



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

17:14-18

OUTLINE

- 🕒 Main Point
- 🕒 The Vision
- 🕒 Ten Clues
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- 🕒 The Waters (v. 15)
- 🕒 The Horns and the Woman (v. 16)
- 🕒 God Uses The Horns (v. 17)
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MAIN POINT

The destruction of the woman by kings under the Beast system

-  Woman is the religious power behind the Beast system in the future
-  Will be useful to the political rulers for a time
-  But they will turn on her and destroy her because she is corrupt and wealthy

God makes this happen

-  These people are in rebellion against God, but He uses them to execute judgment
-  God has a pattern of doing this in the Bible
-  Being “used by God” may not be the boast we think it is

God is in control, even when we do not think He is

-  All these judgments came about by the direction of God
-  They are an execution of perfect justice, even if we do not understand that
-  A challenge to look at history and how God has worked and moved to accomplish something
 -  This is not always obvious or surface-level and sometimes requires digging

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

THE HORNS AND THE LAMB (V. 14)

👤 Saw this foreshadowed in **Revelation 16:14**

👤 Also seen in **Psalm 2:1-4**

👤 The intense hatred that these people have towards God

👤 Makes them do irrational things

👤 Will be fulfilled in **Revelation 19:19-21**

👤 Why are they doing this?

👤 They know who God is

👤 They understand His power and judgment

👤 They know why they are being judged

👤 Do they really think they can win?

👤 Do they believe that much in the power of the Beast?

👤 He could not prevent the judgment in **Revelation 16:10-11** so his power is obviously limited

👤 Pure desperation?

👤 Know the consequences of failure

👤 Just want to have their sin that much and do not want God to tell them what to do

THE WATERS (V. 15)

Recall the position of the Woman

-  Better translation of **Revelation 17:1, 3** has her on the Beast but next to the waters
-  Possible equivalent position to a city next to the Euphrates
-  Indirect power?

Water

-  In Revelation, “water” is most commonly literal (Thomas v2, p. 303), but in this case a figurative meaning is specified for us in the text
 -  Where God gives an interpretation, we do not need to look for another one
-  Water commonly used this way in the Old Testament (**Psalms 18:4, 16; 124:4; Isaiah 8:7; Jeremiah 47:2**)

What does she control

-  Appears to have great influence and indirectly rules
-  Lifestyle, beliefs, practices, etc.
-  Cultural importance
-  Idolatry and the general religious practices of the day
-  Her wealth indicates that she is economically important (seen more in **Chapter 18**)
-  The impression that somehow everything in some way revolves around her or does not happen without her tacit approval

THE HORNS AND THE WOMAN (V. 16)

The Uprising of the Horns

-  The Horns will be angry with the woman and will want to get rid of her
-  She was useful to them politically, but at some point they will no longer want or need her
-  Similar to Jerusalem in **Ezekiel 16:37; 23:22**

Not told the reason, but there are plausible ones

-  Do not like her hoarding of wealth and want/need it for themselves and their war
 -  The word “desolate” implies taking plunder in this verse (Thomas v2, p. 304)
-  Annoyed by her constant interference
-  See her has having too much power or influence
-  Sick of her corruption
 -  “Naked” implies that they will “expose her moral corruption to public view” (Thomas v2, p. 304)
 -  Equivalent to Jerusalem in **Ezekiel 16:39-40; 23:25-27**
-  Devour flesh
 -  Total destruction
 -  Similar to Jezebel in **1 Kings 21:23-24; 2 Kings 9:30-37**
 -  Some have seen Jezebel as a picture of the Catholic Church (c.f. **Revelation 2:20**)
-  Burned with fire
 -  Punishment for sexual immorality (**Leviticus 20:14; 21:9**)

GOD USES THE HORNS (V. 17)

God is behind all of this

-  Immediate, proximal cause of the rebellion is not specified; all we can do is guess
-  But behind the immediate motives God is working to destroy Babylon
-  God uses who He wills, even if those are not the one's we would think of

God's past use of evil

-  Babylon to judge Judah (**Jeremiah 25:9-11**)
 -  Core issue in **Habakkuk**
-  Enemies destroy themselves (**Judges 7:22**; **2 Chronicles 20:23**; **1 Samuel 14:20**; **Ezekiel 38:21**; **Haggai 2:2**; **Zechariah 14:14**)
-  Use of lying spirits (**1 Kings 22:22-23**; **2 Chronicles 18:21-22**)
-  Use of demons to bring His enemies together to Armageddon (**Revelation 16:13-14, 16**)
-  God's use of history (**Acts 17:26-27**)

Does God make evil?

-  No. God is perfect (**Psalms 145:17**; **James 1:13**)
-  They have decided to be evil and go against God; but God will use their choice to serve His ends (e.g., the destruction of Babylon)
-  This is justice, and He can choose who He likes

THE GREAT CITY (V. 18)

What/where is this city?

-  Only option that fits is that this is Babylon
-  Spoken of in Scripture as a geographic location
-  **Jeremiah 51:13 w/ Revelation 17:1; Jeremiah 51:7 w/ 17:2, 4; Jeremiah 51:29 w/ 17:16 and 18:8; Isaiah 47:5, 7 w/ 17:17 and 18:7, 8; Jeremiah 51:8 [Isaiah 21:9] and Isaiah 13:21 w/ 18:2; Jeremiah 50:8 and 51:6,45 w/ 18:4; Jeremiah 51:9 w/ 18:5; Jeremiah 50:15 and 51:24-49 w/ 18:6; Jeremiah 51:25 w/ 18:8; Jeremiah 51:63, 64 w/ 18:21**
-  No indication in the text or from historical writings that John thought of this as Rome

More than just a city

-  There will be a religious center in a literal Babylon
-  That religious system will be the one that has been behind the various political entities seen last week
-  Final form is yet to take place
 -  Likely that the Papacy has some role to play in this, but seeing this as only that misses the point
 -  The Catholic Church is idolatrous and a harlot, but it not the Mother of those practices
 -  She simply inherited an existing system of rituals, priesthood, etc.

Significance of **Zechariah 5:5-11**

-  Overt return of a religious system to its point of origin

LESSONS FOR US

🔔 Sometimes God does things in ways we would not think of

- 🔔 Uses strange people
- 🔔 Uses people that are against Him
- 🔔 He operates with a different perspective and timescale than we do
- 🔔 Learn to trust Him when things seem to be failing

🔔 A careful reading of the Scriptures can prevent falling into unprofitable error

- 🔔 **Chapter 17** is a very difficult chapter
- 🔔 Much (but not all) of that difficulty comes from a cursory reading of the text
- 🔔 We are told to **STUDY (2 Timothy 2:15)**

🔔 The spiritual dimension behind history

- 🔔 If we only see the surface we miss everything else