

Sunday, September 1, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Judgement of the Great Prostitute

Series: Revelation ... 23

Text: Revelation 17

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation to hold fast to the Gospel of Christ Jesus and guard against being influenced by new and false teachings that come from the great prostitute!

Introduction:

Last week we looked at the Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath recorded in Revelation 16. This week we are considering chapter 17 and the judgment of the great prostitute.

~ The Book of Proverbs personifies wisdom as a woman, Proverbs 9:1 – 6 and 14:1; Proverbs also cautions us about the harlot, Proverbs 2:16 – 19 and 5:1 – 23.

~ In Scripture the idea of a harlot is frequently used to picture false worship: Isaiah 1:21 Jerusalem is called a harlot; Isaiah 23:15 – 17 Tyre is referred to as a prostitute (harlot); Nahum 3:4 Nineveh is referred to as a prostitute (harlot).

~ “In every age, there has been a “harlot” who has persecuted God’s people, and this will culminate in the last days in a worldwide apostate religious system.”

~ Notice Revelation 17:1, 5, 15 and 16

1. The Great Prostitute Revealed:

~ vs. 1, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,”

~ vs. 2 declares that those who are primarily and initially influenced are “the kings of the earth”

~ vs. 5, “And on her forehead was written a name of mystery; “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”

~ Babylon is the Greek for the Hebrew Babel which originally meant Gate of God, but following the judgment of God in Genesis 11 it meant to confuse.

~ Babel was founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:8; his name meant ‘rebellion’) who is often regarded as the world’s first dictator.

~ “But from the beginning of Nimrod’s city” in Genesis 10, “an insidious anti-God Babylonian influence has been felt throughout history.”

~ “The Babylonian system has in one way or another, given birth to all false religions.”

2. The Great Prostitute Compared to Israel:

Israel Revelation 12	contrasted to	The Great Prostitute Revelation 17
Where	Land of Israel	17:15 the waters
Mother	Of a Man Child	17:5 of prostitutes
Clothing	Sun and moon	17:4 purple, scarlet and gold
Identity	Chosen of God	17:15 religious ruler of people
Enemy	The Dragon	17:16 the beast
Relationship	Hated by the world	17:6 hates the saints of God
Sustained	By God	17:8 the dragon and first beast
Destination	Heaven	17:16 destruction

3. The Great Prostitute Judged:

~ vs. 7 – 14 The beast

~ vs. 9 - 10, “This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; (10) they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.”

~ Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece (these 5 have fallen), Rome (was at the time of John’s writing). That is six with one yet to come.

~ vs. 11, “As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.”

~ vs. 16 – 17, “And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, (17) for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.”

If my understanding is correct, after working in

Daniel 9:24 – 27, Matthew 24:15 – 28 and

~ 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4 “Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, (4) who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”;

then the activity of the great prostitute is during the first 3½ years of the 7 year great tribulation.

Conclusion:

Revelation 17:14, “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Jude 1:1, “Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ;”