

Revelation 17:1 - 18 pt2

1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly. 7 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 "The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. 9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. 11 "And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. 12 "And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. 13 "These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast.

14 "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful." 15 And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. 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. 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 should be fulfilled. 18 “And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

In Chapter 17 we've got a bunch of figurative pictures that moves us away from our normal grammatico - historical approach to interpretation. We've got beasts and harlots and waters and hills and heads and horns. yikes.

So the way we approach it with any sanity at all is a combination of clues that the angel gives us, and also some historic interpretations handed down to us that seem to make sense. Still I think you'll be surprised where I'm going to wind up and ultimately, like we talked about last week, these are just puzzle pieces that I'm attempting to put together to form an image, but I may be off track.

One clue is the word mystery. A mystery in the Bible is something that was not seen before that is revealed later. Paul considered the church age, a mystery. You read the old testament and you don't see it. Here we are 2,000 years later in the church age and it was not revealed in the OT.

By the same rule, John calls Babylon a Mystery. I think that means the folks alive in the tribulation will read this chapter and the things we are guessing at will have been revealed completely. We're doing our best to assemble a workable image with the clues the Spirit has given us, but they will be staring at these things face to face.

So last week we spent some good time describing the imagery of the woman, the harlot. And we said that she is a picture of a world wide false system of worship. An idolatrous system that somehow the entire world gets together on, and we'll talk about that possibility some more tonight.

We made some historical connections to Babel, the plain of Shinar, where false religion began just 200 years after Noah. Madonna and Child. Still with

us today. Maryology. We said the many waters was the entire globe. All of the nations of the earth will join in.

So all we've got to do is figure out who the beast is and what the seven heads mean and what the 10 horns mean. Simple, right? And there's also a whole bunch of election and predestination in here which is unpopular these days.

What I want to start with is the woman who is riding on the beast.

(just read an article in New Yorker yesterday that explains the the code name for the Cadillac with the 5" thick glass windows that the pres rides around in is "the beast". hmmm))

.....want to start with is the woman who is riding on the beast..

So how does that work? If you go to PEW research and look at a graph of the major players on the globe, global religions, they've broken it out into 7 categories. Christian, Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, Folk, other, unaffiliated, and Jews.

The group called Christian is the largest. 2010 numbers, 2.17 billion. Next is Muslim at 1.6 billion. A billion Hindu's and half a billion Buddhists. 13 million jews. The jews are outnumbered by muslims, 125 muslims : 1 jew. ~and~They crucified the only person that can save them, and He's going to do it anyways!

What's the common thread? All these diametrically opposed religions. How do they get together.

I was reading this week about 1,000's of muslims who are having dreams of Isa, who is the Jesus of the Q'uran, and they are following Isa. No gospel. No sin. No redemption. No doctrine, just an experience. A very spiritual experience.

And so-called evangelical christians are thrilled. They accept the experiential

event on its own merit. No Bible, no doctrine, no anything that the church has required for 2,000 years. And I'm not here to say yea, or nay. We could do that another time perhaps. My point is, you had an experience, it was spiritual, someone who was supposed to be Jesus is somehow involved, it's all good. You're in. We're all one.

The same thing is happening all over Africa. Experiential phenomena loosely related to Jesus, but that really looks more like the traditional witch doctor, and presto, we're brothers. You had an experience similar to mine, and it's all good.

Did you know the Muslims are waiting for Isa to come back from heaven, even as we speak. Let me read you a little from the Q'uran, since no one's paying any attention to the Bible.

Sidebar; as a side lesson, listen to these writings compared to the Holy Canon of Scripture and think about the level, the nobility, the intrinsic value of the writing itself. Nothing compares with our Book. Nothing! Breathed by God. Written by men.

Prophet Isa son of Maryam was raised up to heaven when the Jews wanted to crucify him. His ascension to Heaven and his future return to earth are mentioned in the Qur'an:

"That they say (in boast): 'We killed the Messiah Isa, son of Maryam, the Messenger of Allah, but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but the resemblance of Isa was put over another man (and they killed that man), and those who differ therein are full of doubts. They have no certain knowledge, they follow nothing but conjecture. For surely, they killed him not, but Allah raised him up unto Himself. And Allah is ever All-Powerful, All-Wise. And there is none of the people of the scripture but must believe in him before his death. And on the Day of Resurrection, he (Isa) will be a witness against them.'" (Qur'an 4:157-159)

Prophet Isa will return at the end of time, as stated in the Qur'an:

"And he (*Isa* Jesus), shall be a Sign of the Hour"(Qur'an 43:61)

Prophet Isa will descend at the time when Muslims are experiencing the greatest of hardships. He will come to their help and make the religion of Allah prevail on Earth. x2

The Muslims will recognise him by the features that the Prophet Muhammad described him:

He said:

"I am the closest of all the people to Isa, son of Maryam, for there is no Prophet between him and myself. He will come again and when you see him, you will recognise him. He is of medium height and his complexion is reddish-white, he will be wearing two garments, and his hair will look wet, although no water had got to it."

Related by Ahmad ~ The Time Prophet Isa Will Descend

The coming of Isa will be a glad tiding to the Muslims who stood firm and fought for the cause of Allah and did not succumb to the temptations of the Dajjal. At that time, the only two options for humanity will be to embrace Islam or die:

"Allah will send the Messiah, son of Maryam, and he will descend to the white minaret in the East of Damascus, wearing two garments dyed with saffron, placing his hands on the wings of two angels. When he lowers his head, beads of perspiration will fall from it, and when he raises his head, beads like pearls will scatter from it. Every Kaffir (unbeliever) who smells the fragrance (of his breath) will die, and his breath will reach as far as he can see. He will search for the Dajjal until he finds him at the gate of Ludd where he will kill him. Then a ***group of people whom Allah has protected*** will come to Isa, son of Maryam, and he will wipe the traces of hardship from their faces and tell them of their place in Paradise. At that point, Allah will reveal to Isa: 'I have brought forth some of My servants whom no-one will be able to fight. Take my servants safely to Al-Tur.'"

In an article titled An Evaluation of Muslim Dreams & Visions of Isa (Jesus) Part 2 by Dennis McBride I've copied a quote from Dr. William Barrick, Professor of Old Testament at The Master's Seminary. Dr. Barrick ministered among Muslims in Bangladesh for 15 years and offered these observations about reported appearances of Jesus to Muslim converts there.

"Muslims can be extremely susceptible to charismatic doctrine and practices, because much of folk Islam is infused with the same things seen in charismatic circles (speaking in tongues, healings, miracles, extreme emotionalism)".

Is that not a little scary that one of the main players in end time prophecy is the Muslim Jesus and that he will return from heaven (and no doubt explain about never being crucified by the jews) and as we speak we are seeing this phenomenon of Muslims dreaming dreams and converting to Isa? I'm like the little black baby in the State Farm commercial with the mime that says 'allright, does it bother anybody else....etc.

Folks, it's going to be incredibly confusing when Jesus (Isa) shows up and there's miracles all over the place, and all the religions are saying, Hey, we're really all the same, we're all having the same experiences. I guess the books lost a bit in all the translations. We all started out together back in the fertile crescent, and now we're all ending up together, and we can tell it's real because of the miracles. Never mind the books.

It's going to be SO confusing that this passage we're in tonight says if your name isn't in the Lamb's book of Life, in other words, if you are not elect, chosen before the foundation of the world, you **will** fall into the Beasts' trap.

That leads us to this next section where we've got some other key players to try to identify.

Vs.8 *"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world,*

will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come

OK, so the beast is the anti-christ. He shows up all over the Bible in end times descriptions. He's the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6.

Our muslim friends say this is the Mah-di who rides on the white horse in Revelation. And who am I to argue. The Mah-di shows up at the end and brings peace to the world with a sword. He slaughter's anyone who doesn't get in line.

If that's true, and it certainly might be, then Isa, would take the 'false prophet' slot next to the Beast. Just saying. It actually sort of fits, as I hope I'm able to make you see.

It says *The beast that you saw **was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss** and go to destruction.*

Revelation 13:11 *Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns **like a lamb** (Isa?, is that you?) and he spoke as a dragon. 12He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. 13He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. 14And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.*

Whatever the 'wound of the sword' is, the world see's it as a fatal wound, and then life is miraculously restored to the beast, the anti-christ, is joined by demonic power right out of the abyss.

This may be the turning point where NO other religion except beast worship is tolerated on earth any more. This fatal wound that is healed accompanied by a spirit from the abyss.

*8b And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, **will** wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come*

The opium of this delusion is so potent that Jesus, in the Olivet discourse says; Mt. 24:24 "*For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, **if possible**, even the elect.*

No one will escape this except God's own elect chosen people. Only the elect, and we're talking about a few gentiles from the nations, but we're also talking about His people Israel that are going to recognize their messiah and enter the Kingdom with Him.

This is election, like it or not. God, beyond our human brains to comprehend how it all works out in righteousness, has chosen, before the worlds were ever formed, those who would be deceived and go into perdition, and those who would not.

Gospel rejecters before the rapture WILL succumb to this delusion. I believe that's what 2 Thess. 2: is saying.

8Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth (interesting that's what the Islam prophecy said about Isa. Satan is a perjurer - never had an original idea) and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; 9that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, 10and with all the **deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.** 11For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, 12in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.*

Folks, there are a LOT of folks with the name christian who think they're safe, safe, safe, who do not love this book.

. 9“*Here is the mind which has wisdom.* Means put your thinking cap on.

The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,

Stop right there for a minute. Scholars do agree on this, mostly. The greek word translated mountain is also used for 'hills'. Seven hills. The city of Rome is built on seven hills.

There's a Romish connection. Roman Catholicism. Partly. That's part of the spiritual connection. But I would expand that to Western Europe as well. Roman culture through christianity is the building block of western europe and western civilization. The woman sits on Rome.

It says the woman sits on the seven mountains. False religion based in Rome. The "christian" component of a one world religion will be the largest sector. Yes, after the rapture. Still the largest religious group.

We have a long history of plugging in the name of the current world villains here. Lots of bad guesses. Currently, Francis get's pretty high marks for this job. Idolatrous false religion leader. We call him the False Prophet. Maybe. But stay with me. Then it says;

10and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Lots of agreement here too. Seven kings. Five have fallen. There will be 7 world wide one ruler kingdoms where one man sits on a throne and rules the whole world.

Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, that's five, fallen, one is, that was Rome, when John wrote this, *the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.*

That's pictured in Daniel as the earthen feet that crumble. A second Roman empire if you will, with the beast at the head of it.

Verse 9 connects the beast to false religion, and verse 10 connects the beast to the Roman empire. Western civilization. Europe.

11 *“The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.*

The beast is the seventh world ruler and also an eighth.

Jim guessing; I think this dichotomy of the seventh and eighth which is the same beast may be before the fatal wound, and after the fatal wound when he is controlled by him who comes from the abyssos.

More guessing. Relative world peace with a one world big umbrella religion that encompasses all of the old ones except Judaism for 3 1/2 years B7, then the fatal wound, and the miraculous resurrection, and all religion except beast worship is crushed, B8

So what PEW research calls christianity will take the lead on a world wide religion but the beast, the anti-christ, will pull all the other religions together under a common umbrella of economic necessity and common experience.

Will I venture a guess on who the false prophet is? No, it remains a mystery until the time when the folks that read this are staring him in the face. There's good solid reason why folks think this will likely be a Catholic pope who can do much to gather many of the world religions under an umbrella.

Now I may surprise you. The ten horns. We dispensationalists always work the current public enemy number one in some place. Hitler got lots of press with Bible thumpers.

And he really was a type and was going after the chosen people in a way that would make you wonder. Can't say I blame them. And he had the satanic connections. Tibetan priests up at the castle. Very weird and scary. Pam's dad had a couple of old aunts that terrified him as a child with all of this stuff.

They were predicting the end of the world in 5 minutes.

So I'm going to take a cautious approach. Once again, take my predictions and add duece and a quarter for a coffee and that's what they're worth.

12“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast (B8?) for one hour. 13“These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

The ten horns have an **identity apart** from both the harlot, and the seven heads. false religion (harlot) and western civilization ie. europe (seven heads) (2nd roman empire)

The woman is false worship. An umbrella of false religion that ties the world together . . somewhat. A false peace with a religious connection that is very western. Rome. The Vatican. And the 7 heads are Romish. Western.

That accounts for the easiest religious majority for a one world religion that can prop up a one world government.

BUT....

There's always this issue of a balance of power. What about the Moslems. Those numbers are very close to the christian numbers. And if the Hindu's are more sympathetic to Islam than Christianity, the numbers can actually tip that direction.

I think the beast is on a tightrope trying to make this balance work. Therefore I see the 10 horns as representing Islam. In fact, if the Mahdi is the man on the white horse like their own Q'uran says, that would make Anti-Christ a muslim and the false prophet a christian. Strange bedfellows, but it makes sense when you're balancing nitro-glycerin on a tight rope.

And you'll see in the verses at the end of this section that I might just have it

right.

So 7 heads, christian based religions. 10 horns Islamic based religion. That's a majority when they're combined and the rest can fall in with whichever one they sympathize with easier.

I see the 7 heads taking the lead getting the world back on task and making things work with treaties and what-not, and the 10 horns being held at bay in the background. But not for very long!

The white horse of peace doesn't last very long before the red horse of bloodshed begins to follow.

14 *“These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”*

These refers back to the beast and the 10 horns. I think when the beast comes back to life after the wound of the sword, and he's energized by the one from the abyss, that is when these 10 reign with the beast for the 1 hour. A short period. Maybe it coincides with the trumpet judgements? 5 months is mentioned one time. Just guessing, but I see them together with the 8th king who is the seventh, but changed. Dead then alive, but with life from hell itself.

These will array themselves for battle with the Lamb of God. We'll see that final battle in Ch. 19. We'll find out how it ends right here though.

These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings,

All of hells and mens fury is no match for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Notice the word 'because'. He overcomes them . . . because He is the King of

all Kings and the Lord of all Lords and there is no other name that is higher.
Period.

This is glory on display!

Rev. 19:13 *He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*

Isaiah 63:2, 3

2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.

Even wrath and retribution bring glory to our God. Can you imagine the value of the glory of the redemption he bought for us when we see His wrath? And we will see this! Turn to John 17 real quick;

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

You don't think of judgement when you read that verse. You think of throne room and heaven and kingdoms and the wedding feast...right.

But part of the glory Jesus wants us to be with Him and see is right here when He defeats His enemies and puts them under His feet as a foot stool.

We'll be with Him on this day!

These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful

Called. Chosen. Faithful. I did some minimal greek study and each of those

descriptive adjectives is in the form of Nominative, Masculine, Plural

My called out ones. My Chosen elect. My Faithful ones.

Those adjectives don't describe angels, although angels will be there also, those adjectives describe US!

Now I know you ladies don't like war movies. You like the chick flicks. But trust me, this will be a day like NO other day and you will be thrilled to be with Jesus on the day he treads this wine-press.

Vss. 15 - 18 are some final things that will support what we've said already, especially perhaps, vs. 16.

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

Waters = peoples (plural), multitudes, nations, tongues. 4 different ways to say 'people groups'. People non plural, we could ignore. Peoples, plural, is a word that demands we become missionaries. There are peoples that have not heard!

This is the group that Jesus spoke of in Matt. 28 "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

The next verse really adds support to my guess about Islam. The muslims are a perfect fit.

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.

10 horns. Islam. Asia. China. Russia. Global "east" & Global "south"

It's easy to imagine the muslims in this role. If the Mah-di is anti-christ, he'll have to embrace the harlot for a time, won't he. Treaties. World peace. Who is like the beast! He's makin' it happen. Muslims and christians in cooperation.

Daniel 2:40“*Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.*

The old Roman empire. But listen to how this final 'roman empire' is described. Strength and brittleness. Iron and clay. No adherence. See if this doesn't sound like a muslim empire chafing against the west.

*41 “In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a **divided** kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. 42 “As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so **some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle.** 43 “And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; **but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.***

Don't go looking on the web for other folks teaching this theory. I haven't found any. But it sounds SO plausible, and the stage is certainly set for just such a phenomenon.

Then the day comes when they utterly destroy the harlot. Western religion and thought, crushed. It's nakedness (emptiness) exposed. Burned with fire. Her flesh eaten. This is very base.

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.

Here is pre-destination again. Sovereign God causes these 10 kings to work

together with the beast, the anti-christ, in order to accomplish His purpose. These prophecies will be fulfilled by these enemies of God, and His sovereignty will cause it to happen. God does no evil. But He is in ultimate sovereign control OF the evil that these will accomplish.

He will harden their hearts just like Pharoah in Egypt 40 centuries ago in order to accomplish His will. He is righteous and glorious to do it.

18 "The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

This last verse is pretty blatant. It's like, if all the other clues didn't help and you're still confused John, I'll make it very plain.

When John wrote this, that sentence could only describe . . .Rome.