



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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A|Ω
ALPHA AND OMEGA

Rev. 17 continues with an explanation of the great prostitute and beast. Verses 7-18 begin to give an explanation of what John saw in the previous six verses of chapter seventeen. The angel who shows him this awesome sight now seeks to give explanation as to what it means. We can look into the realm of the Spirit, even through the Word of God, but it takes that from the realm of the spirit to explain the things of the spirit. (Read 1 Corinthians 2:14). The angel tells John in verse 8 that the beast that he saw which once was, now is not, and yet will come out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The angel lets John know about the ultimate judgment that will befall the beast. Also, as we have mentioned this “unholy trinity” (the dragon, the antichrist and the false prophet), we see this opposite designation of the nature of this beast – dragon: it was, now is not and will be destroyed! As God was and is and is to come, this is not the current or future state of this beast. He is NOT what God IS!!! He then goes on to mention all those who have not accepted Jesus, as their Lord will be deceived by this beast. They will be astonished.

The explanation of the vision is given. Vs. 9 – the seen heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. Charles Swindoll states that these seen heads represented seven world empires that stood in opposition to God and His people: five that existed in John’s past (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece), along with one that existed in John’s present, (Rome) and one that will arise in the future (Babylon or the empire of the Antichrist). Although there are many commentaries that refer to Rome as being the only reference to these seven heads, I continue to side with those who see these visions as more metaphorically representing than always actual. Then there is a reference to seven mountains. Since Rome was situated on seven hills the reference to “seven mountains” referred to a “seat of power” that would be reminiscent of Rome. Then there is a reference to an eighth king (v. 11). This is a reference to the Antichrist, who is one of the preceding kings. It is believed that this might represent the two phases of the Antichrist’s leadership. One for the phase before his marvelous “death and resurrection (“the seventh king”) and after this, when Satan turns his local political career in to a global empire (as the “eighth” king). Then there is the image of ten horns which represent ten nations who will unite to empower the Antichrist. Turning all worldly authority over to him.

Let’s back up and take a panoramic view of what has occurred. Remember the Beast and the false prophet in chapter thirteen? Well, in this chapter we see a detailed description of both of their realms in



which they operate: the global empire and the worldwide religion. During the three and a half years of the Antichrist's reign, the world will suffer under this demonic merger between a totalitarian state and an anti-Christian "church". The Beast's empire will be supported by an alliance of nations from around the world "from peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues" (vs. 15). All the world powers will surrender their sovereignty to the Antichrist (vs. 13) who will reign over all the kings of the earth from his great capital city (vs. 18). The world will be as "one", literally for one hour (vs. 12). Religious, spiritual and political systems will all be one. After this "false unity", all the kings of the earth will turn on each other as this alliance crumbles (vs. 16 & 17). This will climax with the battle of Armageddon with the kings of the earth will gather to make war with each other. Instead it will end when the glorious Deliverer descends with His own army of resurrected and glorified saints from heaven to exercise vengeance against the false Christ and his armies. (17:14; 19:14).

Look at verse 15 again. Remember the waters mentioned in verse 1? Well, the waters that were mentioned in that verse are explained in verse 15. The waters represent many people, multitudes, nations and languages. The woman is the great city that will rule over the kings of the earth (see verse 18). Both the city and the nations will turn on the beast. The reason? God will put it into their hearts. This fake kingdom is going to topple on itself and be unable to stand. Lest all of these "horns, heads, prostitute, and beast talk get confusing, let's remember to keep it simple. Satan's unholy alliance will bring in all the nations into its deceit. Thus creating a global alliance of politics, religion and governance. This will only last for a brief moment as the assembling together of this global army heads towards a final battle (orchestrated by God) to finally consummate God's plan to rule and reign over the "new earth". We're headed down to the finish line!

Things to Ponder:

1. Why do you think John was shown so much symbolism?
2. What are the major three points of chapter 17? (Be specific!)
3. What does verse 12 remind you of in the Book of Genesis with man's intent to "be one" without God?
4. Give some current day examples of global "movements" to unify the world.