

WHERE IS THIS WORLD HEADING?

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Text: Revelation 17:1-7

"And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns." (Revelation 17:1-7)

God's
Name of
False
Religion

INTRODUCTION

- a) the harlot (prostitute) is a symbol of human false religions
- b) In the Great Tribulation in the last days, all false religions will be combined together - there will be one great false religion all over the world
- c) False prophet will be spiritual leader of one last false religion
- d) This false religion will all worship the Anti-Christ, (the Beast of Rev 13:1) prophesied in book of Daniel)

- Beginning of sorrows in the Last Days
* Mt 24: 5-8
x false Christs x wars, famines, pandemics
x increasing earthquakes & rumors of wars

2 CONSIDERATIONS FOR REVELATION 17

1. God Promises to Bless The Study of Revelation

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." (Revelation 1:3)

2. The Church Has Been Raptured From Earth

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

Quote: "For at least a thousand years before the Reformation the true church was composed of multitudes of simple Christians who were not part of the Roman system. That such believers existed, worshiped independently of the Roman hierarchy is validated in history."

—Dave Hunt

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;" (2 Thessalonians 2:3) ^{Son of} Man of Sin ^{Perdition}

"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time." (1 John 2:18)

Quote: "As we turn our attention to Revelation 17, we come to the study of the false church in the last days. This is a church that will sell or compromise doctrine, merely to expand its influence, and prepare the platform for the Antichrist."

1. THE Identification OF THE FALSE CHURCH (v. 1-3)

A. Corrupt church (v. 1)

Quote: "The woman is described as the great prostitute. Outwardly she was all glittering splendour. But John sees through the glamour. He sees a church that seduces people from their rightful allegiance."

IN HER RELATION

"How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers." (Isaiah 1:21)

Church is called "Bride of Christ"
False religion called prostitute

the 2 Witnesses (Rev 11:3-4)

prophesied
in Zech 4:2-3
2 olive trees

"And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." (Revelation 11:8)

IN HER REACH - world wide

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." (Revelation 17:15)

Quote: "the great whore"... It is a combination of apostate Protestantism, Romanism, and atheism and other religions. It is the huge ecumenical church of the last days. ...and it is being heralded as a step forward toward unity and world peace."

—Lehman Strauss

B. Compromising Church (v. 3)

THE FALSE CHURCH RIDES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANTI-CHRIST-government support

taxes used
to support
this false
religion

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." (Revelation 13:14)

THE FALSE CHURCH INTOXICATES THE WORLD

False Prophet
(Rev 13:11)
(Rev 16:13)

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2. THE Integration OF THE FALSE CHURCH (v. 2-5)

A. Integration of idolatry (v. 5a)

Quote: "If the global society emerges, it will require humanity to develop a new consciousness and a new form of spirituality... If the human species is not to self-destruct it must develop into a global society which will find cohesion in what may be called a global human culture. The challenges which lie ahead cannot be overcome by any one person or group working on their own but only by the human species working as a whole."

— Lloyd Geering

False religions prostitute the truth of God

FROM BABYLON

Quote: "The name Babylon comes from the root, "Babel" which has always symbolized revolt against God."

Quote: "We learn that the founder of Babel or Babylon was Nimrod. His unholy achievements are found in Genesis chapter 10. Nimrod was a rebel before the Lord."

—Dr Harry Ironsides

Original
Babylon
after
Noah's
flood

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. 4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:3-4)

Mesopotamia
Ziggurats
religious
temple

FILLED WITH ABOMINATION

Anti Christ
statue
in temple
in Jerusalem

"...that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)

FLOWING WITH BLOOD - drunk with blood of the saints

B. Integration politically (v. 2)

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." (Revelation 17:2-3)

C. Integration of theology (v. 4)

False
Church
very
wealthy

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)

Quote: "While the Roman Catholic Church teaches that Islam is both erroneous and incomplete, it also holds that sincere Muslims can be included in Christ's salvation through their faithfulness to monotheism and Islam."—Albert Mohler

Rev 17:9 Seven mountains where woman sits

Both cities of Rome & Constantinople built on 7 hills

- Original Roman Empire capital was Rome

- Byzantine Empire called themselves "New Rome" - their capital was Constantinople

3. THE Invincibility OF A TRUE SAVIOR (v. 14)

- A. The confusion of the Wicked (v. 16)
- Rev 18:9-10
- B. The control of the Omnipotent (v. 17) (Lord)
- Rev 17:14, 17
- C. To conversion of the Lost

God's call

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:16-17)

A MIRACULOUS BIRTH

the true
Christ-
angel speaks
to Mary

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:" (Luke 1:31-32)

A SINGULAR SALVATION

only in
Jesus' name

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

only by Jesus
can anyone
come to the
Father

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17)

CONCLUSION

Quote: "Salvation is not something we achieve, but something we receive!"

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
(Romans 10:13)

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."
(1 John 4:3)

- Many demons in Satan's kingdoms
- called evil spirits
 - they want that Jesus the Christ came in the flesh
 - * deny that Jesus is God the Son
 - * deny that Jesus is deity
 - * deny that God became flesh
 - Emmanuel (Immanuel) means "God with us"