

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

June 27, 2021

Revelation 17

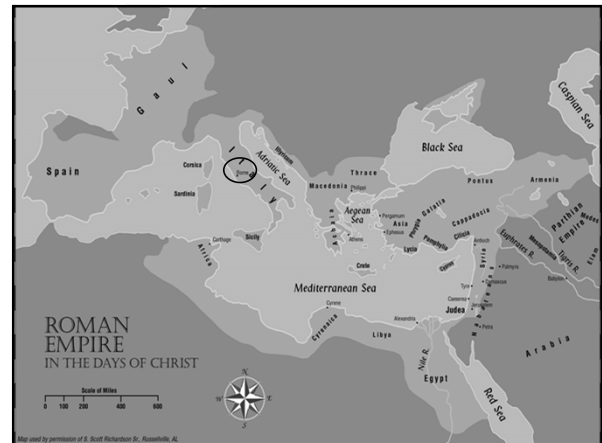
THE HARLOT OF CHAPTER 17

- The **harlot (mother of harlots)** – the object of coming judgment
 - the **sentence** is pronounced
 - In the OT three cities are designated as “Harlots” and another as a mistress given to pleasure.
 - Nineveh. Nahum 3:1, 4 (Cruelty)
 - Tyre. Isaiah 23:15-17; Ezekiel 26-27 (Commerce)
 - Babylon. Isaiah 47:5-15; Jeremiah 50-51 (Pleasure)
 - Israel and Judah. Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Micah. (Isaiah 1:21; 57:3-12 [mg]; Ezekiel 16:3-43; 23:1-49; Jeremiah 2:20, 25-28; 13:22), (Religion)
- **Angel** brings the message
- Awful harlot in **contrast** with the bride of Christ
- Follows the **pouring out** the bowls God’s wrath
- Rome was a compilation of all of the above.
- Now will receive some of the “**details**” ...

Revelation 17

THE HARLOT’S DESCRIPTION

- **“Sits on many waters”**
cf. Jeremiah 51:13
 - City that reigns over the kings of the earth. (verse 18)
 - **“With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication”**
 - Her alliances – all the nations who joined in her ungodly conduct
- **“Inhabitants of the earth made drunk with wine of her fornication”**
 - Her evil corrupted nations and individuals to share in her wealth and sin! (cf. 13:11-18)



From Revelation 14:8 and 16:19

Judgment of Wicked Babylon

- Some expositors identify Jerusalem as the Babylon/harlot of the book of Revelation, and they see the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 at the hands of the Romans as the battle of Armageddon.
 - Such an interpretation radically changes the thrust of the visions.
- The beast (Roman Empire) and the false prophet (paganism) are the ones being punished by God. [Revelation 13-14 mg]
- Other Scriptures did prophesy that God would use the Romans to destroy Jerusalem (Matt. 24; Luke 17, 21), but those are different contexts than Revelation.
- The point is that what may be true of one context does not necessarily mean that every other context using the same words has the same application.”

(Robert Harkrider, *Revelation, Truth Commentaries*, page 322)

From Revelation 14:8 and 16:19

Judgment of Wicked Babylon

- The **ONE** great conflict in Revelation is between Satan and his allies against Christ and His army.
 - That conflict was not between the Roman Empire and Judaism; instead, it was the Lord versus Satan with his allies, the beast (Rome) and false prophet (Paganism) of Revelation 13.
- This conflict draws to a climax in Revelation 16:12-17 when the forces of evil are described as gathering for **“the battle of that great day of God Almighty”** (16:14) at Armageddon. cf. 19:19-21
- While it is true, the prophet Isaiah referred to apostate Jerusalem as **“the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.”** (Isaiah 1:21 KJV; cf. Matthew 23:34ff)
- Why would the vision be sidetracked from its major theme to present alleged details of conflict between Rome and Judaism?
- **Note: What Babylon does, the Beast does. cf. Revelation 14:8-10**

BOOK OF REVELATION: CHAPTER 18



FALLEN IS BABYLON THE GREAT

Revelation 18

REVELATION 18:1

"After these things I saw another angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was lightened with his glory."

Revelation 18

REVELATION 18:2

"And he cried with a mighty voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, and is become a habitation of demons, and a hold of every unclean spirit, and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird."

Revelation 18

REVELATION 18:3

"For by the wine of the wrath of her fornication all the nations are fallen; and the kings of the earth committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth waxed rich by the power of her wantonness."

Revelation 18

Judgment of Wicked Babylon – The Announcement!

- The **headline** from chapter **14:8**
- Angel with **great authority** coming down from heaven – **illuminated** the whole earth – important message forthcoming!
- At the time of John's writing Rome is still a major power. This is written to show the **certainty of her fall** (*prophetic*)
- **Reason** for her fall

Revelation 18

Babylon – Rome?

- **"Babylon, the great is fallen, fallen"**
(Isaiah 21:9; cf. Isaiah 13:19; Jeremiah 50-51)
- Isaiah 23:15-17 – Tyre
- Why called **Babylon**?
 - Both world ruling cities – capitals of empires
 - Both thought themselves secure and invincible
 - God brought down the pride and arrogance of ancient Babylon – would also bring down Rome!

Revelation 18
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Word Pictures ...</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling place for demons • A prison for every foul spirit • A cage for every unclean and hated bird! (Isaiah 34:11-15) • Glorious pagan temples not inhabited by evil and gruesome things – word pictures! • Satan’s empire and Rome intertwined (cf. Revelation 12-13) </div>

Revelation 18
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Reason ...</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“For <u>all nations</u> have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication”</i> • <i>“<u>Kings</u> of the earth have committed fornication with her”</i> • <i>“<u>Merchants</u> of earth have become rich through abundance of her luxury.”</i> • Not content to sin herself – brought in others to join her • Spiritual fornication – turning against the God of heaven! </div>