

The Woman Who Sits on the Scarlet Beast

Revelation 17

Introduction

- The Seventh Trumpet has sounded and we are reading about various activities that occur during the Seventh Trumpet.
- In Revelation 15-16 we were told about the angels with the seven last plagues.
- These seven last plagues are also called the golden “bowl” judgments.
- These seven plagues occur at the end of the Tribulation Period, during the last 3 ½ years which is known as “the great tribulation.”

Introduction

- Beginning in Rev. 17, we learn that Antichrist's religious system will be destroyed.
- In Rev. 18 we will see that Antichrist's political and economic system will also be destroyed.

A vision of the woman sitting on the scarlet beast (17:1-6)

Revelation 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,

- The seven bowl judgments occur in the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period and climax with the the second coming of Jesus.
- John is invited to see what God will do with the “beast’s” (the Antichrist) worldwide religious, political, and economic system.

A vision of the woman sitting on the scarlet beast (17:1-6)

- Four times in this chapter, the woman is called a “harlot” (17:1, 5, 15-16).
- 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."
- Her sin is called “fornication.”
- Her influence has extended to the whole world

A vision of the woman sitting on the scarlet beast (17:1-6)

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.

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.

⁵ And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

A vision of the woman sitting on the scarlet beast (17:1-6)

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.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

⁷ 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.

- The woman is a city – Rev. 17:18 - "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."
- The city is prosperous and powerful, but also idolatrous and dangerous.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

- It pollutes the nations with its filth and abomination and persecutes those who belong to the Lord (Rev. 17:6 - “drunk with the blood of saints.”)

⁸ "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. 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.

- The “beast” is Antichrist – who received a mortal wound, and was brought back to life.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

⁹ "Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

¹⁰ "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

- The “seven heads” which are “seven mountains” probably symbolize seven kingdoms and their kings.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

- When John wrote, the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and the Greek empires had gone out of existence (“five have fallen”). The Roman empire still existed (“one is”), and the Antichrist’s empire had not yet come (“the other has not yet come”). When it does it will be brief (7 yrs).

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

¹¹ "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

- The Antichrist's kingdom is said to be both the seventh and eighth kingdoms because of his death and his miraculous "healing". He is the seventh king before and the eighth king after his "resurrection" when he destroys the harlot's religious empire and demands exclusive worship of himself

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.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

¹³ "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

- Ten nations will unite with Antichrist and follow his leadership.

¹⁴ "These will make war 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."

- "make war with the Lamb" refers to the battle of Armageddon where Jesus, who is the Lord of lords and King of kings will utterly destroy them.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

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

¹⁶ "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

- After using the false religious system to unify the world kingdoms and gain control of all, the Antichrist—with the help of a coalition of the ten nations—will turn against the system, plunder and destroy it, and seize all power and worship for himself.

The Interpretation of the Meaning of the Woman and the Beast that carries her (17:7-18)

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.

¹⁸ "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

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