Ezekiel 20:30-31 (judgment of Judah) cf. Rev. 18:5-6 1825 a.d. Pope LEO XII struck a medal with his image on one side, and that of the woman with a golden cup in her right hand on the other side – representing the Roman church. Giant tapestry in the Vatican picturing the Revelation 17 woman holding the golden cup is depicted as the “The Mother Church”

APPLICATION

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THE ASSOCIATION OF THIS WOMAN WITH BABYLON – v. 5

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY,

BABYLON THE GREAT,

THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THIS WOMAN WITH BABYLON – v. 5 – She is a mystery associated with ancient Babylon! She is the mother of harlots!

v. 5 “MYSTERY” - SHE IS A MYSTERY – This most likely means that the name Babylon is to be interpreted mystically or spiritually - 22 times – Rev. 1:20; 10:7(possibly the whole purpose of God in human history is meant.); 17:5, 7. - needing an explanation at once and as affording a clue to what follows

v. 5 “BABYLON” - mentioned 286 times - “Bab-el” - gate of God “Babel” – confusion – 2 times - Cf. Genesis 10:8-12; 11:1 -9 (v. 7 – “confuse their language”) Eastern bank of Euphrates – 20 miles south of Baghdad.

v. 5 “THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS” - SHE IS A MOTHER

Mythological literature – Sumerian 3rd dynasty of UR – says people once spoke one language until ENKI Sumerian god of wisdom, confounded their speech.

ESAGILA: temple of Marduk in Babylon called E-TEMEN-AN-KI – “house of the foundation of heaven and earth” 300 ft. high – two sanctuaries – one at base and one on top. Babylonians believed it was built by the gods.

Nimrod’s wife, SEMIRAMIS the FIRST (Gen. 10:8-9; 1 Chron. 1:10; Micah 5:6 – Judgment on Israel’s enemies) 1st high priestess of the Babylonian mystery religion; claimed to have a son, TAMMUZ, born in a miraculous fashion, and is the promised deliverer. Diana of the Ephesians “Mother of the gods”.

TAMMUZ - Ezekiel 8:14 (“greater abominations-women weeping for Tammuz) - also known as BACCHUS
His name - sign of the cross = tau first letter of Tammuz.

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QUEEN OF HEAVEN - Jer. 7:18 (Jeremiah, do not pray for these people...children gather...fathers kindle...women make cakes for the queen of heaven); 44:11-22 (Judah would not listen to Jeremiah-burning incense to the queen of heaven) - Babylon Her Husband NINUS is also the "SON".
Phoenicians - ASHTORETH and TAMMUZ
Egyptians - ISIS and HORUS (osiris)
Grecians - APHRODITE and EROS
Italians - VENUS and CUPID
Asia - CYBELE and DEOIOUS
India - ISI and ISUARA
Western World - Christmas - YULE DAY Chaldee word for "infant".
Easter - ISHTAR - hot cross buns and dyed eggs. Chaldean rites.

Religious Babylon Moved to Pergamus (4th century B.C; moved to Rome in 133 B.C.) - the throne of Satan.

BEL (Baal) - Isa. 46:1 (dead idols and the living God!); Jer. 50:2 (the word of the Lord against Babylon and the Chaldeans); 51:44
MARDUK (Merodach- sun god of Babylon) - Jer. 50:2 ("I will punish Bel") - Bel is shamed (confounded) = CUSH, father of Nimrod - Merodach.
Mother/Child religion developed - the QUEEN OF HEAVEN with a baby in her arms:

THE ACCUSATION AGAINST THIS WOMAN - v. 6

v. 6 "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus." - Cf. Rev. 6:10; 16:5-6; 18:24

Questions:

1. Who or what is the "Great Harlot"?
2. V. 1 - What is meant by "sits on many waters"? How universal is this relationship as to geography and time?
3. V. 3 - What is the relationship between "the woman" and "the scarlet beast"?
4. V. 4 - What is the significance of the woman being clothed in "purple and scarlet"?
5. V. 5 - What do you think is meant by the term "MYSTERY" in the name written on the woman's forehead?
6. The word "marvel" or "marveled" is used three times in this chapter with regard to "the woman"? Why do you think that is occurring?
7. V. 6 - What is meant by "drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"?
8. Do you think the same thing or two different things is/are being discussed in chapters 17 & 18?

THE ACCUSATION AGAINST THIS WOMAN - v. 6

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.