

The Book of Revelation Course.

These notes of mine have time code references shown in brackets. They relate to Mike Bickle's MP3 audio files on his Book of Revelation study. You may also refer to his complete pdf session notes on the IHOP website. Mike has also produced an excellent A5 size study guide which can be purchased from IHOP.

The purpose of these notes, for each session, is to complement what Mike has already written. Many of the sentences written in my notes, are what Mike has actually said on the audio file.

Session 10. Harlot Babylon: A Coming One-world Religion. (Rev. 17-18)

I. The significance of this prophecy.

A. (00:00-04:46) These two chapters are not studied to the degree they should be by the people of God. The coming harlot world religion has already started, even though we are largely unaware of it, it is being promoted and talked about. It is one of the most significant prophecies of the end-times. The people of God who are deceived by this compelling deception will fall away from the truth (reality) and end up in the lake of fire. It will have a grass roots popular support and be backed by the mind-moulders of the world. The true end-time church will stand against it and be persecuted for their stand. It will stress unity and peace but it will be of the devil. It will be a time of both great revival but also of the falling away.

B. (04:47-08:29) Rev.17:1-6 focuses on the emergence of the harlot Babylon. There is some symbolism in this passage but it is straight forward. The main themes are a) the seductive power, cruel persecution of this world religion, and b) the destruction of the harlot system. It will have a massive following from all faiths. Many believers will leave the church to join this religion. They will believe and say "This is the true religion of Jesus", but they will be deceived by the devil. It is the religion of the counterfeit bride. It will be a justice movement and a worship movement. The devil will feed the poor but for the wrong reason. The remainder of Rev. 17-18 describes the harlot's relationship with the antichrist and how she is destroyed.

C-D-E-F-G. MB skips these in his audio as they are a review. See his notes.

II. Overview of Revelation 17:1-19:10

A-B-C-D-E-F. MB skips this section. The city of Babylon will be rebuilt in the same historical place. It will serve as the centre of worldwide demonic religious and economic networks of the antichrist. There are 3 prophetic passages that focus on the subject of Babylon: in this part of Revelation, Rev 17-18, Isa. 13-14, 21 and Jer. 50-51. These long prophetic passages are given by God because He wants us to comprehend the significance and danger of this worldwide system in the end-times. See MB notes.

III. There are two stages in Satan's end-time plan.

A-B. (08:30-12:31) There are two stages in Satan's end-time plan to be worshipped and rule the nations. Step 1: He knows it is too big a step to go from being a luke warm believer of any religion to go straight to Satan worship. There are as we said 'forerunners' of this counterfeit religion now, they sprout tolerance, unity, peace, etc. Step 1 will be a reduced version of whatever they currently believe, and this 'new' version will be so convincing that they will leave their original religion and join the harlot religion. This will set them up for step 2 of moving to the mandatory Satan worship.

C-D. (12:32-17:16) The false worship movement is already in the body of Christ. Paul warned us in 2 Thes. 2:3, that we are not deceived by these teachings. Two signs a) there will be a great falling away b) the man of sin will be revealed. Jesus will not be coming back until these two events occur. There is coming a time tolerance, peace and safety, and when this happens sudden destruction will come on the antichrist empire brought on them by the praying (those with intimacy) church. It will be at the beginning of the great tribulation.

E-F. (17:18-25:22) The followers of the voluntary harlot religion will rejoice in 'no absolutes' and once they move away from their former religion there will no turning back. They will be ready for worshipping the antichrist which will not be voluntary. The today's church is not concerned about the teaching of Paul concerning the falling away, but it is a teaching that must be taken seriously by the church. 1Tim. 4:1-3, 2Tim. 4:3-4. This is Paul's version of Rev. 17 as described by John. Paul is pointing out that sound doctrine requires endurance and a stand taken for the truth (reality) regardless of the cost. You will hear things like: every religion leads to God, everyone goes to heaven,

everything is right, you can do as you please, there is no devil, and there is no judgement. Once they turn away they will not be able to even receive the truth (the reality that they are deceived).

G-J. Refer MB notes.

IV. The great harlot: her seduction and persecutions. (Rev.17:1-6,15)

A-O. (25:23-44:46) We must decide to love the truth (reality). If we can see it in the bible, we will lay aside our pet ideas and agendas, and go only for the truth. The seductive power and cruelty of the harlot is great. It has its root in the old testaments tower of Babel. The system has authority over many nations (over many waters). The leaders of the nations will submit to her and purposely prostitute themselves because of the economic benefits and wealth she can give them. They were (made drunk with the wine of her fornication). While the masses will be deceived the leaders will know she is lying to them but will promote the lies and agree with her because of the benefits.

There is an unusual relationship between the harlot and the beast (antichrist) in verse 3. The beast, while he is emerging as the world leader, leads the harlot along (a woman sitting on a scarlet beast) knowing all the time he is going to betray and burn her once he comes to power and introduces his mandatory world religious and economic system. Verse 4, the angel tells John not to be deceived as this woman is a significant adversary to the church. She will be the wealthiest religion in human history, she will look classy, dignified but will be rotten to the core. She will be promoting a way to God that is an abomination (idolatrous demonic activity). She will kill the saints because they will expose her corruption and falsehood. She will be extremely popular and stadiums will be full of her worshippers. Lk. 16:15, Rev. 17:6, Mat. 24:9-11. However, the ten kings who serve the antichrist will burn the harlot at the beginning of the great tribulation, and in the middle of the 7 years the antichrist will impose his worldwide mandatory belief and worship system.

V. The end-time conflict over the truth of who Jesus is.

A-H. (44:46-47:20) In the end-times there will be a battle for the truth (the reality) about Jesus. First his deity: His right to establish absolute standards for which the nations are accountable to him only. Second: the only way to salvation is through him. Third: that he only will judge sin in time and eternity. Many famous preachers now are lowering the standards, but the forerunners are beginning to emerge and clearly speaking the truth with love, purity and humility.

VI. The harlot's origin: the tower of Babel

A-E. Not covered by MB. The harlot's name (Babylon) was a mystery to John as it had not previously been revealed in scripture. The name is linked to her origin, the tower of Babel which is where the city of Babel (gateway to heaven) and the first organised religion and rebellion against God began. See Gen.11:4-9. It was not the architectural feat of building a tower to heaven that concerned God, but their progression in evil. God scattered the people so that man's sin would not reach its full potential until God's timing.

VII. Jacob's ladder: angels ascending and descending

A-E. Not covered by MB. In Jacob's dream he saw a ladder which gave access to the heavenly realm in the will of God. Gen. 28:12. Jesus prophesied of this in Jn. 1:51. The harlot church will also have a ladder of access to the demonic realm enabling the escalation of sin. In Rev.12:7-9 it says war broke out in heaven and Satan and his demons were cast to the earth. In the end times there will be unprecedented interaction between the demonic and human realm, leading to worldwide judgement. The time just before Jesus coming will be like the days of Noah where demons also interacted with the natural realm causing God to destroy the earth with the flood. Gen. 6:5-7, Gen. 6:11-13.

F-G. Not covered by MB. John was surprised that the harlot (Babylon) was in fact 'the mother of harlots', being the source of all false religion throughout history. She will set the stage for the end times. Rev.17:5. The harlot will have a murderous heart despite her humanitarian appearance. We will also marvel like John did at this mysterious plan, which will bring about Israel's salvation as it purifies the church to be used in the end time revival. Rev. 17:6.

End of teaching.