

1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 55

2 FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC

3 OPENING REMARKS

- Chapters 17 and 18 cover in great detail the rise and exploits of Antichrist and what happens with his church and his kingdom
- The verses of Scripture we will be studying we started to look at last week, chapter 17:15-18
- The main subject of chapter 17 is the fall of Babylon
- John is seeing these things take place in the future

4 THE FALL OF BABYLON

Revelation 17:15-18

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

5 THE FALL OF BABYLON cont.

- This messenger is announcing the subject of this chapter 17 and into chapter 18 – the fall of Babylon
- The Old Testament prophets likewise were interested in the fall of Babylon, it is the same city in each case
- Babylon is the city set upon 7 hills – Rome, Italy
- Babylon will have to rise to heights from which it falls
- The Laodicean Church reflects such a condition: the growth and

accumulation of so much wealth

- Our current time is partially in the Philadelphia church age and overlapping into the Laodicean church age
- Philadelphia meaning "brotherly love" and Laodicea meaning "rule by the people"

6 **BROTHERLY LOVE**

- The Philadelphia Church is God's church, it is the one that God deals with so strongly
- This church age began in earnest in the year 1900 with the pouring out of the Holy Ghost known in the Scripture as the "latter rain" (Joel 2:23)
- It is in this church age that God would lead a people that could come to understand that the love for Him and the love for each other, brotherly love, was what He was desiring and commanding that we have
- It is brotherly love, loving each other as He loves us, that is a Godly love
- It is impossible for anyone to have this type of love without the love of the Holy Ghost dwelling inside us

7 **THE FALL OF BABYLON**

- As you take steps to seek the Holy Ghost, the love and power of the Holy Ghost comes upon you as you are reaching for Him
- It is taking these steps and earnestly seeking it that brings you closer and closer to this point but it takes the actual infilling of the Holy Ghost and walking in the Spirit to be in the Philadelphia church yourself
- The Laodicean church age reflects the perfect condition for the fall of Babylon
- It is rich and increased with goods
- Satan's most ambitious counterfeit seems to be a false millennium, a false peace, for by it he will deceive the whole world

8 **THE FALSE PEACE**

- Satan is the one who brought in greed, envy, and the desire to emulate and become as God
- Satan is the father of deceit and counterfeit all the way from the Garden until now
- The imitation never is the same as the original and never holds up to the original
- Satan's millennium, time of peace, will be very short
- Daniel says "...by peace he shall destroy many...." (Daniel 8:25)
- "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them...." (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

9 **THE FALSE PEACE cont.**

- The sudden destruction is after the Rapture; the false peace and safety come before the Rapture
- That is why the first thing God does after the Rapture is to take peace from the earth
- Satan's false millennium will end in disaster
- Currently we are building not to peace but to more chaos, more hunger and famine, more perplexities, more wars
- "...when the transgressors are come to the full..." (Daniel 8:23)
- There is going to be no peace for us in our lifetimes

10 **THE WATERS**

- We now have the messenger's explanation of the symbols in these verses
- The scarlet woman was said to sit upon many waters and also to be carried by the beast (beast=political power)
- The waters refer to a vast multitude beyond the limits of the 10 kingdoms
- The woman, who is Jezebel the church of Antichrist, exerts her evil influence of all the earth
- This is a universal church even though this church has its seat of power in Rome
- We are seeing this church's influence become greater and greater

every day

11 **THE TEN HORNS BURN HER WITH FIRE**

- The 10 horns represent the political side of those countries of Antichrist's kingdom; the countries of the Old Roman Empire
- There has always been contention between the Roman Church and the kingdoms of the world
- As the power of the Roman Church increases and as the power of the dictators under Antichrist increases, the friction between them will become more pronounced, much like "Who's the boss?"
- Although the church needs the beast, the political power, and to a large extent the beast will profit by the commercial activities of the church, they will hate each other

12 **THE GREAT CITY**

- Power hates power in someone else
- This hatred will break out in persecution until the woman herself and her city will be destroyed
- The great city referred to here is Rome, Italy
- The woman who represents a great religious commercial system of the last days, goes by the name of the city where her throne is located
- The only city in the world which has ever claimed to exercise spiritual and temporal sovereignty over the kings of the earth is Rome
- The woman does not suddenly come into existence as Antichrist seemingly does

13 **THE GREAT CITY cont.**

- She has been carried by the beast throughout her history; the beast representing the political power of the empires of the world
- She represents Satan's ecclesiastical system of this world and of all ages from the building of the tower of Babel until today
- The central city of Satan's church has not always been Rome
- Once long ago it was Babylon
- Revelation 2:13 mentions it as being Pergamos

- Today it is Rome but it may not always remain so

14 **AN UNFINISHED WORK**

- God never judges an unfinished work
- The judgement is the harvest, a time when the work is complete or come to the full, including evil
- A very good illustration of God's "harvest time" can be found in the parable of the wheat and the tares
- Jesus is speaking here of this time we are studying in prophecy

15 **THE WHEAT AND THE TARES**

Matthew 13:24-28

24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

16 **THE WHEAT AND THE TARES cont.**

Matthew 13:29-30, 37-38

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

17 **THE WHEAT AND THE TARES cont.**

Matthew 13:39-40

39 the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

- These Scriptures are not talking about the Rapture
- This is the destruction and cleansing of this world
- The Rapture will be before the gathering of the "harvest": the destruction of Babylon and the burning of the tares
- That which is to be judged, the good and the bad, is first allowed to come to maturity

18 **THE MATURITY OF INIQUITY**

2 Thessalonians 2:7-10

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

19 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- This is the "harvest", evil has come as far as it's going to go, sin has come to its fullness
- This is when destruction of those things that cannot be redeemed takes place
- These verses in 2 Thessalonians is speaking of the same time period as that in Revelation chapter 17

- He who hinders the working of iniquity is of course the Holy Spirit in God's people which is His church
- After the Rapture the influence of the Holy Spirit and the bride will be withdrawn and iniquity will develop to its limit

20 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

Daniel 8:23

11 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

- The only solid foundation we have is the Word of God
- They will have the Word after the Rapture but the teachers, preachers, evangelists, etc. will all be gone
- The young people of our time are finding it much more difficult to understand the need for holiness according to the Word of God than those who have been in God for even 6-7 years

21 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- If God tarries much longer the smaller children will see even less a need for holiness
- This is because the differences between how they are living, the holy life, and how the world lives will become greater
- We must compare our lives to the life of Jesus Christ and not to the world or worldly ways
- We must be holy because He is holy (1 Peter 1:16)
- Sin and iniquity are becoming stronger and greater and more depraved every day
- The signs of Jesus' coming back began before He left this world by Him saying "I'll come back for you" (John 14:3)

22 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- The sounds of His coming are about all we hear these days
- It is hard to imagine iniquity getting worse than it is today but it will; evil has to get to its maturity and that is scary

- This will be a very difficult time for young people and children
- After the Rapture iniquity will go to its utter limit
- The harvest of modernism is humanism, the worship of man
- One of the manifestations of humanism in our time is the LGBTQ+ celebration of human diversity

23 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- Modernism is all about "doing your own thing" and expecting it to be socially accepted
- "Doing your own thing" will lead straight to hell (Proverbs 14:12)
- It is not OK because we think it's OK and it's not OK because the world says it's OK
- It is only alright if the Word of God says it's alright
- Parents need to be very careful what their children view on TV, social media, etc.
- It's not alright just because other people say it is
- Modernism leads to humanism: a subtle transition that morphs into the exaltation of man that will end with the worship of a man - Antichrist

24 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- God has to be the center of our universe!
- God will judge the nations but first He will give them a free hand that they may demonstrate their real character
- There will be no question in that day as to the justice of His judgement
- Babylon will be the center of a great commercial system that will bring wealth to the world
- The merchants of the earth will wax rich through the abundance of her delicacies (charms and elegances)
- The governments of the earth will make unholy alliances (commit fornication) with her in order to have a part of her great wealth

25 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- These alliances will lead to one world religion and one world government
- The world will think that at last they have arrived at a time when war and poverty will be abolished and the curse of work will be lifted
- This is when they think peace, peace and the sudden destruction comes upon them
- This is the time between the Rapture, tribulation and the judgement periods
- The time of this judgement, the destruction of Babylon, is after the Rapture and before the return of Jesus Christ

26 **THE MATURITY OF SIN cont.**

- The destruction of Babylon will be as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: utter destruction and to never again rise
- The announcement of the fall of Babylon comes directly after the Rapture
- The fall itself comes suddenly, as an act of God, just prior to the battle of Armageddon and the coming back of Jesus Christ to this earth
- This concludes chapter 17 so we'll go into chapter 18 next week continuing with the fall of Babylon
- Antichrist could be Jewish or of Jewish decent as he gets into the inner court of the temple where no Gentile has ever been allowed