

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

REVELATION 17: A Thematic and Historic Approach

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Significance of Babylon in the First Century Judaeo-Christian Mindset

Three Defining Periods of Oppression in Biblical Antiquity

Slavery in Egypt (app. 430 years)

Assyrian invasion (Northern tribes split under Rehoboam, app. 732 BC)

Babylonian invasion and impact (app. 587 BC)

Contemporary examples: African American slavery; Jewish Holocaust, Nazism, Hitler)

Why Babylon as Whore/Harlot?

(Why not Babylon as drunken king or thief or murderer or monster?)

God's Faithfulness as Husband and Israel's Betrayal as Bride/Spouse

Whore/Harlot not simply as participant but as seductress

Fertility cults in pagan world (male and female temple prostitution: Deuteronomy 23: 17-18; I Kings 14: 24)

Sexual decadence and lewdness as lifestyle expression of decadent culture and personal immorality (Romans 1: 26-27; I Corinthians 6: 9-11; Galatians 5: 19-21)

Description of Great Whore (City)

Seated on many waters, conquered peoples

Clothes of purple and scarlet, golden cup and pearls: opulence and luxury without moral standards; reminiscent of Jezebel (II Kings 9: 30-37)

Golden cup of abominations, seducing and beguiling (gold) cup (sin which we consume)

Name written on her forehead: In Rome the prostitutes in public brothels wore frontlets with their names on it.

Mysterious name: Evil looks good but its true nature is revealed by revelation

The Beast (The Empire)

Seven heads and ten horns: Description of the beast from Rev. 13: 1

The beast rising out of the sea (Roman Empire) with ten horns

Seven emperors since Augustus, the first emperor: Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian

Three weak emperors after Nero: Galba, Otho, and Vitellius

Blasphemous names: divine, god, son of god, the savior of the world (coinage of Nero), lord

Five have fallen: Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, and Nero

One is living, Vespasian, established stability 69-79, AD (?)

One is to come who remains only a little while, Titus, 79-81

The beast that was and it not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction, Domitian---

Reflected and reincarnated spirit, cruelty and lifestyle of Nero

Made Caesar worship compulsory which opened flood gates of persecution against Christians

John was on Patmos under Domitian

Domitian also epitomized Anti-Christ
Seven Mountains, Rome

The Wilderness, the Place of Revelation and Separation

Moses, Exodus 3: 1

Elijah, I Kings 19: 4

John the Baptist, Luke 1: 80

Jesus, Matthew 4: 1

Everyone needs wilderness space and place to receive word from the Lord

Where is your wilderness place and space where you experience aloneness with
God?

The Definite Coming of Judgment

Do not be dazzled or amazed by evil (verse 8)

We only know counterfeit by studying the real

Judgment is definite because

God is altogether righteous and omnipotent

God is faithful to those who belong to him