Revelation

Chapter 17

Revelation 17:1-3

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven
bowls came and talked with me, saying to me,
"Come, I will show you the judgment of the great
harlot who sits on many waters, 2"with whom the
kings of the earth committed fornication, and the
inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with
the wine of her fornication." 3So he carried me
away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw
a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full
of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and
ten horns.

Revelation 17:4-6

4The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet,
and adorned with gold and precious stones and
pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of
abominations and the filthiness of her
fornication. 5And on her forehead a name was
written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE
MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE
ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6I saw the
woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and
with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when
I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Let's Walk Thru Slowly

- ✓ There is a woman riding on a beast
- ✓ The beast has "seven heads and ten horns"
- ✓ We've seen this beast before
- ✓ Revelation 13:1 – "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns . . ."
- ✓ It is clear from Rev. 13 – this is the antichrist and his confederation

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:1 - "the great harlot who sits on many waters"
  - – Unfaithful, untrue, adulterer – fornication in the Bible, is used to describe either physical sexual sin (not the context here) or "spiritual fornication" – idolatry, not being faithful to God – putting personal gain or pleasure above loyalty to God
  - – Rev. 17:15 – "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues" – common symbolism – the "sea" or the "waters" are often used to symbolize the masses of humanity

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:2 - "with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication"
  - – The leaders of the nations as well as the inhabitants of the earth were "seduced" and were stupefied and mesmerized by this "woman" – she made them drunk and they liked it
  - – Obviously this is not a literal "woman" but represents a much larger concept – a system – an appealing, but deceptive soother of spirits

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:3 - "sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns"
  - – "Sitting on" – being carried by
  - – As the dragon [Satan] empowers the beast [the antichrist], so the beast supports or lifts up the harlot
  - – The woman in turn makes the beast appear outwardly beautiful, thus making it easier for him to attain the control he seeks over mankind

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:4 - "arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls"
  - – Arrayed like a beautiful queen, the harlot is decked in rich jewelry and magnificently colored garments
  - – Almost irresistibly attractive to ungodly men, she perpetually seduces and tempts them to depart from the true God and to partake of her pleasures
  - – With a beautiful golden cup full of sparkling wine in her extended hand, her invitation is tendered, age after age, nation after nation, and multitudes are deceived and lost thereby

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:4 - "having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication"
  - – Multitudes through the ages have partaken of the harlot's golden cup and been made drunken with the wine of her fornication
  - – Instead of life-giving wine from heaven, the cup has contained a stupefying concoction of foolishness and filthiness, abominable idolatry and unspeakable wickedness, even the blood of the persecuted saints of God; and all have been blasphemously offered to men in the name of religion

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:4 - "having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication"
  - – This is the way of false religion
  - – The state religion, supported by the political power (she is riding on the beast – the antichrist), impresses its followers with ornate temples and golden images, jeweled garments, marble statues, hypnotic music, and delightsome incense.
  - – Such religious worship, usually approved and supported by the state, both panders to man's religious nature and appeals to his sensual feelings

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:5 - "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"
  - – History of Babylon
    - • Started by Nimrod – Noah's great-grandson
    - • Began to build towers or "ziggurat" as centers of worship – not the worship of the true God
    - • Centers for "religious prostitution", idol worship, astrology, etc.

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:5 - "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"
  - – History of Babylon (continued)
    - • The "tower of Babel" – God despised their idolatry so much that He confounded their language to stop the project
    - • The religious thinking, however, still lived on and spread – it is still strong today

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:5 - "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"
  - – The word "abominations" is specifically associated with idol worship
  - – It is the same word used by Christ when He prophesied of the blasphemous image which would be set up in the temple by the beast, calling it "the abomination of desolation"
  - – So, the false religion begun in Babylon is still alive today – much idol worship still exists and will grow

Let's Consider the Woman

- ✓ Rev. 17:6 - "And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus . . ."
  - – Not only is spiritual Babylon a false and corruptive religion, it is fiercely intolerant
  - – When it cannot subvert by infiltration and false teaching, it will seek to destroy by persecution
  - – One of the most amazing aspects of religious history is the hatred of other religions against Christ and His followers – this is a sign that it is the genuine article

In Simple Terms:

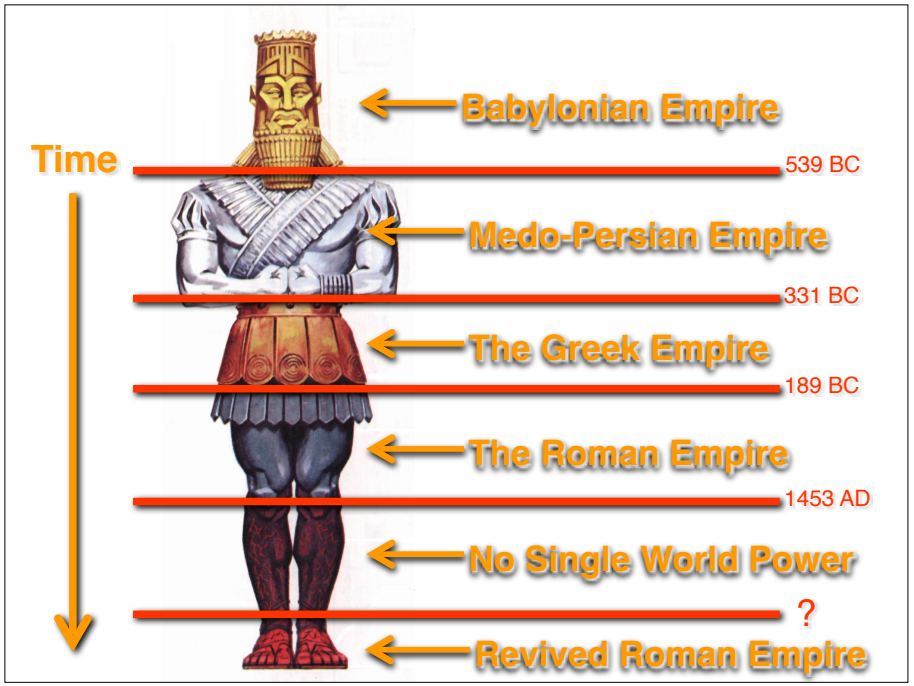
- ✓ The woman represents the false church
- ✓ Just like the true church, she'll be a mixture of all nations, races, and "denominations"
- ✓ She will contain people who will have labeled themselves Pentecostals, Baptists, Catholics, Hindus, New-agers, etc.
- ✓ The false church will help the antichrist come to power during the tribulation

Revelation 17:7-11

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell
you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that
carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.
8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend
out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those
who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not
written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the
world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and
yet is. 9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven
heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.
10 "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. 11 "And the beast that was, and is
not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is
going to perdition.

Revelation 17:12-18

12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have
received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for
one hour as kings with the beast. 13 "These are of one mind,
and they will give their power and authority to the beast.
14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will
overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and
those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."
15 Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the
harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.
16 "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will
hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh
and burn her with fire. 17 "For God has put it into their hearts
to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their
kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.
18 "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which
reigns over the kings of the earth."



Let's Talk About the Beast

- ✓ The beast's 7 heads represent 7 kings or kingdoms or empires (v. 10):
  1. Egypt – Before Nebuchadnezzar's vision
  2. Assyria – Before Nebuchadnezzar's vision
  3. Babylonia – The gold head in Daniel 2
  4. Medo-Persia – The silver arms in Daniel 2
  5. Greece – The brass belly in Daniel 2
  6. Rome – The iron legs of Daniel 2
  7. Current period of many nations – no single world power

Revelation Ch. 17

Let's Talk About the Beast

- ✓ The beast itself represents the eighth kingdom (v. 11)
  - The beast (antichrist) will lead a 10 nation confederacy (v. 12)
  - The 10 kings "shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (v. 13)
  - The eighth kingdom will only last for a short time – "one hour with the beast" (v. 12)
  - The eighth kingdom will "make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them" – the battle of Armageddon (v. 14)

The End of the Woman

- ✓ Revelation 17:16 – "And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."
  - – When the antichrist attains his goal of global dictatorship at the midpoint of the tribulation, he will no longer need the help of the false church and he and his leaders will destroy it
  - – In place of the false church, the antichrist and the false prophet will establish the worship of the antichrist and Satan himself

Revelation Ch. 17

Next Week

- ✓ Revelation chapter 18
- ✓ The destruction of physical Babylon
  - – The city of Babylon will be rebuilt and will be a center for the antichrist and the false prophet
  - – The destruction of the antichrist and his followers will occur in chapter 19, but chapter 18 is the obituary article written in advance for the antichrist and his kingdom