



The Harlot of False Religion

REVELATION 17:1-7, 14

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¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” ³ And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, ⁵ and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” ⁶ And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. ⁷ And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns...¹⁴ “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”

THE _____ OF BAD RELIGION.

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“Beware of a misty religion! Beware of that which is without form, for it is sure to be void! Beware of that which is undefined and indefinable, because there is nothing solid in it!”

CHARLES H. SPURGEON

LifeGroup Study Guide Revelation 17

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Seven Angels The reference to the 7 angels in 17:1 links chapters 17-18 with the bowl judgments in chapter 16, which extend to the second coming of Christ 16:17. Chapters 17-18 focus on the judgment of “Babylon” Babylon is distinct from any historical, geographical city of Babylon (which still existed in John’s day). It cannot be applied to any historical city, but is a reference to a city of influence, power, and idolatry in the future, and probably the center of operations for the Anti-Christ.

Great Harlot See 14:8. Prostitution in the Bible frequently symbolizes idolatry or religious apostasy. Nineveh (Nahum 3:1, 4); Tyre (Isa 23:17); and even Jerusalem (Isa 1:21). In what ways are adultery and idolatry the same? In what ways will this Great Prostitute and the Anti-Christ work together? (Ch 13)

Wide Influence What kind of influence will this religious system have? 2, 9-13, 15. What influence does false religion have today?

Strategy What will the harlot use to influence others? 3-5

Banner It was customary for Roman prostitutes to wear a headband with her name on it, parading their evil for all to see. The harlot’s forehead is marked with a threefold title which is descriptive of the world’s final false religious system. What are the three titles and what do they mean or represent?

What is our Banner or our mark as we faithfully represent Christ? Eph 1:13-14; (144,000 Rev 7:2)

The Believer and Idolatry

Read 1 John 5:21 Why do you think the Apostle John would warn and command believers to stay away from idols?

What are idols that believers are tempted to follow in our culture?

What can we do to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ?