

Revelation 17
What is the Mysterious Babylon?
Lesson #14

Introduction

1. Passed 2 weeks – The Antichrist
 - A. His rise to political power and dominance.
 - B. The religious leader that will draw people to the antichrist.
 - C. The evil trinity is in place.
2. We need to jump ahead to Rev. 17.
 - A. Rev. 17 – A focus on the harlot or false religious system.
 - 1) He partners with the beast.
 - 2) He will be the influencer that brings people together.
 - 3) They will be persuaded by a false religious system.
 - 4) This system will be destroyed by the beast himself.
 - 5) Antichrist will step in to be worshipped by the world.
 - B. Rev. 18 – paints the picture of the commercial & political Babylon.
 - 1) It has drawn nation together.
 - 2) Provided financial prosperity.
 - C. So, we need to work backward to get the full picture.

The Great Harlot. Vs. 1-3

1. A prostitute
 - A. Allures people to them.
 - A. They are lured into spiritual idolatry.

Mystery Babylon. Vs. 4-6

Background of Babylon

1. Babylon is a mighty theme we find throughout scripture.
 - A. Genesis 10:8-11 – Nimrod – a mighty warrior of the earth.
 - B. He is said to be a mighty hunter before the LORD.
 - C. His kingdom began in Babel.
2. Nimrod means “to rebel”.
 - A. Nimrod became the world’s 1st dictator.
 - B. Term mighty hunter of the LORD is not referring to wild game.
 - 1) It is a reference he is hunting the souls of man turning them from God.
3. It was Nimrod who led people to build the Tower of Babel.
 - A. Nimrod’s motive behind building the Tower of Babel embodies the spirit of Babylon.
 - 1) Wanted to bring all people together (one nation)
 - 2) To exalt man.
 - 3) To rebel against God’s authority.

The spirit that motivated the building of the Tower of Babel will also be prevalent during the Tribulation.

Four Motivating Spirit (Gen. 11:1-9)

1. ***To join forces and come as one (Gen. 1:11).***
 - A. They had 1 language.
 - B. Wanted to become 1 powerful force.
 - C. Rev. 17 – 1 religious system that would gain control.
2. ***Wanted to be one people that was against God (Gen. 11:4).***
3. ***Worship man and opposed to God (Gen. 11:4).***
 - A. Build a tower to reach heaven.
 - B. Man’s efforts to get to heaven.
4. ***The desire for self-glory (Gen. 11:4).***

Things are not always what they appear. Vs. 4-6

1. This girl knows how to dress.
 - A. Flashy, glittering, and fine metals.
 - B. She will offer a health & wealth religion.
2. When you drink from that gold cup it is full of abomination & filth.
 - A. Her message will be pleasing to the eyes and easy on the ears.
 - B. In the end it is a form of deception to draw people to a false truth.

The power behind the false religion – The Antichrist. Vs. 7-14

The mystery (vs. 7)

1. The mystery is, how can intelligent people be so easily persuaded?

2 Timothy 3:7

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- A. We live in the most knowledgeable times in history.
- B. We are educating ourselves out of the truth.

The support of the false religion (vs. 7b-8).

1. The antichrist has gain world power from other rulers.
2. Supernatural power of the antichrist.
 - A. Being empowered by Satan to do his work.
3. The doom of the antichrist.
 - A. Perdition – to be destroyed, given worthless existence.
 - B. This doesn't mean he will be destroyed.
 - 1) It is speaking of his worthless existence.

The phenomenal power that supports this false religion (vs. 9-14).

1. ***People who are spiritually minded will be drawn in (vs. 9a).***
2. ***Embodies the support and evil of all nations (vs. 9b-13).***

One purpose behind all of this – to war against the Lamb (vs. 14a).

Evil ultimately turns against itself (vs. 14b-17).

1. In the end Satan will have used this deceptive leader to gain the support of the people.
 - A. The antichrist will no longer need her assistance.

The woman is also a city. Vs. 18

Conclusion

1. I want to close today by reminding us of 2 prayers Jesus prayed.

John 17:23

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

- A. Believers are unified in Christ love.
- B. By that love we are known as Christ disciples.

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- C. We are set apart in the truth of Jesus.

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ⁱ Preachers outline & sermon series commentary.

ⁱⁱ Jesus plus nothing – Christ centered bible study