

The Beast a Woman Rides on – Revelation 17:7-18

Stand - Read Revelation 17 – Pray

I am so glad the angel made that so clear!

We are in midst of the seventh bowl judgment and dealing with the specific judgement of the literal city of Babylon that is the source of all false religious systems. We saw last time that it is represented in the “Woman” that is the “Mother”. We showed that this adulterous woman has infected people since the tower of Babel and is recently worshiped as Mother Earth and even causing some churches to feminize God. But what about her and the beast she is riding on? This is one place we don’t have to wonder because the bible explains it to us.

But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

Nothing like getting rebuked by an angel! Remember this book is the book of Revelation not a book of mysteries. It is the truth of Jesus being revealed! It is no longer hidden is now open for us to know. This angel tells us there are two parties, the Woman and the Beast. First the Beast...

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book

of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Now for us and the reader this is just by way of review. We know who this beast is.

We know he was...

Revelation 12:3-4

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

The beast and the dragon are synonymous with each other. He was in the past.

But he is not at John's time as this was still future at his time...

Revelation 13:1

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.

And we know that he comes out of the pit in Revelation 9:11
11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

These are titles for Satan.

But we also are told already why they are wondering after him...

Revelation 13:3-4

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. 4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

For John and for us this is all by way of reminder. He had already revealed this to us. This Beast is Satan incarnate and a counterfeit of Christ. The devil will war with three kings in the first half of the Tribulation Period and will be wounded in way that he will either die or just look like he dies and will seemingly come back to life. It will be a counterfeit resurrection that will cause the whole world to wonder and ultimately worship him and give all their authority to him. (Highlight the Names Written)

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. 13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Unlike the mind that has wisdom in chapter 13 with the number of the name of the beast this wisdom is explained to us very clearly in Daniel.

We did two studies. One was the “Kingdom of the Antichrist” back in chapter 13 and then the “Campaign of the Antichrist” in chapter 16. The two are different. In the kingdom teaching it was showed you that from Daniel we can piece together what the angel is telling us.

The first problem we need to deal with are those who say the seven mountains represent the seven hills of Rome. The first problem is the Greek word used here is “Oros” and it means mountains, not hills. There is another word for that. Also, the context tells us it means something else. Mountains and kings are one in the same. Some will even try to say these kings are referring to Roman Emperors. Again, let’s look at context AND what is revealed in Daniel. That is wisdom!

First, verse 10 is referring us to Daniel 7:1-8...

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head while on his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, telling the main facts.

2 Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings. I watched

till its wings were plucked off; and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

5 "And suddenly another beast, a second, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, and had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. And they said thus to it: 'Arise, devour much flesh!'

6 "After this I looked, and there was another, like a leopard, which had on its back four wings of a bird. The beast also had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

7 "After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Then in Daniel 7:23-25

23 "Thus he said:

'The fourth beast shall be
A fourth kingdom (Rome) on earth,
Which shall be different from all other kingdoms,
And shall devour the whole earth,

Trample it and break it in pieces.

24 The ten horns are ten kings

Who shall arise from this kingdom.

And another shall rise after them;

He shall be different from the first ones,

And shall subdue three kings.

25 He shall speak pompous words against the Most High,

Shall persecute the saints of the Most High,

And shall intend to change times and law.

Then the saints shall be given into his hand

For a time and times and half a time.

From Daniel two and other places we learn the identity of these four kingdoms as Babylon, Medo/Persian, Greece, and Rome

So, using wisdom we can determine that this the order...

1. Egypt
2. Assyria
3. Babylon
4. Medo/Persian
5. Greece
6. Rome (The one is)
7. Revived Rome (Ten Toes) Future

Notice when he comes in verse 11 That he is of the eighth. We know that the ten kings are future and the last kingdom before Jesus returns for in Daniel 2...

Daniel 2:36-45

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. 39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. **The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.**”

See how a little bit of biblical wisdom will instruct us on the kingdom that the Beast will rise out of?

But just like Daniel tells us that this alignment will be short lived!

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

Exodus 15:11

“Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods?
Who is like You, glorious in holiness,
Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

It is hard to believe that they will make war with God and think they can win. Just a reminder this is the fulfillment of Psalm 2...

Why do the nations rage,

And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces

And cast away Their cords from us.”

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;

The Lord shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,

And distress them in His deep displeasure

When it talks about them reigning for one hour it is talking about a specific period in history, not a literal hour of time.

John 2:4

4 Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

John 12:27

27 “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

God will use this evil thought in the heart of man to bring about His purpose...

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

At the beginning of the Tribulation the Antichrist will use the system of the Woman to bring the world in unity behind him. It

will be a mix of religion and politics like the Roman empire was at the time of this book. It will be through intrigue and deception that he will get the all the daughter religions to unite. Remember his characteristics in Daniel 8:23-25

23 “And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who **understands sinister schemes**.

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power;
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people.

25 “**Through his cunning**
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;
And he shall exalt himself in his heart.
He shall destroy many in their prosperity.
He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without human means.

At the midpoint of the Tribulation Period, he will seemingly come back to life after his battle and defeat of three of the ten kings and will show up at the temple in Jerusalem and declare himself to be God thereby dismantling the Woman’s system and God using him to judge her. His reign will be short lived though, only 3 and half years.

But notice that we do learn the identity of the woman...

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

It is quite clear who this woman is as she is Babylon. We are told in many other places...

Revelation 14:8

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that **great city**, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Revelation 6:19

...And **great Babylon** was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Revelation 18:21

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the **great city Babylon** shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.

It is pretty clear in the context this is not Rome. It is the city reigns OVER the kings of the earth not they are reigning in. We will see her destruction next time but first let’s go back to verse 14

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those **who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.**

As we will see shortly in chapter 19 we will be coming back and witnessing the judgment of these kings. We will be WITH HIM! But notice how we are described.

Wait a minute! I thought we had to choose Him? Did He choose us or did we choose Him? Yes. It is both. The faithful are those that chose, and God is the one who chooses. We can't understand it, but it doesn't mean it's not true. How do you know you are Chosen? Choose Him.

1 Peter 2:4 **Coming to Him** as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but **chosen by God** and precious, 5 **you also**, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

He had already told us in 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

If He is calling you today, why are you fighting Him? How long will He put up with it? Surrender and chose Him while there is still time.

Stand - Pray