

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 52

2 **OPENING REMARKS**

- We are chapter 17 of the Book of Revelation
- The Book of Revelation is a book that must be studied; it is not one you can just read to understand
- Recognizing this is very important when seeking the understanding of the prophecies of this book
- It is the only book in the Bible that God says you must study (Revelation 1:3)
- This book was not to be understood until the generation it was written for (Daniel 12:4)
- It has only been in our generation that the full understanding has come to light
- This how God intended it and we are seeing the signs daily that indeed the end times are upon us

3 **OVERVIEW OF END-TIMES PROPHECY**

- Studying the Book of Daniel should precede the studying of the Book of Revelation as it deals with the same time periods in prophecy
- Daniel is part of biblical end-time prophecies along with The Book of Revelation and the Olivet Discourse which is found in Matthew chapters 24 and 25
- The Book of Revelation is for the bride, God's church, His people, and so mainly deals with the Gentiles and the Gentiles time
- Prophecies in the Bible were written long before they took place and they came to pass exactly as the Word of God said they would
- These prophecies contain a political element as well as a spiritual element

4 **END TIMES AWAKENING**

- God does raise up and God does set down, not only in the spiritual but He does this in the natural also
- God wrote the histories of the world empires and He built the prophecies around this so that we can have a time reference and we can know the season
- We can know the time when we can be looking for His coming back in the clouds and calling His people up to meet Him in the air
- The portion we are studying in Revelation talks quite a bit about the last empire, the center of which is the Babylonian city, and the Babylonian religion
- Revelation chapter 17 verses 1 through 5 deals with Antichrist and his religion

5 **TIME ELEMENT OF CHAPTERS 17 & 18**

- The time period in Revelation chapters 17 and 18 (Satan's kingdom) are of the same periods we have been studying in the heaven's point of view (chapters 4-11) and the earth's point of view (chapters 12-16)
- All three of these parallel views start with the Rapture of the bride and conclude with the return of Jesus Christ when He sets foot upon the earth at the battle of Armageddon
- These two chapters are mainly dealing with Antichrist, the man who becomes Satan incarnate
- Chapters 17 and 18 are also dealing with the tares and the most false world religion that is ruled by Satan

6 **STUDY & DEDICATION**

- This false religion, ruled by Satan, began when paganism and Christianity became united at the Council of Nicaea in 324 AD
- We need the background knowledge and understanding we gained through our Bible studies of prophecy of the last few years to really make these pictures clear and realized
- It takes study and dedication to get the most out these critical and faith-building teachings
- We need to know this information in Revelation and in fact

Revelation 1:3 tells us "Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy..."

7 **AN UNDISPUTED TRUTH**

- We need to stay focused on the teaching tonight as it be upsetting to some
- What will be brought out is an undisputable biblical truth and it cannot be omitted, diverted, ignored or otherwise dismissed
- We will be looking at a religious denomination that is tied-in with Antichrist
- Our teacher always dreads teaching this portion of Scripture because her preference is to teach the love of God, the mercy of God, the power, joy, and goodness of God
- Never-the-less it is a part of the Holy Scriptures and is what the Word of God teaches

8 **THE ONENESS OF GOD**

- Romans 11:22 "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God...."
- If you don't bring out the Scriptures about the false religions, tares, etc. as Paul did on Mars Hill, the world cannot separate what "trinity" means and what one God means (Acts 17:22-31)
- The history books and encyclopedias bring out that it wasn't until about 324 AD that the word "trinity" was ever used
- There are many Scriptures regarding the "oneness of God" e.g. Isaiah 44:8 "Is there a God besides me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."

9 **THE ONENESS OF GOD cont.**

- God has many manifestations but still He is One spirit
- God is a spirit, no man has ever seen God, and God's spirit fills everything; His spirit is everywhere at all times and is all knowing
- The manifestation of His spirit, the Holy Spirit, overshadowed Mary and she conceived and the Word was made flesh (1st chapter of the Gospel of John)

- It is the Holy Spirit, also known as the Holy Ghost, that deals with mankind
- There is no holy trinity, there is just one God
- The Catholic church coined the term "trinity" during the blending of Christianity and paganism in 324 AD

10 **THE PAGAN INTRUSION**

- The early primitive church only baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and by full immersion
- It was in 324 AD that Constantine (emperor and pagan high priest) and the Christians, not God's Christians, merged and became one religion
- Constantine was the first pope of this religion, which became Roman Catholicism, while still retaining his position as a pagan high priest
- The Christmas tree, the Easter bunny, Easter eggs, hot-cross buns, Santa Claus (St. Nicholas), etc. all came from the pagan religion
- By 324 AD the church had become watered down (mostly by compromise) just as prophesied by the prophet Joel (Joel chapter 1)

11 **THE PAGAN INTRUSION cont.**

- The pagan holidays were merged with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Instead of the worship of Jesus Christ, in comes the pagan rituals and worship
- As for celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus, they brought in St. Nicholas and Santa Claus and the Christmas tree which the Bible specifically says not to do

Jeremiah 10:1

1 Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

12 **THE PAGAN INTRUSION cont.**

Jeremiah 10:2-5

2 thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not

dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

13 **SEEKING THE TRUTH**

- The tree is not to be included in the celebration of Jesus' birth as it has nothing to do with Him or that great event at all; it brings paganism into it
- A nativity scene is much more in line with what the season is all about
- Natural words cannot express how we feel about God
- It is God only who knows those who really seek the truth and knows the intents of the heart
- It is not enough to just have enough of the Holy Ghost for your self; you need to have some left over for others
- Power is used and must be replenished; private time with God, prayer and worship will refill the power of the Holy Ghost

14 **SPIRITUAL POWER**

- The Word of God and the Spirit of God combined is how God intended it to be; a spiritual power that can witness, convince, entreat, and reach those souls who have a hunger and are seeking God
- We are going to read Revelation chapter 17 verses 1-5 again as we are still studying these verses

15 **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.

16  **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.

- We have studied these verses the last several weeks but there are still a few more important insights that need to be brought out

17  **BABYLON cont.**

- The following are points of history proving the facts of what this prophecy is revealing in chapters 17 and 18. This should be studied further for yourself
- These are symbols used in the view of Satan's realm
 1. The woman was seated on the beast as if supported by it (v. 3)
 - a. Rome has relied on worldly power to put her decrees into execution by brute force; both in using temporal powers, and in herself claiming temporal power as well as spiritual
 - b. Temporal powers are worldly powers such as secular or civil authority; the power of a state or government, the political power

18  **BABYLON cont.**

2. She yet rides the beast of power as if to govern it (v. 3)

- a. We know but too well how Rome has aimed at, and does still aim at, controlling the power on which she relies; claiming even to regulate allegiance to earthly princes
- 3. She is seated on many waters (v. 1)
 - a. In every quarter of the world her emissaries are sent and in many a land where the pure gospel of Jesus has been preached, she sends her emissaries to undo the holy works by sowing tares among the wheat
 - b. Seek out a copy of Foxe's Book of Martyrs; the original not stories from it

19  **BABYLON cont.**

- 4. She rules over the kings of the earth (v. 18)
 - a. Kings are but 'sons of the Church', to do the bidding of their holy (?) mother Church; otherwise she may absolve subjects from allegiance to their sovereign
- 5. She holds out a golden cup full of abominations (v. 4)
 - a. Papal Rome makes large offers of indulgences and absolutions, and positively lures men into sin. Only God can absolve sin which He does through the blood of Jesus Christ

20  **BABYLON cont.**

- 6. The merchants grow rich by her (ch.18:3)
 - a. Many are enriched by the ungodly traffic to which she consents in making the house of prayer a den thieves; for her indulgences and absolutions will cover any kind and degree of sin, whether in getting of wealth or otherwise
- 7. She is adorned in pompous array (ch. 17:4)
 - a. She's arrayed in gold, purple, scarlet, and precious stones.
Anyone who has watched the working of papal Rome will need no words to convince him of her gorgeous display and dazzling sheen. There is no other church in the world that is like this.

21  **BABYLON cont.**

- 8. She is drunk with the blood of the holy ones of God (ch.17:6)

- a. What tales does history unfold! 150,000 persons perished under the Inquisition in 30 years; and from the beginning of the Order of Jesuits in 1540, it is supposed that 900,000 persons perished under papal cruelty. They hate anyone teaching from the Bible!
- 9. The beast she rides is full of the names of blasphemy (ch. 17:3)
 - a. The proclamation of infallibility is the one fulfillment of this that surpasses all the others
 - b. Infallibility is being absolutely correct in all matters and having immunity from being wrong even in the smallest matter

22  **BABYLON cont.**

- 10. The inhabitants of the earth are led by her into sin (ch. 18:3)
 - a. The papal church notoriously leads people into the sin of idolatry. The worship of Rome is largely the adoration of a great goddess. Papists pronounce accursed those who do not honor, worship, and adore the adorable images. World religion is coming back!
- 11. Yet within this great Babylon there will be to the last some saints of God who God will call on to come out of her (ch. 18:4)
 - a. Even so, fearfully apostate and adulterous as is papal Rome, there are in her pale many holy ones who are profoundly ignorant of the abominations; she is doomed to fall terribly, suddenly, completely, and forever

23  **BABYLON cont.**

- It isn't the people who are the problem; it is the church hierarchy and those who establish and impose doctrine
- The doctrine of the Romish church was conceived by Satan long ago and is part of his deception of the world
- There are many that will come out of this church in the final days
- We are urged to follow up on each of these lines on which history will be found to confirm the prophecy shown here in symbolic form
- The identification shown here is such that not one point is lacking

24  **END GRAPHIC**