

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 17

Lesson 18

The pouring out of the seventh bowl in Revelation 16 is described in detail in Revelation 17 as God's judgment is poured out upon *the great harlot who sits upon many waters*. It is believed that this *woman* represents a false religious system. She will dominate this chapter as she has dominated the lives of many men. But, the *Lamb* will overcome. Bask in the surety of His power as you study this chapter.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 17

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns.
Key Words: *God, Jesus (the Lamb), (Holy) Spirit, angel(s), woman/harlot, and beast*
3. Using the text of Revelation 17, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John saw.
 - a. What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 17, that you had not noticed before drawing the chapter?

Read Revelation 17:1-4

1. Who *talked* with John in Revelation 17:1a?
 - a. What was he going to *show* John? Revelation 17:1b
 - b. In the Bible, harlotry symbolizes spiritual unfaithfulness. Read Hosea 5:4 to understand and remark on what is being conveyed concerning this *harlot*.
2. When Revelation 17:2a refers to *fornication*, it is speaking about the worship of false gods. With this in mind, what had the *kings of the earth* done?
 - a. In like manner, what had the *inhabitants of the earth* done? Revelation 17:2b
 - 1.) How had the *kings of the earth* influenced the *inhabitants of the earth*?
 - 2.) Consider Isaiah 9:16 and Matthew 15:14 and comment on the influence of leaders.
 - b. Link Revelation 17:2 with Revelation 14:8. What do you see?
 - c. What evidence of spiritual *fornication* do you see in the world presently?
 - 1.) What do you think is the greatest influence on the earth presently and what effect is it having?
 - 2.) How can you guard against the pervasive influence of ungodliness?
3. Where was John *carried in the Spirit*? Revelation 17:3a
4. Describe what John *saw* in Revelation 17:3b.
 - a. Further identify and comment on this *beast* from Daniel 7:7 and Revelation 13:1.
 - b. Revelation 17:3b states that the *woman* is supported by the *beast*. She is also the driving force of the *beast*. What does this position convey to you about the relationship of this false religious system with the kingdom of the antichrist?
5. Even now, the spirit behind religious deception is rampant in the world. How would you encourage a believer to prepare against this deception?

Read Revelation 17:4-6

1. Use Revelation 17:4a to describe the adornment of the *woman*.
 - a. What does such finery suggest?
 - b. Contrast this woman's adornment with the modest attire of a godly woman from 1 Timothy 2:9-10 and 1 Peter 3:3-4. What do you see?
 - 1.) How do you desire to be clothed?
2. Comment on the *cup* that was in the *hand* of the *woman*. Revelation 17:4b
 - a. Remark on the similarity of this *cup* with the *cup* in Matthew 23:25. Share your thoughts.
 - 1.) What is dangerous about this *cup*?
3. What was *written* on the woman's *forehead*? Revelation 17:5
 - a. What does this title convey about her power and influence?
4. What was the condition of the *woman* in Revelation 17:6a?
 - a. How does this horrific scene justify the judgment of God in Revelation 16:5-6?
5. Write John's reaction to this *woman*. Revelation 17:6b
 - a. Why do you think John reacted this way?
 - b. What is your reaction to this *woman*?
6. From Matthew 5:11-12 and Revelation 7:15-17, briefly describe the reward of these *martyrs*.

- a. How are you moved by these *martyrs*?
- b. In different areas of the world, believers are still being persecuted for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Take a moment to write a prayer for these faithful believers.

Revelation 17:7-14

1. In Revelation 17:7, what did the *angel* say he would *tell* John?
2. Bible teachers believe there is a specific demonic spirit attached to the antichrist. With this in mind, what did the *angel* say about the *beast* in Revelation 17:8a?
 - a. How will *those who dwell on the earth* respond? Revelation 17:8b
 - b. Use Revelation 13:3, 13-15 to state why the world will *marvel* at the *beast*.
 - 1.) What current trends do you think are preparing society for this *marvel*?
3. From Revelation 17:9-11, summarize the scenario explained by the *angel*.
 - a. Why do you think it is *wisdom* to know these things?
4. For further understanding of the *ten horns*, link Revelation 17:12-13 with Daniel 7:19-20, 24-25. What do you see?
 - a. Describe the authority of these *kings*. Revelation 17:12
 - b. What will they have *one mind* to do? Revelation 17:13
5. According to Revelation 17:14a, with Whom will these kings *make war*?
 - a. Use Psalm 2:1-3 to highlight the attitude of these kings.

b. How is *the Lamb* described in Revelation 17:14b?

1.) How are you encouraged by this?

c. What three things characterize *those who are with Him*? Revelation 17:14c

1.) Match these characteristics with Romans 1:5–6. Share your thoughts.

2.) What have you been *called* to by Jesus?

d. What is remarkable to you about this scene?

Read Revelation 17:15–18

1. According to Revelation 17:15, what do the *waters* represent?

a. What does this imply about the harlot's influence?

2. What will the *ten horns* do to the *harlot*? Revelation 17:16

a. What does this demonstrate concerning those who ally themselves with the *beast*?

1.) Use Psalm 7:14–16 to comment on the dangers of partnering with evil.

b. Compare the way the *harlot* treated the *martyrs* in Revelation 17:6 with how she is treated in Revelation 17:16. Share your thoughts.

3. According to Revelation 17:17a, why did the *ten horns* do this to the *harlot*?

a. What does this reveal about all the events in this chapter? Revelation 17:17c

b. Consider the following Scriptures and comment on the sovereignty of God:

Proverbs 21:1

Isaiah 46:9-10

Daniel 4:35

c. Share an instance in which you have seen the sovereign hand of God at work.

4. How does Revelation 17:18 further identify the *woman*?

5. How do the events of Revelation 17:15-18 demonstrate the validity of Psalm 76:10?

Review Revelation 17

1. The sovereignty of God is a powerful reality that should affect our perspective of events and circumstances. Record a few of your thoughts as you bask in the sovereignty of the *Lamb* who is *Lord of lords* and *King of kings*.

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise,
be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

- 1 Timothy 1:17

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 17

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." ³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 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. ⁷ But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. ⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ Here *is* the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, *and* the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time. ¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. ¹² The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. ¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those *who are* with Him *are* called, chosen, and faithful." ¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."