

Revelation 17 False Religion

Introduction

This chapter gives us more information on the false religion of the Beast. It will be an established, world wide religion. For a time during the Tribulation, religion and government will work together. There will come a time when the antichrist will declare himself God and do away with all other religions. This chapter describes the one world religion and its end.

I. The Discussion With An Angel, v1-6

As this chapter begins, John is talking with one of the Angels involved in the bowl judgments. This Angel is not named, and we do not know which judgment he carried out. He has a discussion with John about the one world religion.

A. False Religion Exposed, v1-2 This religion is described as the "great whore." The Angel is letting John know about the corrupt nature of this institution he is discussing. Its characteristics include fornication, and drunkenness. The idea of sitting on many waters means that it is world wide, and it is sanctioned by governments. The fornication with the kings refers to an unholy alliance between church and state.

B. False Religion's Power, v3 This "woman" is sitting on a "beast." The picture here is that the religion depends on and is supported by the Beast. Before the antichrist declares himself "God," he will use religion for his own purposes. The ten horns are the ten kings or regional rulers that the antichrist will appoint. The source of this religion's power will later be the source of its destruction

C. False Religion's Identification, v4-6 There is only one institution that fits this description. The Roman Catholic Church. It is already a world wide religion. The colors are the colors of the College of Cardinals and the Vatican Counsel. The Catholic Church is recognized by nations now, in fact the US has an ambassador in the Vatican. It is well known that the Catholic Church has been involved with governments for years. Verse 6 is the final detail. The Catholics have been murdering Christians for years. The Inquisitions, used for over 500 years, have killed millions. Those killed are usually guilty of the crime of heresy. What is their great heresy? Stating that salvation is of Christ and not the church. In France, 1572, 70,000 Huguenots were killed in one night, by order of the Pope. Hitler was Catholic and Rome supported his war on the Jews. Many of the insurgencies in Central and South America today are funded and directed by the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church is drunk with the blood of the Saints and Martyrs.

II. The Description of the Mystery, v7-18

The book of Revelation again shows itself to be an open book. Here we see another set of symbols clearly explained.

A The Beast, v8/11 The Beast that this woman rides is not some strange symbol. The riding is figurative, and the beast is the antichrist. These verses tell us that he comes from hell and will end up there again. The Woman depends on the power of the Beast for its ability to work on a world wide scale

B. Rome, 19-10/18 Some may ask "How do we know that this is the Roman Catholic Church? We find Rome described here. Rome is the city on seven hills. The Catholic Church is headquartered in Rome. At the time John wrote, there had been five Caesar's, the fallen kings Dalmatian was on the throne, and the last is the antichrist. In v18, we find that the woman is a "great city" Rome was that city in John's day.

C. The 10 Horns, v12-14, 16-17 These are the ten kings of the antichrist. For a time they will support this religion. Later in the Tribulation, these ten will turn on and destroy the Roman Catholic system and replace it with antichrist worship

D. The Scope of the religion, v15 This verse clearly shows us that this is a worldwide religion. The ground work for this has been laid already. The document called "Evangelicals and Catholics Together," has been signed and endorsed by men like Billy Graham, Chuck Colson, and others. The Vatican is trying to open dialogues with the Muslims and other cults. This will be a world wide "church."

Conclusion

Today's ecumenical movement is the pattern of this Tribulation religion. The religion will tolerate anything except Jesus. We already see that beginning to happen today. This shows us that time is short.