

Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

Lesson #16: Revelation Chapter 17

Review

Revelation can be divided into four acts. Each act begins with the curtain drawn to reveal the glory of God.

Act I - The Glorified Christ

Act II - The Throne Room of God

Act III - The 'Radiant Woman' and 'Great Sign'

Act IV - Another Sign in Heaven

Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)

A glorified Jesus who is "standing among the lampstands" (in the midst of the church), sends letters of encouragement, exhortation, and correction to seven in Asia Minor.

Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 - Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 - An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 - Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 - Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

The Background of Opposition

Featured in Chapter 13:

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Land (666)

Featured in Chapter 14:

The victory experienced by those who overcome

The judgment experienced by those who oppose God

Act IV: Understanding God's Wrath and God's Righteousness (Revelation 15-22)

Chapters 15 & 16 - The Sevenfold Wrath of God

God's wrath is pictured as seven bowls being poured out by angels on the wicked. The wrath of God is sure. The wrath of God is terrible. The wrath of God is only for the wicked.

Rules of Thumb We've Observed So Far

Things Connected to the "Stuff of God"

Bright, Flashing, Shining, Loud, Glass, Throne, Smoke, Holy

Things Connected to "Stuff Opposed to God"

Red Color, Beastly, Abyss, Image, Blasphemy, Death

Descriptions of God's People

Sealed, Under the Altar, 144,000, Overcomer, Marked by God

Descriptions of those Opposed to God

In the Earth, On the Earth, Kings of Earth, Those Marked by the Beast, Those Who Worshipped the Beast

The 'Doomed Wicked' as Babylon

Revelation 17:1-18

Viewed from God's Vantage Point: God is Just

Verse 1

the great prostitute - Babylon is described figuratively as a 'great prostitute', worthy of judgment.

sits by many waters - Eventually we find out that this phrase refers to people (vs 15). Physical Babylon was located on the great water of the Euphrates.

Verse 2

kings/inhabitants of the earth - description of those in rebellion against God

wine of her adulteries - The Bible often uses the symbol of adultery to describe people rejecting the one true God and worshipping false gods. (Hosea 1:2)

Verse 3

in the Spirit/wilderness - Another reminder of John's circumstance. John is 'in the Spirit' seeing visions from God and 'in the wilderness', exiled to Patmos.

The Woman (good or bad?)

Scarlet beast with blasphemous names

Seven heads and ten horns - Just like the beasts in Revelation 12:3 and 13:1.

Seeing Through Her Sham

verse 4

the appearance of royalty - The purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones, pearls and golden cup give the appearance of royalty.

cup filled with filth of her adulteries - The outside is golden, but the contents are revealing.

verse 5

mystery - This word is used many times in the Bible to denote what God has revealed.

There is no _____ in this title. It reveals the sinful nature of this 'woman' and all she stands for.

verse 6

drunk with the blood - taking pleasure in brining hardship, persecution, and death

God's holy people - saints

those who bore testimony – martyrs

astonished - deeply impacted from the realization of the truth

verse 7

the woman and the beast she rides - These two are the same _____.

verse 8

the beast...once was, now is not - as opposed to the Lord, 'who was, and is, and is to come' (Revelation 4:8).

out of the Abyss...go to its destruction - Nothing could be more doomed.

inhabitants of the earth...will be astonished - The beast impresses and deceives these people who rebel against God.

not been written in the book of life - a further description of the character of these rebellious people

The Viewer Profits from this Vision

verses 9-10

seven heads, hills, kings - These are all the same _____.

only for a little while - describing temporary suffering

verse 11

was and is not - This beast is a _____.

going to destruction - The end result is to be the main focus here.

verses 12-13

not received a kingdom - They seem to have the credentials of kings, but in reality have no authority.

one hour - Some translations say 'one day'. Any authority they have is temporary

verse 14

The Threat: The attractive but deceitful woman (prostitute), the seven-headed-ten-horned, and all those who have been involved with the prostitute unite to show the kind of opposition Christians face.

The Reality: The Lamb of God _____ over them all. Those who follow the Lamb share in His victory.

verses 15-16

will hate the prostitute/bring her to ruin - Those who have wooed the woman for their own selfish interests have now turned on her.

verse 17

God has put it into their hearts - This is a picture of God's _____ at work as He executes judgment.

verse 18

Whether we are seeing "the woman," "the prostitute," "the great city," or "Babylon," they are all alike.