

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

LESSON 56

2 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

3 **OPENING REMARKS**

- We are in the 2nd chapter dealing with the kingdom of Antichrist which are chapters 17 and 18
- The war between Iraq and Iran back in the 1980's figures into biblical prophecy
- The United States and the European countries do not figure that much in Bible prophecy
- The lands of the Old Roman Empire around the Mediterranean Sea are central in the prophecies we are studying
- These lands are considered biblical lands going back to the early Old Testament
- The names have changed and some of the borders since the old days

4 **THE FALL OF BABYLON**

Revelation 18:1-3

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

5 **OVERVIEW OF REVELATION PROPHECY**

- Chapters 17 and 18 are the last 2 chapters in the parallel rooms on

the Floor Plan chart

- These parallel "rooms" show the events of the same time period, from the Rapture to the return of Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon, from 3 different view points; that from heaven, the earth, and from Satan's kingdom
- These events are concentrated in the area of the 10 countries that make up the core of Antichrist's kingdom and therefore the prophecies deal with the people of these countries
- These prophecies were not to be understood until the "time of the end" (Daniel 12:4 & 9)

6 **BABYLON**

- It is remarkable that so much space is given to Babylon in these prophecies
- Chapters 17 and 18 center mainly on this great city and its religious system
- In these end days Babylon will assume much more importance than any other city or religion has ever seen
- The world has never seen anything like what is described here
- Herein lies the main reason for the difficulty of understanding these words: nothing like it, or anywhere near it, has ever happened before

7 **OLD ROMAN EMPIRE MAP**

8 **PRESENT DAY MIDDLE EAST MAP**

9 **ISLAMIC COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD MAP**

10 **MAP OF WORLD RELIGIONS**

11 **A NEW VISION**

- Chapter 18 begins a new vision but the subject is the same: Babylon
- The 17th chapter gives us the form of Satan's religious enterprise through the years, its history
- The 18th chapter shows the form it will take at the very end; then it is not Rome, it is Babylon

- Babylon may not be geographically located at Rome in the very end as Rome is not so situated that it could fulfill the terms of the prophecy
- We are going to see some sensational changes in Bible lands!
- A biblical generation is 30-32 years

12 **EVENTS IN THIS GENERATION**

- Generations overlap so there is no finite time a generation begins or ends
- We need to look at the events that have occurred in Bible lands during our generation, the last 30 years or so
- There is a tremendous amount of wisdom in history
- Another unusual feature of chapter 18 is the number of references to the Old Testament
- There was no Israel as a country for hundreds of years before World War 2
- Palestine was inhabited by the Arabs for those many generations
- The Jews had been scattered because of their sins and they had no country

13 **EVENTS IN THIS GENERATION cont.**

- Israel was granted a partition from Palestine in November 1947 by the United Nations with Resolution 181
- The Partition Resolution divided Palestine in such a way that each state would have a majority of its own population
- The "homecoming" for the Jews was prophesied long ago (Isaiah 66:8-10)

14 **THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES**

Luke 21:24

24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

- This prophecy is over 2,000 years old

- The Jews were to be driven out of their land until the Gentiles time is finished
- The catching away of the bride is part of the finishing of the Gentiles time
- When the Jews, as a nation, rejected Jesus Christ, then God turned to the Gentiles which simply means whosoever will

15 **THE RETURN OF ISRAEL**

- Salvation through Jesus Christ is for whosoever will; it is open to all mankind
- This salvation is, and has been, available from Jesus' resurrection until the Rapture of the church
- At the time of this teaching, 1987, the completing of Israel as a nation in 1949 was within a generation
- The city of Jerusalem was divided and Israel had only a small portion of it
- The creation of Israel and partition of Jerusalem displaced the Palestinians, the local Arab population whose generations had lived there for millennia
- These events generated much hatred and violence between Arab populations and Israel

16 **THE 1967 SIX-DAY WAR**

- This hatred boiled over in 1967 when a number of Arab nations united to annihilate Israel as a nation using military force
- Israel did not start this war but she finished it very quickly
- This is known as the 1967 Six-Day War and Israel was outnumbered from 1.7 to 3.11 to 1 depending on type of combat forces
- A result of this war was the occupation by Israel of the Golan Heights, from Syria, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem, from Jordan
- These lands are still occupied by Israel and are, and have been, a source of constant political tension

17 **MODERN ISRAEL**

- A key point of friction is the Temple Mount which houses the Al-Aqsa Mosque which is built over the ruins of the Second Jewish Temple (what remains of it is the Western or Wailing Wall)
- The Temple Mount, Dome of the Rock, and the Western Wall are located in the Old City of East Jerusalem
- Prophetic Scriptures tell us that the Third Temple will be built (Daniel, Ezekiel, Zechariah, 2 Thessalonians)
- The nation of Israel has become a mighty force in the world today
- They are world experts in agriculture, technology, medicine, weapon development, espionage, military engagement, and on and on

18 **A LOOK BACK**

- Jerusalem is the Holy City that we find all the way through the Scriptures that was built and given to God's people
- After the Rapture Jerusalem will belong to the Jews again
- All this history we have just reviewed took place in this one generation: *us sitting here*
- Most of us know that the Arabs and the Jews are half-brothers
- Abraham and Sarah had forgotten what God had promised them and they decided to "help" God out
- Ishmael was born to Hagar, Sarah's maid, and Abraham

19 **THE HALF-BROTHERS**

- Ishmael was half-brother to Isaac, the son of Abraham and Sarah
- From Ishmael came all the tribes of the Arabs
- From Isaac came Israel, the Jews
- God had told Abraham that "...in Isaac shall thy seed be called." (Genesis 21:12)
- God also told Abraham that from Ishmael would come a great nation (the Arabs) (Genesis 21:13)

20 **THE HALF-BROTHERS cont.**

Galatians 4:30-31

30 Nevertheless what saith the Scripture? Cast out the bondwoman

and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free woman.

31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

- These verses bring out what we find in Genesis 21
- The Old Testament gives us a natural example of what is to come in the New Testament, the spiritual
- We find in Genesis 21 that Sarah did not want Hagar and her son to be partakers of the promise

21 **THE HALF-BROTHERS cont.**

Genesis 21:10

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

- The bondwoman's son could not be heir with Abraham's called son
- Genesis 16:12 prophesies an enduring state of conflict between the descendants of Isaac (the Israelites) and the descendants of Ishmael (the Arabs)
- The descendants of both of these believe in one God as they both had Abraham as their father
- The Jews and the Arabs also have similar physical appearances

22 **THE MIDDLE EAST**

- Within the last generation or so most of these biblical lands were very poor
- They are now among the richest countries in the world
- The United Arab Emirates, UAE, is among the wealthiest of these and was formed in 1971
- The Palestinians are seeking to reclaim their land: that which was lost when Israel became a nation and from their defeat in the Six-Day War

- Islam and Mohammedism are different factions of the same religion; today known as Sunni Islam and Shia Islam
- These two factions do not like each other and this has caused wars and conflicts; historically and currently

23 **ISLAM**

- In 1979 the revolution in Iran replaced the ruling Shah with the religious Ayatollah making Iran a fanatic theocracy
- Iran is the largest country of the Shia Islam sect
- Iraq is mostly Sunni Islam and the border between the two has been the scene of military conflict for some time
- With the overthrow of Saddam Hussein of Iraq in 2003 this conflict with Iran has subsided but tensions remain
- People tend to be fanatical about their religion and it being the only true religion to the point of giving their lives for it – "martyrs" is a word frequently heard

24 **CHANGES TO COME**

- It is unique that with all this religious warfare and conflict Satan is able to step in and form one world religion
- It is not just Christianity that unites but the other religions that are of greater number and fanaticism
- The astounding changes we have already seen take place in Bible lands; the wealth, the religious fervor, the victories of Israel, are but the beginnings of even more sensational changes to come
- Changes in these lands are becoming so frequent that we tend to become complacent about them
- Another unusual feature of chapter 18 is the number of references to the Old Testament

25 **THE 7th AND 8th HEADS**

- In chapter 18 almost every verse has its parallel in the Old Testament; we are dealing here with a major subject of prophecy
- Remember that the 8th head of the scarlet-colored beast of chapter 17 is but a continuation of the 7th head

- What brings the 8th head, which is Satan himself, into being?
- The counterfeit death and resurrection is of the man who is the 7th head, who we call Antichrist
- Consequently Antichrist must be here when Satan performs this "resurrection miracle" and takes over Antichrist's body thus becoming the 8th head

26 **SEQUENCE OF PROPHETIC EVENTS**

- Putting this all together we arrive at a sequence of events something like this:
 1. World-wide wars and commotions
 - We are meant to get used to these events and their escalation
 - The increase of famines, pestilences, wars
 2. Coming of the man we call Antichrist
 - His rise to power has to be very soon and then will come the Rapture
 3. Peace and prosperity on a vast scale
 - This will begin with one world religion and the city of Babylon and the world joining to her for all this prosperity
 4. Building of Babylon and other cities
 - Look at these "new" magnificent cities in the Middle East: Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha

27 **THE WOMAN IN THE EPHAH**

Zechariah 5:5-8

5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth.

6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth.

7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah.

8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

28 **THE WOMAN IN THE EPHAH cont.**

Zechariah 5:9-11

9 Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven.

10 Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah?

11 And he said unto me, To build it a house in the land of Shinar: and it shall be established, and set there upon her own base.

- These verses deal with the same events we just studied in chapters 17 and 18

29 **THE WOMAN IN THE EPHAH cont.**

- An ephah is the largest unit of dry measure
- It is used in this context to represent a container
- The thing it contains is a universal system of some kind
- This system is represented by a woman – a wicked woman
- A woman in prophetic symbolism is always a church; either God's church or Satan's church
- In Zechariah here it is Satan's church because it is called wickedness
- These 2 women, one in Revelation and one in Zechariah, are identical

30 **THE WOMAN IN THE EPHAH cont.**

- "....the land of Shinar" we know today as Iraq
- These Scriptures in Zechariah with the 2 women is showing us 2 religions that Satan is uniting
- This is going to be something new, something that has never happened before
- The whole world will join one great religion which will make it rich and at peace
- This will happen through Antichrist (political) and through religions

all brought together

- These 2 women in Zechariah will come together to form a greater, mighty religion
- There is one thing that would cause religions to join together: if they were on the brink of annihilation

31 **ONE WORLD RELIGION**

- The world religions would be willing to join together if a man could arise that had all the characteristics that the Antichrist is said to have
- The world peace and prosperity will come by the way of religion
- Babylon will be the result of consolidating the world religions and "...all nations have partaken of her sins" (Revelation 18:3)
- We hear much today of the uneven distribution of the world's wealth
- Many types of political rule have tried to solve this problem of wealth distribution: communism, democracy, dictatorships, etc. but to no avail

32 **ONE WORLD RELIGION cont.**

- Political systems cannot solve the problem of wealth distribution, but it can be done under one world religion
- Note in verse 3 the angel says "All nations have drunk..." meaning all nations are going to partake of Satan's religious system that will make them rich
- The problems and perplexities of today will cause nations and people to turn to this religion for answers and solutions

33 **THE WARNING**

Revelation 18:4

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

- You cannot be a partaker of this world religion
- Jeremiah chapter 51 has the same words of warning

34 **THE WARNING cont.**

Jeremiah 51:44-45

44 And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him; yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord.

- It is going to be individuals that are going to be saved; not nations as whole, not religions as a whole
- The prophet Jeremiah is saying the same thing about the same time and the same place as the angel in Revelation 18:4

35 **THE WARNING cont.**

- The "her" in Revelation 18:4 is the counterfeit religion Babylon which is evil, evil, evil
- It is very possible that the uniting of the world religions, such as Christianity and Islam, will cause the center of this world religion to move geographically from Rome closer to the ancient site of Babylon
- The Scriptures of the Woman and the Ephah clearly show one religion, the woman riding the beast; that is two religions or churches which are separate uniting to become one world religion
- The two that will unite: Christianity including the orthodox and protestant churches, and Islam to include both Sunni and Shia factions

36 **POPE LEO VISITS THE BLUE MOSQUE NEWS GRAPHIC**