

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 28 (17:3-18)

Mystery of Babylon, Mother of Harlots

Introduction: In this study you will be able to perhaps put some of the pieces of your Bible together that have been strange and a mystery to you. Sometimes it is a battle to be able to get the message to become clear, but this study will be easier. All the things studied in this study of the Revelation will be pulled together. For instance, "The Revived Roman Empire - how do we know this? The Bible reveals the future. Watch as we turn back to Daniel 2 for a moment. there is a KEY there that explains some things at the end of time. Remember Nebuchadnezzar? His dream? He was head of the empire and in 586 he destroyed the city of Jerusalem and took hundreds of thousands captive. He kept them for 70 years. He had a dream, saw a statue, its head was of gold, arms and breast of silver, the main body was brass, legs were iron and the feet were iron and clay. As he was looking at the statue in his dream, a great stone rolled down a mountain and crashed into it and destroyed it. Everybody tried to interpret the dream and finally Daniel was called upon to interpret it. God told Daniel that he had given Nebuchadnezzar a panorama of empires, had shown him in a dream what was going to happen history. Daniel says to Nebuchadnezzar, "thou art the head of gold.." That's about all Nebuchadnezzar heard for he got the big head after that, got the idea that he was greater than God, but God had to chastise him - remember now?

The dream went on and Daniel said that "after thee will come one inferior to thee.." The medio-persian silver, then the third kingdom, Hellenistic (Greek) of bronze, then the Roman empire, the feet of iron and clay. The statue Nebuchadnezzar saw was revealing the future. The stone Nebuchadnezzar saw rolling down the mountain was none other than Jesus Christ and when Jesus comes back, the great stone will roll down the mountain and all the empires will be destroyed and Jesus Christ will take over the world for Himself. That's the interpretation of this passage in Daniel. Revelation 17 will zero in on that and show how it all comes about. The REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE is not some "pipe-dream." After this study, you will understand all about it.

Revelation 17:1-

- "seven angels" - judgment
- "many waters" - we will find out in just a little bit over on further in the chapter. The dictator of the Revived Roman Empire is here described as a great prostitute, as a great whore. A prostitute lives on two things, LUST and MONEY and the Roman Empire will live on two things - LUST and MONEY. Thus the dictator will fit that description.

v2 - All the earth is going to follow the dictator. Turn back to Daniel 2:38

- v38 - "thou art the head of gold"
- v39 - "inferior to these" - Medio-Persia, the third kingdom of brass always associated with the Greeks. All statues found about them are of brass.
- v40 - "strong as iron" - Roman Empire. Lasted more than 500 years till 576 A.D. What's going to happen to this statue? How is it going to end?
- v44 - This is the kingdom of Jesus Christ
- v45 - "sure" - true doctrine

Now back to Revelation chapter 17-

v3 - In John's day you would have know exactly what this was. The Roman soldiers wore a scarlet coat. Syria was first, then Rome, then Britain, remember "the red coats" of the colonial days?

- "scarlet colored beast" - the empire controlling the world then was Rome.
- "seven heads and ten horns" - describing seven empires that brought discipline upon the Jews: Egypt kept the Jews in bondage for 400 years; Assyria took the ten Northern tribes, then later came down and took the others; Chaldea or Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar; Medio-Persia, remember Daniel and the hand writing on the wall? In 516 B.C. the Jews were released by the Medio-Persians and they returned to their land after 70 years; Greece in 323 B.C. Alexander the Great; then Rome, the 6th kingdom; the

seventh kingdom will be the Revived Roman Empire.

- "seven heads" - these seven empires
- "ten horns" - ten kingdoms making up the Revived Roman Empire at the end of time, if the USA is in this prophecy, it is here.

In these last days the revived Roman Empire will have two prongs: Political and Religious. These will unite and will rule the world. John is now going to explain very carefully what you have already heard.

v4 - "arrayed" - perfect tense - continued through the reign.

- "decked" - old English word meaning dressed, always dressed. Not talking about a woman but this is the dictator of the revived Roman Empire. WOMAN TERMINOLOGY is used because of the attractiveness of a woman and the similar attractiveness of the dictator. He lives for lust and money.
- "golden cup" - living only for pleasure
- "filthiness" - false doctrines

v5 - Why in the world is this verse in CAPITAL LETTERS?

- Originally the New Testament was written in Greek, ALL capital letters, no punctuation for the punctuation was in the syntax or the way the words read, the tenses of the words. So WHY LEAVE THIS IN CAPITAL LETTERS? At the time this was translated, England was in battle with Rome. Rome wanted to control England (the Church). The established Church of England was started by the king. Today it is known as the EPISCOPAL Church of England. They broke with Rome. The English translation of the Bible wanted everyone to know what they thought of Rome and the Vatican, therefore they left this verse in capital letters. It's been re-printed that way ever since.
It is said that in a hotel in England, rooms are prepared but nobody could enter. The "Key" boy wasn't there to give out the keys although the keys were hanging in plain sight. NOBODY gives keys out except the key boy. It would be a disgrace for anybody else to hand out the keys. That's the way it has always been done.....SILLY? THUS THIS VERSE OF SCRIPTURE IN CAPS.
- "mystery" - The Old Testament doctrine is now going to be explained in the New Testament.

v6 - "woman" - the dictator

- "saints" - martyrs of the tribulation
- "wonder" - after this the rest is mis-translated: "I was shocked with great astonishment"

v7 - "wherefore" - why so shocked?

- History is now ready to be explained - pay attention. A Communist country is not going to rule the world, the USA is not either. Nobody but Jesus Christ will rule the world and this dictator is going to come to an abrupt end.

v8 - "beast" - dictator

- "was" - 96 A.D., the Roman Empire was still in existence during John's day - imperfect tense, continued till 476 A.D., then Germany came down.
- "shall continue for a time" -
- "is not" - shall come to an end
- "shall ascend" - will be revived. It was for about 500 years, then it came to an end but it will be revived at the end of history, before the Tribulation.
- "bottomless pit" - indicates the place of its power - SATAN
- "perdition" - Jesus Christ will return and destroy

- "book of life" - Every person ever born has his/her name written in the Book of Life. If one does not believe in Jesus Christ, his/her name is blotted out and at the end of time the Book of Life will contain only the believers. Those names blotted out are written down in another book. The Book of Works. The book of Works contains the names of every unbeliever.

Therefore the Book of Life contains every name of every human ever born on this earth. The Lamb's Book of Life contains only the names of those believing - GOT IT NOW? Everyone is free to believe or not to believe. It is up to each individual person whether to have his/her name kept there or blotted out. AT THE END OF TIME, the Book of Works will be opened and those names there will be standing on their OWN works and that's all. God will explain why that's not good enough and why they are going to hell.

- "beast" - the Roman Empire
- "yet is" - the Revived Roman Empire

v9 - "wisdom" - do you know what God is saying now?

- "mountains" - empires that have already been named: Egypt, Assyria, etc.

v10 - "of seventh" - really FROM the seventh

v11 -

v12 - "ten horns" - the ten nations making up the Revived Roman Empire

- "ten kings" -
- "receive power" - attracted to the dictator and align with him and it will be one great dictatorship.

v13 - same foreign policy, beliefs, rule the world.

v14 - How will it end? THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY SINGLE NATION RULE THIS EARTH

- "war" - battle against Jesus Christ
- "called, chosen, faithful" - Believers

It's going to be exciting to be on the winning side for a change.

v15 - "people, multitudes" - different races

- "nations" - geographical locations/differences
- "tongues" - languages

v16 - "hate" - civil war at the end of the Tribulation. Religion and Political will fight each other and the political power will crush the religious power.

v17 - "will" o- God's will will be ultimately done on this earth

v18 - Will it be the Catholic Church? Don't know but there will be a dictator rise out of Rome. If you belong to Jesus Christ, you are on the winning side. The Bible does not contradict itself.

We are moving on to the end. You have seen/heard what will happen. The rest of this Revelation will only clarify what you have already seen/heard/learned. Aren't you glad that you are on Jesus' side?

Look forward to our next study.