



# Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

As the book of Revelation begins to come to a close, we notice something that is reminiscent of what we saw in the beginning of the book. As we turn our attention to chapter 17, we notice in verse one that one of the angels which had the seven bowls came and said to John, “Come” and I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute who sits by many waters. This is significant for several reasons. First of all, it is a reminder that the evil and corruption of the world and the power of sin will have an ultimate judgment. It’s so encouraging to know that the injustice, evil and unrighteousness will be dealt a final blow by our Lord. The book of Revelation is to be a book about end times, but it’s also intended to be a book of encouragement to those of us who wonder whether God will prevail and whether the righteous will be vindicated. Well, chapter seventeen begins the culmination of that final judgment. The angel describes how this great prostitute has deceived the nations. We are not obviously speaking about a person, but an ideology, which has gripped the world. In addition to the antichrist and the false prophet this global ideology and mindset created the perfect mix to empower the antichrist. Verse two tells us that with this prostitute the kings of the earth went away from God. Not only the kings, but the all the people of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her deception. The term intoxicated and drunk speak to not only the debauchery of this world system which became a type of religion of its own (that’s why you see the term Babylon), but also the inability to fight or resist because of their intoxication.

Verse three mentions that John was carried away in the spirit into a wilderness. Upon arriving he sees a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. We know that this red beast is a reference to the antichrist. Once again, this woman sitting on the beast is a representative of a global mindset that is what give even greater power to the antichrist. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet with gold and other precious stones adorning her. The beauty of the earth was consumed upon lust and vanity. Humanity’s thirst for wealth and riches are summed up in the way in which this woman was adorned. This is significant. We must be careful of prosperity teachings which make prosperity a god within itself. We do believe that God wants His people to prosper and be blessed financially, however, it’s critical to not allow money, wealth, and possessions to become a verifier of our faith. Indeed, in the end, Satan will use humanity’s love for things as a Segway for this global religion fueled by greed. One of the reasons that we choose to fast is to remind ourselves, that we don’t need to make anything an idol; possessions or food.



The next thing we notice in verse four (b) is that this woman had a golden cup in her hand filled with abominations and the filth of her adulteries. Notice the paradox: 1) a golden cup 2) filled with filth! This will show the utter deception that this woman personifies. External beauty and wealth where there is nothing but filth at the core. Verse five then states that the name that was written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the great, the mother of prostitutes, and the abominations of the earth. Whatever her name was it, personified, her vile nature. The next verse is the one that is most startling. Verse six states that the woman was **drunk** with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who chose to follow Jesus. This let's us know that that the global religious order will find its fuel and strength off the blood of the martyrs. For all those who will choose to follow Christ during the Great Tribulation, this religious world order, fueled, by the antichrist and his false prophet will gain its momentum with the slaughtering of Christians. This underscores a proper view of Christianity. The book of Revelation should not be limited to what we can anticipate in the future only, but how we behave today as we prepare the world for The Church to be strong and vibrant as these events unfold. Suffering is the nature of our Lord. Jesus is often referred to as "suffering servant". Although we are not advocating that we live a life of downtrodden living, we should not thin that we as Christians are exempt from suffering. Our modern day suffering will pave the way for the martyrdom of those precious saints who will bleed during the Great Tribulation.

I recently saw a commercial featuring Ron Reagan (Former President Ronald Reagan's son) promoting his atheist views under the Freedom from Religion Foundation. This was banned at one point, but is now on Rachel Maddow and CNN. When we see the word adulterous, we are talking about any thoughts or actions that directly go against what we know of Christ. Well, Ron and other are setting the stage for this great global deception which will ultimately feed on the blood of the saints. Let's be vigilant.

#### Things to Ponder

1. How can a prosperity theology lead us away from true faith in Christ alone?
2. How will the "great prostitute" garner such a global audience?
3. How many times was John directly addressed in Revelation up to this point?
4. What can you do NOW to fight some of the things that are happening in our society making us less Christian?
5. Since we know what's to come, does our work for Christ, matter? (be specific with your thoughts)