## 1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

#### LESSON 51

## 2 FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC

### 3 OPENING REMARKS

- •We just started chapter 17 of the Book of Revelation last week
- This will be a more in-depth study of Satan and of his system of government which is Antichrist's empire on this earth
- We will also look more in-depth at the religious side of Satan's government and its history

## 4 BABYLON

Revelation 17:1-3

1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters; 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

## 5 BABYLON cont.

Revelation 17:4-5

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 and upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

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• Here we see Satan's realm depicted by the Word of God

•Our teacher is cautious about bringing into this study discussions regarding other religions and Christian denominations

### 6 BABYLON cont.

- With that said it is imperative that we be taught the truth from the Word of God
- •As we study into prophecy and the Word spells it out, it must be taught as written
- •In verse 1 where John is told to "come hither", he is being called up to heaven which is symbolically depicting the Rapture or catching away of the bride
- The start of all three parallel rooms on our chart are all the same: the Rapture
- The first room was heaven's viewpoint, the second or middle room is earth's viewpoint and now we are in the third room which is the viewpoint from Satan's kingdom

## 7 THE SCARLET-CLAD WOMAN

- •This scarlet clad woman is in every way the opposite of the sun-clad woman of the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter
- What we just read, Revelation 17:1-5, describes a church
- •The woman symbolically represents Satan's church
- This church is not the mere worship of Satan but is Satan's own ecclesiastical system which is a disobedient and full of sin realm
- What we see in chapter 12 verses 1 and 2 is the church of obedient people to the Word of God being caught up in the Rapture
- •A church is always depicted as a woman throughout the Bible

#### 8 THE SUN-CLAD WOMAN

Revelation 12:1-3

1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

2 and she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

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•The 7 and 10 that we have seen before shows who is ruling the empires of this world; we will see them again

### 9 THE SCARLET-CLAD WOMAN

- •These verses in chapter 12 show the power and glory of a Holy Ghost-filled people within the church of God
- The scarlet-clad woman here in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter is the total opposite of the sun-clad woman in the 12th chapter
- Here is the struggle for supremacy of two great spiritual systems:
  - 1. On one side is the Almighty God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) and the Church
  - 2. On the other side is Satan, the devil (Dragon, Antichrist, False Prophet) and the Anti-church

## 10 TITLES & NAMES

- God is the Almighty, THE supreme force; you cannot compare the power of Satan with God's power
- However when comparing Satan's power to us, he is very powerful indeed
- •There are many names and titles throughout the Scriptures for God:
  - •Jehovah, YHWH, YAHWEH- God Creator
  - Jesus God Savior
  - •I AM I Am All Things
  - •Alpha & Omega The Beginning and the End
  - Emmanuel God With Us
  - Elohim God The Father
  - Jehovah Tsidkenu The Lord Who Is Our Righteousness
  - •El Shaddai God Almighty

# 11 TITLES & NAMES cont.

- God is a spirit and no man has ever seen God (John 1:18 and Exodus 33:20)
- Satan has his names and titles too but being the lesser power he does not have near the number that God has:
  - Lucifer the high arch angel
  - The Prince of this world
  - The Old Serpent
  - •The Dragon
  - •The Devil
  - •The False Prophet
  - Beelzebub
  - Antichrist

### 12 THE SCARLET-COLORED BEAST

- The scarlet-clad woman rides on a scarlet-colored beast having 7 heads and 10 horns
- This fits either description of the dragon or Antichrist as these are one and the same power
- The man Antichrist has the satanic power within him Revelation 12:3
- 3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

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- This clearly shows us that the power that this realm, empire, kingdom, church has is the power of Satan
- •We know "beast" stands for power

# 13 THE SCARLET-COLORED BEAST cont.

Revelation 17:3

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

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#### Revelation 13:1

1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

#### 14 THE SCARLET-COLORD BEAST cont.

- •This Beast is a composite symbol of:
  - 1. All the world empires of all time the 7 heads
  - 2. The world empire of the last days the 10 horns
  - 3. The real head of all human governments the prince of this world, the devil
  - 4. The human head of the last world empire Antichrist, the carnal manifestation of Satan
- •We all have a choice: to serve God or to serve Satan
- •We who have received the Holy Ghost have become debtors to all men that we might lead them to more of God (Romans 8:12)
- Historically, the woman dates from the time of the mighty hunter (rebel) Nimrod

## 15 THE WOMAN

- Nimrod built a city in defiance of God and called it Babel
- •He built the city and the tower in it after the Flood
- These events are recorded in Genesis chapters 10 and 11 and are important in our understanding of the beginnings of world empires and idolatrous worship
- Babel was the beginning of the first world empire (beast) and it was the beginning of idolatrous worship (the mother of all harlots)
- The Catholic church makes the claim that their church was founded by Peter the Apostle and that Peter was the first Pope over the Catholic church: this claim is absolutely and totally false!

# 16 THE WOMAN cont.

- •The Catholic church was the first church and it starts all the way back to Nimrod and "the mother of harlots"
- Peter never had any of the trappings of the Catholic church

- •We do find these trappings on this woman who is in power with the Beast
- The woman seen here is known as "Babylon the Great" and she is Satan's own ecclesiastical system
- •She is the mother of the "abominations of the earth"
- All idolatrous and false religious systems are her harlot daughters

#### 17 THE WOMAN cont.

- In the days of the early church the seat of control of the devil's system had shifted from Babylon to Pergamos "where Satan's seat is" (Revelation 2:13)
- From Pergamos it shifted to Rome and Rome became "that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (Revelation 17:18)
- •The interpretation of "sitteth upon many waters" is given in verse 15 where the waters are stated to be "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues"
- Her influence, from Rome, reaches around the world and she exercises authority over many widely scattered people

### 18 THE WOMAN cont.

- •To commit spiritual fornication is to worship idols: to turn from the truth to the false
- An example of this is the parable of the Sower where the "seed" is heard and accepted but the love for the truth is not there so they go their own way
- Symbolically spiritual fornication is a union, league, or working agreement with an idolatrous or false religious system
- •Another way to look at this is the prostituting or exchanging of spiritual values (truths) for material gain, going your own way, going other people's way, etc.

## 19 THE WOMAN cont.

- •In the Word of God, God does not tell you to give up anything
- •God tells us He will make an exchange: trade your old natural and its works for the wonderful things you will get back from Him, the old

tattered garment for a robe of pure white

- This spiritual fornication here is much more than just ignorance or "falling down"
- •When we do stumble or fall down we have an advocate in Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1-3)
- •God is the only true judge who knows what is on the inside of us

### 20 THE WOMAN cont.

- •God is the judge and a judge is one that can sentence
- •The fornication and adultery with this harlot by the kings (governments) of the earth means they have traded the spiritual truth for a little gain: power, money, their own imaginations, their own desires, etc.
- This conscious and willful exchange of the spiritual truth is unpardonable and inexcusable
- God will help each one of us when our missteps are out of ignorance, out of stumbling, out of growing, out of groping in darkness
- Governments of whatever nature are called "kings" in the Bible

## 21 THE WOMAN cont.

- •This so-called church we are studying in chapter 17 exercises authority over kings and receives certain advantages in return for material gain
- •The word "mystery" here in verse 5 means "what is known only to the initiated"
- The true church, those obedient to the Word of God, has its secrets which are very carefully guarded
- It isn't the name of a group or organization that God recognizes; it's the people
- None of us, not one, knew the fullness of the truth of God and what He would do for us before we came to Him and were filled with the Holy Ghost

# 22 THE WOMAN cont.

•We cannot come to God just for what we will get out of it; God

forbids it

- God wants us because we want Him and we are willing to do it His way, not our way
- The unredeemed and unregenerated cannot know the things of the Spirit because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- •Once you have made the initial steps to obey the Gospel and the Spirit of God comes upon you, you will then be able to see and the more you grow the more you see and the more you want to see
- The Antichrist's church, Babylon, will also have its mysteries

### 23 THE WOMAN cont.

- The devil's mysteries are "lying wonders"
- God has made known the secrets of Satan as He will not allow the enemy to keep anything hidden from God's people
- •God can keep many things hidden from Satan and He keeps many things hidden from the sinner (until the sinner repents) Revelation 17:7
- 7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.
- These are not mysteries if you seek God as He opens it to you

#### 24 THE APOSTACY OF ROME

- The following is a short summary from the *Pulpit Commentary* on these first 5 verses of chapter 17:
- At the same time, we cannot fail to see that there is one special form of evil which more than anything else in the world is pointed out in the symbolism of this chapter, and that is the *apostacy of the Church of Rome*
- Biblically, *apostasy* means to abandon or fall away from one's faith in God. It involves a "standing away from" beliefs, leading to a <u>rejection</u> of truth, which can be driven by false teachers, persecution, or worldly temptations. This <u>defection</u> isn't just an intellectual disagreement but can include a moral and spiritual breakdown. *Apostacy* includes the political aspects regarding its effects on world

history

## 25 THE APOSTACY OF ROME cont.

- •The first world empire was the Babylonian Empire
- The last world empire before the final one of Antichrist's was the Roman Empire which is depicted by the 10 toes of iron mingled with clay in Daniel's vision
- The ten horns in our studies represent those countries from the area of the old Roman Empire from which will come Antichrist's empire
- This is a mixture of the religious and the political
- Rome does not separate church and state as we do in the USA, it has always been a strong political player

## 26 THE APOSTACY OF ROME cont.

- Politics and religion are becoming more and more intermingled especially in America today
- •These churches want the power and clout of the political
- Biblical prophecy has foretold this mingling of religion and politics and the great apostacy of Rome and the world in general
- Here are some Scriptures that give us some of the characteristics of apostacy:
  - 1.1 Timothy 4:1-3
  - 2.2 Timothy 4:3-5
  - 3.2 Timothy 2:25-26

# 27 THE APOSTACY OF ROME cont.

- The Church of Rome is not the sole enemy; as we find in the lamentation over Babylon's fall much that leads us to think of not only of a huge ecclesiastical power Babylon but also a huge commercial loss
- •We will see Babylon's fall in detail as we continue our study
- Beyond any doubt, papal Rome is one form of this mystic Babylon
- •We are past the beginnings of these end times and getting close to the threshold of that door of the Rapture
- •The fulfillment of prophesy is exciting, hopeful, peaceful and

comforting

•We need to keep growing in God and staying full of the Holy Ghost – it is our choice