

The Book of Revelation

“The Beast to Come”

Revelation 17:8-18

Introduction

1. The identification of the harlot (v. 1) appears clear. She is the great conglomerate religious system called Babylonianism. The history of this idolatry is well established and traceable to Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9).

2. This Babylonian system is a hodgepodge of Romanism, apostate Protestantism, false religions (as Islam), all sects and cults. All are tied together in a massive effort to control man's destinies. It is the world church, the harbinger being the present ecumenical movement (vv. 5, 18).

3. The point of this chapter is to set forth the two major players in God's judgement (v. 1). That the Babylonian religious system is included is evident (vv. 1, 18). The military power of the day plays a leading role in this judgment (the beast for he carries the religious system (v. 7)).

4. Since God is the righteous Judge (Gen. 18:35). His dealings with the two players of the end times is spectacular. Look at the revealed aspects of God's judgment:-

Note: The sight of the harlot caused great wonder to John (KJV -- admiration, v. 6). The Apostle was asked about his wonder by an angel who promised an explanation (vv. 1, 7): 1) about the harlot and 2) about the beast. The rest of the chapter gives details of the beast.

1. HIS IDENTITY v. 8

Four statements are given:

- a. He was. Sets him as having political existence.
- b. He is not. Shows a hiatus of political existence.
- c. He is about to ascend. Here is a diabolical source of his political existence.
- d. He will go into destruction. Marks the final end of his political status (Rev. 19:20; 20:10).

Note: What an amazing summary about the beast, the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-10, cf. 11:7; 17:8).

2. HIS ASSOCIATES v. 8

Those that dwell on the earth are overcome with wonder (future passive verb). These are obviously non believers. Their names are not in the Book of Life. Note: The Book of Life a. Includes believers (Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27). b. Located in heaven (Luke 10:20). c. Certain names blotted out (Ex. 32:31-33; Rev. 3:5). d. Non believers excluded because of sin of unbelief (Rev. 13:8; 17:8; John 16:9). e. Omission from Book results in eternal damnation (Rev. 20:11-15; Dan. 7:10; Rev. 22:19). Remember: once saved, always saved (Rev. 3:5; Mt. 10:32, 33; Ro. 10:9; 1 John 4:14, 15; John 10:28).

3. HIS CAREER vv. 9-13

a. Related to wisdom v. 9

The mind has (pres. tense) wisdom.

b. Related to governments vv. 9, 10

The mountains are not earth and stones. Rather, kings (v. 10) and the harlot sits on them. Hence religion is upheld by politics. Five of these political schemes have fallen, one remains. The other (of the same) has not yet come.

c. Related to prominence v. 10, 11

When the seventh king comes, he “must” remain a short time. Then the eighth king rises out of the seventh. Earlier, Scripture avers he is from the abyss (v. 8). Now it affirms he will go into destruction (perdition).

d. Related to an alliance vv. 12, 13

- 1) Represent 10 kings
- 2) Have no kingdoms
- 3) Receive power (authority) for an hour (short period) with the beast
- 4) Agree together -- one mind
- 5) Give their might and authority to the beast

4. HIS ACTIVITY vv. 14, 15

The basic thrust here is in one word war. This war is:

a. Allied

The 10 kings and the beast are allies in the polemics. It is with the Lamb (Christ).

b. Overcome

The Lamb is the Victor. Reason given is that He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

c. Associated

The hosts of heaven join the Lord. They are a peculiar sort: 1) called in time (2 Tim. 1:9), 2) chosen in eternity (Eph. 1:4), and 3) faithful even unto death (Rev. 2:10).

d. Universal v. 15

The harlot “sits” on many waters (v. 1) and in turn sits on the beast (v. 3). Hence, there is immense influence of the harlot (apostate religion) and the beast (renegade politics) world wide (peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues).

5. HIS ANIMOSITY v. 16

The basic thrust is in one word, hate. This hate (loathing, disgust) is:

a. From the alliance v. 16

The 10 kings and (not with) the beast join in a confederate hate of the harlot. The concordat between the apostate religion and the political ruler (military power) breaks.

b. Forced upon the harlot v. 16

- 1) Harlot is made desolate i.e. wasted.
- 2) Harlot is made naked i.e. her true character is exposed.
- 3) Harlot is eaten i.e. all her glories are doomed (cf. v. 4)
- 4) Harlot is burned i.e. utter social, religious ruin.

6. HIS MOTIVATION v. 17

The basic thrust is in one word, God. The events of this chapter obviously are controlled:

a. God gives (KJV--puts)

The heart of the alliance is moved by God in three directions.

- 1) To do (KJV -- fulfill) His will
- 2) To do (KJV -- agree) one will
- 3) To give their (10 kings) kingdom to the beast.

b. God limits

The parameters of the events are constrained by the Word of God. When His Word is fulfilled, then the drama will end.

Conclusion The Babylonian religion is the woman. The rebuilt city of Babylon will have commercial dominance. The beast (Antichrist) is the end time military power. The commercial (economics) power will control the military power (Antichrist) during the Tribulation. In the end Christ will be the Victor. Hallelujah!