

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
17:1-6

OUTLINE

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- 🕒 The Vision
- 🕒 Ten Clues
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- 🕒 Power, People, and the Harlot (v. 2)
- 🕒 The Harlot and the Beast (v. 3)
- 🕒 The Wealth of the Harlot (v. 4)
- 🕒 Mystery Babylon (v. 5)
- 🕒 Drunk with Blood (v. 6)
- 🕒 Lessons for Us

MAIN POINT

👤 John is shown a figure, the nature and identity of which will soon be revealed

- 👤 Opposes God and those who follow Him
- 👤 Has power over the Beast and those that follow the Beast
- 👤 Promoter of false religion (specifically paganism) from the start

👤 More going on here

- 👤 Not limited to a single religion or sect, but the origin point of those which has been in existence since the Tower of Babel
- 👤 Something that has been a thread through time and space
- 👤 Will see its final culmination during Daniel's 70th Week

👤 Failures of interpretation

- 👤 People come in with preconceived notions, largely from their existing set of beliefs
 - 👤 Catholics try to ignore it
 - 👤 Protestants proudly call the woman Rome
 - 👤 Those that hate Israel (even in the Church) call this Israel/Jerusalem
 - 👤 Few look at the text itself and understand there is more going on
- 👤 Difference between the woman and the Beast
- 👤 Will eventually see how God deals with the harlot

THE VISION



TEN CLUES

- 🕒 A prostitute and unfaithful to God
- 🕒 Universal influence
- 🕒 Rides (guides or steers) the First Beast
- 🕒 Enormous wealth as shown by her apparel
- 🕒 Expensive cup, but a counterfeit given what it is filled with
- 🕒 Name “Babylon” links her with the original Babel under Nimrod
- 🕒 MOTHER of prostitutes; a fountainhead of idolatry which gives birth to more like her
- 🕒 Persecutes true believers and followers of Christ (goes back before the church, incidentally)
- 🕒 Built on seven hills
- 🕒 A powerful city that rules over the Earth

INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT HARLOT (V. 1)

In another interlude section of **Revelation**

-  This will be an expansion of the judgment of Babylon that we saw in the last judgment

Harlot

-  Same language used in **Revelation 14:8**

Spiritual harlotry (Isaiah 23:15-17; Jeremiah 2:20-31; 13:27; Ezekiel 16:17-19; Hosea 2:5; Nahum 3:4)

-  Harlotry as a parody of marriage
-  Something in the guise of true religion, but contains nothing of the true substance
-  Something unique here; not just a harlot, just the mother of harlots
-  Extends back to Babel

Note that “adultery” is not used

-  Adultery implies a married state
-  Rules out apostate Israel as the identity of the harlot

Many waters

-  Answer given in **v. 15**
-  Also on the Beast?
 -  Better translated as the woman beside the waters and physically on the Beast; also has geographical correspondence to Babylon next to the Euphrates, a distinction of Babylon in Scripture (Thomas v2, p. 283-4)

POWER, PEOPLE, AND THE HARLOT (V. 2)

No one is immune

-  The effects, idea, and beliefs of the harlot are across all levels of society and people
-  International character to this system of belief
-  Same statement in **Revelation 18:3, 9**
-  This chapter is largely about the spiritual aspects of Babylon
-  **Chapter 18** is largely about the commercial aspects of Babylon

What did the kings do?

-  Word again is *basileus*
-  They adopted the Babylonian system
-  Political powers often adopt the religious system of a given place for practical political reasons (e.g. Assyria and Rome) (Thomas v2, p. 284)
-  At this time there will be political reasons, it seems, to become part of this religious system
 -  As we will see, these practical reasons will be important, but they will hate the harlot and eventually destroy her

As the kings go, so go the people

-  A common theme in Scripture (e.g. compare and contrast Saul and David)
-  God gives us the leaders we deserve
-  People come to like (and need, even) the religion brought to them and become drunk with it
-  Totally given over to the system of beliefs
-  Neo-paganism in the world and the rise of the “Right”

THE HARLOT AND THE BEAST (V. 3)

In the spirit

-  Also seen in **Revelation 1:10, 4:1 and 21:10**
-  Exact point is not specified, but likely does not refer to the wilderness from Revelation 12:14
 -  Could be outside Babylon at that time next to the Euphrates
 -  Could be in the desolate aftermath of judgment

Difference between the Beast and the Harlot

-  Two separate entities and should not be conflated
-  Positioning implies religious leadership over political affairs/leadership
 -  Orthodox tradition, Caliphate model, and traditional Caesaro-papism

The Beast

-  Introduced in **Revelation 13**
-  Identifiers leave no doubt that this is the same entity
 -  Both a political order and the ruler at its head
 -  Aligns well with the traditional view of rulership and kingdoms/empires where the ruler was seen as divine

The seven heads through history

-  Not all great powers, but a subset which is relevant to the point God is making
-  Egypt -> Assyria -> Babylon -> Persia -> Greece -> Rome -> Rome II
-  Ultimate point is yet future but the pattern of the same priesthood and underlying religion in history is consistent
-  Each uses the other, but will eventually turn on the harlot

THE WEALTH OF THE HARLOT (V. 4)

Purple and Scarlet

-  Denotes royalty and luxury
-  The two colors put on Jesus by the soldiers (**Matthew 27:28**; **Mark 15:17, 20**; **John 19:2, 5**)

Gold

-  More literally, “made gold with gold” (Thomas v2, p. 287)
-  Extreme wealth and luxury
-  Akin to the adornment of many Asia Minor temple prostitutes, but not limited to them (e.g. **Jeremiah 4:30**)
-  Contrast with the garments of Jesus in **Revelation 19:8**

Golden Cup

-  Pictured also in **Jeremiah 51:7**
-  Drinks in (takes part in or makes part of ones self) all manner of evil
-  Spreads that out to others so they do the same
-  The language specifically denotes that this uncleanness is idolatry (Thomas v2, p. 288)
 -  Other sins likely come with idolatry as a logical consequence

MYSTERY BABYLON (V. 5)

Mystery

-  Used as a noun in the Greek
-  References something that is revealed
 -  Mystery religions

Babylon

-  The name which is referenced by the mystery (Thomas v2, p. 289-90)
-  Identification of Babylon with Rome came in the late-2nd Century with Tertullian and it is unlikely that John's readers would associate "Babylon" and "Rome" as synonymous
 -  Other identifiers can point to Rome, but there is more going on here
 -  Not a single city alone, though there is a localized city as well
 -  A system that stretched back to **Genesis 10:9-10**

Mother of Harlots

-  Not just a harlot, but the mother of harlots
-  Not an idol-worshiper or a system of idol worship but the fountainhead of all of them

Tale of Two Cities

-  Jerusalem: Chosen by God and does not lose that despite her unfaithfulness
 -  This passage cannot be seen to describe Israel as there are too many difference for that explanation to be valid
-  Babylon: Hates God and makes everything that is false overthrow the power of God and will be destroyed

The Two Women

	Israel Chapter 12	Woman riding Beast Chapter 17
Where?	In Heaven	Upon many waters
Mother	Of Man-Child	Of Harlots
Clothed with	With sun	Purple, Scarlet, Gold
Identity	Sun, Moon, Stars	Reigns over Kings of the Earth
Enemy	Dragon	10 Kings (Ultimately)
Relationship	Hated by world	Caressed by world
Sustained by	Wings of heaven	Dragon
Headdress	Crown of 12 stars	Mystery Babylon the Great
Status	Widowed, divorced	"Am no widow..."
Final location	New Jerusalem	Habitation of demons

DRUNK WITH BLOOD (V. 6)

Drunk with blood

-  A way of expressing violence
-  Think of a berserker

Whose blood?

-  Two ways of describing the same group (Thomas v2, p. 290)
 -  Saints kept themselves pure, and the martyrs (witnesses) were faithful in what God called them to do
 -  Can this extend back before the Church?
 -  Not all saints are in the Church
-  These are people who followed God and were murdered because of that

John's reaction

-  He is confused ad dumbfounded
-  Not told why
 -  Did not understand (the following explanation then helps this view)
 -  Could not understand the scale of the violence
 -  He did understand and was horrified by it (and the part the Church would someday play in it)

LESSONS FOR US

🏠 Understanding Paganism

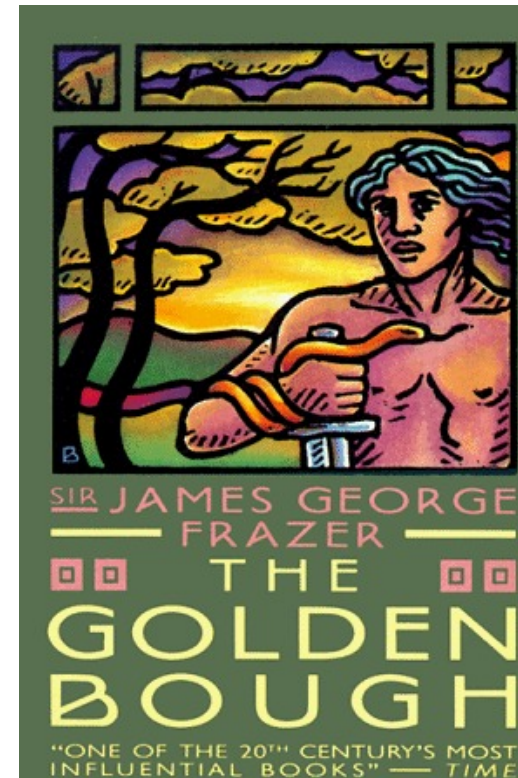
- 🏠 It's origin and manifestation through history
- 🏠 It's relation to many present practices
- 🏠 The present rise of Paganism

🏠 Why do people turn to Paganism?

- 🏠 If the Church has the truth, then why go somewhere else
- 🏠 The failings of many churches to address people's problems
 - 🏠 It is about more than having correct doctrine
- 🏠 Cycles of Rationalism and Religion/Romanticism in history
 - 🏠 We may be at another such turning point
 - 🏠 If the Church fails, it only has itself to blame

🏠 We should do our own study

- 🏠 Will take time and commitment, but it will be worth it
- 🏠 Need to understand the common thread in history, what it means, and why it is redcurrant
- 🏠 It never went away, it just changed names



DAVE HUNT
The Roman Catholic Church and
the Last Days

A
Woman
Rides the
Beast

The angel said...
"I will tell thee
the mystery of
the woman, and
of the beast..."
Revelation 17:7