

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
The Book of Revelation
Lesson 24
Chapter 17

- As we concluded our study of chapter 16, we watched as the 7th angel poured out the 7th bowl of judgment upon the earth
- The events of chapter 17 actually precede the events of the 7 bowl judgments
- I believe that these events take place mid-way through the Great Tribulation, after the abomination of desolation is committed by the Antichrist
- We are introduced to a new character, and reacquainted with a familiar character (but given more information on this familiar character than we had before)
- Who are these 2 characters?
- The new character is mentioned in v. 1, “the great _____”
- The familiar character is mentioned in v. 3, “the scarlet _____”

1) The Beast

- a) We are first introduced to the beast in chapter 13:1, the _____ 13:11 introduces us to a 2nd beast, “the beast of the earth” who is the false prophet 13:12 tells us the 2nd beast causes man to worship the 1st beast (Antichrist)
- b) Therefore, the “beast” represents 3 important players in the last days
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
- c) Let’s see how the “beast” is described in chapter 17
- d) v. 3 “full of names of _____”
- e) v. 3, “having _____ heads and _____ horns”:
 - 1) “heads”: In chapter 13, the heads are symbolic of governments and kingdoms, but in chapter 17 the, “seven heads are seven _____”
 - 2) “horns”: symbolic of individual _____
- f) We also find new information/symbolism in 17:7-16
- g) v. 8, “the beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition.”
- h) v. 8 tells us that the Antichrist will come out of a kingdom/government that was once historically great, but falls out of world domination, but then rises again to become a super power
 - 1) Not only will this kingdom/government rise again, but notice where it will rise from, “the bottomless pit.”
 - 2) Remember, the “bottomless pit” is a reference to _____.
- i) v. 9 gives us more information, but warns us that spiritual wisdom is required to understand these truths
 - 1) “The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits”
 - 2) Therefore, the center of the beast’s, and the woman’s, influence will geographically be _____ rather than Babylon
- j) v. 10 tells us more . . .

- 1) "There are also seven _____. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time"
 - k) v. 11 tends to confuse some, but it really clarifies . . .
 - 1) Walvoord helps us understand this verse, "What is revived is imperial government, not an imperial ruler. That which seemingly went out of existence in history never to be revived is thus miraculously resuscitated at the end of the age."
 - l) v. 12 gives us some idea of "how" the Roman empire will again rise to world domination
 - 1) John is told that the beast will be comprised of 10 kings/nations, who sometime in the future will rise to power by coming together as a one world government lead by the Antichrist
 - 2) But their world-wide rule will be very brief, the angel tells John it will last only, "one _____"
 - m) v. 13 tells us of the unity of these 10 kings, and this is how the one world government of the last days is able to rise to power
 - n) v 14, it is the beast, along with the 10 earthly kings, that will "make war with the Lamb"
- 2) The Harlot**
- a) v. 1, an angel tells John to, "Come, I (the angel) will show you the judgement of the great harlot who sits on many waters."
 - 1) One of the ways that God will pour our judgment on the beast is found in v. 16
 - 2) "And the ten _____ you saw on the beast will hate the harlot, make her desolate, and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire."
 - 3) Why would these 10 kings do such a thing? The answer is in v. 17
 - 4) As the chapter closes, we are finally told of the identity of the "harlot" in v. 18
 - 5) "And the woman whom you saw is that great _____ which reigns over the kings of the earth."
 - b) We see in v. 5 that the woman is called, "_____ The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Of The Abominations Of The Earth."
 - 1) The woman is not the beast, but "sits on the beast" that is she controls the beast
 - 2) The woman has the same relationship to the beast as the False Prophet has with the Antichrist
 - 3) The church will be just as corrupt, evil, and blasphemous as the government!
 - 4) There will be no separation of church and state!
 - c) v. 5 tell us of the inscription upon the woman's head (READ)
 - 1) The name Babylon is symbolic. We believe Rome is the city/empire referred to politically, but Babylon is a better picture of the apostate church spiritually
 - 2) The inscription begins with the word, "_____"
 - 3) This is fitting, for so many of the "mystery" religions of the world have as their origin the ancient religions of Babylon
 - d) v. 6 tells us that John saw the woman, "drunk with the _____ of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."