

Morning Sermon 2/6/2022 / “Introducing the Great Harlot” Revelation 17

In order to understand the harlot, we need to see her as opposite of “the bride, the Lamb’s wife.”

Revelation 21:9. *If the Bride is the invisible church, all true Christians, Old and New Testament, this harlot is everyone else. They are the non-believers, who trust Man’s / Woman’s Government more than God, they are the people who take the mark of the beast, as they belong to him.*

I. The harlot described –

1. As one who will be judged –

Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot ... Revelation 17:1 A (NKJV)

2. As international / world-wide -

the great harlot who sits on many waters, ... Revelation 17:1 B (NKJV)

3. In relation to ungodly kings –

²with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, ... Revelation 17:2 A (NKJV)

A. They used her for their own gratification, short-term, non-committed pleasure.

4. In relation to the inhabitants of the earth -

and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.” Revelation 17:2 B (NKJV)

The inhabitants of the earth, are ultimately two groups of people:

A. Believers / Christians –

Christians are told –

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

To the extent we might let ourselves be enamored with the things of this temporary world, to that extent we are drunk, distracted from the things of Christ, from such distractions we need to REPENT!

B. Non-believers see nothing outside of this world, all their fulfillment / their life is in it, they are drunk and deceived, they are under the rule of sin and Satan, controlled by their lusts –

True believers are taken out of this world, non-believers are still in it –

²in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:2–3 (NKJV)

The children of wrath / sons of disobedience are as a BODY, as a group, related to Satan and the Beast in a way roughly corresponding to the way the church relates to God and Christ ... yet there are dramatic differences!

5. In relation to the church and to Christ, she is the mother of harlots, she gives birth to everything false and anti-Christian, false religion, ungodly philosophy, worldly sexual practices, rewriting of God’s laws –

⁴The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH ⁶I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. Revelation 17:4–6 (NKJV)

II. *The beast(s) described –*

⁷ 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. 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. Revelation 17:7–8 (NKJV)

1. *Satan is described this way –*

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. Revelation 12:3 (NKJV)

2. *Ungodly world empires are described this way in Daniel 7: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Roman, and Roman derived governments, seeking and taking power like beasts -*

¹⁷ ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings *which* arise out of the earth. Daniel 7:17 (NKJV)

3. *Revelation 13 describes this beast in its final most powerful form –*

¹³ 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. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of* a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. Revelation 13:1–2 (NKJV)

In Daniel 7, these kingdoms are portrayed as successive, one taking power from another. Revelation 13 describes these as teaming up together, beasts unify as one great end time beast, here the beast is described in terms - ⁸ **The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition, Revelation 17:8 describing the full history (or at least most of it) and the various states of the beast ...**

4. *The ungodly marvel at the beast - 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... Revelation 17:8 B*

5. *These make war with the lamb, and ultimately LOSE –*

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.” Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

- *A warfare through the ages -*

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.” Revelation 17:9–13 (NKJV)

Two ways the beast / these kings, lose to the Lamb

- *Throughout history as the church though humble and persecuted continues to grow*
- *In the end, when the Lamb (Jesus Christ) finally defeats these permanently ---*

III. *The beast (kings) & the harlot as a couple -*

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. ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” Revelation 17:15–18 (NKJV)

Hated is not the hatred of an enemy, but that of men and a prostitute, they use her, abuse her, they do not take care of her as Christ does the church. Ungodly government pleases men for votes and power, but they use and abuse those under them ... it is described here as the way of an ungodly world!