

"The Destruction of Babylon"

Part 2

Revelation 17-18

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we stepped briefly into Revelation 17.

**Notice Revelation 17:1-6**

The focus of this chapter is the judgment of Religious Babylon. Last week in our study we went back to Genesis where we were able to see the establishment of this system.

**Genesis 10:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth.*

<sup>9</sup> *He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD.*

<sup>10</sup> *And the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel**, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.*

Here we are introduced to a man named Nimrod and he was a mighty hunter before the Lord. He did not hunt deer or elk, he hunted men to join him in rebellion against God. His Kingdom was in the land of Shinar which was Babylonia.

**Genesis 11:1-9**

*And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.*

<sup>2</sup> *And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain **in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.***

<sup>3</sup> *And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.*

<sup>4</sup> *And they said, Go to, **let us build us a city and a tower**, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.*

<sup>6</sup> *And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.*

*<sup>7</sup> Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

*<sup>8</sup> So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.*

This Tower of Babel was the birth place of all false religions. Every false religion that exists today has its roots connected to the Tower of Babel.

### **Notice Revelation 17:5**

Babylon is called the MOTHER OF HARLOTS and she is called GREAT. This one world religion that will exist during the Tribulation will be all the world's false religions rolled into one. You see, in the Tribulation all the world's false religions will come home to their MOTHER. She is called the Mother of Harlots because this false system was established under the rule of Nimrod in Genesis 11 and as I said every false worship system has come from her and in the Tribulation, all will return to her and come together as a ONE WORLD RELIGION.

It is called MYSTERY Babylon because it has yet to be revealed. It will be extremely dark for it will be energized by Satan.

## **I. The Vision**

### **Notice Revelation 17:1**

The first point we need to notice about the harlot is that she is SITTING. This is the position which people in authority take. It is a position of sovereignty. It is a symbol of rule.

We also need to see that she is sitting on many waters.

### **Notice Revelation 17:15**

The fact that she is sitting on peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues tells us of the authority and the rule she has over the world at this time. The waters upon which she sits is the very waters from which the first Beast arose.

### **Revelation 13:1**

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

Now there is a twofold meaning of the whore sitting upon the many waters/nations.

**1. It speaks of how the nations of the Tribulation will support her.**

Let me just say that this is amazing. It will be this world wide religious system that will pull the people of the world together in unity. Just look around in our day today and you can see how divided our nation and the world is and so we can only imagine the deceptive power that will exist in this system of the Tribulation.

**2. It speaks of the authority that she will have over the earth dwellers.**

Those who buy into this one world religion will be so deceived that they will not even realize they are actually under her control.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

<sup>4</sup> *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of **strong holds**;) )*

These earth dwellers will be entrapped in these FORTRESSES. Let me show you the power of this system.

**Matthew 24:11**

<sup>11</sup> *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

**Mark 13:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.*

<sup>13</sup> *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

**Notice Revelation 17:2a**

Here John introduces us to her alliances.

**1. The Kings of the Earth.**

It is interesting to notice that the kings of the earth commit FORNICATION with the whore. She wants power and she wants to control the world. Therefore, she will promise to leaders of the world whatever they desire.

**Notice Revelation 17:2b**

**2. The Earth Dwellers.**

This verse shows the power of false religion.

All of this makes me ask a question, "WHAT DOES THIS HARLOT OFFER TO HAVE THESE ALLIANCES SO COMMITTED TO HER?"

This false worship system will offer to the world a FALSE GOSPEL. Whatever the message of this false system will be it contain the promise of ETERNAL LIFE for those who follow. But it will all be a lie for it will be nothing but a message of great deception.

I believe if we look at some other verses we can understand a little more about this false system and the gospel it will uphold. Let us remember that the earth dwellers will accept the false gospel of the harlot.

**Revelation 9:20-21**

*<sup>20</sup> And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:*

*<sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

These people who refuse to repent are those who have bought into the gospel which the harlot will uphold. So, as I look at these verses I can understand that the "religion" of the earth dwellers/the harlot will be a "religion" that allows them to live in their sin.

This false gospel that will capture so many of the Tribulation will be a gospel that will offer the promise of eternal life while at the same time it will allow those who accept it to live in the pleasures of their sin.

This is contrary to the message of the True Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 7:13-14**

*<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*<sup>14</sup> Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

We looked at these verses last week but there is something here that I want you to see.

There are 2 groups here, 2 gates, 2 destinies, and 2 PATHS. The paths are what I want to draw your attention to. The PATH which leads to hell is a BROAD path which means those who step onto this path are free to carry all their sinful practices with them.

But the PATH which leads to eternal life is NARROW. The word means "AFFLICTION or TO PRESS HARD".

The idea is to get on the NARROW way we must come to the place where we hate our sin and are willing to REPENT. Then as we get on the NARROW path God does not permit us to live in our sin, but He works in our lives to strip away the old practices.

### **Hebrews 12:5-8**

*<sup>5</sup> And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:*

*<sup>6</sup> For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

*<sup>7</sup> If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

*<sup>8</sup> But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

God will not permit His children to live in sin. He expects us to live separated lives. He wants us to live detached from the world.

But the harlot will spread a false gospel that allows her followers to keep their sin and enjoy the pleasures of sin with no restrictions. The harlot desires only power and so she will promote the PERFECT religion to the earth dwellers.

Application:

We see this in many of the false worship systems of today. I worked with man who would go out and live in deep sin through the week and then on Saturday they would confess what they had done to the priest then go right back out the next week and dive into the sin again. In all of this they believed they were on the path which was leading to heaven.

But that is NOT the Gospel which the Bible teaches.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

**1 John 2:3-5**

*<sup>3</sup> And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

*<sup>4</sup> He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

*<sup>5</sup> But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

There is another reason why the kings and the earth dwellers come together under the harlot. Let me show you the words of Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah 51:7**

*<sup>7</sup> Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.*

Because these people have rejected and suppressed the LIGHT which God has given to them He will use Babylon the Harlot to lead them deeper into the spiritual darkness.

**Notice Revelation 17:3**

Now we see that the woman is sitting upon the Beast and we know the Beast is the Anti-Christ. There are differences of opinion as to what this means. It could mean that she will rule over and control the Anti-Christ and it probably means she will be supported by the Anti-Christ.

This helps us again to see the power of this system that exists today and will exist with no restraints during the Tribulation. The RELIGIOUS POWER will be the controlling power.

**Conclusion:**

As we bring this down to an end today there is something here that I want you to see. Satan will be the one who will empower the harlot and use the system to lead many down the path of destruction. This religious Babylon/false worship system exists today but it is being restrained.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4-8**

*<sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

<sup>5</sup> Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

<sup>6</sup> And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

<sup>8</sup> And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Right now, the Holy Spirit is restraining the powers of Satan but after the rapture the restraints will be removed, and Satan will be free to unleash the Anti-Christ and to empower the false religion of the Tribulation.

But even now no man is any match for Satan. I tell you this to warn you to be very careful. We can clearly see the increase of spiritual darkness and Satan's power today.

### **1 Peter 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

### **Illustration of Spiders:**

*The spider is a cunning insect. It spins an almost invisible web across the path of its prey and then patiently waits for unsuspecting insects to pass by. Then when a bug falls into the web it soon becomes entangled and is at the spider's mercy. Now that the insect is caught, the spider will secure it by wrapping it with more webs and, at leisure, sucks the nourishment from it.*

*Satan is the biggest spider of all. He lurks unseen in the background and relies on his many webs of lies and deceit to catch his prey. Like the spider, he doesn't usually chase his prey - he waits for it to come to him. Satan has spun many ingenious and near-invisible webs to entangle us (insects). Webs that appeal to our pride, our self-righteousness, our lust for power, success, popularity, wealth, fame and so on. No matter what sort of person we are Satan has spun a web that can catch us.*

*Once entangled, we are at his mercy and it's very hard to break free. Ever so slowly, we are wrapped in webs of our own addictions. We become tangled in our lust for power, approbation and gratification - then trapped within the bitterness, jealousy and depression that follow. Soon we are so entwined the only purpose we can possibly serve is to nourish Satan's plans. How do we avoid becoming entangled in Satan's invisible systems of lies and deceit? We look to God. He knows the whereabouts of every web spun by*

*Satan. If we take our lead from our Lord Jesus Christ and choose the paths He walked, Satan's webs will never entangle us.*