

REVELATION: Lesson 148

Chapter 17 and Chapter 12: Bible Interpretation / Contrasting the Two Women of Revelation

5 March 2021

THREE VISITS

Note that these are sequential events laid out in chronological order, separated by the phrase “**and after these things.**”

1. The vision of the woman and the beast (Rev 17:1).
 - a. This chapter speaks of the destruction of the wicked religious system (Mystery Babylon) that has been around since Genesis.
2. The revelation of the city and its fall (Rev 18:1).
 - a. This chapter speaks of the destruction of a certain economic system; the city of Babylon.
3. The Hallelujah Chorus and the Marriage of the Lamb (Rev 19:1).
 - a. This includes the return of the Lord to defeat the beast and his armies.

BREAKDOWN OF CHAPTER 17:

1. The system exposed (verses 1-6).
2. The secret explained (verses 7-15).
3. The system exterminated (verses 16-18).

THE BIBLE INTERPRETS THE BIBLE

Revelation 17 contains a revelation of a woman.

- This woman is most often misinterpreted as being the Roman Catholic Church.
 - This interpretation is based on what Bible teachers think the chapter *means*, rather than what it actually says.
- This woman is clearly identified and revealed in this chapter. There is no need to guess.
 - When you say, “*I think this passage means this,*” then you must accept that another person’s “thinking” about the passage is just as valid as yours.
 - When you stick to what the Bible says, there is no room for incorrect assumptions.

The angel promises to show John some things about the woman in this chapter (vs 1).

The angel promised that he would tell John the mystery of the woman (vs 7). That means we ought to be able to find out who she is right here in chapter 17.

- Who is the woman? She is “that great city” (vs 18).
- Where is the woman? She sits upon many waters (vs 1), which are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (vs 15).
- The woman sits on a beast (vs 3). The beast comes out of the bottomless pit (vs 8) and was described in detail in Revelation chapter 13.
- The beast has seven heads (vs 3), which are mountains (vs 9) (not hills) connected with kings (vs 10)
- The beast also had 10 horns (vs 7), which are kings (vs 12).

Let the Bible interpret the Bible. Avoid opinions and feelings. That will discredit the rest of your teaching.

CONTRASTING THE TWO WOMEN OF CHAPTERS 12 AND 17

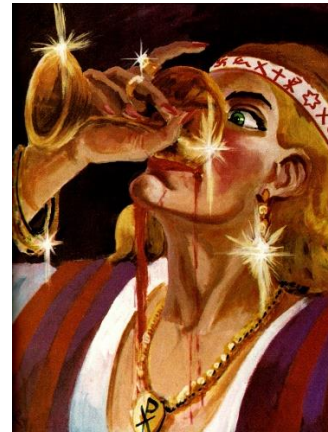
Revelation 12

1. This woman is of God (from heaven, vs 1).
2. Clothed in heavenly garments (sun, light from heaven).
3. She has the moon (rule of night) under her feet. (connected with heavenly things).
4. She suffers by the Dragon (her enemy) who persecutes her Son and drives her into the wilderness.
5. She is hated by the great world powers (John 15:18, 17:14).
6. She produces a masculine nobility (decency, goodness). She produced a Son, who would rule the world.
7. She is helped by celestial wings (vs 14). Godly people will help you live for God.
8. She has a crown of twelve stars on her head.
9. She ends up in the millennial kingdom with Jesus Christ.



Revelation 17

1. This woman is of Satan (blasphemy, abomination, filthiness, etc.).
2. Clothed in earthly, sensual wealth.
3. She has the rule over the kings of the earth (connected with earthly things).
4. She is persecuted by the ten kings (allies, friends) who supported her, but revolted against her.
5. She is loved by the world powers.
6. She produces female impurity. She produced daughters who were impure (mother of harlots).
7. She is helped by Dragon power. She rides the beast. Ungodly people will “help” you go the wrong way, away from God.
8. She is crowned with the names of blasphemy.
9. She ends up in eternal ruin and hellfire.



OBEDIENCE LEADS TO THE TRUTH

In verse 1, the angel told John, “**Come hither: I will SHEW unto thee...**” Obedience led to light and revelation. If you want to stay in the dark, keep disobeying God.