

"The False Church"

Revelation 17

Part 2

Introduction: Last week we stepped away from 2 Kings, and we stepped into Revelation 17. We looked at the first 5 verses where we were introduced to a great harlot. This chapter deals with the judgment of this harlot.

Notice Revelation 17:1

She was sitting upon many waters, and she had great influence over the kings of the earth. The kings of the earth will join with this false church. This tells us that this false church will not stand for the doctrines of the Bible. When we stand for the Truth of the Bible the world is offended. This false church will be supported by the masses and by the kings.

Luke 6:25-26

²⁵ *Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.*

²⁶ *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.*

Notice Revelation 17:2

The kings have committed fornication with this harlot, and they have become drunk with the wine of her fornication. Now John tells us at the end of the chapter who this woman is.

Revelation 17:18

¹⁸ *And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

What we need to understand is that she is a city and she is a religious system. How can she be both? Just as Wall Street is a place and a system. Babylon is a city and she is a religious system. In Revelation 17 the religious system is destroyed and in Revelation 18 the city/the commercial system is destroyed.

In chapter 17 we are looking at what is referred to as the False Church. This false church exists today and will be the one world religion in the Tribulation period.

Notice Revelation 17:1, 15

Here we see that the waters which the harlot sits on are the people of the world. There are 2 thoughts with her sitting on the waters.

1. The masses support this great harlot.
2. She has great influence over the masses.

➤ **"The False Church in the Tribulation"**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Revelation 17:3

In this verse the harlot is seen sitting upon a beast. This beast is the Anti-Christ as we shall see as we move on in this chapter. We see the rise of the Beast in Revelation 13.

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.

The fact that the harlot is sitting upon the Beast tells us that he will support her. This will only be for the first half of the Tribulation.

Notice Revelation 17:4

We looked at this verse last week, but I want to take the thoughts a little further. The false religious system will be arrayed in expensive apparel. This tells us that this false church will be worldly and she will be caught up in living for the world. The focus will be upon the here and now.

Application:

We who make up the true church are not to live for this world because this world is not our home. Our focus is to be on our eternal home.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Notice Revelation 17:4 again.

There is a golden cup in her hand. This we need to connect with what Jeremiah wrote.

Jeremiah 51:7

⁷ 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.

The word "mad" here could be translated "deranged" but what does this mean? If someone is deranged, they could be placed in a dark room with one door and would not be able to find the door. This is what has happened to those who are paired up with this false religious system. How does this happen?

God has created man to worship Him and when man turns away from God, he will worship something in an attempt to fill the void in his or her life. They will therefore create their own god in their mind, and they will then worship this false god.

Exodus 20:2-5a

² I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

The people can name the name of Jesus, they talk about God, and they seem to be very sincere but the Jesus they speak of is not the Jesus of the Bible and the god they speak of is not the True God. This is exactly what we are seeing in our world today with the false church.

They have created a god that fits their sinful lifestyle. The god they worship is fine with the sin they practice. In verses 1-4 the word "FORNICATION" is used 3 times. In the Bible fornication is often connected with idolatry. **The idea is to follow idols that lead to impurity.**

Jude 1:4

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word "lasciviousness" means **"unbridled lust"** which means they are given over to the sexual desires of the flesh with no boundaries. This false church will offer an unbridled lifestyle along with being in good standing with God. Satan knows how to use the weakness of man to lead him to destruction. This is exactly why the false church will be so popular.

Notice Revelation 17:5

This is the origin of all false religions. Notice that Babylon is the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Every false religion had its birth in Genesis 11.

Notice Revelation 17:6

Here we see that this false religious system will be drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs. This caused John to wander in amazement.

This is how the Anti-Christ will use this false church. Keep in mind that he will support her and this is why. He will use this false church to persecute true believers in the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

These True believers will be hated as they stand for the Truth of the Word of God, and they will die for their stand.

Revelation 11:3-10

³ And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

⁴ These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

⁵ And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

⁶ These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

⁷ And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

⁸ And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

⁹ And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

¹⁰ And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

When the True believers stand for the Truth, they will be hated by the world and the false church, and the false church will be used to exterminate the believers.

Keep in mind that the Anti-Christ is Satan's man therefore he will not want anything to do with the True God.

John 15:18-19

¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

"The Destruction of the False Church"

Notice Revelation 17:7-8

Here we see what will happen to the Anti-Christ.

- ✓ **Was** - will exist as Satan's masterpiece.
- ✓ **Is not** - Will be killed in the Tribulation.

Revelation 13:1-3

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.

² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

³ And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

- ✓ **Shall ascend out of the bottomless pit** - he will be resurrected and indwelt by Satan himself.

Notice Revelation 17:12-17

The ten kings will destroy the harlot and since they serve the Beast, we can understand that when Satan enters the Beast, he desires all worship.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ 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.

Conclusion:

Listen to the words of MacArthur.

"Having used the false religious system to help him gain control of the world, Antichrist will discard it. In his rampant megalomania, he will want the world to worship only him. He

will also no doubt covet the vast wealth of the false religious system. Thus, he will turn on the harlot."

This deception is increasing every day and there is only one way to be protected.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;