

Revelation 17
The Woman Who Rides the Beast

Adulteries (1-2)

Idolatry – arousing God’s anger (Exodus 20:4-5) **He is a jealous God**

Intoxicated – they are addicted and influence our judgment (Ephesians 5:17-18)

Unless we are clear about who God is our thoughts are skewed

Adornments (3-4) **The enemy may give you what you think you want - beware**

Riding a Beast – covered with blasphemous names (Revelation 13:5)

Regally dressed – given a prominent place in the enemy’s kingdom

Abomination (5-6a) **When we give ourselves over to the flesh, we are an abomination**

Mystery (II Thessalonians 2:7/II Corinthians 11:13-15/Psalm 84:10/Colossians 1:13)

Mother of prostitutes (Revelation 18:3) **Religion is a powerful tool used to seduce**

Mother of abominations – idolatry leads to licentious behavior (Jude 4)

No matter how pious they appear – their path leads to corrupt behavior

Astonished (6b-7) **Are we not astonished at how quickly a culture can change?**

Perplexed by her seduction and corruption (II Thessalonians 2:3 / Revelation 3:17)

Propheied (Luke 18:8) **Will Jesus find faith on the earth when He returns?**

Abyss (8)

Once was – the return of the Beast (Revelation 13:3) **both the man & his kingdom**

Out of the Abyss – a reminder of his depravity and his destiny **empowered by Satan**

Address (9-11)

Seven hills – perhaps a reference to Rome

Seven kings – Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Antichrist

In keeping with Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel 2:41-44

Authority (12-14) **given authority from the beast whose authority comes from Satan**

Provided a kingdom **from which to influence the whole earth**

Purpose – to serve the Beast (Ephesians 2:1-2) **everybody serves someone**

Power – for a limited time **as needed by the beast, as directed by God**

According to God’s plan (16-18) (Proverbs 21:30) **no one and nothing can thwart His plan**

Destroyed by the Beast – who was using the False Prophet **be careful who you trust**

Doing God’s will – God uses the Beast and his kings to fulfill His Word

We do not need to fear! “If you look at the world, you’ll be distressed, if you look within, you’ll be depressed, if you look at God you’ll be at rest” (Corrie Ten Boom)

Discussion questions for Revelation 17

What is idolatry? Why are we drawn to it? Why does God despise it? (Isaiah 44:6, 8-9, 18-19 / Psalm 115:1-8 / Exodus 20:1-5 / Deuteronomy 4:15-24, 39) ***Idolatry can be blatant, creating an image that we pretend is our god or it can be subtle, allowing ideas or practices to be prioritized ahead of our relationship to God. God is our Creator and is the only being that is worthy of worship. He desires a relationship with us where He is given His proper place. We are beings who are created to worship, but we are also selfish and prideful, not wanting to answer to a superior being. So we decide what is most important in our lives.***

What aspects of the mystery of iniquity have already found their way into the church? (II Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4) ***The focus is moving away from God and His word to our own ideas and desires. Things that the Bible clearly states are evil are now being embraced within the church. We are no longer transforming our culture, but our culture is permeating the church.***

Who is caught off-guard by the day of the Lord? (I Thessalonians 5:1-9) ***Those who walk in darkness. (I John 1:5-7) Those who believe the Bible to be an archaic book that has no relevance to our modern-day world. Those who think our government (globally speaking) is moving us to a better world. (build back better)***

How is God's Sovereignty (His omniscience and omnipotence) both a comfort and a concern? (Psalm 139:1-10 / Hebrews 4:12-13 / II Corinthians 5:10 / Hebrews 13:5) ***He sees and knows everything about me including my thoughts, and I will have to give an account before Him for the things I have said and done. Apart from the cross, this is of grave concern, I would not want to receive what I deserve. I am so grateful that my Savior who knows everything about me has forgiven me and He loves me.***

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