

Adulteries (1-2)

Idolatry – arousing God’s anger (Exodus 20:4-5)

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

Adornments (3-4)

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

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

Abomination (5-6a)

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

Mother of prostitutes (Revelation 18:3)

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

Astonished (6b-7)

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

Propheesied (Luke 18:8)

Abyss (8)

Once was – the return of the Beast (Revelation 13:3)

Out of the Abyss – a reminder of his depravity and his destiny

Address (9-11)

Seven hills – perhaps a reference to Rome

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

Authority (12-14)

Provided a kingdom

Purpose – to serve the Beast (Ephesians 2:1-2)

Power – for a limited time

According to God’s plan (16-18) (Proverbs 21:30)

Destroyed by the Beast – who was using the False Prophet

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

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)

What aspects of the mystery of iniquity have already found their way into the church? (II Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4)

Who is caught off-guard by the day of the Lord? (I Thessalonians 5:1-9)

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)