

Revelation 17

“Don’t take Her Home to Mama”

Things are NOT ALWAYS LIKE THEY SEEM > Deception is BIG BUSINESS
 “Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover!” > OLD AND WISE SAYING

FAIRY TALES > Cinderella > Gussied-Up Sisters were PAINFULLY UGLY
 Lowly Servant Girl was RAVASHING BEAUTY > Inside and Out

ADVERTISEMENTS > Everything on TV looks BIGGER & BETTER than LIFE

COSMETICS > Some women so Good > DRIVING PINK MERCEDES BENZ
 Mary Kay MARKETING QUEENS > Painted Ladies all OVER TOWN
 Some COME TO CHURCHES > Just to FIND MORE CUSTOMERS

IF you have been ABANDONED by a Lover > DECEIVED by an Advertiser
 ROBBED through a Broken Contract > DISAPPOINTED by a Church / Pastor
 SMOKE and MIRRORS > No Substitute for TRUTH and JUSTICE

SEEN FINAL JUDGMENT of God > 3 Times > 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls
 NOW John Elaborates on DETAILS of Judgment > ENEMIES of God’s Church

v. 1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me,
 “Come, *I will show you the punishment...*”

Ch 12 > Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet, Babylon, Men with Mark of Beast
 FIVE ENEMIES of Christ and His Church > NOW Each will be DESTROYED
 PARALLEL ACCOUNTS of ONE CLIMACTIC JUDGMENT DAY of LORD

Ch 17 > TRUE Nature and REAL History of Babylon the Prostitute

1. Tempting / 2. Tacky / 3. Tentacles / 4. Tribulation
 5. Transforming / 6. Temporary / 7. Tool / 8. Too Late

1. Tempting

vs. 1,2 the great prostitute...With her the kings of the earth committed adultery
 and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries

TEXT of Bible > Rated PG-13 – at Least! > 5 times John uses word ‘PORN’
 Fornication or Harlotry = Unfaithfulness to God > Lusting after Other gods

OT Prophets > Image of Prostitute > Religious Apostasy / Unfaithfulness
 Nineveh: “the wanton lust of a harlot, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who
enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft” Nahum 3.4

"Tyre...will return to her hire as a prostitute and *will ply her trade with all the
 kingdoms on the face of the earth.* Isaiah 23.16, 17

GLOBAL Attraction > World Drunk on PASSIONATE LUST > SEX SELLS!
 PROMISES Pleasures of SENSUALITY and PROSPERITY
 ROMAN HARLOT > Like Modern Sisters > Only OBTAINED WITH MONEY

For all the nations have drunk the *maddening wine of her adulteries*. The kings of
 the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth *grew rich
 from her excessive luxuries.* Revelation 18.3

JOHN’S USE OF OT IMAGES > Almaty Billboards > NOTABLE FEATURES
 Tien Shan Mtns / Golden Man Statue / Opera House / IN ONE STYLIZED VIEW
 JOHN Arranges OT Themes > UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE > Present MESSAGE

Risen Jesus WARNED Church in THYATIRA: “You tolerate that woman Jezebel,
 who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into
 sexual immorality...I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer
 intensely, unless they repent of her ways.” Revelation 2.20,22

SEDUCTION happens INSIDE the Church as well as OUTSIDE > BEWARE
 Seduction > HEALTH & WEALTH Gospel > Pain-free DISCIPLESHIP
 Lie > Have PEACE with the WORLD AND PEACE with GOD
 Pulpits > Proclaim POP-PSYCHOLOGY instead of GOD’S HARD TRUTHS

GOD PROTECTED HIS SERVANT JOHN > No Romantic Candlelight VIEW
 v. 3 the angel carried me away *in the Spirit into a desert*. There I saw a woman...

DESERT > Where Jesus WENT TO Battle SATAN and TEMPTATION

LIKE JOSEPH who RAN AWAY from the Seduction of POTIPHAR’S WIFE
 As Pastor John had CONFERENCE with this WOMAN > KEPT DOOR OPEN

Great Prostitute > ALLURES, TEMPTS, SEDUCES > Draws Away from God
 Seen COUNTERFEIT TRINITY > Dragon, Beast from Sea, Beast from Earth

PROSTITUTE > Counterfeit Church > CHEAP COPY of Spotless Bride of Christ
 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you *the bride, the wife of the Lamb.*” And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the *Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.* Revelation 21.9,10

2. Tacky

OVER ACCESSORIZED > NUMEROUS WARDROBE MALFUNCTIONS
 vs. 4,5 The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Purple and Scarlet > Colors worn only by Upper Classes of Roman Society
 Emperor’s Family > Senators > Equestrians
 Jewelry > Gold / Precious Gems / Pearls > Top Economic Strata of the Empire

GOLDEN CUP > should Hold thing EXCEEDINGLY FINE but it’s FILTHY
 Woman offers DISGUSTING COCKTAIL to the Kings and Residents of World

“Babylon has been like a golden cup in the Lord's hands, a cup from which he made the whole earth drink and go mad.” Jeremiah 51.7

“abominable things” > ALL that World Uses to TURN Believers Away from God
 Make your OWN SECRET LIST of its CONTENTS

“This woman represents fallen human culture in all the apparent glory of its achievement and the true repugnance of its arrogance.” Dennis E. Johnson

3. Tentacles

v. 3 I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast / v. 7 woman and...the beast she rides
 MIND and PURPOSE that ANIMATES Kings of Babylon is the BEAST

DESCRIPTION of Woman blends into that of BEAST > INSEPERABLE
 Revelation of the WOMAN is an EXPLANATION of the BEAST

Single Mystery > NEITHER can be UNDERSTOOD apart from the OTHER

v. 1 “great prostitute, *who sits on many waters*”

v. 15 Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are *peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.*”

WATERS > INTERNET of the Ancient World > ALL PASSED OVER THEM
Rivers run into Seas > Seas surround Every Continent > STICKY TENTACLES

“Those who are hungry for worldly power and glory are repeatedly deceived, they never gain the world, but the devil gains them.” Philip E. Hughes

Godless METROPOLIS > Industry, Commerce, Art, Law, Government, Sport

OVERVIEW of NEWS from BABYLON’S DAILY NEWSPAPERS
HEADLINES – Pope Dying – Narrow Minded Moralist – Superstitious Followers
Terry Schiavo Dead – Denied Food and Water for 13 Days – Died Peacefully

GOVT – Courts Advancing Gay Marriage > Removing Ten Commandments

POLITICS – Mistrust – Increase their Salaries and Benefits - Sex Scandals

SPORT –Athletes on Steriods – Hockey Season Cancelled > Greed – Sex Scandals

ART – Latest Shocking Movies and Art Exhibits > Michael Jackson & Little Boy

“Lift up a banner against the walls of Babylon!..You who dwell by many waters,
... your end has come” Jeremiah 51.12,13

4. Tribulation

FILLED WITH HATRED FOR GOD: v. 3 covered with blasphemous names

If Cannot ENTICE the Church > then will ELIMINATE IT
Two Fold Weapon > BEAUTY or BRUTALITY > Prostitution or Persecution

ROME > Pleasure Mad City > Masses ENTERTAINED in Circuses
CHRISITANS were TORN TO PIECES for PUBLIC AMUSEMENT

v. 6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

“The camera angles on this last battle vary as we move from Revelation 12 to Revelation 20, but the story line is consistent. Jesus’ followers must be prepared for a period of unparalleled, intense persecution at the end, when evil forces unrestrained will be released to work their worst against the church.”

Dennis E. Johnson

vs. 13,14 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. They will make war against the Lamb

DESCRIPTION OF NERO’S PERSECUTIONS by Non-Christian Historian

“a vast multitude of Christians were not only put to death, but put to death with insult. They were either clothed in the skins of wild beasts and then exposed in the arena to half-famished dogs, or else dipped in tar and put on crosses to be set on fire, and, when the daylight failed, to be burned as lights by night.”

Tacitus, Roman Historian, 65 A.D. ca.

“The beast is the entire antichristian persecution movement throughout history, embodied in successive world empires.”

William Hendriksen

“Little babylons also operate in the recesses of our heart. The Beast controls his subjects through fear; the Prostitute seduces people by playing on their lusts... We capitulate and compromise with sin because of either fear or lust. We are afraid of suffering and shame. Or we lust after the desires of our heart” Vern S. Poythress

5. Transforming

TARGET IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING > All Civilizations thru All Time

v. 2 the *kings of the earth* committed adultery and the *inhabitants of the earth* were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries

BABYLON > Past, Present, Future > Nimrod, Nebuchadnezzar, Nero, Nazerbayev

FORM CHANGES > ESSENCE AND PURPOSE REMAINS THE SAME

vs. 10,11 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

KINGS > Roman Caesars?? > PROBABLY NOT > SYMBOLIC NUMBER – 7

“To treat the number seven here as symbolical in its significance is more consistent with the tenor of this apocalyptic book. Seven being the number of divine authority, it may be taken here to indicate the desire of the empire-builders of this fallen world to dethrone God and to exercise authority that is universal and absolute.”

Philip E. Hughes

7 = PERFECTION / COMPLETION > BEST Man Tries > Fallen, Destroyed

“At its root every pagan world empire is another incarnation of the same satanic spirit that will reach full intensity just before it shatters before the glory of the Lamb and ‘goes to its destruction.’”

Dennis E. Johnson

v. 12 “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.

TEN > Completeness, Fullness of Kingdoms will succeed Rome / Fallen Babylon

And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. Revelation 13.1

v. 18 The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

Whether Jezebel or Cleopatra sat for the portrait John is now painting makes little difference. John’s images are timeless in that they portray the essential conflicts of humanity from the beginning of time until the end.

Robert H. Mounce

John’s Day > Represented as ROME v. 9 “seven hills on which the woman sits”
HILLS > Strong Holds of MILITARY PROTECTION and ADVANTAGE

"Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion," declares the LORD . I am against you, O destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain.”

Jeremiah 51.24,25

Babylon’s FALL > Occurs throughout History > FINAL FALL at Jesus’ RETURN

6. Temporary

v. 10 FIFTH KING “he does come, he must remain *for a little while*”

Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because *he knows that his time is short.*” Revelation 12.12

v. 12 “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who *for one hour will receive authority* as kings along with the beast.

Kingdoms Pass Away Rapidly > Finite and Mortal
Present Era between 2 Comings of Christ > Brief Hour in Light of Eternity

POINTS BEYOND ROME > Final Battle > Enemies of God and His Anointed
The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. Acts 4.26

v. 8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world *will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.*

Astonished! > Can GOD STOP MIGHTY BABYLON? INVINCIBLE ROME?

‘once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction’
PREVIOUS PERSECUTION > FUTURE PERSECUTION > Present PAUSE
ULTIMATE END is DETERMINED by GOD

COUNTERFEIT of Eternal GOD “the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” James 1.17

“They wage war on the Lamb by seeking to destroy his credentials...his eternal sonship, his incarnation and sinless life, his atoning death and resurrection, his ascension and glorification, and his uniqueness as the Saviour of mankind. Their assault on the truth, however, in no way alters the truth; *their warfare against the Lamb is no threat to his reality and his survival...his lordship is absolute and his sovereignty invincible, and their doom is inescapable.*” Philip E. Hughes

v. 14 “the Lamb will overcome them”

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “*Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!* For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?” Revelation 6.15-17

7. Tool

Earlier Part of Book > Emphasized Spiritual WARFARE > Dangers & Casualties
FINAL CHAPTERS > Certainty of GOD'S VICTORY through Christ & Church

HER DOOM IS EVIDENT EVEN FROM HER INTRODUCTION

v. 1 *One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls* came and said to me,
“Come, *I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute*”

Prostitute > Tool of BEAST > BOTH OF THEM > TOOL of SOVEREIGN GOD
v. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until *God's words are fulfilled*.

GOD IS IN CONTROL > Even of this APPALLING GLOBAL CONFLICT
Kings > Controlled by Beast > Beast by Dragon
Sovereign Control over All belongs to Almighty God > Orders His Story

WORLDLY THINGS > Become Tools for GOD'S KINGDOM ADVANCE
GOLD FROM EGYPT > Built Ornate TABERNACLE of God of Israel

Las Vegas > Great Place for Christian Family to Overnight on Drive Across USA
CHEAP ROOMS and RESTAURANTS!
CASINOS in Almaty > Offer CLEAN, FREE TOILETS for PASSERBYS

“a throne in heaven with *someone sitting on it*” Revelation 4.2
NO Ultimate Dualism in World > Powers of Evil Serve Purposes of God

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. Romans 9.17,18

POTTER has SOVEREIGN RIGHTS over the Clay > His own Glorious Purposes

“If there is one thing in all the world that the rebels do not want to do, it is the purpose of God. But they are helpless to keep that sovereign purpose out of their hearts...in gathering to wage war against the Messiah, they are merely assembling for their own execution.” Dennis E. Johnson

v. 14 > Good Choice for THEME VERSE FOR BOOK OF REVELATION:

v. 14 They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

If NAMES of 7 Kings, or 10 Kings, were IMPORTANT > Would be RECORDED
NOT ULTIMATELY IMPORTANT > GONE IN JUST ONE HOUR!
ONLY IMPORTANT NAME: Lamb > Lord and King > JESUS THE CHRIST

8. Too Late

vs. 6,7 When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Then the angel said to me: “*Why are you astonished?*”

WHY ASTONISHED > Never Knew ROME THAT BAD! > Still Looked Good
How could she FALL looked SO STRONG?? > USSR? Kyrgyzstan? USA?

IF ROME is that Bad > How could GOD ALLOW it to REMAIN UNPUNISHED?
ANSWER > He Does & He Will > PERFECT in JUSTICE & RIGHTEOUSNESS

“Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.” Romans 2.5-8

PLEASURES OF SIN DISAPPOINT IN THE END

v. 16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

If a priest's daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire. Leviticus 21.9

FIRST they are Satiated and then Nauseated > Disillusioned & Unfulfilled
They Kill the Thing they have Loved > Babylon falls by Internal Rottenness

MILITARY POWER Upheld ROMAN EMPIRE > Eventually DESTROYED IT

Queen Jezebel > Thrown from Window > Trampled by Horses > Eaten by Dogs

GRUESOME END / PROPHESED BY EZEKIEL / Israel became a Harlot
 “I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure...I will gather them
 against you from every direction and expose your nakedness to them...They will
 stone you and cut you to pieces with their swords. They will burn your houses with
 fire and execute judgments on you.” Ezekiel 16.37-41

PEOPLE who SLEEP with this TRAMP > Will WAKE UP and be SURPRISED
 Like Jacob who worked SEVEN Years for Rachel > Woke up with LEAH
 Worked SEVEN MORE YEARS found out RACHEL was NO BETTER!

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love
 of the Father is not in him. *For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man,
 the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the
 Father but from the world.* The world and its desires pass away, but the man who
 does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2.15-17

JUDAS ISCARIOT > Realized he had BETRAYED his MASTER > WOKE UP
 Flung COVETED 30 Pieces of Silver back to Priests and Elders > TOO LATE!

God’s structure of reality is such that when people reject that reality they put into
 effect the consequences of such rejection. M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

LOVE World > Heart Hardened Agnst God > May Understand you’re FOOLED!
 HEART may be TOO HARD to REPENT and RETURN TO GOD

The LORD will destroy Babylon; he will silence her noisy din...A destroyer will
 come against Babylon; her warriors will be captured... For the LORD is a God of
 retribution; he will repay in full. Jeremiah 51.55,56

What a PITIFUL EXCHANGE > Babylon the Harlot for the Bride of Christ
 A PRECIOUS BIRTHRIGHT given up for a BOWL of STEW
 TERRIBLE DISAPPOINTMENT > Belong to Babylon not the BRIDE

“The objects of our lust are only tawdry counterfeits of what God has created out
 of his own bounty and what he will bestow in unfathomable fullness. In the new
 Jerusalem, God grants the pleasures of the marriage supper of the Lamb, the wealth
 of streets paved with gold, the fame of being known by God and having his name
 on one’s forehead, the power of the throne, the health of no sickness or death, and
 the beauty of the new city’s architecture.” Vern S. Poythress

¹One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. ²With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

³Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. ⁵This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

⁹“This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. ¹¹The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

¹²“The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

¹⁵Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷For God has put it into their hearts to

accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. ¹⁸The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”