

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 17

“A Woman Rides The Beast”

On July 17, 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Boeing 747 bound for Paris, exploded shortly after takeoff from New York's Long Island, killing all 230 people on board.

The National Transportation Safety Board has yet to determine the exact cause of the crash.

Mechanics discovered a fuel leak in a Boeing 737-200 that they believed was caused by the kind of electrical arcing suspected of causing the TWA explosion.

In order to find out what the cause of the crash was, they went to the bottom of the ocean and picked up every piece of the plane that they could find.

- ☞ **They re-assembled** every piece they could find in a large aircraft hanger, to try and determined what went wrong.

It took investigators 10 months and 10,000 hours to re-construct a 90 foot long section of the 747 fuselage that crashed into the ocean.

- ☞ **The reason that they re-constructed the plane,** was so that they could get some answers as to what happened that caused the crash in the first place.

In a sense, we have been trying to do the same thing in our lives, Reconstruct what happened to us and this world, that caused earth to become so full of violence and pain.

- ☞ **When the National Transportation Safety Board** completed their investigation, they had logged more than **10,000 hours in a manual** that describes what went wrong that caused the crash of TWA flight 800.

The manual for all of us, to piece together what happen to the human race, and what went so terribly wrong that left the earth in it's present condition, is in the Bible.

- ☞ **It tells how we were created,** by God, because of His love.
- ☞ **Why we were created,** for friendship with our Creator, to live in perfection and beauty forever.
- ☞ **In just a few brush strokes,** the Book of Genesis paints a picture of a time and place where there were only 2 rules, Love God and trust Him.
- ☞ **It was a place where there was no shame, there was** “Fullness of Joy, and Pleasures forevermore,.”
- ☞ **The Bible describes how we fell** from that perfection.
- ☞ **And How God restored us to Himself** so that we can again have friendship, perfection and beauty forever.

The Bible also un-winds for us how we went from 2 rules in the Garden of Eden, Loving God and Trusting Him, to the unending list of mans rules that he has put into what he has called “**Religion**”.

- ☞ **Thankfully, chapter 17 of the Book of Revelation**, describes **the end of mans religion, and satan counterfeits**.
- ☞ **There is a day coming** very quickly, when we will be totally free of all mans religion and return to the simplicity of just us Loving our God, and He loving us.

Last Sunday, we began an in-depth look at how this whole mess got started, in Babylon with the **“Mystery Religion of Babylon”**.

- ☞ **We discovered** that satan is the one that has created these hundreds of Religions in order to cover up **the simple truth that God doesn't want a religion from you**, He wants to have a personal relationship with you.
- ☞ **The way that God chose** for this relationship to happen was through what Jesus did on the Cross.
- ☞ **When Jesus died**, He was paying for the sins of every person that has ever been born on planet earth.
- ☞ **When any person accepts Jesus death** on the Cross as the payment for their sins, and asks Jesus for this forgiveness, He gives it to them immediately.
- ☞ **This person also receives eternal life**, and will spend eternity in heaven with the Lord.
- ☞ **For the rest of that persons life**, they can spend it just falling more and more in love with Jesus, and discover through His Word, just how wonderful Jesus is.

So, Chapter 17 is the destruction of the world's religious system under the antichrist.

Today what we call **“The Church”**, is not a particular denomination or religion, but **The Church is made up of those people who have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ.**

- ☞ **The true members of Jesus Church** come from all kinds of denominations and backgrounds.
- ☞ **At the moment of the Rapture**, there will be Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Seventh Day Adventist, Pentecostals, Assembly of God, Nazarene, Episcopal, Catholic, yes and there will even be Calvary Chapel believers who will all meet the Lord in the Air.
- ☞ **Remember that Jesus** never broke us down into all of these different fractions and denominations.
- ☞ **In the beginning** we were all just called **“Christians”**, because we believed that Jesus was **“The Christ, the Savior of the world.”**

Acts 11:26

... And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch

Jesus claimed that He was **THE WAY**...

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

So, later on, those who followed Jesus were said to be “People of the Way”

Acts 19:23

And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.

At the moment that the Rapture happens, It won't matter what church you went to, it will only matter with what you did with Jesus and His sacrifice.

- ☞ **Every person** who has sincerely surrendered their life to Jesus Christ and is waiting and watching for Him to return, will leave the earth and meet Jesus in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Jesus said:

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Who will be left here on the earth?

1. **All of the Religious** people.
2. **All those who rejected Jesus** as their Savior.

All the religious people that went to churches that taught that their church was the way to heaven, their leader was the one true leader, their doctrine was the One way to heaven...but they rejected Jesus Christ, will be left here on earth.

- ☞ **All of these “Left Behind” churches, will be united together** as one religion by this incredible new World leader that the world will hail as the savior of the world.
- ☞ **The Bible** calls him “***The beast.***”
- ☞ **His religious partner, the False Prophet** will be the one to unite these churches that are left on the earth after the Rapture happens.
- ☞ **He will take all of the churches** that are left on the earth and united them into one church called “***Mystery Babylon***”.

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement, a movement whose goal is Christian unity.

The World Counsel of Churches brings together more than 340 churches, denominations and church fellowships in over 100 countries and territories throughout the world,

The list of member churches in the World counsel of Churches includes churches that believe that Jesus is not Creator God, as the Bible says that He is, but they say Jesus is a creation of God...That is a Big Problem!

According to Robert McAfee Brown, an American theologian who was one of the chief speakers at the WCC's 1975, listen to what He said, **see if you can understand his religious dribble...**

"Secularization is a process whereby man becomes freed from the presuppositions of metaphysical and religious ideology and attempts to understand and live in the various realms of the world on their own terms. In contrast with the society in which a particular religious ideology sets limits to a genuine search for truth, the secular society not only permits the diversity of religious ideas but also encourages the pursuit of a sincere and open understanding of the factual reality of the universe In the secular society, therefore, man's choices are no longer obligatory and prescribed. Each man is free to seek his own faith and make his own assumptions about the purpose of being."

In plain language: he wants to make Jesus church more comfortable for the world, free of the absolutes that Jesus said that He is the only way to heaven. This leader of the **World Counsel of Churches** wants the church to soften its stand on moral issues and understand that **truth is relevant** to each persons own situation...

- ⊕ **I would imagine that the World Counsel of Churches** will be the first ones to join the beast when he comes on the scene just after the Rapture.
- ⊕ **This new religion** is described here in the Book of Revelation chapter 17 as "**Mystery Babylon**".
- ⊕ **Yes, it will be a revival of that old religion** that satan began back in the Book of Genesis that started with Nimrod at the tower of Babel.

Revelation 17

1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of **the great harlot** who sits on **many waters**,

- ⊕ **The great harlot** is the world wide false church under the antichrist.
- ⊕ **The many waters** are the **worldwide dominion** of this one church system.

2 "with whom the **kings of the earth** committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

- ⊕ **The kings**, the rulers of the earth will all belong to this false religious system.

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw **a woman sitting on a scarlet beast** (**This is how John described this one world religion**) which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 The woman was **arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls**, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.

5 And **on her forehead a name** was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- ⊕ **The woman**, the false religious system is riding on the back of the beast, the antichrist.

- ☞ **This false religious system** is put into power by the beast, it is because of his power that this false religious system comes into existence.
- ☞ **This is a very wealthy church**, she has gold, precious stones, and pearls.
- ☞ **She is wearing purple** and scarlet, these colors were reserved during this time for only the very wealthy because of their cost to make.
- ☞ **Prostitutes** had their names advertised upon their foreheads in jewelry letters so you would know they were prostitutes.
- ☞ **This false church** is a prostitute, she will wear her name like a prostitute.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with **the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs** of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

- ☞ **We know** that there will be perhaps millions and millions of people who will be saved during the Tribulation period, **but it will be at great cost...**
- ☞ **This new false church** that will begin right after the Rapture, will be responsible for the death of those that are saved during the great tribulation, because they would not bow down to this new religion or worship the beast.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When He opened the fifth seal, **I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain** for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "**How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood** on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Revelation 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then **I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus** and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Revelation 17

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? **I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast** NOTICE **that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

The angel now gives us the key to understanding this chapter:

8 "The beast that you saw **was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless** pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

- ☞ **The term "Was, and is not, and will ascend..."** speaks of the beast **existing before, absent for awhile and now present again** here on the earth.
- ☞ **This means that whoever the beast is,** he has existed in the past, then he was gone, here at the tribulation, he will exist again.

- ☞ **There are many who believe** that the beast will be **Judas Iscariot**, because he is called by Jesus Himself "*The Son of Perdition*".
- ☞ There are only two people in the Bible that are called "Son of Perdition, Satan, and Judas Iscariot".

John 17:12

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

2 Thessalonians 2:

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

In the Book of Acts, Luke said that Judas "**Went to his own place**", when he died, as if he is being held somewhere by satan.

Acts 1:25

to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which **Judas** by transgression fell, that he might **go to his own place**.

Here in Revelation 17, we are told:

Revelation 17

8 "The beast that you saw **was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit**

The next verse tells us where the beast will have his center of power:

Revelation 17

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: **The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.**

- ☞ **Rome sits on 7 hills**, possible this false system of religion is based in the roman catholic system which now does not have any of the Christians in her church but is made up of apostate members, those who do not believe in Jesus Christ.

The hills are not all separated, muddling the definitions somewhat. Most of the hills are high ridges, cut by natural streams flowing from the higher ground in to the Tiber River.

1. Palatine Hill (Palatium)
2. Capitoline Hill (Capitolium)
3. Viminal Hill (Viminalis)
4. Esquiline Hill (Esquiliae)
5. Caelian Hill (Caelius)
6. Aventine Hill (Aventinus)

10 There are also **seven kings**. **Five have fallen, one is**, and **the other has not yet come**. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

This is where it is a little bit complicated, so you will have to follow closely:

This is an amazing prophecy, In History there will be 7 world wide kingdoms, they are:

- ☞ **Seven Kings:** 1 Egypt, 2 Assyria, 3 Babylon, 4 Persia, 5 Greece, 6 Rome, and 7 The Revived Roman Empire
- ☞ **Five have already fallen as of the date that John is writing this 2,000 years ago: fallen:** Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece,
- ☞ **One still is in power as john is writing: Rome**, still ruling at the time this was written.
- ☞ **The other yet to come:** The Revived Roman empire during the Tribulation.
- ☞ **WOW, how amazing that the Lord gave John this glimpse into the future over 2,000 years ago, How awesome is the Word of God!**

John says When Revived Roman Empire comes, it will only continue for a short time, 7 years...

- ☞ **Which is true**, this 7th kingdom that will be made up of the nations that formerly were a part of the Roman empire, will only be in power for 7 years.

Revelation 17

11 "And the beast that was, and is not, **is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven**, and is going to perdition.

- ☞ **"The Beast"**, the antichrist is the 8th king and is from the 7th kingdom, the Roman empire.
- ☞ **Are you getting this?** This is an incredible prediction.
- ☞ **How could the Lord know** that there would be 7 world wide kingdoms with the beast being the 8th king of this final 7th kingdom that will come into existence during the 7 year Tribulation?

Revelation 17

12 "**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings** who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

- ☞ **The horn is the symbol for power**, apparently the antichrist gives his power to each of these 10 kings which are part of the revived Roman empire.
- ☞ **These are the same** ten toes of Daniel statue in Daniel chapter 2.

Daniel 2:41

41 "Whereas you saw **the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron**, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

Daniel saw this final kingdom as the 10 toes of the statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream.



- ☞ **These 10 toes** will be “Of Iron” symbol for the Roman empire.
- ☞ **Mixed with ceramic clay**, an unstable substance, meaning that these 10 nations will be unstable, eventually 3 of them being removed by the beast with just 7 remaining.

Revelation 17

13 "These (10 nations) are of **one mind**, and **they will give their power and authority to the beast**.

- ☞ **These 10 nations** are in agreement (one mind) with the beast, and will give their power, **militarily**, and authority, **politically**, to the beast.

14 "**These will make war with the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and NOTICE: **those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful**."

This War Will Be The One Described In Revelation Chapter 19, Verses 11-21, the war we looked at in chapter 16 called “The Battle of Armageddon”.

Revelation 19:11-21

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, **clothed in fine linen, white and clean**, THE REDEEMED followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes **a sharp sword**, HIS WORD that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "**Come and gather together for the supper of the great God**,

18 "**that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great**."

19 **And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army**.

These “Armies” here in Revelation 19 are the same group referred to in Revelation 17:14. These are us, Jesus Bride who has returned from heaven, back to earth with Him.

Revelation 17:14

14 "**These (Armies) will make war with the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and **those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful**."

Revelation 17

15 Then he said to me, "**The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.**

The false religious system is world wide, i.e. "On many waters."

16 "And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, **these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**

- ⊕ **Apparently, this false religious system** after she comes to power by the beast, seeks to control the beast and the kings, they hate her and she is destroyed.
- ⊕ **Notice that this false religious system** is destroyed **from within** by the kings and the beast over the kings.

17 "For **God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose**, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 "And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

- ⊕ **The great harlot** is this new world wide false church, here she is seen as "The wife of satan."
- ⊕ **As soon as Jesus began preparing a church for himself**, his bride, satan began building his bride.

In our study last Sunday, we learned that this whole world wide false religious system began in Genesis 11 with Nimrod, Semiramis, and their son Tammuz, at the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Now the whole earth had **one language and one speech.**

3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

4 And they said, "**Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens;**

Genesis 10:8-10

8 Cush begot **Nimrod**; he began to be **a mighty one on the earth.**

9 He was NOTICE **a mighty hunter AGAINST** the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

10 And NOTICE: **the beginning of his kingdom was Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- ⊕ **Nimrod** is the Grandson of Noah.
- ⊕ **In history Nimrod** married **Semerimus.**
- ⊕ **She knew of God's promise** to send a savior from Genesis 3:15
- ⊕ **She claimed** that her first son **Tammuz** fulfilled this prophecy.

Semiramis began a religious system that made herself and her son to be worshipped.

- ⊕ **She became the first high priestess**, her son the savior.

- ☞ **The city of Babylon** was the center of this new religion based in satan lies until 539 b.c. When it fell to the Persians.
- ☞ **From Babylon**, this teaching spread to **Phoenicia** where she was called **Ashtaroth** and her son **Tammuz**.
- ☞ **It then went to Pergamos** in Asia where we see John writing to the church at Pergamos in revelation 2:13, described by Jesus

Revelation 2:13

13 "I know your works, and where you dwell, **where Satan's throne is**. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, **where Satan dwells**.

- ☞ **In Egypt** the mother child cult was called **Isia** and **Horus**.
- ☞ **In Greece** they became **Aphrodite** and **Eros**
- ☞ **In Rome** they were known as **Venus** and **Cupid**.
- ☞ **In China** they were called mother **Shing moo** and her child.

In Mexico city, 200 years before Jesus was born there is a center for religious worship there that the early Indians in Mexico used.

- ☞ **There you can see a mother with a child** in her arms, today she and her child are known as **The Madonna and child**.

About 2000 b.c., God took Abraham away from this false religious system as he lived in Ur.

- ☞ **Only 1100 years later**, Israel had begun to institute this Babylonian religion under Queen Jezebel.
- ☞ **Her husband king Ahab** of Israel instituted the **worship of Baal**.

1 Kings 16:30-33

30 Now **Ahab** the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that **he took as wife Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

32 Then **he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal**, which he had built in Samaria.

33 And Ahab made a wooden image. **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**



- ☞ **Jezebel** was the daughter of the king of the **Sidonians**.
- ☞ **Sidon** is in the extreme northern part of the middle east on the coast.

The Sidonians were supposed to be driven out of the land by the tribe of Asher, but they failed to do so. (see Judges chapters 1-3:4.)

- ☞ **These were the nations** who worshipped false gods and had horrible practices among their people, i.e. **Burning babies alive to molech the god of pleasure.**
- ☞ **When God brought the children of Israel** into the “*promised land*”, each of the 12 tribes were to drive out the evil people of the land who worshiped other gods.

By the time that Jesus had come this false religious system of Babylon had overwhelmed the roman society.

Is The Harlot, The False Religious System Of Babylon In Existence Today?

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- 1 But know this, **that in the last days perilous times will come:**
- 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
- 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

2 Timothy 4:3-4

- 3 For **the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
- 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

2 Peter 2:1

- 1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will **secretly bring in** destructive heresies, even **denying the Lord** who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

Notice That These False Teachers Will Bring These False Teachings “Into The Church”.

In Revelation Chapter 3 We See Jesus Speaking To The Last Apostate Church:

Revelation 3:15-17

- 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.
- 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.
- 17 "Because you say, **I am rich, have become wealthy**, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked--

The final church will be a composite of apostate protestant's, Catholic's, Judaism, and every other church and religious cult.

- ☞ **Remember that the woman** was adorned with gold and precious stones and wearing the costly scarlet and purple clothing, she is rich.

In chapter 17 we see that God judges the false religious system in the last days, during the great tribulation, this book is the judgment of “all things” before the lord Jesus returns to begin his kingdom here for 1,000 years.

Religion means to “**Bind Up**”

Jesus came to make you free...

John 8:36

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Religion binds up people in traditions obligations, rituals , regulations.

In the Bible, every single time the word “Religion” is mentioned, **it is in a negative way**, all except in the last chapter of James, Pure and undefiled religion is this...

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father **is this**: to **visit orphans** and **widows in their trouble**, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**

Jesus came to set you free, that is why is was so against the established religion, and he didn't fit into their religious expectations.

Chapter 17 is the destruction of mans religious systems.