

## Bible Prophecy and the book of Revelation, Lesson 22

### Chapter 17 – The Woman who Rides the beast!

#### In many ways, the Bible is a tale of two cities:

City of Man	—	City of God
Babel = Babylon = city of confusion	—	Jerusalem = city of Peace
Man makes a name for himself	—	God places His name there forever
✓ All occultic practices have their roots from Babylon.		
✓ The only 2 God ordained religions derive their meaning from Jerusalem.		

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There are at least 10 major clues as to the identity of this woman.

1. Prostitute – Spiritual prostitution is idolatry, but, of all the idolatrous peoples, only one other group is called this – Israel.
    - ✓ Something has to be legitimate before you can "prostitute" it.
    - ✓ Spiritual prostitution can only come from those who claimed at one time to love God.
    - ✓ Rules out Hinduism, Mormonism, Islam, but leaves us Christianity and Judaism.
  2. Influence – is throughout the entire world.
  3. Dominates the Beast – either the regime or the man himself or both.
    - ✓ Beast and his regime will be very religious not atheistic
    - ✓ Beast eventually destroys her to rise to full dominance.
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4. Dressed in Purple and Scarlet, Gold and Jewels – Very wealthy and outwardly very attractive.
  5. Will have a Golden cup – Gold when used symbolically represents God, but this cup is full of idolatrous abominations.
  6. Title: Babylon the Great – links her at least symbolically with the city of Babylon in Iraq.
  7. Mother of Prostitutes – She makes prostitutes of others
  8. She is a persecutor of True believers – She herself is prostitution of the Truth and persecutes those who hold to the truth.
  9. She is associated and identified with 7 hills – Many at this point conclude Rome who is referred to as Babylon in **I Peter 5:13** and is known as the city of 7 hills.
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10. She rules over the kings of the earth – In the day of John's writing of this, this was unquestionably Rome.
    - ✓ Vatican today is its own sovereign nation within Rome with its own statutes, and its own diplomatic embassies.
    - ✓ Vatican has historically persecuted believers.
    - ✓ One pope (Innocent III) murdered more believers in one afternoon than all the Emperors of Rome combined.
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**Verse 1** – Harlot = false devotion

- ✓ Waters = Verse 15 – dominates many peoples as well as the beast.

**Verse 2** – Lennon said, “Religion is the opiate of the people” == same connotation here.

- ✓ Power exercised for selfish purposes always has bad result.
  - ✓ Power exercised for selfish purposes under the mask of religion is exponentially worse!!
  - ✓ More atrocities committed in the name of religion than in all the others combined.
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**Verses 3-4** – Purple was the predominant color of Roman imperialism.

- ✓ Every Roman senator wore a purple stripe to mark him as holding that position.
  - ✓ Emperor’s robes were entirely of purple.
  - ✓ Scarlet is the color of the Vatican and the Popes.  
“abominations” = a word that essentially synonymous with idolatry in Scripture. **Isaiah 44:14-19, 2 Kings 23:13**
  - ✓ “blasphemy” = any doctrine that attempts to add or take away from what has been completed == completed work of Christ.
  - ✓ Adding anything to Christ completed work is blasphemy.!!
  - ✓ To say anything of God that is not true.
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**Verse 5** – A clear contrast between this harlot and the virgin Bride of Christ.

**Verse 6** – Many groups have killed the saints but none like the Roman Catholic Church and the inquisition.

- ✓ John is stunned to see her—if this had been pagan Rome in view here, do you think he would have been shocked??
- ✓ Shocking thing about Rome is that She has done what she’s done under the banner of Christ!!

**Verse 7** – “you shouldn’t have been surprised at this, John.”

**Verse 8** –This is very consistent with rise of the Roman Empire “Phase 2”.

- ✓ Are we currently looking at it in its embryonic form?
  - ✓ Be sensitive to the flow of the world toward globalism and Europe’s rise to the top of it all.
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**Verse 9** – Rome is the only major city known throughout history as the “City of Seven Hills”.

**Verse 10** – Remember kings and their kingdoms are synonymous in the Bible.

- ✓ Remember the 4 kingdoms of Daniel 2 and 7 where God predicted the rise of 4 more kingdoms to rule the earth and dominate Israel (Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome)
  - ✓ Add to that Egypt and Assyria = the only two other nations to rule the world and dominate Israel and you get to six kingdoms.
  - ✓ Add to that Rome Phase II and you arrive at 7.
  - ✓ At the time of John’s writing this, 5 had fallen (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece); One is (Rome), One is yet to come (Rome Phase II and the Antichrist)
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**Verses 9-13** – This is basically a brief summary of the details from **Daniel 7** = 4<sup>th</sup> beast has ten horns — one comes up and destroys 3 — is himself the 7<sup>th</sup> — becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> in phase two after his faked resurrection.

**Verse 14** – Where are the called and chosen and faithful at the time of this event in history? With Him!!

**Verses 15-16** – Pretty vivid, but do you recall any other incident in which an idolatrous queen was devoured (Jezebel).

- ✓ Not the first time that Jezebel has shown up in the Revelation.
- ✓ **Chapter 2:20** – Who is this woman? Locally, she was some woman who was doing just what it says.

**Verses 17-18**—This would have been what city at the time of John’s writing of this?? Rome!!

- ✓ Interesting, John is speaking in the present tense!!
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Summary: Arising out of the rubble of ancient Roman Empire will come a new Roman Empire destined for more fame and power than the first. At her head will be ten kings who will be reduced to 7 by one of their own. He himself will rise the top and all will serve him. A part of this rise will be the dominance of the religion of Rome and in fact will be superior to the Beast for a time. When the beast has used her influence all he can, he and the other kings will destroy her in a catastrophic way.

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### **Chapter 18** – Death of this woman.

**Verses 1-2** – Double spoken here often refers to speed at which this is accomplished.

- ✓ Birds – symbols of the demonic.

**Verses 3-5** – Reminiscent to the removal of Lott and his family from Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Verses 6-7** – Remember she claims to be Jesus’ wife all the while committing great immorality.

**Verses 8-19** – Literal things being described here: literal kings, people, items,

**Verse 20** – Only the second time in Revelation where the command to rejoice comes from God (the first was to rejoice over Satan being cast out of Heaven)

**Verses 21-24** – This clearly points to Rome, but there is some who believe it refers to the literal Babylon of Iraq.

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