

A Look at the Dragon, the Beasts, and the Harlot of Revelation

INTRODUCTION.

- A. This study presents a brief review of the verses in Revelation which reference the dragon, the sea beast, the earth beast, the harlot, as well as the Babylon the great.
- B. In this study, we will present the harlot as well as Babylon as representation of the wicked city of Jerusalem. As a result, we will view the Sea Beast as representing the rise of the Roman Empire and the Earth Beast as the religious arm of the Roman empire which bound idol worship, which included emperor worship, on God's people.

I. THE DRAGON.

- A. There is no question as to who the dragon represents. The text refers to the dragon as the "serpent of old," the Devil, and Satan who deceives the world. (Rev 12:9; 20:1-2, 7-8, 10)
- B. Revelation, chapter 12.
 - 1. John saw the fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. (vs 3)
 - 2. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon and his angels. (vs 7)
 - 3. The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. (vs 9)
 - 4. The dragon made war with the offspring of the woman. (vs 17)
- C. Revelation, chapter 13.
 - 1. The dragon gave power, his throne, and great authority to the beast that rose up out of the sea. (vs 1-2)
 - 2. All the world worshiped the dragon who had given authority to the beast. (vs 4)
- D. Revelation, chapter 16.
 - 1. John 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. The

unclean spirits, the spirits of demons, went out performing signs, going out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. The unclean spirits, the demons, gathered the kings of the earth and the whole world them together to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon (Lit. Mount Megiddo). (vs 13-16)

E. Revelation, chapter 20.

1. An angel laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (vs 1-2)
2. When the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive. (vs 7-8)
3. The devil who deceived the world, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. (vs 10)

II. THE SEA BEAST.

A. We will view the sea beast as representing the rise of the power of the Roman government.

1. The Roman government pushed a religion of idol worship as well as emperor worship.
2. The Roman government made war on the people of God; those who did not worship the beast and the images of the beast, those how had the seal of God on their foreheads. (Could this be the same beast who killed the two witnesses in Revelation 11:7?)
3. The Roman government gave support to the city of Jerusalem, especially as they persecuted the disciples of Christ, as they killed Jesus on the cross, and as they continued to lead the persecuting of Christians.
4. Eventually, the Roman government would turn on the city of Jerusalem.

B. Revelation, chapter 11.

1. The beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against the witnesses, overcome them, and kill them. (vs 7)

C. Revelation, chapter 13.

1. A beast rose up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns with ten crowns. On the seven heads were blasphemous names. (vs 1)
 2. The dragon gave this beast his power, his throne, and great authority. (vs 2)
 3. People worshiped the sea beast. (vs 4)
- D. Revelation, chapter 16.
1. John 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. The unclean spirits, the spirits of demons, went out performing signs, going out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. The unclean spirits, the demons, gathered the kings of the earth and the whole world them together to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon (lit. Mount Megiddo). (vs 13-16)
- E. Revelation, chapter 17.
1. The great harlot sat on the sea beast. (vs 3)
 2. The beast will ascend out of the bottomless pit (cf. Rev 11:7) and go to perdition (destruction). (vs 8, 11)
 3. This beast is “that was, and is not, and yet is.” (vs 8)
 - a. This phrase may refer to the state of the Roman empire or army after different points in their history leading up to Jerusalem’s destruction.
 4. The ten horns on the beast will hate the harlot and make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (vs 16)
 5. The horns of the beast will fulfill God’s purpose against the great harlot, that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. (vs 18)
- F. Revelation, chapter 19.
1. The beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gathered to make war against the angel. (vs 17)
 2. The sea beast and the false prophet (second earth beast) were captured and cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (vs 19-20)
- G. Revelation, chapter 20.

1. The first beast was seen in the lake of fire. (vs 10)

III. THE EARTH BEAST (THE FALSE PROPHET).

- A. The second beast could represent the religions of the Roman government used to subjugate the people, including the worship of emperors alongside the worship of idols.
- B. This could be why the second beast is called “the false prophet.” The Roman government and the worship of emperors and idols would suffer a great fall.
- C. Revelation, chapter 13.
 1. John saw another beast coming up out of the earth with two horns. (vs 11)
 2. This beast spoke like a dragon. (vs 11)
 3. This beast exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast. He performs great signs and deceives those who dwell on the earth. (vs 12-14)
 4. He instructs people to make an image to the first beast. (vs 15)
 5. This beast gives breath to the image of the beast so that it would speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. (vs 16)
- D. Revelation, chapter 16.
 1. John 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. The unclean spirits, the spirits of demons, went out performing signs, going out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. The unclean spirits, the demons, gathered the kings of the earth and the whole world them together to the place called in Hebrew Armageddon (lit. Mount Megiddo). (vs 13-16)
- E. Revelation, chapter 19.
 1. The earth beast (the false prophet) was captured along with the sea beast and cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. (vs 19-20)
- F. Revelation, chapter 20.
 1. The false prophet (earth beast) was in the lake of fire and brimstone.

IV. THE GREAT HARLOT.

- A. Notes: There are a couple of verses which help to identify the great harlot (the great city of Babylon) as the city of Jerusalem.
1. See Revelation 17:6 - *"I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement."*
 2. See Revelation 18:24 - *"And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth."*
 - a. Compare this to Revelation 6:10, *"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'"*
 3. Jerusalem was also called Sodom and Egypt in Revelation 11:8, *"And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."*
- B. Revelation, chapter 17.
1. The great harlot sits on many waters. (vs 1)
 - a. The waters are the peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. (vs 15)
 2. The woman sits on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. (vs 3)
 - a. The description of the scarlet beast matches the description of the sea beast seen in chapter 13.
 3. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. (vs 4)
 4. On her forehead was written the name: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (vs 5)
 5. This woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (vs 6)
 6. The great harlot is hated and attacked by the ten horns of the beast. (vs 16-18)
- C. Revelation, chapter 18.

1. An angel with great authority who illuminated the earth with his glory, announced the fall of Babylon. (vs 1-3)
 2. Another voice calls the people of God to come out of the great city lest they share in her sins and receive her plagues. (vs 4)
 3. *“Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”* (vs 8)
 4. *“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning,...”* (vs 9-19)
 5. The voice then said, *“Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”* (vs 20)
 6. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth. (vs 21-24)
- D. Revelation, chapter 19.
1. A loud voice in heaven says, *“Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.”* (vs 1-2)

V. BABYLON THE GREAT.

- A. See notes for the section looking at the great harlot.
- B. Revelation, chapter 14.
1. And another angel followed, saying, *“Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”* (vs 8)
- C. Revelation, chapter 16.
1. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. (vs 19)

D. Revelation, chapter 17.

1. Babylon was the name written on the head of the woman. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (vs 5)

E. Revelation, chapter 18.

1. *“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!’”* (vs 2)
2. *“The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”* (vs 9-10)
3. *“Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.’”* (vs 21)

CONCLUSION.

- A. It is important to note that God used the Roman Empire against Jerusalem just as He used Assyria against Israel and Babylon against Judah.
- B. Although the Roman government was a rod used by God, they still were going to be destroyed due to their wickedness, as well as their persecution of those who had the seal of God upon their forehead.