

The Religious Babylon

Revelation 17:1-18

Series: Christ Revealed

Jesus Christ is coming back to establish righteousness on the earth

But before He can come and in the earth a few things have to be done.

- All the godless and evil armies of this earth have to be destroyed. This we have just seen in the former chapter (Rev. 16).
- All the false religion in this world has to be destroyed. This is the discussion of the present chapter (Rev. 17).
- All the godless politics and governments and social systems of this world have to be destroyed. This will be the discussion of the next chapter (Rev. 18).

Introduction

Rev 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me: “Come, I will show you the judgment of the notorious prostitute who sits on many waters.

² The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who live on the earth became drunk on the wine of her sexual immorality.”

1. The Harlot of the Religious Babylon

3...I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and 10 horns.

- *Sitting* means that the false religion is supported and dependent upon the state.
- The scarlet colored beast is the antichrist.

II. The Mystery of the Religious Babylon

⁵ On her forehead a cryptic name was written:
**BABYLON THE GREAT MOTHER OF
PROSTITUTES AND OF THE VILE THINGS OF
THE EARTH.**

The name of religious Babylon, false religion, is a mystery. That is, the fact that false religion is false is not known to all people. Religious Babylon will be the *mother* of many false religions and abominations upon the earth.

II. The Mystery of the Religious Babylon

It stands for all the religions that seek after heaven or utopia or the perfect life...

- by man's own works and self effort.
- by man's own goodness and self righteousness.
- by man's own rituals and ceremonies.
- by man's own ideas of God and worship of God.
- by man's own religion and benevolent services.
- by man's own government and state.
- by man's own community and society.

II. The Mystery of the Religious Babylon

⁹ “Here is the mind with wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated.

The seven mountains or seven heads are said by many to refer to Rome. This is because Rome was known in ancient times as *the city on seven hills*. But note: this is not what John says. He clearly says that the seven heads represent seven kings or governments (17:10).

II. The Mystery of the Religious Babylon

¹¹ The beast that was and is not, is himself an eighth [king], yet he belongs to the seven and is going to destruction.

¹² The 10 horns you saw are 10 kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they will receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

III. The Power of the Religious Babylon

¹³ These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

There is the source of the power of religious Babylon, of false religion. In the end time the source of power for false religion will be the beast or the antichrist.

IV. The Destruction of the Religious Babylon

¹⁶ The 10 horns you saw, and the beast, will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, devour her flesh, and burn her up with fire.

¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His plan by having one purpose and to give their kingdom to the beast until God's words are accomplished.

¹⁸ And the woman you saw is the great city that has an empire over the kings of the earth.”

IV. The Destruction of the Religious Babylon

1. Religious Babylon will gain enormous power in the end time (Rev. 17:15). Religion will sit and be supported by, multitudes and nations and languages. The idea is that practically everyone will be worshipping the image of the beast or state in the end time.
2. Religious Babylon is utterly destroyed by the antichrist and his alliance (Rev. 17:16).
Why?—power and money.

Destiny is Secure

¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His plan by having one purpose

God has end times working toward His purpose

God has present times working toward His purpose

Glory to God