

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Revelation 17:15-18

The Beast Devours the Harlot
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October 8, 2017

Interpretation of the "Waters"

Revelation 17:15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."

Revelation 13:1 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

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The Beast Devours the Harlot

Revelation 17:16 "And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire."

Daniel 11:36-37a Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers...

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God Uses Pagans for His Purposes

Revelation 17:17 For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

1. Moral will: culpable for violating
2. Decretive will: used by God

Exodus 9:16 ESV But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

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The Harlot Is Babylon Rebuilt

Revelation 17:18 The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

1. Rome: Too many or too few Roman Emperors
2. Jerusalem: Contextually ruled out
3. Babylon: Contextually ruled in

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Babylon's Significance

Isaiah 13:1, 6-9 The oracle concerning Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw...6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 7 Therefore all hands will fall limp, And every man's heart will melt. 8 They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a woman in labor, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it.

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Babylon's Significance

Isaiah 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

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The Tale of Two Cities

Isaiah 24:10 The city of chaos is broken down; Every house is shut up so that none may enter.

Isaiah 26:1 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; He sets up walls and ramparts for security.

Babylon: Rev. 17-18

New Jerusalem: Rev. 21

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