

Revelation Chapter 17 (The false church)

(70)

Revelation 17:1-3 Throughout God's Word, He has warned not to stray from Him. The Old Testament's top two Laws given by God were: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me" and "Do not make graven images" (don't bow down to idols). And in New Testament times He said, "This is My Son with Whom I AM well pleased". That's it! And Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.

In other words, there is only one God and only one way to Him. And whether they came to Him in the Old Testament or whether we come to Him in the New everyone's approach must be holy, unadulterated and pure. The "great prostitute" is none other than the false religions of all ages up to the current age. This false religion is "full of blasphemous names" which means that the true God is no longer worshipped holy, unadulterated and definitely not pure. The "hallowed be Thy name" has been removed. The "There is no other name under heaven by which one must be saved" has been erased. And this religious system is about as pure as satan himself.

As we saw a couple of weeks ago the Tower of Babel was the worldwide birth of this system; both religious and financial.

We of course know about the practice of offering the innocence in to the burning arms of Baal to achieve a blessing from the false gods of the ancient Babylonian times. And the worship of Pharaohs, kings, and rulers as gods. And I think to myself, "I would have never fallen for that." Oh really? Take a look at Christmas and Easter. Now I know that Christ's blood covers me, but I too decorated the Christmas Tree and hid eggs when my kids were little. Why? So that

they would "fit" in to societies norms. Of course I, (71) in great detail, always told them the true meaning of those two celebrations/remembrances. I always thought that non-believers took Christ's Birth and His Resurrection and made Christmas Trees and Peter Cottontail holidays to suit their celebration where as it was actually the polar opposite! Easter actually originated as an ancient pagan celebration of the spring equinox. The ancient Babylonians believed an egg fell from heaven in to the Euphrates River and "hatched" the goddess of fertility, Astarte (also known as Ashtur, Ishtar, and of course Easter), pagans exchanged eggs as gifts during their springtime festival. The Easter Bunny represented a northern goddess who was associated with the rabbit and hare. This pagan festival was called Eostre.

Christmas: The Christmas celebration, as we know it, is actually even more adulterated than the Easter celebration. Constantine, the most "Christian" ruler, in trying to appease his roman population and at the same time give Christians a day to celebrate Christ's birthday took the raucous pagan holiday of Saturnalia (a festival where people feasted and exchanged gifts) which was an ancient festival honoring the god of Saturn. It was celebrated on December 17-23rd. It started with a sacrifice at the Temple of Saturn and included a public banquet followed by private gift-giving. It was a carnival type atmosphere where gambling was permitted during the 7 day celebration. 16th-century

Germans took it even further off its symbolism when they incorporated the Christmas tree. It was not called the Christmas Tree but rather it was called the "paradise tree"

which was used in Adam and Eve plays. It was of (72) course highly decorated. The evergreen was used since it symbolized life and fertility. Good Ole Saint Nick also came from the Germans. Saint Nicholas was a 4th-century Bishop, the patron saint of children. Saint Nicholas became renowned for his reported generosity and secret gift-giving. Of course, in the western hemisphere he is known as Santa Claus. Americans of course would not be outdone in distorting Christ's birth so they added, elves, flying reindeer and of course a magical sleigh. To make things even worse, leftist radio and TV stations broadcasts give several updates throughout the day and night as to where Santa's sleigh has been seen, and broadcast hundreds of TV shows and movies which have nothing to do with Jesus' birth! Schools have children write letters to Santa Claus and parents are very active in making sure that their children know that if they don't behave they might end up on the naughty list and get no presents.

I bring out these two examples to show how easy it is to adulterate, pollute and blaspheme God. Again, we are covered by the blood and we do not believe in Santa nor do we worship the tree that we decorate on Christmas but we also have seen with our own eyes how quickly the truth is being swallowed by the lie. Churches that ordain the gay, or celebrate pride month are becoming more and more prevalent. No longer are established laws being taken on their intent. The church was protected from the state by the law governing the separation of church and state; a law written to keep government out of the church. Now the church is not allowed

in government; unless it is other than Christian. The (73) "Scarlet beast" full of blasphemous names, full of power ("seven heads, ten horns") is this adulterated religious system that is ever increasing in mocking God, His Son, and of course His Word.

Revelation 17:4 Just like the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree, the exquisitely colored eggs, or the stain glass/gold adorned Cathedrals (and Mosques) this religious center will also be spectacular to look at. Its priests will probably be dressed in purple and scarlet and also have "bling bling" covering their robes. Since the center of attraction is always Israel in all of God's Word along with the nations around her and since this is the revived Roman empire (10 toes of Daniel's prophecy) it might be located in Rome* (see printouts Daniel 2 + statue).

Revelation 17:5-6 This religious system is full (drunk) of the guilt for the deaths of God's people throughout the ages.

Revelation 17:7-8 (side note on the scenes in the Book of

Revelation: John is also, like us, perplexed about what he sees and the meaning thereof but often he is given further insight. Here the angel explains that the beast (anti-Christ), who is in harmony with the woman (false prophet), "was" (existed) and "is not" (perceivedly died and came back to life), will "rise from the bottomless pit" (after 1,000 years) and then after Satan has been stomped out by Jesus, he will "go to destruction".

Revelation 17:9-14 The earthly rulers of the end times and the, most likely location of the false church headquarters. The

"seven mountains on which the woman is seated" is most likely Rome* which is also known as the city built on seven hills. The 10 horns are 10 Kings/nations (the toes of the statue) that

will be in power in the last days. They will ultimately ⁽⁷⁴⁾ freely become obedient to the beast. They will hate Jesus and every thing associated with Him. Verse 14 just makes clear to John, and us, that we will win in the end.

Revelation 17:15-18 verse 1 had said that "the great prostitute was seated on many waters", here it is explained as many peoples, and multitudes and nations and languages. In other words, Worldwide. The One World Religion will be actually worldwide. In these final verses of chapter 17 we see how sin is contagious and actually terminal. The same false religion and false prophet that the masses have been worshipping will turn on itself, and then and consume itself. God will let it seem to be unconquerable and then He will let it devour itself and everything around it. Yes, Satan promises the people prosperity if they will bow down to him but he never intends to make good on that. He has always wanted everyone's destruction. For 3½ years Satan, the anti-christ and the false prophet will seem to be invincible but God is only toying with them. Revelation chapters 17+18 show that when evil seems to have triumphed God is still at work, Always at work!

— It dawned on me that John did not understand some of what was being shown to him. Some was explained. Some not (like the two witnesses being seen by the whole world). In any and all of his writings, or journalings, he tried to explain what he saw in the most accurate way that he could. Of course under obedience to the Holy Spirit. Some events are difficult to translate in today's terms. For example is Wormwood a meteor, or an atomic bomb? In the same manner how would we write down for John to understand something like watching TV, a cell phone, a Jet, a computer? God gives us the crucial details, the rest is not at all crucial.