

"The Mother of Prostitutes"
Revelation 17

Question: An invitation is given to John. Who is it from and what is it for? V. 1

Answer: "One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the _____ of the great _____, who sits by many waters.'" (Rev. 17:1 NIV)

Note: The punishment of the great prostitute is part of the _____ judgments (cf. 16:19).

Note: "Waters" in this context, refer to the many _____ or people groups. Cf. v. 15.

Question: What connection does she have with the people of the earth? V. 2

Answer: ² "With her the kings of the earth committed _____, and the inhabitants of the earth were _____ with the wine of her adulteries." (Rev. 17:2 NIV; Cp. Nahum 3:4)

Cp. Jeremiah 51:7-8

Note: The word for "adultery" is actually *pornea* (where we get our word, "pornography," but is the broader word, "fornication.")

Question: What is the definition of fornication/adultery? As applied to kings?

Answer: Technically, it is having sexual intercourse with someone outside of a biblical _____ – real or imaginary. Biblically, it is called, "_____ _____" with a covenant partner or with God (as in a single person). Politically/theologically, it is the covenant they either made with their people or to their god.

Note: In prophetic language, prostitution (cf. Hosea), fornication, or adultery is equivalent to _____ or religious _____. Idolatry is worshipping anyone or anything other than the Creator God.

Cf. Jeremiah 2:20-28

Note: This woman is the highest example of spiritual idolatry. She represents all _____ systems of worship, whether pagan or organized.

Question: What does it mean that the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries/fornications?

Answer: It means that unregenerate, unbelievers _____ or took great joy in the fruit of those practices, many of which were and are sexual in nature. It could also mean that they were _____ and manipulated by the seduction of those practices.

Question: What did the angel do next? What did John see? V. 3a

Answer: ³ Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a _____. (Rev. 17:3 NIV)

Question: What is the significance of the "wilderness" or "desert"?

Answer: Speaks of spiritual _____ and temptation.

Question: How is the woman described? Vv. 3b-6

Answer:

v. 3b - There I saw a woman _____ on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. (Rev. 17:3 NIV)

v. 4 - ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with _____ things and the filth of her adulteries. (Rev. 17:4 NIV) Cf. v.2.

v. 5 - ⁵ The name written on her forehead was a _____: BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Rev. 17:5 NIV) ⁵ The name written on her forehead was a _____: BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Rev. 17:5 NIV)

Note: There are scholars who believe that this is cryptic language for _____, i.e. Preterists, Historicists. Citing verse 9 and the seven hills and the current context of being under Roman occupation (Cp. 1 Pt. 5:13). However, they neglect the fact that the seven hills are not hills but leaders of lesser authority that are supporting the Anti-Christ. Rome is known for seven hills, but it has many. Rome is not built on waterways.

Note: Other scholars hold that this is a future revived _____. It sits upon waterways, i.e. Tigris and Euphrates (Dan. 4:30; Jer. 51:13), and connects to the first _____ act against God (Gen. 11) and to the greatest empire that ever existed (Dan. 7). Others believe it is _____ (Cp. 16:19). Others believe that it is simply a _____ system connected to a political system (Idealist). Which one is correct? All of them.

v. 6 - ⁶ I saw that the woman was drunk with the _____ of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. (Rev. 17:6 NIV)

Question: What does the angel do next? V. 7

Answer: ⁷ "Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the _____ of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns." (Rev. 17:7 NIV)

Note: The word "rides" literally means, "which _____ her." The beast is the focus of this text as we shall see later.

Question: What is the symbolic explanation of the woman and the beast? Vv. 8-14.

Answer:

v. 8 - ⁸ The _____, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come. (Rev. 17:8 NIV)

Note: "Once was" = he existed before. "Now Is not" = he is not present at this time" = could mean that he was killed and resurrected but more likely, he represents a _____/_____ that existed, does not at the present time, but will in the future in connection to the demonic realm of Satan. He will eventually go to his destruction (Cp. 19:20; 20:10).

Note: "Have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world" does not necessarily imply a form of _____ or election but may simply be a statement of _____, i.e. the unsaved. They will be amazed that a "king/kingdom" that they once thought was gone forever has resurfaced – _____.

v.9 - ⁹ "This calls for a mind with _____. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits." (Rev. 17:9 NIV)

Note: The seven hills belong to the _____, not the woman. In all likelihood, these are seven _____ with seven kings (cp. v. 10). Cp. Pss. 30:7; 68:15-16; Isa. 2:2; 41:15; Jer. 51:25; Dan. 2:35.

V. 10 - ¹⁰ "They are also seven _____. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while." (Rev. 17:10 NIV)

Note: The five kings/kingdoms that have fallen as of John's writing were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, and Greece. The "one [that] is" is _____. The one yet to come will be a future kingdom that arises. This kingdom, in comparison to the rest, will not be long in duration.

V. 11 - ¹¹ "The beast who once was, and now is not, is an _____ king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction." (Rev. 17:11 NIV)

Note: Scholars differ on the identification of this kingdom. Is it a revived _____ Empire or is it a revived _____ Empire? Some scholars believe that this is speaking of the assassination, death, and resurrection of the Anti-Christ.

Point of interest: If the Anti-Christ is to come from one of these two revived empires the first will entail Europe (strong evidence for _____; it was known as the center of the Holy Roman Empire), the second will entail all the _____ countries. The central ground of both being _____, _____, _____.

V. 12 - ¹² "The ten horns you saw are ten _____ who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. (Rev. 17:12 NIV)

Note: It appears that the Kingdom of the Beast will be divided up into ten countries or _____. They may also represent “the kings of the earth” at that time who give their allegiance to the Anti-Christ and co-reign with him – for a season.

V. 13 - ¹³ “They have one _____ and will give their power and authority to the beast.” (Rev. 17:13 NIV)

Note: The “purpose” here is of _____ origin. They will ultimately give their power to the beast to set up things for verse 14.

V. 14 - ¹⁴ “They will wage _____ against the Lamb, but the Lamb will _____ over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-- and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” (Rev. 17:14 NIV)

Note: This battle is referenced in 16:14-16 – the Battle of _____. Cp. 13:4 – “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

V. 16 - ¹⁶ “The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to _____ and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.” (Rev. 17:16 NIV)

Note: This is the reason that the _____ rides on top of the beast – he bears her. She is not the master of the beast. He is the _____ of the women. Like many empires, _____ is the vehicle used to bring unity to one's rule. The Anti-Christ uses religion for its unifying purposes and then disposed of it when he proclaims himself as god.

V. 17 - 17 For God has put it into their _____ to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God's words are fulfilled. (Rev. 17:17 NIV)

Note: The sovereign hand of God is revealed when everything looks to be _____ by Satan and the Anti-Christ. It is a reminder that God is the one who is ultimately in control of everything.

18 "The woman you saw is the great _____ that rules over the kings of the earth." (Rev. 17:18 NIV)

Summation: The woman is the _____ of a city that encapsulates the end-time religious system.

Question: What city has and still does represent most of the major religious families?

Answer: _____.