

THE WORD OF

TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

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SATAN'S HUMAN AGENTS

Our previous study described the war in heaven between Christ and Satan and the wrath with which Satan undertook to afflict Jesus through His Church. The adversary of souls sent a flood of people to persecute the object of Christ's dearest affection.

Our lesson today will delineate the human agents employed by Satan in that endeavour and we shall see, in affect, the fulfilment of the prophecies of Daniel and the lead-up to the last controlling world power.

This knowledge will help us to avoid coming under the control of one who would work for our eternal destruction.

We learned from lessons 9 and 10, dealing with the prophecies of Daniel 2, 7 and 8 that the papacy dominated the world with a reign of tyranny for 1260 years, between 538 and 1798 AD. The prophecy of Revelation 17, which we shall study in this lesson, illustrates the force and intelligence controlling this notable world power.

To understand the message of this prophecy, we need to recall some fundamental symbols applied in this chapter:--

Woman... Church	Water... People	Dragon... Satan
City. . . . Church	Horns... Kingdoms	Beast..... Powers
Clothing.. Character		

1. An angel showed John (the writer of Revelation) a vision, basically, what did he see?

Revelation 17:3 _____

2. Upon what is this woman said to sit?

Revelation 17:1 _____

3. Who is identified as the beast upon whom the woman is riding?

Revelation 12:3, 9. Compare Revelation 17:3 _____

4. What do we understand by the symbol -- waters?

Revelation 17:15 _____

Note: We know that in other prophecies beasts have represented government. Here the woman is said to be riding upon a beast, but also to be sitting upon many waters. As these waters are representative of many peoples and nations, we would understand that no single government is represented by the beast, but rather governments in general. As the woman is riding upon the beast, we would understand that she is upheld by the beast (see Rev.13:2; Dan.8:24). With such power she has a controlling hold over governments to achieve her will.

5. What is the character of the woman said to be?

Revelation 17:1 _____

Note: As a pure woman represents the church of God, a whore represents a church that is no longer faithful to her husband. Or, to interpret the symbolic language of this prophecy, has turned her back on God (Jer.3:6-8; Eze.23).

6. Who is the husband of the pure church?

2 Corinthians 11:2 _____

Note: Compare Jeremiah 6:2; Revelation 19:7-8

7. With whom is this woman said to commit adultery?

Revelation 17:2 _____

Note: As men depart from the purity of faith that was handed down from the apostles, they drift toward the world. This mingling of the sacred and the profane God had forbidden (2Cor.6:14 - 7:1). As the church departs from Christ, it loses the power that attended its early preaching of the Gospel.

The vacuum created by the departing of the Spirit of Christ is soon filled by the spirit of Satan. This is spiritual adultery, as a god, other than the living Creator God, has occupied the heart and is evident by turning to other gods such as worldliness. A pretext of piety follows and is often filled with image representations of deity and a hidden conduct of immorality (Jer.3:9. stones and stocks represent idols and images. Eze.23:35, in turning against God, lewdness, or sexual immorality follows).

Without the power of Christ abiding in the church, the church then turns to the state to supply the lack and gain authority and persuasion with the masses. This, the dedicated Church of Christ, would never do. In fact, it is this very act of the church enlisting the power of the state, that establishes the "image to the beast" (Rev.13). This subject will be treated in a later lesson.

8. What other representation is used to symbolise the whore?

Revelation 17:18 _____

Note: The woman is also identified as being a city. There is only one church in the world that incorporates the name of a city to form part of its own name and that church is the Roman Catholic church. However, it must also meet the other criteria for its description --- this may be seen in the character of the harlot of Revelation 17, the beast of Revelation 13 and Babylon of Revelation 14 and 18.

Several times the term "great city" is used to describe this apostate system. Rome has never tried to hide the fact that whenever possible it will use the power of civil government to enforce its dogma. Upheld by the power of the state, this woman, symbol of the apostate church, is seen guiding and controlling the nations.

9. Another feature that identifies the whore as Roman Catholicism is seen in the symbol of the seven heads of the scarlet coloured beast. What do the heads mean?

Revelation 17:9 _____

Note: It is well known that Rome, the seat of the Papacy, is built on seven hills.

It should be clearly understood that in referring to the Papacy, or Roman Catholicism, as the whore, Christ is in no wise condemning those faithful souls within the Roman Catholic Church who are living up to all of the light they have, for they will embrace the truth when they hear it. They will then withdraw to where they can worship God in spirit and in truth (review lesson 23). The whore of Revelation 17 is a satanic *system* having a facade of Christianity that God has condemned.

10. The name of a city is also used to represent the rebellious, adulterous church. What is the name used ?

Revelation 18:2, 3 _____

11. Similarly, a city name is used to represent God's church.

What name is it?

Micah 4:1, 2, 8 _____

12. Describe the attire of the woman riding on the beast:

Revelation 17:4 _____

Note: What a contrast to the pure linen clothing of the saints, representing the righteousness of Christ formed within their hearts.

13. The woman became drunk, intoxicated, insane, or possessed by what satanic activity?

Revelation 17:6 _____

Note: Why should John be filled with wonder as he saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints? Persecution of the church was not new in John's day. John himself was a victim of persecution and at the time he was writing the Revelation, about 90AD, was in exile on the Isle of Patmos for the faith that he held in Jesus Christ. John wondered, or was amazed at the ferocity and extent of the persecution, carried out, in this case, not so much by the open enemies of Christ, such as by pagan Rome, but by a professedly Christian church!

14. What was the name on her forehead?

Revelation 17:5 _____

Note: This property of the woman describes her character... the mother of harlots... forsaking God and turning to other gods. The character or attitude is depicted as being in her forehead and thus is a condition of the mind.

The fact that she is said to be a "mother of harlots," indicates that she is not alone in courting the power of civil authority. Other churches have looked to her, daughters who have followed her footsteps in apostasy and not followed the commandments of God, but teach for doctrines the commandments of men. They, like their mother, seek

the favour of civil government for the furtherance of their desired goals. The daughters of the harlot are the apostate protestant churches, those churches that have had light and forsaken it to embrace the doctrines of Rome, or "the wine of Babylon", as Revelation 14:8 and Revelation 18:1-3 express it.

Soon the combined apostate (departed from their original faith) churches will meet the powers of darkness in the final conflict of this great controversy. At this time all the civil and religious powers on earth will combine to form the image to the beast - "all whose names are not written in the book of life." (Rev.13:8; 17:8). This will be the greatest union of church and state ever to appear on earth.

15. The beast upon which the woman sits is identified as the Devil and Satan. Another description is used in this chapter, how is it worded?
Revelation 17:8 _____

Note: The beast that was... *he had power*. Is not... *is dead, or doomed to die*. Yet is... *is alive for a little while*.

16. In contrast, how is Christ described by the same writer?
Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17 _____

Note: The Lord which is... *He is alive*. Which was... *existed before anything else existed*. Which is to come... *will still exist when everything else has passed away*.

17. There is a sequence of eight kings mentioned, who is the last of this line of rulers?
Revelation 17:10, 11 _____

Note: If we read this prophecy correctly, it would seem that the last ruler to take control of the people of the earth just prior to the second coming of Jesus will be Satan himself. This portion of the prophecy and following seems to relate to the post dark ages period, that is,

subsequent to 1798, as the latter part of the chapter and chapter 18 deal with the total collapse and overthrow of the Papacy and the one world government empire. The domination of the one world government and universal religion has not yet been fully realised, though there is much evidence to indicate that such a world system is now in place and is taking control of our lives piece by piece, stealthfully, that a world revolt will not hinder its advance.

Examples of such overtaking manoeuvres are:-- Control of governments and nations, in particular the United States, by the world power of the United Nations. -- The close alliance between the U.S. and communism. -- The military takeover of the United States and the U.S. assuming the roll of a world police force. -- Cashless trading, which will simplify discipline and ostracising of any dissenters. -- The implementation of inescapable surveillance systems. -- The manipulation of national debt to cripple countries, independent businesses and farmers. -- An education system that indoctrinates the youth to have no thought for God, teaching decadence as an acceptable lifestyle; this produces a people with a distorted sense of values and a state of mind that cannot think and reason clearly. Thus the people, believing whatever the authorities tell them, become dependent on the manipulating system and are very easily controlled. -- The introduction of fluoride into water supplies. Fluoride is a poison and was used in concentration camps during the war to dull the mind of prisoners and lessen resistance. The ruse about dental health and fluoride is a smokescreen to cover the real motive... control.

18. Who will work in collaboration with the beast, or Satan, and give their strength to his cause to achieve his ends?

Revelation 17:12,13 _____

19. What will be their final assault?

Revelation 17:14 _____

Compare: Revelation 16:13,14 _____

20. When the ten kingdoms realise the deceptions of the wine of false doctrine of the whore and that they are lost to the kingdom of God, what will they do to the whore (Roman Catholicism)?

Revelation 17:16; 18:8 _____

Note: Chapter 18 describes the deceptive doctrines of Babylon. She teaches a salvation method that is based on worldly principles and those that have prospered through these satanic doctrines now see their riches crumbling. Babylon receives the retribution of an offended God.

21. Who will be the final victor in this war between good and evil?

Revelation 17:14 _____

Compare: Revelation 19:11-16 _____

What a triumphant end to thousands of years of sin and misery. The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven to redeem His faithful and obedient children. The powers of hell with its arch leader will be finished, eventually to be destroyed forever. He who is King of kings and Lord of lords will smite the rebellious nations with the sword of His mouth and bring His beloved redeemed into His kingdom of peace and love... Even so, Lord Jesus come !

*Fear not little flock -- for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.*

Luke 12:32