

Online Bible Courses

John's Book of Revelation
written exclusively to Christians

Lesson 11 - Chapters 17 - 18

Judgment of the Harlot

17-18
(17:1)
(Isa 21:9)

**“Come, I will show the
judgment of the great harlot
who sits on many waters ...”**

Who Is She?

- Committed fornication with kings (v.2)
- Made earth-dwellers drunk (v.2)
- Wore purple & scarlet (v.4)
- Wore costly jewelry (v.4)
- Drank from cup of filthiness (v.4)
- Mother of harlots & abominations (V.5)
- Drunk on blood of saints (V.6)

Harlots of the Bible

17-18
(17:1-6)

- Israel (Judg 8:27)
- Assyria (Nah 3:4)
- Jerusalem (Isa 1:21)
- Babylon (Isa 47)
- Tyre (Isa 23:15-17)

Now it shall come to pass in that day that Tyre will be forgotten seventy years, according to the days of one king. At the end of seventy years it will happen to Tyre as *in* the song of the harlot:

“Take a harp, go about the city,
You forgotten harlot;
Make sweet melody, sing many songs,
That you may be remembered.”

And it shall be, at the end of seventy years, that the LORD will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire, and commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world on the face of the earth. (Isaiah 23:15-17)

Telling A Mystery

- Mt 13:11; Mk 4:11; Lk 8:10
- Rom 11:25, 16:25
- 1 Co 2:7, 4:1, 13:2, 14:2, 15:51
- Eph 1:9; 3:3-4, 9; 5:32; 6:19
- Col 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3
- 2 Thes 2:6-7
- 1 Tim 3:9-16
- Rev 1:20; 10:7; 17:5, 7

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches. (1:20)

but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. (10:7)

The Mystery Revealed

- 7 heads = 7 hills
= 7 kings
5+1+1=7
- Beast = was, is not, is the 8th

Seven Hills of Rome, group of hills on or about which the ancient city of Rome was built. The original city of Romulus was built upon Palatine Hill (Latin: Mons Palatinus). The other hills are the Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, Caelian, and Aventine (known respectively in Latin as the Mons Capitolinus, Mons Quirinalis, Mons Viminalis, Mons Esquilinus, Mons Caelius, and Mons Aventinus).
www.britannica.com/place/Seven-Hills-of-Rome

Heads & Horns

Daniel 7:7-8 &
Revelation 13 & **17:9-11**

(27-14) 1. Augustus

(14-37) 2. Tiberius

(37-41) 3. Caligula

(41-54) 4. Claudius

(54-68) 5. Nero **5 have fallen (17:10)**

- Galba
- Otho
- Vitellius

(69-79) 6. Vespasian **One is (17:10)**

(79-81) 7. Titus **Yet to come, short while (17:10)**

(81-96) 8. Domitian **The eighth (17:11)**

Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. (Revelation 17:9-11)

Heads & Horns

Daniel 7:7-8 & Revelation 13 & **17:9-11**

- (27-14) 1. Augustus
- (14-37) 2. Tiberius
- (37-41) 3. Caligula
- (41-54) 4. Claudius
- (54-68) 5. Nero
 - Galba
 - Otho
 - Vitellius
- (69-79) 6. Vespasian
- (79-81) 7. Titus
- (81-96) 8. Domitian

was

The Beast

Is not

Is himself also the 8th

The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. (Revelation 17:11)

The Mystery Revealed

- 7 heads = 7 hills
= 7 kings
 $5+1+1=7$
- Beast = was, is not, is the 8th
- 10 horns = little-kings w/beast (V.12)
- Water = peoples, ... (V.15)
- Woman = great reigning city (V.18)

A Titanic Moment

- Fallen - habitation of demons (V.2)
- committed fornication (V.3)
- become rich (V.3)
- Come out – sins → plagues (V.4)
 - O.T. – Jer 50:8; 51:6, 45

“Move from the midst of Babylon,
Go out of the land of the Chaldeans;
And be like the rams before the flocks.
(Jeremiah 50:8)

Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And every one save his life!
Do not be cut off in her iniquity,
For this is the time of the LORD’s
vengeance; He shall recompense her.
(Jeremiah 51:6)

“My people, go out of the midst of her!
And let everyone deliver himself from
the fierce anger of the LORD.
(Jeremiah 51:45)

A Titanic Moment

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- committed fornication (V.3)
- become rich (V.3)
- Come out – sins → plagues (V.4)
 - O.T. – Jer 50:8; 51:6, 45
 - N.T. – 2 Cor 6:14-18

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? ... For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”

(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

A Titanic Moment

- Fallen - habitation of demons (V.2)
- committed fornication (V.3)
- become rich (V.3)
- Come out – sins → plagues (V.4)
 - O.T. – Jer 50:8; 51:6, 45
 - N.T. – II Cor 6:14-18
- No widow – (V.7) Isa 47:8-9

“Therefore hear this now, *you who are* given to pleasures, Who dwell securely, Who say in your heart, ‘I am, and *there is* no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, Nor shall I know the loss of children’; But these two *things* shall come to you In a moment, in one day: The loss of children, and widowhood. They shall come upon you in their fullness Because of the multitude of your sorceries, For the great abundance of your enchantments. (Isaiah 47:8-9)

A Tale Of Two Responses

- Kings (Vs.9-10)
- Merchants (Vs.11-16)
- Shipmasters (Vs.17-19)
 - Stood at a distance (Vs.10, 15, 17)
 - Weeping (Vs.9, 11, 19)
 - Alas, alas ... (Vs.10, 16, 19)
 - In one hour (Vs.10, 17, 19)
- Heaven-dwellers rejoice (V.20)

A Stone's Throw

17-18
(18:21-24)
(Jer 51:61-64)

And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, “When you arrive in Babylon and see it, and read all these words, then you shall say, ‘O LORD, You have spoken against this place to cut it off, so that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but it shall be desolate forever.’ Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, *that* you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates. Then you shall say, ‘Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her. And they shall be weary.’” Thus far *are* the words of Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 51:61-64)

17-18
(18:21-24)

Silence and Darkness

- From sin to silence (Vs.22-23)
 - Compare with Jer 25:10
- 1. Merchants were princes
- 2. Sorcery deceived nations
- 3. Blood of prophets & saints

Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. (Jeremiah 25:10)

Sequential Or Repetitive?

The word is “It is done!” God has buried Rome and her allies. Some of the elements of the bowls have yet to be developed, but they are all covered in the record of the bowls. The city fell under the seventh, but the fall will be described in chapters 17,18. The battle of Armageddon is previewed here, but will be developed in chapter 19. The Devil has been defeated “in the air” but his defeat will be developed in chapter 20.

Commentary on Revelation - By Jim McGuiggan
Page 245 - summary of chapter 16

Comparing Two Harlots

	Isaiah	Revelation
□ Babylon is fallen	□ 21:9	□ 21:9
□ “No widow”	□ 47:8	□ 18:7
□ Judgment in one day	□ 47:9	□ 18:8