

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

June 13, 2021

Revelation 17

REVELATION 17:14 – THEME OF THE BOOK

"These shall war against the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they (also shall overcome) that are with him, called and chosen and faithful."

Revelation 17

WAR WITH THE LAMB!

- Can Christ **overcome** such powerful foes?
- This one verse defines the **whole message** of the Apocalypse!
- Yes, the **Lamb will overcome** them!
 - He shall overcome all enemies!
 - Doomed to defeat. Revelation 12:7-10
 - Christ has all authority. Matthew 28:18
- All who ally with Rome face the same fate!
- Why? (Revelation 1:5; Ephesians 1:20-23)
 - **He is Lord of Lords and king of kings!**

Revelation 17

WAR WITH THE LAMB!

- All those who are **with the Lamb** ...
- Share in **His victory!** (cf. Isaiah 53:12)
- **Called**
 - By the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14)
- **Chosen**
 - By obedience (Ephesians 1:4, 13)
- **Faithful**
 - Steadfast have not compromised (cf. Revelation 12:11; Ephesians 6:10-18)

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REVELATION 17:15

NOTE:
Both the
BEAST and
the
HARLOT
reigned
over the
same
subjects
(13:7).

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the harlot sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

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REVELATION 17:16

"And the ten horns which thou sawest, and the beast, these shall hate the harlot, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and shall burn her utterly with fire."

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REVELATION 17:17

*"For God did put in their hearts
to do his mind, and to come to
one mind, and to give their
kingdom unto the beast,
until the words of God should be
accomplished."*

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REVELATION 17:18

*"And the woman whom thou
sawest is the great city, which
reigneth over the kings of
the earth."*

Revelation 17

**THE WATERS, THE TEN
HORNS, THE WOMAN ...**

"Henry Barclay Swete's comments on this verse are excellent. 'The fall of the City is to come from the new powers destined to proceed from the Horns and from the Beast himself, who will turn against the Harlot he has long maintained. Sudden changes from fierce love to bitter hatred, familiar enough in private history (cf. e.g. 2 Sam. xiii, 15), find their parallel in the history of nations, and the Seer foresees that the downfall of Rome will come in this way. Already within his memory the capital had been twice in one year (A.D. 69) the scene of carnage and plunder; and although the Flavian Emperors inaugurated a peace which had lasted more than thirty years, there were ominous signs of fresh trouble; Domitian had no obvious heir, and his life was menaced by conspiracies; at any moment Rome might be sacked again. But St. John looks beyond the end of Domitian's reign to a future which he does not attempt to fix.

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**THE WATERS, THE TEN
HORNS, THE WOMAN ...**

'He has a pre-vision of forces within the Empire taking shape under the leadership of men who, without the Imperial purple, would possess Imperial powers, and would use them for the destruction of Rome. His forecast was verified by the long series of disasters sustained at the hands of Alaric, Genseric, Ricimer, Totila, the representatives of the hordes which overran the West in the 5th and 6th centuries; not to mention later sieges by less barbarous foes. No reader of the Decline and Fall can be at a loss for materials which will at once illustrate and justify the general trend of St. John's prophecy' (225)."

(Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, pages 266-267)

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**THE WATERS, THE TEN
HORNS, THE WOMAN ...**

- Note: Much of the description of the fall of the harlot is taken from the description of Tyre (Ezekiel 26:14), Nineveh (Nahum 1:9), and Babylon (Isaiah 13:20-22; Jeremiah 51:26).
- Rome would never again be a world power!

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**THE WATERS, THE TEN
HORNS, THE WOMAN ...**

- Fate and identity of the harlot
- **"Waters where the beast sits"**
 - Peoples, nations, tongues, and multitudes
 - Harlot and beast reign over the same subjects
- **"Ten horns - shall hate the beast"**
 - Make her desolate, naked, eat her flesh, burn her with fire
 - **Roman Empire** crumbled from within. **This is what Daniel had told Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 2:42ff**
 - Wicked men will be **devoured** by their own wickedness!
 - Give **"allegiance"** for political and economic advantages

Revelation 17

**THE WATERS, THE TEN
HORNS, THE WOMAN ...**

- Who is the “**Architect**” behind her fate?
– **GOD IS !**
- Many nations gave **diplomatic hypocrisy** pretending to honor her – but despised her!
- God will **fulfill His will!**
– Revelation 17:17, “*For God did put in their hearts to do his mind, and to come to one mind, and to give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished.*” (cf. Daniel 2:40ff; 4:28ff; 7:23-28)
- Allow the “**puppet kings**” to serve the issues of Rome – until another rises to take her down! (*Parthians*)