

Revelation 17

The Destruction of Antichrist's Religion

What are your thoughts on the video?

What do you know about the ecumenical movement?

What are your thoughts about globalism?

What is the ultimate outcome of globalism?

INTRODUCTION

- Chapters 17 & 18 are parenthetical.
- Chapter 17 is a vision revealing the destruction of Antichrist's religion.
- Chapter 18 is a vision revealing the destruction of Antichrist's government.

THE VISION (read 1-6)

1. The Beast (3) can refer to the government as well as its leader.
2. The woman (3-6) is the religion that will dominate Antichrist's government.
3. The woman is a *harlot* (1), because she is unfaithful to God & His truth.
 - *Mystery Babylon* is the embodiment of false religion
 - Babylon was originally *Babel* = Gate of God. God changed it to confusion.
 - Babylon was started by Nimrod (Gen.10-11).
 - *Nimrod* was the grandson of *Ham*. He is a type of the Antichrist.
 - *Ham* = darkened. He begat *Cush*, who became the father of *Nimrod*.
 - Babylon was the fountainhead of idolatry & every pagan religion in the world.
 - *Nimrod* was married to *Semiramis*. She bore a son named *Tammuz*, whom she claimed was miraculous.
 - This false worship led to Israel's downfall.
Ezekiel 8:13-14 – *And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing." So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.*
 - *Semiramis* is called the queen of Heaven (**Jeremiah 7:18: 44:19**).
 - Abraham was called out of this Babylon culture.
 - *Baal* was the Canaanite version of the Babylonian worship of *Semiramis*.

4. The city of Babylon was destroyed, but her *Mystery Babylon* exists today (5).
5. *Mystery Babylon* is guilty of the martyrdom and blood of the saints (6).

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION (read 7-18)

1. Antichrist is described in Rev 13:1

- Out of the sea = bottomless pit
- Beast = Antichrist & his kingdom (revived Roman Empire)
- Confederation of 10 nations

2. Antichrist's false religion is described (7)

- False religion is not the mystery, but the beast will use it to come to power
- *Mystery Babylon* is a unity of all world religions, including apostate church

3. Antichrist's supernatural power is described (8)

- He will be mortally wound & be miraculously resurrected
- **Rev. 13:3-4** – *And I saw one of the heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the best; and they worshipped the dragon, because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"*

4. Antichrist's kingdom is described (9-17)

- The 7 kingdoms that ruled Israel ruled by the same woman (religion) (9)
- 5 kings had fallen at the time of John's vision were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece.
- The king that "is" (was) at the time of John's vision was Rome (6th beast)
- The king that "has not yet come" is Antichrist (7th beast)

SUMMARY: When John wrote, the Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, and Greek empires had gone out of existence; Rome still existed; and Antichrist's empire had not yet come. When it does, it will be brief (12:12; 13:5), and he will end in perdition.

5. Antichrist's identity is described (10-11)

- the beast that "was" (ruler of Rome)

- the beast that “is” (ruler of the Revived Roman Empire),
- the “eighth” beast
- the beast that was “of the seven & is going into perdition”
Antichrist will die & be resurrected & will be cast into the Lake of Fire

6. Antichrist’s government is described (12-13)

- Antichrist’s kingdom will be a confederation of 10 nations
- This will constitute the Revived Roman empire
- It will be fueled by a universal revival of Babylonian paganism
The world is becoming more pagan. As goes the world, so goes the church

7. Antichrist’s war with the Christ is described (14)

- This refers to the Battle of Armageddon (16:14)

8. Antichrist’s destruction of his own religion is described (15-18)

- Antichrist will use religion to unite his kingdom & gain control of the world
- He will destroy his religion to seize power & worship for himself
- Antichrist & his kingdom will be carrying out God’s will (17)
- This will be the final destruction of false religion (18)

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

1. The Devil’s most effective weapon is religion – He uses it for his own purposes – to receive worship from men – then he has no use for it
2. The Devil continues to use the same strategy he used with Eve in the Garden
 - *Has God said...* He questioned God’s Word
 - *You shall not surely die* – He denied God’s word
 - *God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God* – God replaces his own word with God’s word.
3. The Devil’s religion (Mystery Babylon) is based on a syncretism of the Bible and all religions to form a one-world religion.
4. The Ecumenical movement of consolidating churches has become an amalgamation of world religions.
5. Globalism is affecting every area of our lives, especially new age paganism