

36. The Explanation of the Fall of Religious Babylon

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain how the antichrist and false religion will work together to kill all those who follow Christ. We saw that it is possible because they are united against Christ and His followers. In this topic, we will learn more about the fall of religious Babylon.

Revelation 17:8 says, “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.” Here, we see that the beast was and is not. Revelation 13:3-4 says, “And *I saw* one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” These verses say that one of the heads of the beast is mortally wounded. We saw, in the topic on these verses, the fact that the antichrist will imitate the death and resurrection of Christ. We saw, in that topic, that this imitation will cause the entire world to follow the antichrist.

Here, we will see more details about how this will happen. Revelation 16:13 says, “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” In this verse, we see that three demons come out of the mouths of the unholy trinity. We saw that the unholy trinity is Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet. A demon comes out of the mouth of the beast (antichrist). Here, in Revelation 17:8, we see how the antichrist will imitate the resurrection. This demon actually comes out of the bottomless pit and enters the antichrist and will return to perdition (eternal destruction). In fact, the antichrist and the false prophet, along with the demons that possess them, will be sent to eternal judgment when Christ captures them in the battle of Armageddon. Revelation 19:20 says, “Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

We saw that this imitation of the resurrection will cause all who are not tribulation saints to be deceived and believe the lie of the antichrist. Here, we see that, from the foundation of the world, their names are not written in the Book of Life. 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 says, “And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” We see that they will believe the lie of the antichrist because they want to believe that lie due to their own unrighteousness.

Revelation 17:9-14 says, “Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 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. The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. 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. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 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.” Here, we see that the seven heads are the seven mountains on which the woman sits.

The seven mountains (hills) may represent the fact that the antichrist will come out of the former Roman Empire. However, we see that there are also seven kings or kingdoms and that five of these have fallen. Daniel had a vision of four kingdoms or empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome). However, the Old Testament also talks about two powerful empires before these empires. The Egyptian Empire enslaved the Israelites. Their power was broken when God destroyed Pharaoh and the Egyptian army in the Red Sea. The Assyrian Empire conquered the nation of Israel and took Israel captive in 722 B.C. They were later conquered by the Babylonian Empire which also conquered Judah in 586 B.C. The first five (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece) had ceased to exist as empires by the time John wrote the book of Revelation. The sixth was Rome, and that empire still existed. In fact, it was the empire that had placed John on the island of Patmos. However, John said that the final world empire is yet to come.

That final world empire will only last for a short time. We have seen that the ruler of that world empire will be from the seven and is going to perdition (eternal judgment). As we mentioned above, Revelation 19:20 says that the antichrist will go directly to perdition when he is defeated by Christ. The beast is described as both the seventh and the eighth king but is of the seven. The fact that the antichrist will appear to receive a deadly wound, and then will imitate the resurrection, means that he can be both the seventh and the eighth king, since he will claim that he has been raised from the dead.

We see that the ten horns are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom. Daniel 7:24 says, “The ten horns *are* ten kings *who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first *ones*, and shall subdue three kings.” Here, we see that these kings will arise from within this kingdom. This means they will serve under the antichrist as the administrators of ten sections of this world empire. The fact that it says they will rule for only one hour points out the fact that the length of this empire will be very short. It will take the antichrist the first three-and-a-half years to gain total control of the world, so this empire will only be the last three-and-a-half years of the tribulation. All ten will have one mind to serve the antichrist. They will have no power of their own, but will give their power and authority to the antichrist.

They will lead the armies under their administration to come and make war with the Lamb (Christ). However, the Lamb will overcome them. Christ is the Lord of Lords and has all authority. Matthew 28:18 says, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.’” Here, we see that Christ is the One who has true authority. Revelation 22:5 says, “There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.” He is also the King of kings. He is the One who will rule forever. Those who will rule with Him are the called, chosen and faithful. John wrote this letter to the saints in the churches, and said, in Revelation 1:6, “And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and

ever. Amen.”

Revelation 17:15-18 says, “Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 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. 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. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” In verse one, we see that the angel called the woman “the great harlot who sits on many waters.” We saw that this great harlot is organized religion. Here, we see that the waters are the peoples of the nations.

The antichrist and the ten kings under him will work with the harlot (organized religion) until the antichrist has complete control. However, the antichrist and his ten kings have no desire to share power with organized religion. In fact, we see that they hate organized religion. The antichrist wants all power. Once he has set up his image in the temple, he will demand that all worship him, just as Nebuchadnezzar did. Nebuchadnezzar had his herald announce, in Daniel 3:6, “And whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.” The hatred of the antichrist, and his ten kings, for organized religion is so great, they will make the harlot “desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.”

God is in control, even though the antichrist and his kings are in complete rebellion against God. Genesis 6:5 says, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.” Because their hearts are also totally controlled by evil, the antichrist and his kings actually all have the same purpose. Their purpose is to destroy all organized religion, because Satan and the antichrist do not want any competition. The ten kings will all be in complete agreement and will destroy all religion, so they can give their kingdom to the beast. However, they will actually fulfill the words of God, because God will allow their evil hearts to carry out their plan. However, the antichrist, and the ten kings, will be judged when Christ comes to rule.

We see that the harlot (woman) is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. We saw, in the previous topic, that this woman had a name written on her forehead. That name is “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” The true church was a mystery that was not revealed until Ephesians 2 and 3. The false church, and all organized religion, is a mystery that was not revealed until Revelation. Here, we see that this religion is the mother of all false religions. Christ will allow the antichrist to completely destroy organized religion, because of his own desire for power. This is the destruction of religious Babylon. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why God will allow the antichrist to destroy organized religion before he is destroyed. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.