



## **The Lion and the Lamb: Revelation Class #12 Notes**

### **Revelation 17-20; The End of Evil**

All that we will find in these **four chapters** is the full and final realization (revelation) of the truth proclaimed by the **3 angels** of Revelation 14:6-13 and the deception of the world by the **3 demons** of Revelation 16:12-16.

“*Fallen, fallen [already] is Babylon the Great...*” (14:8). Babylon is now and always fallen (doomed), always falling (evil turns ever inward and destroys itself).

#### **Revelation 17:1-2**

One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you **the judgment** of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were **intoxicated** [drunk] with the wine of her adulteries.”

#### **Revelation 17:3-4**

Then the angel carried me away *in the Spirit into a wilderness*. There I saw a **woman sitting on a scarlet beast** that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 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 abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.

Babylon is the great city (that includes all nations and all peoples) created when those who were meant to be Christ’s betrothed people (the pure woman in the wilderness) ride on (unite with) the Beast’s power (accept the Beast’s claim and find their highest allegiance and hope in his military, economic and political power and identity). Relying on his coercive power, she becomes the corrupted harlot: the *counterfeit* of the pure woman, the *counterfeit* of the true city of God, relying on a *counterfeit* “savior” and offering a *counterfeit* kingdom based on self-gratification and comfort, indifference to suffering and self-absorbed apathy toward, or participation in, injustice.

#### **Revelation 17:5-6; 18**

The name written on her forehead was a **mystery**:

BABYLON **THE GREAT**--THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

I saw that the woman was **drunk with the blood of God’s holy people**, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was **greatly astonished**. The woman you saw is the great city that **rules over** the kings of the earth.”

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

This Harlot sits on:

- The Beast (17:3)
- Seven hills (17:9)
- Many waters = peoples, multitudes, nations, languages (17:15). All the political systems and governments and kingdoms of the world are fueled by her promises and enticements.  
**To embrace her is to destroy the church.**

Yet she is forever a **mystery**: the very image of God in humanity turned away from God and inward in the adulterous [covenant-breaking] self-absorbed pursuit of personal comfort, affluence and indifference. She represents a counterfeit lifestyle that stands in opposition to the great command of Christ in John 13:34-35.

### **Revelation 17:12-14**

The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.

**They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because He IS Lord of lords and King of kings—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”**

The Harlot’s persona seems invincible—and she sees herself as such (18:7).

Her allures are intoxicating (her followers drunk with her adulteries).

Her power base (the beast) seems invincible.

But this whole amalgamation is doomed—**for evil always destroys itself**:

### **Revelation 17:16-17**

The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled.

It is the **beast’s spirit** that animates all human power systems.

It is the **harlot’s pleasures and comforts** that intoxicate and addict them.

**But evil always destroys itself. Always.**

Revelation 18: **The Destruction of Babylon** (modeled on Jeremiah 51-52)

### **Revelation 18:1-3**

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and **the earth was illuminated by his splendor.** <sup>2</sup>With a mighty voice he shouted:

“**Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!** She has become a dwelling for demons and a haunt for every impure spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal. For **ALL THE NATIONS** have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries.

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

- Babylon is not one place, it is a **lifestyle**, an **orientation** and an **attitude**.
- Babylon is **Genesis 11:4** and **Daniel 4:30** and **Deuteronomy 8** (all of it).
- To live in Babylon is to despise and *see as evil all who threaten your lifestyle and viewpoint*—it is **self-protecting pride saturated in apathy**.
- But always, in every age and empire, because of its greedy lust for more and indifference and apathy to those who have less, **Babylon’s trajectory is always down, always falling** into decadence, the vile and sensational and addictions—until she becomes weak and ripe for destruction by the newest manifestation of the Beast.

The **value system of Babylon is always the same**, always identical:

### **Revelation 18:11-13**

The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore—**cargoes of gold, silver**, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and **articles of every kind** made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron, marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and **the bodies and souls of people**.

You don’t need to hate oppressed people to be in Babylon. You simply put their needs (justice) last in your daily orienting of priorities and resources.

### **Revelation 18:4-7**

Then I heard another voice from heaven say: “**Come out of her, My people,**’ so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues: for her sins are piled up to heaven, and **God has remembered her crimes**. *Give back to her as she has given*; pay her back double for what she has done. Pour her a double portion from her own cup. Give her as much torment and grief **as the glory and luxury she gave herself**.

### **Revelation 18:7-9**

In her heart she boasts: ‘I sit enthroned as queen. I am not a widow; I will never mourn.’ Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. **She will be consumed by fire**, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

### **Revelation 18:19-20**

“Woe! Woe to you, great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In **one hour** she has been brought to ruin! Rejoice over her, **you heavens!** Rejoice, **you people of God!** Rejoice, apostles and prophets. For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.”

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

KEY INSIGHT: **“Come out of her, MY PEOPLE!”**

### **Revelation 18:23-24**

The **light of a Lamp** will never shine in you again.

The **voice of Bridegroom and bride** will never be heard in you again.

Your merchants were the world’s important people.

By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.

**For in her was found the blood of prophets and of God’s holy people; and of ALL who have been slaughtered on the earth.”**

THE LOVE OF POWER, economic, political, military and personal—sought and grasped and wielded for selfish pleasure, prestige and comfort while apathetic and indifferent to the real needs of others has fueled ALL the violence and cruelty of human history. It is a way of life that will have no place, no oxygen in the pure air of God’s new creation. There all will be fueled by THE POWER OF LOVE.

**Revelation 19: A Tale of Two Suppers** (feasts) = both prepared by God for two different groups with two different destinies.

### **Revelation 19:1-3**

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are His judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of His servants.” And again they shouted: “Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

In Revelation 19:1-6 we have the **4 great and only Hallelujahs** of the New Testament! In the Old Testament **Psalms 113-118** are the counterpart concentration of Hallelujahs. They are the Psalms of the Passover celebration, the sharing of the cup commemorating God’s mighty deliverance from their bondage through the blood of the Lamb.

### **Revelation 19:7-9**

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and **His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear** (fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

Then the angel said to me, “Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

This is the **4<sup>th</sup> and central of the 7 beatitudes** in Revelation.  
Remember the marriage custom of God's covenant people:

- **Betrothal** = the bride was “bought with a price,”—a new covenant.
- **Preparation** = Groom goes to prepare a place for his bride (see John 14:1-3); and the bride prepares herself for his return: she “makes herself ready.”
- **Wedding banquet** = The Bride returns to claim his bride, take her to his father's home and celebrate with a banquet (see John 2:1-10).

Babylon is the adulterous mother of thousands of Jezebels, who say the way to joy and fulfillment is by seeking and indulging in the “*deep secrets of Satan*.”  
The Church—the people of the Lamb—are **marked by their simplicity of purpose**. Their life goal is to follow only One and prepare for His return.

**Revelation 19:11-21 is the ‘finale’** of history portrayed for **the 6<sup>th</sup> of 7 times** (6:12-18; 11:14-19; 14:14-20; 16:17-21; 17:12-14; here; and then finally 20:7-15).

This is the **4<sup>th</sup> of 4 times** in Revelation that John **sees heaven open** (4:1; 11:19; 15:5). In the **first vision we see heaven in terms of a throne** and One seated on it; in the middle two we see heaven as the temple and ark of covenant; now in this **final vision we see heaven as the victorious Savior** riding to rescue His people.

### Revelation 19:11-13

I saw heaven standing open and **LOOK**: a white horse, whose Rider is called **Faithful and True**. *With justice He judges and wages war*. **His eyes** are like blazing fire, and on **His head** are many crowns. He has **a name** written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is **dressed in a robe dipped in blood**, and His name is **the WORD of God**.

### Revelation 19:14-16

The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. **Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations**. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

**This great Rider rides forth to war—but there is no battle.**  
**There is never a final battle pictured in Revelation—not anywhere.**  
That is because the decisive battle has already been won at the Cross.

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

Jesus conquers because:

- He is **Faithful and True**—with justice He wages war. His army is in linen!
- His **eyes** are like blazing fire = pure holiness (see Hebrews 10:27; 12:39)
- He is **King of kings** [many crowns] = each of us is one of those crowns.
- He has a **name unknown** to us [there is always more to learn of Jesus]
- He comes with a **robe already dipped in blood** = the Cross.
- He is **the WORD of God** (see John 1:1-4, 14; Jesus is God's complete and final Speech (spoken WORD) to us (see Hebrews 1:1-4).
- Out of His mouth comes **His sharp sword** (see **2 Thessalonians 2:9-11**).

### Revelation 19:19-21

I saw the **beast and the kings of the earth** and their armies gathered together to wage war against the Rider on the horse and His army. But the beast was captured, and with it the **false prophet who had performed the signs** on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded **those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image**. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. **The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the Rider on the horse**, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.

### Revelation 20:1-10 = The end of evil's source.

Remember, numbers in Revelation always represent **qualities**, not quantities.

In these visions numbers are used as **symbols**, not statistics.

Even so with the millennium (1000 years = 10 x 10 x 10). This is the **first and only place in the Bible where this time period appears**.

### Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the **key to the Abyss** and holding in his hand a **great chain**. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years**. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to **keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended**. After that, he must be set free for a **short time**.

### Revelation 20:4-6

I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the Word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

The key to this mysterious time period is **verse 6**. Those who participate with Christ in the “*first resurrection*” (see Rev 1:5) are those who “*reign with Him*” during the millennium (see John 5:24; Ephesians 2:4-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 1:7; 5:9-10).

Satan as the overt leader of humanity is **bound during the period from the Cross to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming** (see Luke 11:20; Revelation 12:7-12). During this time he must **do his work through his two proxies** = the beast and the false prophet, who together create the great city called Babylon. **But they are all of them doomed:**

### Revelation 20:7-10

When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded **the camp of God’s people, the city He loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.** And **the devil**, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where **the beast and the false prophet** had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Now comes the ultimate passage in the Book of Revelation in terms of endings—just before the eternal beginning. This is **John’s telling of Matthew 25:31-46** and parallels it in every respect. We **began** John’s visionary sweep of human history with the **throne of God**. Now we **end** it there:

### Revelation 20:11-12

Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, **great and small**, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**. Another **book** [singular] was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. **The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.**

### Revelation 20:13-15

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades (the grave) gave up the dead that were in them, and **each person was judged according to what they had done**. Then *death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire*. **The lake of fire is the second death. Everyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

The Book of Life is everywhere else called **the Lamb’s Book of Life** (13:8; 21:27).

We all stand before the throne of judgment—no exceptions (Romans 14:10-12; **2 Corinthians 5:10**). It is Christ who sits on this throne (see Matthew 25:31-33; John 5:22; Rev 14:14-16). Here is the great conundrum that is really the great unity: We are all judged by what is found in our books—but we are saved only IF we are found in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Which is it—**judged by our works or saved by His grace? YES. BOTH.**

# REVELATION

## AN INTENSIVE STUDY

Only **one Life** is worthy of salvation. Only **one death** can remove the stain of our sin. Both are **His** and they are **finished—and given as the gift of grace**.

So, while our works **cannot** save us, they **always revel** the true orientation of our heart: we act, speak and think according to whatever is the true security and love of our heart. “Out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart the mouth speaks.”

The day of final judgment is **not** when God decides about us and who we are.

It is **the day that reveals unerringly what we have decided about God**—and who our true “god” really has been throughout our life. If our center has been self—that will be clear.

If it has been Christ—then His life stands for us (Romans 3:21-25; 6:23; 8:1-3; compare Matthew 25:34 with 25:41. And Matthew 5:16-26 with Galatians 6:7-8). Choose well.