

Message Notes

Series: How close are we to the end?

Message: Don't be duped by the devil

Passage: Revelation 17

17: 1

A woman is always the symbol of a r _____ system or movement- good or bad.

In Gen 11: 1-9, Nimrod persuaded his peers to build a tower to gather people in one place and give allegiance to a system of worship of something other than God.

God had told them to scatter and populate the entire world. This gathering was in defiance to God.

They called their city, Bab-El, or gate of God but it was changed to Babel which means confusion by God's judgment on their efforts.

The Plain of Shinar where Babel was built became the center of the future nation of Babylon which is modern day Iraq.

Ancient writings tell us that the wife of Nimrod was Semiramis the First, the founder of the Babylonian mystery religions and first high priestess of idolatry.

Thus, Babylon became synonymous with idolatry. Much like the term "Wall Street" symbolizes the financial system of America, Babylon is a metaphor for a false religious system.

She bore a son who legend says was miraculously conceived and when he was born, he was proclaimed the promised deliverer.

Thus, was introduced the mystery and worship of the woman and child, a form of idolatry that has existed since near the beginning of humanity.

The rites of this religion were secret, only the initiated knew the secrets.

According to Jeremiah 51:7, Babylon has always represented a false religion of secrets, sexual desires, superstition, humanism and idolatry.

17: 1:

"Waters she sits on"= see v 15 as this refers to the c_____ she has over most of the world

17: 3

She has names of b_____, showing how religion has fallen from Christ.

17:4:

Clothed in purple= the c_____ of Roman imperialism and today's Catholicism

Gold= beauty on the outside but i_____ on the inside

Golden cup= shows that it is c_____ Christianity

17:5: Name upon her forehead= She does not wear a c_____ but rather the m_____ of her profession.

17:6:: Persecution of God's people has always been a mark of a false religious system.

17:7: This is a totalitarian state and an anti-Christian church combining to control humanity.

17:8: Seven heads=this probably refers to 7 k_____ as mountains often are symbolic of kings or kingdoms.

17:11: The antichrist is the 7th head who seemingly dies mid-Tribulation but is brought back to life (again an i_____ of the resurrection by the devil). This also makes him the 8th ruler as indicated in verse 11.

17: 12-13

These ten heads correspond to the ten t_____ of the king's vision in Daniel 2 and the ten horns of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13.

17: 15-17: All this continues until the antichrist and these world leaders gather at the Valley of Megiddo in the last rebellious act of humanity against God. The Lord will overthrow them completely.

17:18

God uses the evil Beast to destroy the false religious system. Thus, the Beast actually carries out the will of God without realizing it.

SMALL GROUP LESSON

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LOOK BACK:

LOOK UP: Describe your religious upbringing. What was right about it and what have you discovered over the years was wrong with it, if anything?

One: Read 1 John 2: 18. John tells us that the spirit of the antichrist is in operation today. How can you tell false religion/teachers from genuine spirituality/ true teachers?

Two: Why is it critical to guard your mind against those spiritual teachers online, in podcasts, leading a church who are scripture light and mainly self-promoting?

Three: Why is the prosperity gospel that teaches that your giving to that preacher obligates God to give to you health, wealth so unscriptural?

Four: Read 2 Corinthians 11: 2. What keeps you grounded in truth?

LOOK FORWARD: Someone who has fallen away from church/Christ needs more than your prayers. They need your guidance from Scripture to return. Who will you speak to this week regarding this return: _____.