

THE GREAT HARLOT

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Matthew 16:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

2 He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red';

3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.

Hopefully, we are looking out for the sign of the times.

Luke 21:29-31 (NKJV)

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

30 When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

31 So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

When? When you see these prophesied events happening.

Luke 21:34-36 (NKJV)

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. (You believers)

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

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.” (Don't doze off!! Be watchful! Be alert!)

Revelation 1:1-3 (NKJV)

1 The Revelation (revealing) of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. (John recalls the things that he heard ... and the things that he saw)

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

There is a **blessing** for reading and hearing this ... for keeping the truths.

The Revelation 13 beast ... The first beast ... a composite beast from Daniel 7. Europe in some form? Or ... the end-time Islamic Empire. The second beast ... a beast that looked like a lamb and had two horns ... this could represent the Papacy ... and the two horns ... the religious power and the political power. Or ... the Islamic antichrist or the Caliph ... which all Muslims must obey.

We looked at the mark of the beast ... A microchip? Or ... perhaps the mark of the beast is a counterfeit of God's sign of the Sabbath. (i.e. Enforced Sunday worship). Or ... potentially ... this is a sign of allegiance to Allah and to his prophet Mohammed.

Revelation 13:18 "Here is wisdom: let him who has understanding calculate the multitude of the beast, for it is the multitude of a man (Mohammed): his multitude is (or comes) in the name of Allah"

It's not merely a question of just receiving a mark. The beast is figurative ... so the mark could be figurative. It's more about those who worship the beast and his image. Those who give their allegiance to this beast empire ... those who worship this beast empire.

Revelation 17:1-6 (NKJV)

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 (final punishment) of the great harlot who sits on many waters,
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."

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast 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.

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 marvelled with great amazement.

What can we find out about this great harlot? First ... we should be totally au fait with the narrative.

A woman picturing a false religion. This false religion is actually tied to a specific geographical location. Look at verse 18. The harlot is also a city ... one that supports false religion against the true God. Verse 15 says: The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. Verse 3 is another

clue as to where this city is. "So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness". (Desert: desert or lonely place).

Revelation 17:3 (NIV 1984)

3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert.

There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:3 (Voice)

3 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and the guide picked me up and carried me off. In the middle of a vast desert, I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet-colored beast covered with blasphemous names.

I'm going to suggest this place is Mecca. Why Mecca? Mecca is the birthplace of Islam. Mecca is the very heart of the spirit of antichrist. Mecca is the centre of Islam. All Muslims pray 5 times per day pointed towards Mecca. All Muslims are required (if they have the health and money) to make a pilgrimage at least once in their lives to Mecca. It is the heart, core and soul of Islam.

Why scarlet and purple and gold etc. The "high-ups" in the Catholic Church wear these colours. So ... is this representative of the Catholic Church? The other view is the scarlet and red ... are symbols of royalty ... the gold etc representing the wealth of Mecca. There are 15,000 royals in the family of Saud. There are billionaires ... lavish lifestyles ... playboys etc.

Let's look at Verse 5: "And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"

It's not ancient Babylon ... it's a mystery that has to be revealed.
Perhaps a daughter or descendant of Babylon?

Our traditional view is that the Roman Catholic Church is the Mother of Harlots ... the source of all of the other Protestant churches. The other view ... looking at the Islamic option. The Middle East uses the term "Mother of" in lots of situations ... today from a Middle Eastern point of view ... it means "The greatest". Think of Saddam Hussein's description of a battle in the Iraq War as being, "The Mother of all battles".

Moving on to verse 6. "I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus"

Islam has been responsible for the bloodshed of millions who have carried the name, "Christians" ... and they are still killing them today! Islam ... even today ... is intolerant of any other religions. Jews and Christians are to be given the option to convert ... subjugation or be beheaded. Islam will eventually "take care of you".

Revelation 17:7-18 (NKJV)

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? **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.**

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.

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

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.

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

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.**

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority 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 those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."**

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

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.**

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."**

Look at verses 7-10. Verse 9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: **"The seven heads are seven mountains (Greek: Oros) on which the woman sits"** Mountains are a symbol of a kingdom.

Verse 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"**. When John is around and is writing this down ... five have already come and gone ... the 6th one is still around ... and one is still to come.

The Church of God view is that this beast relates to the fourth beast of Daniel 7. These 10 horns came one after another (with gaps). The Papacy uprooted the first 3 and rides the last 7. The 7 kings are

these: 1. Justinian. 2. The Frankish kingdoms of Charlemagne. 3. The Holy Roman Empire of Ottoman The Great. 4. The Hapsburg Empire of Charles the Great. 5. Napoleon. 6. Italy from the time of Garibaldi to Mussolini ... ending 1945. 7. Yet to come ... the European Empire ridden by the Pope.

The Church's belief was that the understanding of Revelation 17 occurred to Mr Armstrong in the 1930s and that was the time that John was "in the spirit" in Revelation and seeing the 6th King ... the "one that is" ... being Italy under Mussolini. I think this is the wrong track. Mr Armstrong genuinely believed the end was literally upon him ... for example ... Plain Truth January 1939. "Mussolini will fight Christ!" Another one: Plain Truth May/June 1941 ... "Hitler now emerges as the "beast of Revelation!".

So what could the five that have fallen be .. the sixth that is ... and the seventh ... which is to come.

The empires that have been dominant that satan has used against God's people and/or city: 1. Egypt 2. Assyria 3. Babylon 4. Medo-Persia 5. Greece 6. Rome. 7. I'm going to suggest the Islamic Caliphate from 1453-1922/4

When John writes of the 6th Empire ... the "one that is" ... he is referring to the one that exists in 90AD when he is writing (continues for several more centuries). The Roman Empire ended in 1453 when Constantinople was overrun by the Islamic Ottoman Empire.

But what about now?? The immediate future? Let's move on to verse 11 and see if that helps.

Verse 11: "The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition."

Only 7 different kingdoms ... but one brought back to life as the 8th kingdom. See the following verses.

Revelation 13:2-3 (NKJV)

2 Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. (All found in Daniel 7 ... A composite beast) The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads (mountains) as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.

So the wounded head is one of the 7 heads ... one of the 7 kingdoms ... and it is resurrected. Which one? In context ... pretty sure this will be the 7th one ... the Islamic Empire. A restored Ottoman Empire. The indications of prophecy is ... that the scarlet beast is coming back!!

At present today ... the beast is not ... but the ingredients are there.

See **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. (This could be either the 10 nations of Europe or ... much more likely ... 10 Islamic nations at the end-time)

Revelation 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 17:16 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.

Many Islamic nations seem to envy or hate Saudi Arabia either because they see it as decadent or apostate. So the 10 Islamic nations will eventually turn on Mecca and destroy it with missiles, explosives, possibly even nuclear weapons?

Revelation 18:1-8 (NKJV)

1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory.

2 And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!**"

So ... where is Babylon? We will look at that next week.