

The Revelation

(31) The Destruction of Babylon

Revelation 17:1-19:10 seems to interrupt the chronological flow (7th bowl to the return of Christ) to detail the specific demise of the false world religious and governmental systems.

The picture of the last false religious system...

How is John introduced to this false religious system? 17:1-3; 15

The picture is of a great prostitute who sits on (presides over) many waters (peoples).

What is signified by the harlot? Judges 2:17, 8:27,33; Jer.3:6-10

This is a picture of spiritual unfaithfulness and adultery. False religion and idols.

What were the acts of this great prostitute? vs.2

(Spiritual) adultery with the kings of the earth and the (lost) inhabitants of the earth.

From vs.5 "...the Mother of Harlots..." what do we learn about this great prostitute?

She is the mother (birth source) of ALL false religions. Demonic sourced lies.

And how does this harlot contrast to true believers, especially during the tribulation? vs.6

She is drunk (intoxicated with) the blood of the saints and witnesses of Jesus.

In John's vision where is the harlot located? vs.3

In the wilderness, seated on a scarlet beast (7 heads, 10 horns) full of blasphemous names.

What is signified by the 7 heads and 10 horns? 12:3; 13:1; 17:3; 17:7; 17:9-10

(5) heads: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medio-Persia, Greece, (1) Rome, (1) Antichrist

What is signified by the harlot being carried by the beast? vs.3

The great harlot is initially supported by the antichrist. Likely the first half of tribulation.

But what eventually happens between the harlot and the beast? vs.16-17

God causes the beast to destroy the harlot. Last 3.5 yrs, only worship of beast is tolerated.

Understanding the great harlot...Rev.17

Comment on her attire? vs.4

The colors of luxury and harlotry. Gold, precious stones, pearls = enormous wealth.

What is the significance of "upon her forehead... was written..."? vs.5 Jer.3:3

A stubborn, unashamed harlot would have a mark on her forehead. Open defiance...

And what is the writing on this defiant, unashamed harlot? vs.5

MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Likely Mystery is part of this writing.

Next: Why the reference to Babylon? How can this 'end times' harlot be the mother of all abominations? What's the mystery? What's the golden cup signify?