

The **REVELATION** of Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 6, 2008

CHAPTERS SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN – MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT

Our study of Revelation now introduces us to chapters seventeen and eighteen. These chapters contain some of the most difficult passages in the entire Bible. They are not necessarily difficult in the sense of comprehension, but rather they are intensely confronting and _____ to a majority of the world's religious population...

It is important to note that these two chapters do _____ advance the narrative of Revelation beyond chapter 16; they simply reveal and explain details already introduced (*Revelation 14:8; 16:19*). These two chapters depict Babylon as:

- A _____ system – chapter 17
- A _____ system – chapter 18

Today, as we venture into chapter 17, we will see two clear divisions: the _____ – 17:1-6 and the _____ – 17:7-18. Each division reveals the identity of the most influential fiendish entity the earth has ever seen...

A BABYLONIAN RELIGIOUS SYSTEM – REVELATION 17:1-18

1. The mother – Revelation 17:1-6

- A _____ whore – verses 1-2
 - She sits upon many waters – vs. 15
 - She commits fornication with the kings of the earth
 - The inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication
- A woman riding a _____ – verse 3
 - She sits upon a scarlet colored beast
- A _____ of harlots – verses 4-5
 - She is arrayed in purple and scarlet color...
 - She is decked out with gold and precious stones, and pearls...
 - She has a golden cup in her hand (it's full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication)...

Who is this woman?

Rev. 2:20 calls her Jezebel. She is presented as a false system of religion. Judges 17-18 and 1 Kings 16-18 describe her as having black-robed priests called A _____@ who use idols as aids in

worship...

The Catholic Encyclopedia states:

Cappa Magna - A cloak with a long train and a hooded shoulder cape...(it) was _____ wool for bishops; for cardinals, it was _____ watered silk...

Cassock - The close-fitting, ankle-length robe worn by the Catholic clergy was their official garb...The color for bishops and other prelaics is _____, for cardinals _____.¹

¹Peter M.J. Stravinsleas, ed., Catholic Encyclopedia (Our Sunday Visitor Pub., 1995), 175, 178.

The Catholic Encyclopedia states:

AThe pectoral cross (suspended by a chain around the neck of abbots, bishops, and archbishops, cardinals and the Pope) should be made of _____ and...decorated with _____.²

² Robert Broderick, ed., The Catholic Encyclopedia (Thomas Nelson, 1876), 466.

- He has seven heads – verses 9-11
 - They are seven mountains with seven kings
 - Five are fallen, one is, and the [seventh] is yet to come – he must continue for a short space
 - 1) Nimrod: King of Babylon
 - 2) Pharaoh: King of Egypt
 - 3) Sennacherib: King of Assyria
 - 4) Nebuchadnezzar: King of Babylon
 - 5) Darius: King of Medo-Persia
 - 6) Alexander: The great King of Greece
 - 7) Caesar: The King of Rome
 - The beast that was, and is not, he is the eighth, and is of the seven

Because Babylon is on the list twice, it cancels itself and counts as one – this takes our list from seven down to six. The first five kingdoms (thru Greece) have fallen as history records. When John is on the island of Patmos, Rome is in power...Although Rome (#6) has fallen since then, it will revive again, for a short space, under another title (#7, maybe called the UN), until the beast establishes his kingdom (#8, which is actually born out of all the other kingdoms).
- He has ten horns – verses 12-14
 - They are ten _____ kings (a league or federation; #7) that will be given economic power over the entire earth near the end on the beast's reign
 - These kings will ultimately engage in warfare with the Lord Jesus Christ and will be destroyed...
- These ten horns will _____ the whore – verses 15-17
 - They will agree together to hand their power over to the beast. This is the _____ of God as he works to bring to fruition all the prophecies of the Revelation of Jesus Christ
- The whore is a religious system that is also a _____ – verse 18
 - That city is Babylon – Geographically called _____ and/or _____

CONCLUSION – An overview

The great whore will pry into the commercial and political affairs of the entire earth. With the full support of the beast, she will become the spiritual ruler over a one-world _____. Then the beast, after winning the heart of the world's populace, will gain the support of the economic powerhouse – the ten federated authorities as he rises to international fame (Rev. 6:1-2). This will lead to a _____ between the nations of the world, the ten global leaders, the one-world religion, and the beast. After the great whore has sucked-up all the world's religions into her grasp (or cup), the beast, through a coup, will usurp her spiritual authority and turn the ten demoniacs against her. They will ultimately make her membership roles desolate, strip her of her fortunes and property, kill her leaders, and burn her headquarters to the ground (Rev. 17:16; 18:18). The beast, as absolute sovereign, will give the international commercial leadership to them, and set himself up as God demanding the _____ of all peoples and nations.

NEXT WEEK: CHAPTER 18 – A Babylonian Political System