

REVELATION “Religious Babylon”

Revelation 17:1-18

“Babylon refers to the entire worldwide political, economic, and religious kingdom of Antichrist. The original city of Babylon was the birthplace of idolatry where the residents built the tower of Babel, a monument to rebelliousness and false religion. Such idolatry was subsequently spread when God confounded man’s language and scattered them around the world. This pictures Babylon causing the world to become intoxicated with her pleasures and enter an orgy of rebellion, hatred, and idolatry toward God. Fornication is spiritual prostitution to Antichrist’s false system.”
“The MacArthur Bible Commentary” p.202

“At the close of the previous chapter we read that ‘great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath’ (16:19). But now the specific details of her judgment are described.”
“The Book of Revelation” Lehman Strauss p. 292

I Who is the Great Prostitute? v.1-6

What is the scope of her influence? v.1,15
Why will she be punished? v.2
Where does John, in the Spirit, see her? v.3
On whom is she sitting?

“The apostate religious system of the last days, forms an unholy intrigue with the political leaders of the earth. The union of the church and the state is a union of the church with the world. She is a center of influence over the earth, and her doctrines and views have an intoxicating influence over the minds of the people.”
“The Book of Revelation” Lehman Strauss p. 297

How is her wealth described? v.4
What is written on her forehead? v.5
What is she drunk with? v.6
How does John react?

II What is the Angel’s Explanation? v.7-18

Who is this Beast? v.8

“ . . .the power behind the beast is satanic and Satan and the man he controls are closely identified. . . .the supernatural survival and revival of both the world ruler and his empire will impress the world as being supernatural and will lead to worship of the beast and Satan.”
“The Bible Knowledge Commentary” Walvoord & Zuck p.970

How do the inhabitants of the earth react?
What does the angel say is needed to understand? v.9
What are the seven hills on which the woman sits? v.10

“ . . .the nature of the power that supports the prostitute religion is political, while the spiritual source of the power is satanic. Secular power is always willing to use religion for its own purposes. But when religion lets itself be used by accepting state support, it seals its own doom.”
“The Bible Reader’s Companion” Lawrence O. Richards p.922

How is the Beast identified? v.11
Who are the ten horns? V.12

“The Beast not only has seven heads, but also ten horns, which represent ten kings. But these are very special kings; they enable the beast to rise to power and are even willing to yield their authority to him. Recall that at the opening of the first seal, the Antichrist began his “peaceful” conquest of the nations. He organized a “United States of Europe,” brought peace to the Middle East, and appeared to be the great leader the troubled world was seeking. But in the midst of the seven-year period, this ruler broke his covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27) and began to persecute the people of God as well as the nation Israel. Energized by Satan and assisted by the false prophet, “the beast” became the world’s dictator and its god. In this way, he was both “one of the seven kingdoms, but also “the eighth.” His kingdom was nothing but a revival of the Roman Empire (“one of seven”) but it was a new kingdom (“the eighth”). “
“Be Victorious” Warren W. Wiersbe p.154

What do they do? Their one purpose? v.13
With whom do they make war? v.14
Who are the waters on which the prostitute sits? v.15
What is her ultimate destruction? Why? v.16,17

“The Harlot will be made desolate by the very system that carried her! It is important to note the the Beast carries the harlot. Satan and the Antichrist will use the apostate religious system to accomplish his own ends i.e., attain world power, but then he will do away with the harlot and establish his own religious system. And all of this will be the fulfillment of God’s Word.”
“Be Victorious” Warren W. Wiersbe p.155

Again, how is the woman identified? v.18

“After the disposal of Babylon in its religious form by its destruction at the hands of the beast, the prophetic revelation in chapter 18 then deals with Babylon as a political force also destined for destruction at a later date.”
“The Revelation of Jesus Christ” John F. Wolvaard p.257

