

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 6/6-7/2022 *Revelation Chapter 17***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7th PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

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### **OPENING PRAYER**

***Revelation Chapter 17 – The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast – vs. 1-6; The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast – vs. 7-18:***

We need to think of **Babylon** as a **city**, an **empire**, and a **system** (chaps 17 & 18 – religious and commercial)

**History of the false Babylonian religious system and Babylonian commercialism system.**

- **Shortly after the flood when Noah and his family came out of the ark**, they first settled in the Babylonian plain. There Cush, the son of Ham, had a son by the name of Nimrod, who was called a mighty hunter before the Lord. A more accurate translation is Nimrod was a mighty rebel against the Lord! Shortly after the flood, this false religious system under Nimrod began there in Babylon. It developed through the years. His mother, Semiramis, was later called the queen of heaven. He was deified and was called Tammuz. There, you have your ancient mystery Babylon religion born, which

is one of the worship of the mother, the queen of heaven, and her son, Tammuz.

- **We will look at a few interesting historical facts concerning church history.** There is no intention of bashing the Catholic Church. But these are a few historical facts of church history, fulfilling some of the prophecies being given us here in Revelation. The history of the church has not been bright at all, but rather disastrous at times. This false church system is going to be brought into judgment here in chapter 17.
- **Babylon is mentioned 295 times in the Scriptures**, more than any other city except Jerusalem. Babylon was the seat of the civilization that expressed organized hostility to God. The overall concept of Babylon is greater than Revelation 17-18 and the Antichrist's reign. Babylon was present in John's day, exemplified by Rome. Also in our day, and throughout history, as the "world system." But under the Antichrist, during the Great Tribulation, in the absence of the restraint of the Holy Spirit in the true church, which has been Raptured, Babylon, in both its religious and commercial systems, will blossom and expand over the earth as never before.

### ***The Great Prostitute and the Beast – vs.1-6 The Harlot exposed.***

***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,***

- ***One of the seven angels.*** In chapter 16 these seven angels were given bowls of wrath or judgment of God that were to be poured out upon the earth. We saw the successions of judgments that came as a result of these bowls of God's wrath poured out upon the earth.
- ***I will show you the judgment of the great harlot.*** Her **judgment** is assured at the outset. There is never any doubt regarding the fate and failure of Babylon. As a religious system, Babylon came into being long before Christianity, but in Satanic imitation it anticipated the coming true Messiah. The Bible makes specific mention of some of the features of the classic religion of Babylon:
- ***Ezekiel protests against the ceremony of weeping for Tammuz (Eze 8:14) So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.***
- ***Jeremiah mentions the queen of heaven (Jer 7:18) The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. and offering incense to the queen of heaven. Also, in (Jer 44:17, 18, 19, 25)***
- ***Many waters.*** Further down in verse 15, the "many waters" are identified to John as *the nations and the peoples and the multitudes and the tongues* upon which the whore has controlled. In the Bible fornication, whoredom, adultery, are used as symbolisms of false religious systems. In the Old Testament the nation of Israel was to be married unto God. God looked upon the nation of Israel as His bride. But when the nation of Israel began to worship other gods, God said that they were guilty of fornication. They were guilty of adultery. When they reached out to other gods, he referred to that as their whoredom. Thus, the whoredom is the introducing or the worship of gods in an unspecified way or other gods that are an attraction to the people. So, the great whore, the false worship, who sits upon many nations, peoples, sort of covers the earth.

***Rev 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication (spiritual adultery or infidelity), and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk (intoxicated) with the wine of her fornication."***

- **Halley's Bible Pocket Handbook gives us some of the events of the history of the church.** Here is just one example of the fornication, which is prophesied by John.
- **He tells us that, "Innocent III who was the pope from 1198 to 1216, was the most powerful of all the popes.** He claimed to be, and this was the first time, **the Vicar of Christ or the Vicar of God, the supreme sovereign over the church and the world.** He claimed the right to depose kings and princes and that all things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ. He brought the church into supreme control of the state. The kings of Germany, France, and England, and practically all of the monarchs of Europe obeyed his will. He even brought the Byzantine Empire under his control.
- **Never in history has any one man exerted more power.** He ordered the two crusades. He decreed

the transubstantiation. He confirmed Auricular confession. He declared that Peter's successor can never in any way depart from the Catholic faith. He declared Papal Infallibility. He condemned the Magna Carta. He forbade the reading of the Bible in the common languages. He ordered the extermination of the heretics. He instituted the Inquisitions. He ordered the Massacre of the Albigenses, during the first crusade. More blood was shed under his direction and that of his immediate successors than any other period in the history of the church except in the Papacy's effort to crush the reformation in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. One would think that Nero, the beast, had come back to life in the Name of the Lamb." That's just historic fact.

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

- ***He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness:*** John is carried away into the wilderness; the desolate nature of the wilderness is an appropriate setting for a vision of judgment. His being carried away reminds us of other prophets also having similar experiences, such as Ezekiel, chapter eight.
- ***The seven heads and ten horns are something that we see discussed in Daniel,*** who saw in his vision these ten horns which rose out of the Roman Empire, becoming the ruling powers in the last days (The Federation of European Nations). How that out of the ten there came an eleventh horn, the Antichrist, who got control over the revived Roman Empire, The United States of Europe, and his reign in the last days.
- ***Daniel tells us in, (Dan 7:8, 20, 24, 25; 11:36) I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. [20] and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. [24] The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. [25] He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. [11:36] And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.***
- ***In Revelation, John said, (Rev 12:3) And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. Turning to Revelation chapter 13, John said, (Rev 13:1-6) 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. [2] Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. [3] And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. [4] So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" [5] And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. [6] Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.***
- ***We find that this ten horns, seven heads is identified with the revival of the Roman Empire and with the Antichrist that will come out of that federation of nations. Now, the interesting thing is John saw the woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, which is full of the names of blasphemy. So, there will be a tie in, a connection, between the false church and the Antichrist's system. Full of the names of blasphemy. The pope's claim to hold on the earth, the place of God, to have a supreme authority over the human conscience, to have power to forgive sins, to grant indulgences and obedience to them, is necessary for salvation. Her association with blasphemy and the dragon's beast are clearly seen from God's perspective. But to the people of the earth she will look quite religious, and have the "faith" everybody wants.***
- ***The scarlet-colored beast, or red is the color of the beast and the harlot and the ten dragons in chapter 13. It is the color of the Papacy. The Papal Throne is scarlet. It's born by twelve men***

dressed in scarlet. The cardinal's hats and robes are scarlet. Originally, it was Satan's color. It became the color of atheistic communism in Russia. They were known as the Reds. They have the Red Square and the other red symbols in Russia.

***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.***

- **The woman** (one of four prominent women in the Bible – Jezebel – Thyatira; Israel - Rev. chapter 12; woman here in chapter 17; and the Bride of Christ - Rev. chapter 21) **is arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls**, indicative of being well-kept for her services. The emblems of luxury were gold, stones and pearls. She offers idolatry (abominations) and impurity (filthiness of her fornication) in this sumptuous setting. Throughout church history, one of the deadliest marks of ecclesiastical corruption is the lust for temporal power. Purple and scarlet were the colors of rulers, whether economic or political.
- **Having in her hand a golden cup (Jer 51:7) Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, Which made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.**
- **Full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. Here are a few more examples** relative to the fulfillment of John's prophecy regarding the woman's filthiness of her fornication, reading again out of Halley's Bible Pocket Handbook, his section on church history.
- **Adrian II, 865-872; John VIII, 872-882; Marinus, 882-884.** With these popes began the Dark Period of the Papacy. The two hundred years between Nicholas I and Gregory VII is called by the historians, "The Midnight of the Dark Ages." Bribery, corruption, immorality, bloodshed make it just about the blackest chapter in the whole history of the church.
- **Sergius III, A.D. 904-911**, was said to have had a mistress, Morozia. She and her mother, Theodora, and her sister filled the Papal chair with their paramours and bastard sons and turned the Papal Palace into a den of robbers called in history, "The Rule of the Harlots," 904-963. Anastasius III and Lando and John X was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made Pope by Theodora for the more convenient gratification of her passion. He was smothered to death by Morozia, who then in succession raised to the Papacy Leo VI, Stephen VII, and John XI, her own illegitimate son. Another of her sons appointed the four following Popes, Leo VII, Stephen VIII, Martin III, Agapetus II, and John XII. A grandson of Morozia was guilty of almost every crime. He violated the virgins, the widows, high and low. He lived with his father's mistress, made the Papal Palace a brothel, and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband.
- **Vicars of Christ, representatives of God upon the earth.** John writing under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit speaks of these things that the church would be guilty of. The woman arrayed in purple and her joining together in the last days in promoting the power and the reign of the Antichrist.

***Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY (secret revealed), BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER (a federation of false, apostate religions) OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***

- **History of Constantine and the early church.** When Constantine was supposedly converted and declared that Christianity would be the religion of Rome, he signed the Edict of Toleration, which ended the many years of great persecution by the Roman Government against the church. Thousands, in fact, they estimate as many as six million believers were martyred during the first two hundred fifty years of the church's history as the Roman government sought to wipe out this new sect that they looked upon as a danger to Rome. But when Constantine came into power, he felt that the Lord had given him a vision in one of the crucial battles. He saw the sign of the cross and under it the words in this sign, "Conquer." When he won that battle and became the Emperor of Rome, he declared Christianity as the state religion. But Rome was pretty much paganized. The Babylonian influence, the religions of Babylon had heavily influenced the Romans. Many of their practices were borrowed from the Babylonian religion.
- **One of them was this celebration of December 25, which was the Babylonian holiday for Tammuz.** The Romans celebrated it under the name of Saturnalia, and they had many different customs that accompanied the celebration of Saturnalia. But it was basically a pagan holiday. Now, Constantine recognized the difficulty of taking away traditional holidays from the people. So, it was

declared that December 25 was the birthday of Jesus. We'll be celebrating the birthday of Jesus on December 25.

- **Babylonian Astarte, our Resurrection Day, which is referred to as Easter!** The celebration of Astarte (or Ishtar), the goddess of life who evidently brought life to Tammuz when he was dead, that took place in the spring. Constantine said we'll call it Easter, which is very close to Astarte. We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at this time. What they did was sort of adapt the pagan holidays, giving them Christian names and allowing the people to go on with the same pagan customs of drunken parties and all during the Christmas season. We see today how that it is sort of reverted back to its pagan celebrations. Christmas now is a big time for commercialism. It is a big time for office parties, drunkenness and all of the things that take place under the guise of celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ. It's something that, though they try today to Christianize it, it has its pagan roots, and it is surely going back to its pagan practices in the world to date.
- **Under this mystery Babylon religion, is the worship of the mother of Tammuz who is known as the Queen of Heaven.** In many pictures that they have found from the Babylonian era, pictures that were drawn hundreds of years before Jesus and the birth of Jesus, have the mother and child with the halos above their head, which were representing Semiramis and Tammuz. But these were adapted and the elevation of Mary and the worship of Mary and even being called the Mother of God and worshiped and venerated was stemming from the Babylonian worship of Semiramis. There is a book, a scholarly book, if you are interested in these kinds of things, called the Two Babylon's by Alexander Hislop. He goes to great pains to identify and to show the two Babylon's and the similarities between the ancient Babylonian mystery religion and the worship in the Catholic Church today.
- **Now, all Catholics are not bad. All Mormons are not bad, and all people who go to Calvary Chapel are not bad.** There are many wonderful godly people in the Catholic Church, people who truly love the Lord, people who do not know the background or the depths or some of the practices that have been introduced in and by the church. Even as there are many Mormons who are not really aware of what the Mormon doctrine actually is in many respects.
- **You tell the Mormon that the Christ that they believe in is a brother to Lucifer,** and most of them say oh no! We don't believe that. But yet it's a part of the Mormon rituals in the temple in this play-acting thing where Elohim, God, is talking about the redemption of the earth and Jesus presents His program and Lucifer, the brother of Jesus presents his. When the Father chooses the redemption program by Jesus, Lucifer gets angry and decides he's going to destroy the thing. They make Jesus a created being like Lucifer, a brother to Lucifer. Now, most Mormons don't even know that and yet it's a very part of their practice.
- **There is a stark contrast between the woman of Revelation 12** (representing Israel, God's people), and this woman (representing idolatrous, false religion). These two Women, thus related, and set over one against the other as opposites and rivals, must necessarily be interpreted in the same way. As Antichrist corresponds to Christ as a rival and antagonist of Christ, so Great Babylon corresponds to the Woman that bears the Man-child, as her rival and antagonist."
- **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT:** This title is not for literal Babylon; but it is spiritual (**mystery**) representation, which is the source (**mother**) of all idolatry (**abominations**) and spiritual adultery (**harlots**).
- **Our world, with its "it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe" philosophy,** is ripe for the harlot's seductions. We see the casual disregard for the truth crippling the church today.

***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.***

- **Possibly John's amazement it s the fact that no one could imagine** that Babylon would be the source of all false religion and that this falsehood would spread so rapidly and take root in all the nations of the world. That it could have been that people would not have expected religion to play such a major role in the end times.
- **On the other hand, it could have been because although John would not have been surprised** to see that Pagan Rome was drunk with the blood of the saint and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. He is greatly amazed in is seeing the result of the church, down through the ages, of being responsible for the shedding of the blood of an innumerable number *of saints and the martyrs of Jesus!*
- **The Catholic Church, it speaks of the woman who is red with the blood of the saints.** The

inquisition by the Catholic church especially at the time of the reformation by Martin Luther, it is estimated that there were some nine hundred thousand believers, followers of Jesus Christ, who were killed by the Jesuits in their holy war in their endeavor to stamp out Protestantism. Red with the blood of the saints. However, this harlot must be larger than any one branch of a religious institution. She is the embodiment of Satan's own ecumenical movement - the religion of the world system

- **This isn't pagan persecution, which John knew about in his day**, but religious error and persecution. This is a psuedo-church, which was thirsty for the blood of the saints. The worst enemy of true religion has always been and remains to be false religion.

**Vs. 7-15 The Harlot explained:**

**Rev 17:7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast (political system) that carries her (all the nations sitting on the false religions of the world), which has the seven heads (v. 9) and the ten horns (v.12).**

- **The angel is going to explain to John the symbolism.** We don't have to guess at it. The angel is going to declare it to John. We notice that the main emphasis is on *the beast that carries her*. It appeared that the harlot, both ruled and rode the Antichrist's system, but he is the dynamic factor, using her as tyrants have always used religion, as a mere tool to accomplish their purposes.

**Rev 17:8 The beast (antichrist) that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition (Roman and revived Roman Empire?) And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

- **Out of the bottomless pit (abusso) is not simply a revival of an earthy empire, it is supernatural (Rev 9:1-2) Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. [2] And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.**
- **(Rev 20:1-3) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. [2] He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; [3] and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**
- **Be not ignorant of Satan's devices (2Co 2:11) lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.**

**Rev 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains (sometimes a figure of governments) on which the woman sits.**

- **Seven mountains** Many commentators have alleged the "seven heads" to be the seven-hilled city of Rome, therefore deducing the great harlot to be the Roman Catholic Church. However, such identification seems questionable. Many cities have seven hills. Rome actually has more. Besides, the Catholic Church does not sit on the hills of Rome, for its headquarters are in Vatican City.
- **It is probably better to see the seven mountains** as the representing the seven kings and kingdoms described in Rev 17:10. Many people find the connection between religious Babylon and Roman Catholicism irresistible, yet it is flawed in the sense that there is no doubt that religious Babylon will incorporate a strong Roman Catholic element, but it will be *much bigger* than Roman Catholicism.
- **Mountain (oros); Hill (bounos)** Furthermore, a "hill" is the Greek word, *bounos*, which is not the Greek word used here. The word here, mountain, is correctly translated from the Greek word, *oros*. It is reported that the tallest hill in Rome is only about 250 feet, certainly not a mountain. In the Bible mountains are sometimes a figure of governments, (**Dan 2:35b**) *And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.* The seven "mountains" are clearly expounded in the next verse as seven kings and/or kingdoms. So now the angel begins to explain, "and here is the mind which has wisdom."

**Rev 17:10 There are also seven kings (kingdoms). Five have fallen, one is, and the other has**

***not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.***

- ***Five have fallen*** –Since one of the kings “is,” the five fallen kings, kingdoms, can refer only to earlier history, before John’s time. Rome, as the world’s greatest kingdom during the apostolic period, was in existence during John’ life as well as throughout the Gentile church age. Though Rome did not continue as a great empire, she continued to exist in Italy, with a significant influence on the cultural, legal and religious realms of all the western nations. Thus, the five earlier “heads” on the beast, that *have fallen*, must be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and Greece. These, including Rome and revived Rome, have been referred to as Satan’s seven kingdoms.
- ***The other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.*** This likely must be the ten-kingdom federation represented by the ten horns on the beast, (**Rev 13:1**) *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.*
- ***This kingdom will continue only a short time***, possibly the first 3.5year period of the Great Tribulation, before they give all their kingdoms to the beast for the last 3.5 years, (**Rev 17:12**) *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. [13] These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.*

***Rev 17:11 The beast (antichrist) that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.***

- ***The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth.*** The eighth kingdom can only be that of the beast himself. It encompasses all of the evil characteristics of the seven before it, but especially of the founder of all seven, the first Babel, whose very physical existence itself, the beast will finish restoring and then designate as capital of his world empire. He is **of the seven** in that he shares characteristics with all previous world empires, but his fate should be noted. **Perdition** means “destruction,” and the **beast** will be destroyed!

***Rev 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour (not 60 minutes, but a specific period of time) as kings with the beast.***

- ***Ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings.*** They would be the leaders of these nations that have federated together, but they don’t yet reign as kings, but they will receive the power as such, reigning for one hour with the beast.
- ***There is limited benefit in speculating the makeup of these ten kings*** because they have not yet received authority and the identification of the Antichrist has not yet occurred either.

***Rev 17:13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.***

- ***Whatever their exact identity has not yet been identified***, their actions are clear. They align themselves and join with the Antichrist in the war against Christ, in the battle alluded to in the sixth and seventh bowls, (**Rev 16:14, 16**) *For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. [16] And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.*

***Rev 17:14 These will make war (at the end of the Tribulation, Rev. 19) with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful (true bride, the true church)."***

- ***They will be gathered together, in the plains of Megiddo for that final conflict*** as they will seek to thwart the coming of God’s Kingdom through Jesus Christ upon the earth.
- ***The Lamb will overcome them!*** This is a key verse of Scripture. What an understatement! All the armies of the world, following all the hosts of Satan, are on their way to Armageddon to “make war with the Lamb, but **He shall defeat them merely with the breath** of His mouth! (**2Th 2:8**) *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*
- ***Those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*** In Revelation chapter 19 we will read of

Jesus returning to establish His kingdom upon the earth. He will be coming on a white horse and they that will be coming with Him. His church. Paul said when Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory! The prophet cried out, "Behold He comes with ten thousands of His saints to execute His judgment upon the earth." Returning with Jesus to establish God's kingdom upon the earth, those that return, those that are with Him, have been called. They have been chosen and they are faithful. How grateful I am for the call of God upon my heart! How grateful I am for the fact that God has chosen me to be His disciple, to bring forth fruit!

- **Chosen and faithful!** Jesus said to His disciples, John records it in, (Joh 15:16) *You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.* Chosen! How wonderful it is to be chosen of God!
- **You say, well I don't think that's fair that God chooses** who's going to spend eternity with Him. Was it fair that you chose the spouse that you'd spend the rest of your life with? Do you think that's fair? Should someone have just said, hey, you take her, or you take him? No, we had our choice, and we're thankful for that. Aren't we? After all, you're going to spend the rest of your life with him. You would like to have a choice in that. You don't want Him to just dump someone on you. You'd like a choice. Now, if you're going to spend all eternity, it would be fair that God chooses who He wants to eternity with. I have no problem with that. Because He chose me! Why should I have a problem with that?
- **God has given you a choice, who you want to spend eternity with.** It is really your choice. You have the power of self-determination. God has given you that. You can choose to spend eternity with God in the Kingdom of God, or you can choose to rebel against God and find your destiny in Gehenna where Jesus said it was prepared for Satan and his angels. It's your choice! It's one of those interesting anomalies that it is your choice, and yet when you choose to follow Jesus, He says you didn't choose me, I chose you and ordained you that you should be My disciple! You should bring forth fruit.
- **It is something that we can't quite understand.** You say but how do I know if he chose me or not? Well, it's very easy to discover. Just choose to follow Jesus. Choose to surrender your life to him! You will discover that He chose you. That's simple enough isn't it? You may say, but what if I don't want to choose Him? Maybe He didn't choose you. But that doesn't take away from the fact that you have the choice.
- **God is omniscient! He knows all things and cannot learn anything!** He knows those that will make that choice. So, we've been chosen in Him from the foundations of the world. Names written in His Book of Life from the foundations of the world. If you will just choose to follow Jesus, you will discover the wonderful truth that God has chosen you. If you choose not to follow Jesus, then one day you'll come to the horrible realization that you weren't chosen. But you can't blame Him because He chose you from the foundations of the world that we should walk before Him in holiness and love.

**Rev 17:15** *Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

- **The fifteenth verse is one of simple explanation that needs no comment.** We see the definition of "the waters!" *The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.*
- **The harlot sits, presides over peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.** This tells us that the harlot's influence is worldwide, through her connection to the beast. It will be a truly one-world religion.
- **The interpretation of the harlot focuses on her relationship to the beast.** The harlot is well connected to the beast and his government. We see throughout the history of religion, not the true church, how that religion has often been the willing servant and supporter of tyrants.

**Vs. 16-18** *The Harlot is Judged:*

**Rev 17:16** *And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot (probably at the Tribulation mid-point), make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.*

- **The ten horns are ten kings as told in (Rev 17:12)** *"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. They*

in turn give over to the Beast their kingdoms. This solidifies the Roman Empire and enables the Beast to lift himself up as a world dictator.

- **Though the church will be used to help establish the beast and his reign**, once *the beast* is established, he'll turn against the church. This has always been the goal of tyrant dictators and most governments, to use religion for their purposes, then discard it. When he first comes into power, he will make a covenant with the nation of Israel. They will begin to acclaim him as the Messiah. But when he reveals his true colors, then they will denounce him. He will seek to destroy the Jews and they will go through one more great persecution. Jesus talked about that time of warning the Jews to flee to the wilderness. We're told that God has prepared a place for them where they will be sheltered for three and a half years, which is the final three and a half years of the reign of the Antichrist.

***Rev 17:17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.***

- **God has put it into their hearts:** He is the One who is ultimately directing the judgment against religious Babylon, using evil to destroy evil! As in the cases of using Assyria and Babylon in the past against Israel, God will sometimes use a wicked group, such as these ten kings to be an instrument of His judgment against another wicked group, which here is religious Babylon.
- **To be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast:** God has prescribed and directed the political support of these ten kings for the Antichrist. In doing this, God gives the world exactly what it wants: godless religion and godless rulers.

***Rev 17:18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city* (seat of the religious and political power) *which reigns over the kings of the earth."***

- **The woman whom you saw is that great city.** John reminds us that the harlot, the woman, is not simply a revived nation, such as ancient Babylon, but a city, *which reigns over the kings of the earth.*
- **That great city! (Rev 18:10)** *standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'*
- **(Rev 18:19)** *"They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'*
- **(Rev 18:21)** *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.*
- **So, the judgment of God upon the false religious system of the last days is completed!** As we move into chapter 18, God will deal with the commercialism, again, that had its birth in Babylon but controls the lives of so many people, holding them in slavery today. The commercialism that we see in the world, the judgment upon it.
- **Then, and we are hardly able to wait, we get to chapter 19**, going to heaven once again with the church and the glorious marriage of the Lamb to His church! We are getting into the exciting portions of the book as we are closing out the Book of Revelation! .
- **In John's day, Rome was the ready personification of Babylon** - the world in rebellion against God. Today, idolatry is just as strong, but more dispersed. Today, which city in the world is most readily identified with the world system? Hollywood? Wall Street? Washington?

## **WHAT DOES THIS PROPHECY MEAN TO US, NOW?**

- **We need to understand enough of this prophecy to be aware today** of what is coming, as we see the signs of the coming of God's judgment. What is happening to the church today? What is happening to the governments of the world, and especially our own government? Are there not growing signs of the presence and influence of the Babylonian religious and commercial systems, all around us?
- **Then, how are we to live? Be aware of what is going on around us!** *(1Ti 4:1-2) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, [2] speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*

- **Pray! Be in the word of God! (2Ti 3:16-17)** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- **There has never been a time when we need more loyalty** to the Word of God and to Pray! Him only do we worship and serve!
- **(1Jn 5:21)** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.
- **Remember and be thankful for His amazing grace!**

## **CLOSING SONG:**

### ***THIS IS AMAZING GRACE*** (4:35) Phil Wickham

*Who breaks the power of sin and darkness? Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
 The King of glory, the King above all kings Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?  
 And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder? The King of glory, the King above all kings  
 This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
 You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me  
 Who brings our chaos back into order? Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?  
 The King of glory, the King of glory Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
 Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance The King of glory, the King above all kings  
 This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place That You would bear my cross  
 You laid down Your life That I would be set free Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me  
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Worthy, worthy, worthy  
 This is amazing grace This is unfailing love That You would take my place  
 That You would bear my cross You laid down Your life That I would be set free  
 Oh, Jesus, I sing for All that You've done for me All that You've done for me*

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**For next week, read Chapter 18!**