

Link to Lonnie Woodruff's *Revelation for Christians Today*, online:

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A Study of Revelation 17

Questions on Chapter 17,

Revelation for Christians Today, by Lonnie Woodruff--page 312-13 [Answers from DRL]...

01. **What is the subject of the vision recorded in chapter 17? (17:1).**
The Great Harlot (ASV)
02. **In spiritual terms, what does a harlot represent?**
The harlot represents those who worship something other than the true God, or have once worshiped God, but later turned away from Him. Nothing in the history of the world fits this symbol more perfectly than the apostate church, though this is by no means the entire fulfillment of the GREAT HARLOT. This great harlot represents anyone who is not worshipping God according to the way He has designed. They are committing spiritual fornication!
03. **Where does this harlot sit? (17:1)**
Upon many waters.
04. **What do these many waters represent? (17:15).**
They represent: PEOPLES, NATIONS, MULTITUDES, & TONGUES. The great harlot will affect or control many people.
05. **What does it mean to commit spiritual fornication?**
Spiritual fornication is any form of unfaithfulness to the Will of God.
06. **Who committed fornication with this great harlot? (17:2).**
The kings of the earth
07. **What was this great harlot sitting upon? (17:3).**
A scarlet colored beast
08. **What does this beast represent? (Chapter 13).**
It represents those governments which use their powers in order to persecute God's people.
09. **What is symbolized by the harlot riding this beast? (17:3).**
It shows a CLOSE RELATIONSHIP between the great harlot and the beast. These powers join forces and help each other control the people of the earth.
10. **List some of the characteristics of the great harlot and give their meanings (17:4).**
Arrayed in PURPLE and SCARLET and decked with GOLD and PRECIOUS STONES and PEARLS... Being dressed with expensive clothing and adorned with valuable jewels shows the vast amount of riches controlled by the GREAT HARLOT. Still today, a great amount of wealth is possessed or controlled by false religious organizations. Many of them survive because of the tremendous amounts of money they are able to raise and control.
11. **What name was written upon the forehead of the harlot? (17:5).**

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH

12. What is the meaning of this name?

BABYLON was a great enemy of God's people during the Old Testament times. It is used symbolically here to describe this great harlot as a great spiritual enemy of God's people. The religious powers who are committing spiritual fornication are spiritual enemies of God's people.

13. What terrible deeds are committed by this harlot? (17:6).

The great harlot is pictured here as being drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus. During the DARK AGES, many were persecuted and killed because they refused to submit to manmade laws of worship.

14. As John wondered at this woman, what did the angel tell him? (17:7).

The mystery of the woman and the beast that carries her

15. What descriptions are given concerning the identity of this beast in 17:8?

Was and is not, ... and yet is. Shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition. The term BEAST shows that this great religious power possessed the powers of civil government, and the term HARLOT shows that it commits spiritual fornication.

16. Compare the first description to 11:7.

It is a similar description. In that passage, the beast is described as having one of his seven heads WOUNDED TO DEATH, but this DEADLY WOUND WAS HEALED. In verse 10 there is an additional description of these heads: FIVE ARE FALLEN, AND ONE IS, AND THE OTHERS NOT YET COME. By combining the descriptive statements in these three passages, we can see that this beast must represent something of which five are already fallen and one is in existence during the time of John but will fall and then be restored as the seventh head of the beast. There are many ideas about this 7-headed beast. Woodruff believes Coffman had it right when he identified the seven heads as SEVEN WORLD-KINGDOMS hostile to God and to His people: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and a seventh to arise at a future time after Revelation was written. The SEVENTH head would then represent the Holy Roman Empire, which was the next worldwide kingdom to arise after the fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476.

17. Compare the second description to 13:3.

The Roman Empire fell in A.D. 476. It became the head that was WOUNDED TO DEATH (13:3). It was also the beast that WAS, AND IS NOT. In A.D. 800 the powers of the civil government of Rome combined with the religious power of the Catholic Church to form the Holy Roman Empire, which ruled the world. This brought back the power of the fallen Roman Empire in the form of a religious-governmental power. The death wound had been healed. The beast which WAS NOT, once again WAS!

18. Compare the description given in 17:3 to the one given in 13:1.

Both have SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS.

19. Discuss the meaning of this beast as it was given in chapter 13.

The SEVEN-HEADED beast represents the civil governments which control the world. This vision describes the governmental powers of the world which rise up to control the people of the world. The SEVEN-HEADED beast has TEN HORNS and TEN CROWNS representing the power and authority of these civil governments. The names of BLASPHEMY were written upon the heads of the beast to show that many governments of the world are opposed to Christianity in any form. There are

governments today that attempt to destroy all forms of religion and even go so far as to attempt to break the bonds of the family.

20. **What are the seven heads? (17:9).**
Civil governments: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, Holy Roman Empire.
21. **What do mountains symbolize? (Jeremiah 51:24-25).**
Civil governments or world-wide empires, like BABYLON.
22. **What other symbolic meaning of the seven heads is given in verse 10?**
SEVEN KINGS
23. **What do these kings symbolize?**
KING is used to refer to a KINGDOM.
24. **What is represented by the five which are fallen, one is, and the other is yet to come? (17:10).**
THE ONE IS, or the kingdom in power during the time of the writing of Revelation, would be the Roman Empire. The FIVE WHICH HAVE FALLEN would be the five worldwide kingdoms which ruled previous to the Roman Empire: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The ONE NOT YET COME would be the Holy Roman Empire, the next and only worldwide kingdom to have existed since the fall of the Roman Empire.
25. **What further description is given of the beast that was, and is not, and is of the seven? (17:11).**
THE EIGHTH
26. **What does the eighth beast represent? (17:11).**
In order to determine the identity of this eighth beast, we must determine which kingdom is referred to as THE ONE WHICH WAS AND IS NOT. Verse 8 refers to this beast as the beast which was and is not, and yet is. Therefore, it refers to a kingdom which was in power, but lost its power, and later regained it. This is the same kingdom as the ONE IS in verse 10. The kingdom in power during the time of John's recording of Revelation was the Roman Empire. Therefore, the one which WAS AND IS NOT is the Roman Empire. It was wounded to death or fell in A.D. 476. This death wound was healed, and the Roman Empire once again existed in the form of the Holy Roman Empire. This eighth beast is a manifestation of the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire. It is the one which was, and is not, and is of the seven. The only plausible explanation of this is the worldwide power of the Roman Catholic Church, which still exists today. Its headquarters is located in the Vatican in Rome, and it exerts a vast amount of both religious and political pressures throughout the world. The structure and authority of the once powerful Roman Empire is still with us today in a religious form. It is the EIGHTH BEAST.
27. **What do the ten horns represent? (17:12).**
These horns represent ten kings. As was explained in verse 10, these kings represent KINGDOMS.
28. **What does the number "10" symbolize?**
The NUMBER TEN is used in Revelation to mean COMPLETENESS. Thus, these 10 horns represent a complete number of kingdoms which are to have power with the beast.
29. **What is represented by these ten kings? (17:12).**
Unlike the SEVEN HEADS, specific information is not given about these ten kingdoms. Because of this, we should not try to name any certain powers which they might represent. They represent all governmental powers which arise after the fall of the seventh head of the beast.

30. How will these ten kings exist with the beast? (17:12-13).

To receive power ONE HOUR would mean that these governments coexist with the beast for an undefined period of time. Some may exist for many years and some for only a few. While they remain in power, they will share powers with the beast.

31. What will be the relationship between the beast, ten horns, and the Lamb? (17:14).

They will make war with the Lamb.

32. Who will destroy the great harlot? (17:16).

The ten horns will destroy her. The civil governments of this world will turn against the powers of false religion and destroy them. No way of knowing when this will happen or how it will be accomplished.

33. Why will the ten horns give their kingdoms unto the beast? (17:17).

God has put in their hearts to fulfill His will.

34. What other symbolism is used to describe the great harlot in verse 18?

That great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

35. Discuss the overall meaning of the great harlot.

In 18:2, the GREAT CITY is referred to as BABYLON THE GREAT. That was the name written in the forehead of the great harlot (v. 5). The great harlot is this woman which reigneth over the kings of the earth. This makes it easy to see that all of these symbols are used to describe the same thing: the apostate church which commits spiritual fornication against God. The symbol of a CITY is used in many cases to indicate a group of people which have a common purpose. A good example of this is Hebrews 12:22, where the church is referred to as THE CITY OF THE LIVING GOD. This city of God represents all those who have one thing in common—they are Christians. This GREAT CITY is used symbolically in the same manner except it is further defined as being a harlot. This would mean the great city represents all those who commit spiritual fornication.

Questions Based on Answers to LW's End of Chapter 17 Questions

True/False

01. ____ The EIGHTH kingdom of this chapter seems to be the Holy Roman Empire.
02. ____ The number TEN in Revelation is used to mean “the end of time.”
03. ____ The GREAT HARLOT was sitting upon the sea of glass.
04. ____ MYSTERY was part of the name written on the harlot's forehead.
05. ____ The third of the SEVEN HEADS would represent Babylon.

Fill in the Blanks

06. The TEN KINGS represent all _____ which arise after the _____ of the seventh head of the beast.
07. The symbol of a CITY is used in many cases to indicate a _____ of _____ which have a _____ purpose.
08. The harlot sits upon _____.
09. The Holy Roman Empire was the next worldwide empire to arise after the fall of the _____ in A.D. 476.
10. We can find a passage which tells us the symbolic meaning of MOUNTAINS in the Old Testament book of _____.

Place the symbol in the space next to its description:

11. _____ Governments coexisting with the beast for an undefined period of time.
12. _____ Peoples, nations, multitudes, and tongues.
13. _____ Great enemy of God's people in Old Testament times.
14. _____ Civil governments.
15. _____ Close relationship between the GREAT HARLOT and the beast—A joining of forces to control people.

Answers to Revelation 16 Questions: [(01) True, 54; (02) False, 46; (03) True 34; (04) False, 29; (05) True 19; (06) 17, 15, 9; (07) trials, tribulations, Christian, Christian, 5; (08) persecute, suffer, persecution, judged, 16; (09) Christians, smite, plagues, 23; (10) Law, Christ, New, Testament, 33; (11) That Great Day of God, 38; (12) Islands and Mountains, 50; (13) Noisome and Grievous Sore, 7; (14) Rivers and Fountains of Waters, 13; (15) River Euphrates, 32].

O K K V L E G N A H P D L
 D N I M N A M E B A L T V
 W O N D E R C M O V P B D
 B K G R V H H O M I E L D
 T F N O I T A C I N R O F
 S U W L E E K I N G D O M
 A L A T C L H B A F I D T
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ABOMINATIONS	ANGEL	BEAST	BLOOD	COLOUR
COME	EARTH	FORNICATION	FULFIL	FULL
GREAT	HAVING	HEADS	HORNS	KING
KINGDOM	LORD	MIND	MYSTERY	NAME
PERDITION	POWER	RECEIVE	SAWEST	SCARLET
SEVEN	SITTETH	THERE	WATERS	WHEN
WHORE	WOMAN	WONDER		

