

Revelation 17-18

The Destruction of the False Prophet and the Anti-Christ

Part 1 – Chapter 17 – The Fall of the Religious Apostasy

Chapter 17 is particularly about the religious element of Satan's empire that is ran through the False Prophet. The word prostitute or harlot is a reference to religious apostasy. For example: Nahum 3:1, 4; Isaiah 32:15-17; Isaiah 1:21 (CSB): *The faithful town—what an adulteress she has become! She was once full of justice. Righteousness once dwelt in her, but now, murderers!*

Revelation 17:1-6 (CSB)

We've discussed before that there is a spiritual world living and active all around us, even though we only see the physical world. John has the privilege of seeing the spiritual world during the time of the Anti-Christ's reign.

Spiritually speaking...the kingdom of the Anti-Christ is described as promoting sexual immorality, drunkenness, blasphemous names, detestable things, impurities and the killing of the saints.

The people of the earth have committed spiritual adultery.

- Judges 2:17; 8:27, 33 - 1 Chronicles 5:25 - 2 Chronicles 21:11 - Jeremiah 3:6, 8-9 - Ezekiel 16:30-31, 36

Seeing such a scene left John speechless. He was "astonished", "awestruck" ...we'd say overwhelmed.

Revelation 17:7-18 (CSB)

An angel takes the time to explain to John what is going on.

- The Beast
 - Was, and is not, and is about to come up from the abyss and go to destruction
 - Those not written in the book of life will be astonished by the beast and follow him.
 - Revelation 13:3 (CSB): *One of its heads appeared to be fatally wounded, but its fatal wound was healed.* (also, Revelation 13:12)
- 7 heads – 7 kings
 - 5 have come: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece
 - 1 is: Roman Empire
 - 1 is to come for a little while: Anti-Christ Kingdom (42 months)
- 8th king – false prophet - Out of the seventh
- 10 Horns – 10 kingdoms
 - Daniel 7:7, 20, 24 - Becomes the army of the Anti-Christ for the battle of Armageddon
- The Anti-Christ and his coalition of 10 kings will hate the prostitute (religious system) and destroy her.
- There is a great city that is the center of all rule. The other kingdoms/nations of the world will submit.

Satan's attempt of forming a "trinity" (Satan, Anti-Christ and False Prophet) begins to implode. The Anti-Christ seeks to destroy and kill the False Prophet. Whereas, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in perfect unity.

Psalms 127:1 (CSB): *Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain.*

Part 2 – Chapter 18 – The Fall of the Economic & Political System

Chapter 18 is particularly about the economic system of Satan's empire ran through the Anti-Christ. This particular economic system will be the largest and greatest the world will ever know. All people will have to submit or face death (mark of the beast, Rev. 13).

Revelation 18:1-8 (CSB)

Judgement is coming to the empire Satan has built through the Anti-Christ. While the world is illuminated by the splendor of the empire...it is full of evil. As we are reminded of time and time again throughout Scripture, sin is sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach. This "wonderful", "amazing" kingdom that the world loves is marked by:

- Demons; Unclean Spirits; Unclean birds; Unclean and despicable beasts; Sexual immorality; Sensuality; Excessive living; Sinfulness; Crimes against God; Self-glorification

Because of the ungodliness of the kingdom...death, grief and famine will be multiplied against them in one day. So, is the one-day literal? I imagine yes. This is confirmation that the bowls of wrath are poured out quickly.

And in the end...this kingdom will be burned up by fire.

Psalm 127:1 (CSB): *Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain; unless the Lord watches over a city, the watchman stays alert in vain.*

Revelation 18:9-20 (CSB)

The kingdoms/nations of the world will mourn the loss of the Anti-Christ's kingdom. Why? Because of the gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, silk, cinnamon, spice, incense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, grain, cattle, sheep, horses, slaves...they are mourning the splendid and glamorous things being gone.

Mark 8:34-38 (CSB): *³⁴ Calling the crowd along with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me and the gospel will save it. ³⁶ For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? ³⁷ What can anyone give in exchange for his life? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."*

Matthew 6:19-21 (CSB): *¹⁹ "Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

The riches of this world...are not the precious things of this world.

Matthew 13:44-46 (CSB): *⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it."*

Jesus is our greatest treasure. The gospel is far more precious than silver or gold.

Revelation 18:21-24 (CSB)

The absolute destruction of the kingdom of Satan is sure. When the Lord judges...His judgements are sure and complete. The greatest empire the world will ever know...is nothing compared to the King of kings and Lord of lords.