

Book of Revelation – Revelation 17 (Review) & 18

{Judgment & Destruction of Babylon}

Series REV-55 -

Review

Let us keep these two related principles in mind as we review Rev 17 and begin unpacking chapter 18. The first--

*“The **sacrifice of Christ** as an atonement for **sin** is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the **cross of Calvary**. – GW 315.2*

The second is like unto the first:

The “**Testimony of Jesus**” involves three things:

- 1) **Praise to God** -Declaring the truth about our Father (as Christ did-Ps 22)
- 2) **Suffering and Grief** of Christ’s **Humiliation** (Isaiah 53)
- 3) A **faith** that gains the victory –this **faith** works by **love** (Romans 3:22)

Even these two chapters, Rev 17 & 18 need to viewed from this perspective—the judgment and destruction of Babylon results in the **gospel message** (3AM uniting with the 4th Angel) being proclaimed worldwide, which message includes the “**testimony of Jesus**” being lived by the 144,000.

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Revelation 17 Review

In the review section, note the principles of prophetic interpretation are present, as has been the case throughout our study of this great Book.

- Recall from our prior Lesson 45 p.1 that Rev 12, 13 & 17 have characteristics so similar to show that in the Revelator’s prophetic picture gallery these three beasts are designed to illustrate the continuity of **Satan’s efforts** down through the ages working to oppose Christ through the various governments upon earth.
- In Rev.13, the crowns are upon the horns because the prophecy focuses on papal supremacy during the dark ages.
- In Rev 17, no crowns are upon the heads or horns since the emphasis is upon the final conflict. Thus it throws clearer and fuller light upon this climax which is the consummation of the outpouring of the 7 plagues.
- In Rev 12-19, we find a picture of the great controversy from its inception in heaven until the desolation of the earth at the Second Advent.

- By following the principle that succeeding chapters repeat and enlarge upon the theme mentioned earlier, all the chapters from Rev 12 are seen as enlargements.
- Dividing the Bible into chapters may help in memorizing, but this convenience tends to break the continuity of certain prophecies such as in the example of Daniel 11:44 & 45 with Daniel 12:1. The chapter division of Rev 17 & 18 serves same purpose—but they should be considered as belonging together.

As we have learned in our past studies of Revelation 17, that much of it belongs with Chp 13, we need to recognize that the final verses of 17, belong with chp. 18.

- The destruction which befalls Babylon under the figure of the destruction of “Babylon the great... that great *city* Babylon” (Rev 18:2, 10, 18, 21) that has influenced or governed the spiritual and civil powers, is the same destruction which is meted out to Babylon under the figure of “the *whore*” in Rev 17:16. They are one and the same.

As was pointed out in our Lesson REV-44 study of Rev 17 “Judgment of Babylon”, in the Outline/Analysis of Judgment that in these last few verses that the kings of the earth with the beast (comprising Babylon) make war with the Lamb (vs.14). Praise God the Lamb overcomes them for ‘He is Lord of lords, and King of kings.’

Obviously this happens when, “the spirits of devils,...go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” (Rev 16:14).

In one sense, the preparation of the battle for the forces on earth, extends all the way through the plagues until the **Voice of God** speaks (Rev 16:17) at the beginning of the 7th plague and delivers His people. One could say, this is the turning point in the war or ‘battle of Armageddon’ which climaxes at the Second Coming (Rev 19) with more detail building in that chapter on the subject—hence, repeat and enlargement as was discussed earlier.

Revelation 18 – Destruction of Babylon

OUTLINE

Vs. 1-4 – Depiction of the 4th Angel, lightening the earth with his glory (Loud Cry) unites with the 3rd Angel’s message to give the final warning to the inhabitants of the earth and the last call of God’s people out of Babylon.

Vs. 5-8 – Babylon’s Verdict: Plagues, Death, Mourning and Famine

Vs. 9-24 – Description of the destruction of Babylon eye witnessed in large part by the kings and merchants of the earth. {Vs. 20 is the only verse with the call to rejoice—heaven, apostles and prophets for God’s vengeance on that great city.}

More on this next week