

## 20220327 – THE MYSTERY BABYLON RELIGIOUS SYSTEM

Sunday AM – Revelation 17:7-18

### I. THE TWO BEASTS

#### A. The Anti-Christ – first seen in REV. 13:1-10

1. Some have a great deal of confusion about this person
  - a. This is the Antichrist
  - b. Many commentators believe that this person has lived before
  - c. But was dead in John's day and will be brought back to life
  - d. And who will ultimately go "to perdition"
2. That perdition has the connotation of FINALITY (not Hell)
  - a. WEBSTERS 1828 – "The utter loss of the soul or of final happiness in a future state; future misery or eternal death. The impenitent sinner is condemned to final perdition"
  - b. We cannot say that Hell is FINAL perdition
  - c. The only future event Hell has is the Great White Throne
3. Many attempt to apply this description to Judas Iscariot
  - a. A similar title is used for both: Judas and the Antichrist
  - b. JOHN 17:12 – "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."
  - c. 2 THESS. 2:3 – "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

#### B. However – we MUST compare Scripture with Scripture

1. Judas Iscariot was simply a man who Satan used – "entered into"
  - a. JOHN 13:27 – "And after the sop Satan **entered into** him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly."
  - b. MARK 5:13 – "And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and **entered into** the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea."
  - c. Makes too much of a "man" and of "man's power."
2. It is true that Jesus called Judas the Devil
  - a. JOHN 6:70 – "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"
  - b. But Jesus also talked with Legion instead of the Gadarene
  - c. So He was not talking about Judas
3. Judas had the spirit of Antichrist, but Antichrist is not the spirit of Judas
  - a. It is Satan possessing humans – both Judas and the Antichrist
  - b. Remember: It is STILL their fault; they are also complicit!
  - c. They are CHOOSING to give themselves to Satan for power, etc.

- C. This passage must be understood in context of Scripture
1. Verses 8 and 11 work together but do not describe a timeline
    - a. Makes it even more difficult to see Judas Iscariot “ascend”
    - b. Revelation uses the term “bottomless pit” seven times
    - c. But the last time, a seal is placed for 1000 years REV. 20:3
    - d. Notice REV. 20:10 – THAT is the final location
  2. The word “perdition” there is not a title but a final judgement
    - a. The bottomless pit must not be confused with perdition
    - b. Both verses (8 & 11) say he will “go to” perdition
    - c. Just as do all the lost who die without Christ (including Judas)
  3. So, there are TWO beasts in the sense that there is a “man” involved
    - a. We do not know who it is yet, but he will be “revealed”
    - b. But there is also Satan who will ascend and empower the man
    - c. The man will be killed and then reanimated (zombie)
    - d. And all the lost world will “wonder” (vs. 8) – WORSHIP

## II. THE SEVEN MOUNTAINS

- A. There are two distinct meanings reflected (vs. 9-10)
1. The two different meanings highlight two different aspects of Babylon
    - a. First – the seven heads are seven mountains (vs. 9)
    - b. Rome was built upon Seven Hills (the City of Seven Hills)
    - c. Therefore, we understand the connection with Rome
  2. Now, Rome is important for several reasons
    - a. The Romans had a huge impact upon the entire world
    - b. Even today, we use some of their ideas in our own government
    - c. Even today, their architecture is considered classical
    - d. Even today, we use their dead language for science and law
  3. But this woman, Mystery Babylon is sitting on a beast with seven heads
    - a. This woman who is a whore, the mother of harlots
    - b. Who is DRUNK with power and on the blood of the saints of God
    - c. But the angel explains the mystery to John (vs. 7)
- B. The seven heads are hills AND kings (vs. 9 & 10)
1. One context draws our minds to the religious nature of Rome
  2. The commentaries written over 100 years ago all agree
    - a. This woman is the Catholic church
    - b. Their problem is their eschatology (things getting better?)
    - c. It probably seemed like it in 1900 in America (golden age)
  3. They were not wrong in essence but they were wrong in SCOPE
    - a. It will not be ONLY the Catholic religion but ALL religions
    - b. All ROADS lead to Rome was the ancient saying
    - c. But it seems like all RELIGIONS lead to Rome too!
  4. The ecumenical crowd all want to join hands
    - a. Don’t do it!

- b. 2 COR. 6:17 – “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”
    - c. Just because we agree politically doesn’t mean we are the same!
- C. The second context draws our minds to the political nature of Rome
  - 1. And that it was a prophesied empire in Daniel’s time
    - a. We are currently in the time of the Gentiles
    - b. But there will be an ending to that time
    - c. The Gentile kings will end with the Antichrist
    - d. And Jesus ALONE will be King (He IS King of Kings)
  - 2. We now understand that Mystery Babylon has two natures in Revelation
    - a. Both Religious and Political – and BOTH will be Judged
    - b. The Religious part will be judged first
    - c. She will meet her end much like Jezebel did...

### III. THE EIGHT KINGS

- A. But first, how can there be seven kings and eight kings? (vs. 11)
  - 1. This antichrist is one of the seven but also the eighth?
    - a. Because the man Satan was using dies REV. 13:3
    - b. But will be brought back to life REV. 13:14-15
    - c. And we know the ultimate destination of both REV. 19:20
  - 2. There were ultimately five past kings referenced
    - a. These are not Daniel’s kingdoms in prophecy
      - i. Head of Gold – Babylonian Empire
      - ii. Breast and Arms of Silver – Medo-Persian Empire
      - iii. Belly and Thighs of Bronze – Grecian Empire
      - iv. Legs of Iron – Roman Empire
    - b. These are the Caesars of Rome
      - i. Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius Caligula, and Claudius
      - ii. The one who is in John’s time is Nero (AD 64-68)
      - iii. Rome crumbled afterward; no Caesar afterward mattered
  - 3. But who is the Seventh?
- B. The Antichrist is the Seventh AND the Eighth king
  - 1. Notice he only continues a short space (vs. 10)
  - 2. But we know that the body of the man will be re-animated by Satan
  - 3. So Satan is the eighth and final king
- C. The Beast (man) will rule the first half of the Tribulation and be killed
  - 1. His soul will go to Hell never to return to earth
  - 2. Satan will take over and rule the second half of the Tribulation
  - 3. He will be the eighth, be sealed into the bottomless pit
  - 4. Lead some of the nations astray and finally be cast into the Lake of Fire

#### IV. THE TEN HORNS

- A. These Ten Horns refer to the political aspect of the Antichrist's kingdom
  - 1. This is the revived (or re-animated) Roman Empire
  - 2. The 10-Toed feet made of Iron mixed with Clay
  - 3. Oh, but it won't last!
  - 4. DAN. 2:34 – "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces."
- B. Much has been made of many agreements and treaties in the past
  - 1. I am NOT for giving away our national sovereignty in any way
    - a. But NAFTA, GTO, and the like are NOT found in the Revelation
    - b. It is not the European Union
    - c. This is NOT some "trade" deal – this is an EMPIRE
  - 2. This is a world-wide coalition of TEN Kingdoms
  - 3. Even the "kings" of the East are mentioned at the Battle of Armageddon
- C. If you've ever wondered if Politics likes to share power with Religion...
  - 1. Just wait until you see how they treat this Religious System
  - 2. The worst governments are "religious" governments
  - 3. (I didn't say Biblical Christian governments!)

#### V. THE ONE WOMAN

- A. She has great influence and power (vs. 15)
  - 1. All peoples, all languages, all nations – those are the waters
  - 2. But the kings HATED her and attacked her
  - 3. The Mystery Religion of Babylon the Great is destroyed
- B. Many people today believe in a "mystery religion" too!
  - 1. They think that God is hidden behind superstition and traditions
  - 2. They follow ceremony and habits rather than the Bible
  - 3. It doesn't matter what ANY preacher or priest says
  - 4. It only matters what GOD says in His book – He is the ONLY WISE God
- C. If you've been following sacraments or ceremony today, you can be free!
  - 1. Free some superstition and free from Hell's grasp
  - 2. Don't follow religion, follow only Jesus! He came to pay the price of sin!
  - 3. Be Saved today!