



THE BOOK OF REVELATION STUDY CHAPTER 17 – THE GREAT HARLOT

1. The Harlot of Harlots (Rev. 17:1-6).

- a. In contrast to the Woman who gave birth in Chapter 12, who was a threat to the Dragon (Serpent) and the Beast (the Religious System of the TKGE), this woman is latest counterfeit. We had the source, the Dragon, with its forthcoming Beast, religion along with its politics, then a false Christ (the Lamb with horns sewing the words of the Dragon), now a false Church, that rides on the Beast of the political, religious and economic systems of the world.
- b. There are three women in the Book of Revelation, The Woman that Births the Child, the Harlot of Babylon and the New Jerusalem Many times there is a pattern of the authentic that gives birth to a move, a counterfeit that replaces the authentic, and an awareness of the false which then brings forth a revealing of the authentic in its final form.
- c. The drinking of the blood of the Saints has several connotations to it. First, it's a Christianized religious system that that consumes the authentic for its own sustenance. Second, in a more literal sense, it will spiritually kill off the authentic as an enemy. (Matt. 11:18; John 10:20)
- d. The word *harlot* **πορνῶν** and *fornication* **πορνείας** go together. The first is one who sells themselves for money, the second is a description of the transaction. To make the point, in ancient Greece, prostitution wasn't as prevalent. Men simply had concubines. However, as the nation become increasingly wealth, prostitution became prevalent. In the Greco-Roman world, sex was as natural as eating and drinking. In the Hebraic world sex was also as natural as eating and drinking, however the notion of "paying for sex" was a symptom of a social problem. The fact that a woman had to sell her body, meant she wasn't cared for properly by her family. Thus, "fornication" wasn't just a reflection on the harlot or her client, but society. Fornication never really meant pre-marital sex.

2. The secret to the mystery of the Harlot and the Beast (Rev. 17:7-14)

- a. Another contrast to the revelation of God, who "was, is and shall be" **יהוה**, is the Beast who "was, is not and yet is". In other words, it is not valid, yet it exists because we empower it. Like with the number of the Beast 666, once again were asked to take the same hint regarding the seven heads of the Beast.
- b. Consider that back in the beginning of Revelation (Rev. 1:4, 3:1, 4:5, 5:6) we have the "Seven Spirits of God" which is before His Throne, which has Seven Stars, Seven Lamps and the Lamb

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(Christ) which has Seven Horns, Seven Eyes. This Beast has seven heads, and 10 horns, who wage war with Christ. While there is a high possibility Christians will be incarcerated, maybe even murdered, the real battle isn't with atheists, Muslims, or another sect of religion, rather this is a version of Christendom that believes its doing God's work in concert with its political beliefs, *"These rulers were in full agreement to hand over their authority to the Beast."* In the end, the true message of the Gospel will prevail.

3. The revolt against the Harlot. (Rev. 17:15-18)

- a. One of the ways the Lamb triumphs over the Harlot and the Beast, is the political systems will recognize the legalistic, condemning ways of this version of Christendom and will revolt against it. The Dragon fights with its own creation in the wars of Good and Evil. The Harlot will say the "demons of the world" are against her, proclaiming she is the righteous one. In one sense she is correct, the demons of the world are against her! However, this is the smoke and mirrors of the deception. Just like the Pharisees in Jesus day (who Christ said were of the Devil), they accused Him of having a demon, being against the Word of God and involved with sin. Yet, all along it was the other way around.
- b. It's interesting to note that God is not making war, rather they make war with the Lamb and the Lamb overcomes them. He doesn't overcome with violence, but overcomes because of His identity, *"...the Lamb will overcome them because He IS the Lord of lords..."* Rather, He apparently watches the kings make war with the harlot and beast themselves.