

CHRIST APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF PENNSYLVANIA [Mount of Redemption]

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BIBLE STUDY.

COURSE OUTLINE: REVELATION 17: 1- 9.

Dec. 12, 2012.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION 17: 10 -18.

COURSE TITLE: THE PREDICTION OF THE DOOM OF BABYLON.

17: 1-3. Chapters 17 and 18 picture the judgment of God on a system, empire or a city called: **Babylon the Great (Rev 17:5)**. Chapter 17 may be beyond our comprehension but it helps us to be aware of the contrasts in the book of Revelation.

In this study we would learn about the coming false world leader which is the **Antichrist** in contrast to the true world leader which is Christ, the Messiah. The study also revealed the coming false bride of the Antichrist which is **Mystery Babylon the Great – the Mother of Harlots (Rev 17:5)**, but the Bride of Christ is **the church**. The reign of the Antichrist will produce the **tribulation period** while the reign of Christ will produce **the Millennium**. The Antichrist will establish its headquarters in **Babylon** but the Jews get **Jerusalem** and the church will get the **New Jerusalem**.

The destruction of Babylon mentioned in Revelation 16:17-21 & Revelation 18:1-8 is now described in great detail in this chapter. The great whore (harlot) – Revelation 17:1 is named **Babylon the Great (Revelation 17:5)**. Chapters 17 & 18 revealed her judgment. The waters represent the various people and **nations of the earth (Rev 17:5)**. The great whore sitteth upon the waters to signify **her worldwide influence**. Her occupation – **harlotry and fornication** refer to **physical immorality** or more likely **spiritual adultery (idolatry and religious apostasy)** (Isaiah 1:21, Jer. 2: 20-37, Ezek. 16:15-43, Hosea 2:58, Nahum 3:4). **The kings and the inhabitants of the earth** have opened their arms to her influence (Rev. 17:2). **The scarlet colored beast (Rev. 17:3)** is the first Beast of Rev. 14– **The Anti Christ and his empire**. Her sitting upon the Beast represents the **intimate association between the Antichrist and the harlot (an association of support, influence, and control)**.

17: 4-5: The elegant clothing and jewelry of the woman (Rev 17:4) show her **wealth and attractiveness**, but her attributes are filthy and abominable to God. This description of this woman and her attributes (**golden cup full of abominations and filthiness - Rev. 17:4**) is explained first from the standpoint of **people, who look at the outer appearance**, and then from the perspective of God, who knows the heart (**1sam 16:7**). Her mystery name is **BABYLON THE Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth (Rev. 17:5)**; ancient Babylon is a type or prefigurement of this future Babylon. This harlot will do what literal Babylon did in the past. (1). **oppress God's people** and (2) **propagate a false and religious system**. Much of the worlds idolatry of today can be traced back to historical Babylon (Gen 11: 1-9) including the mother- cult relationship of **Semiramis-Tammuz (Ezekiel 8:9, 14:18)**. As the **fountain head** of idolatry, **Babylon the Great (harlot)** is the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.

17:6 This woman – **BABYLON IS DRUNK WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS and Christians martyrs (Mathew 24:21)**. When John saw her in her evil actions, he wonder with great **admiration and amazement**.

The lesson derived unto us as Christians is that we should continually seek to pursue good acts as any act of evil is **repugnant unto the Lord, as the acts of anyone who is persecuting God's people**. This woman's hatred of christianity is clearly portrayed in Revelation 17:6. Her being drunk of **saints' blood implies a time of extraordinary slaughter and killing**.

17: 7-8. Revelation 17: 7-8 contains a more detailed explanation of the entities depicted symbolically as a **woman and a beast**. The angel had no other option than to reveal the identity of the entities based on the **amazement of John (Rev 17:17)**. The Beast as an empire goes through four stages from the viewpoint of the tribulation period. (1) **It was** apparently indicated that the beast had been manifested in the past (Daniel Chap. 7). (2). **It is not:** suggested that the beast has not existed as an empire and was not working in his evil in John's day. (3). **It shall ascend out of the bottomless pit**, that is, Satan will raise up the Antichrist as his false messiah and give him worldwide rule (Rev. 11:7, Rev. 12: 3-4). And (4). **The Beast will be cast into perdition** – the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20), suggests eternal ruin or punishment. Those whos names are not written in the Book of Life (Rev. 13: 8, Rev. 20:12,15) are deceived by this Beast because they are not aware of its certain eternal destiny. Unbelievers will wonder in amazement at this beast who once existed and has now made an incredible reemergence.

17:9 The seven heads of the Beast represent seven mountains on which the woman sitteth. In ancient time, the city of Rome was known as a city built on seven hills or mountains. The mind **which has wisdom, possesses divinely aided spiritual understanding; which is a mind receptive to God's truth (Rev 1:3)**. John noted that the wise mind will make proper identification; as this woman represents idolatrous, anti-God civilization centered at Rome but with worldwide influence.

