

Approaching hoofbeats - The Book of Revelation

Sessions 7, & 8

1. Ch 14: The End-time Church.

Mount Zion is mentioned in Hebrews 12, this is where the church has come and is gathered since Acts 2.
The characteristics of the Church:

- 144000 12 x 12 x 1000 = the perfect number
- having the mark of Father in the forehead – the appearance
- they sing the new song of the redeemed
- they are not defiled but are spiritually virgin
- obedient
- are the first fruits
- have no guile and without fault

2. Ch 14: End-time revival followed by judgment

(Note the four angels of this chapter).

The angel of the Lord preaches the gospel of

- fear of God
- giving glory to God
- judgment
- worship of the Creator

A great harvest is reaped by the Son of God (14:15)

Another angel declares the fall of Babylon, which is the first mention of this city.

Terrible judgment on the Antichrist is announced,

- Without mixture – i.e. no mercy
- In torment
- In the presence of holy angels
- In the presence of the lamb

The angels announce death, judgment and fire and prepare to pour out the vials.

3. Ch 15 -16 the vials of wrath:

The seven angels of judgment prepare to pour out the seven vials of God's wrath. Verse one tells us that through these God's judgment is completed. John sees again the scene in heaven, and it is the same view of heaven that he saw in chapter four. The difference is that there is a host of saints who overcame the antichrist, indicating that Christians will go through tribulation and triumph. These saints sing the wonderful exultant song of Moses and of the Lamb. God is worshipped for so many of His attributes, and here it is God the King, who is to be feared, for He is the perfect and righteous Judge. The judgments are poured out mixed with the prayers of saints. God's people are praying for the glory of God and the righteousness of heaven to be established. All nations will come to this great and holy God

Heaven pours out final judgments leading up to Armageddon. The great and mighty disasters that precede the end of the age are described a second time. See chapter 8-11.

4. Ch 17 – 18: Babylon the capital of an Antichrist world system

Babylon is the great whore, the opposite of the Bride. The whore is unfaithful to God, and this speaks of the spiritual apostasy of many nations, which has allowed the Antichrist to take power and rule. Babylon is the supreme chameleon. Peter mentions that he wrote his first epistle from Babylon (1 Peter 5:13.) This is the explanation that Babylon in Peter's day was Rome, and Christians reading the book of Revelation in the first century would have immediately understood this.

The first mention of Babylon in the Bible is in Genesis 10:10. Nimrod was the founder of this city, and there is a legend that he built the tower of Babel, then climbed to the top and shot an arrow into heaven at God. The Bible verse indicates defiance against the Lord, not a faith in the Lord. The tower of Babel (Babylon) in Genesis 11 was a monument to the arrogance of man. The unification of all nations in one language is the goal of the Antichrist system as then there will be no limit to what can be achieved.

The Kingdom of Babylon was the first in a long list of Kingdoms that Isaiah prophesies about from Isaiah chapter 14 to 28. The Head of Gold is not just the head in order of historical sequence. Babylon is the source and fountain of spiritual power behind all nations. The power behind Babylon is Lucifer, and this is the unchanging truth behind world empires.

Daniel was prime minister of Babylon, and shows that it is possible to live and work in Babylon while not being of Babylon. This is vital in understanding the instruction in Rev 18:4 that God's people are to come out of Babylon. This does not mean that we are to leave the world and live in mountains and caves or monasteries, but it does mean that while we may occupy high office in Babylon, we will also have severe temptation to compromise as Daniel did.

The European Parliament building was recently constructed using a model of a painting done in 1563 of the Tower of Babel, by Pieter Brueghel. During construction of the new parliament building, a poster was issued by the EU, showing the tower of Babel and carrying the slogan: "Many tongues, one voice." A crane in the background was shown rebuilding the ancient tower of Babel. The poster issued by the EU on the building site is shown below right next to the depiction of the tower of Babel from Biblical texts.



The Parliament Building is shown below.



In 1984 the elections to the European Parliament were marked in Britain by a set of stamps with two designs. The first shows an indecently dressed woman riding a beast or bull led by a winged boy, which was riding over seven hills, or waves of the sea. An explanation of this is found in Hislop, who refers to the pagan legend of the goddess Europa, who Jupiter led away in the form of a bull.



Another EU government building in France features a mural of a naked woman riding a beast. Likewise, the new Brussels headquarters of the Council of Europe contains a bronze statue of a woman riding a beast, and the beast is depicted riding on waves, just as in Revelation 17.

In the Bible there were two captivities, of a very different nature. The Egyptian captivity was one of abject slavery, while the Babylonian one was one of assimilation and compromise. In Egypt the people of God were hated and kept in isolation.



In Babylon they are given opportunities and encouraged to buy lands and houses and settle down.

Rev 17:3 describes the state of the world by the word "wilderness."

Rev 17:4 describes the luxurious wealth that lies in Babylon (including popes and royal houses of Europe, and presidential life styles of many rulers.)

Rev 17:6 indicates that there are many martyrs at the hand of this evil system.

Rev 17:7-8 indicates the seven world empires: (1) Egypt (2) Assyria (3) Babylon (4) Persia (5) Greece (6) Rome (7) The Roman popes (8) The revived Roman Empire.

Rev 17:9 the seven hills are the Seven Hills of Rome.

Rev 17:16 indicates that there will be internal disorder in the Antichrist system and that this disorder will be the final downfall of Babylon.

Chapter 18.

Rev 18:4 Come out of her! There is a need for separation from the world.

Rev 18:5 her sins are of the nature of Sodom and Gomorrah and the pre flood world.

Rev 18:7 There is pride here and abundance of bread – compare with Ezekiel's description of Sodom, (Ezekiel 16:49).

Rev 18:9-19 Babylon is a merchant city.

Rev 18: 21 Babylon will be utterly destroyed. Cities with this spirit such as London, New York, Shanghai etc...

Ch 19 Armageddon and the return of Christ.

This chapter begins with praise at the fall of Babylon. The world is unburdened of the last throes of evil government. A command is given from the throne to praise God, and the response is a thunderous praise (19:5-6). The marriage supper is about to begin.

The Bride is ready – pure and white for her husband (19:7) and her qualities are described. The person who shows this to John is not an angel but a perfected saint, who is so glorified that John wants to worship him. But he calls John "his fellow servant" – his equal.

Christ comes forth with the armies of saints on white horses, to intervene in the battle of Armageddon (19:11). This is the second coming of Christ, full of terror (v 15) with swift judgment (v 18) and direct passage from through death to eternal judgment for the Antichrist and the false prophet.