

World's System as A Harlot Woman Revelation 17

I. Description of the Harlot – 17:1-7

1. She is called “Babylon the Great” – 17:5
The same name given to the city in Rev. 18:2
Harlot & the city are all part of the world system
2. She sits upon “many waters” – 17:1
Interpreted in 17:15 as all people in this world
Entices people of every nation with world's allurements
3. Rulers, common people, drunk with her wine – 17:2
Her fornication is drawing people away from loving God
4. Dressed so people are attracted to her – 17:4
She is not dressed as the common harlot today
5. Seated on the seven headed beast – 17:3, 7
She is behind power structure of world system
City, harlot & the beast are all linked together
System focused on gratification of man's desires
System offers possessions, pleasure & power
Man does not have to trust God for his needs
6. She hates and persecutes God's people – 17:6
Jesus spoke of world's hatred & persecution – John 15:18-19
7. She seduces people to worship false gods
Idolatry draws people away from worship of God
Worship of Idols is worship of demons – 1 Corinthians 10:19 that -20
Idolatry is anything that distracts us from God – 1 John 5:21

II. Harlot & Spiritual Adultery

1. Israel is called “Wife of Jehovah” – Jeremiah 3:20; Ezekiel 16:32, 33; Hosea 2:2
2. God accused Israel of spiritual adultery
Ezekiel 16, 23; Book of Hosea; Jeremiah 5:7-9
3. Proverbs 1-9 speaks of this harlot's appeal
Set against Lady Wisdom, representing God's truth
Two appeals are summed up in Proverbs 9:1-18
4. N.T. speaks of “Bride of Christ” – Rev. 21:9
James 4:4 speaks of spiritual adultery
5. God is jealous of this relationship – Exodus 20:5
6. If Harlot seduces God's people what about the world

III. Judgment of the Harlot – 17:16-17

1. Pursuit of world's way leaves one empty
Emptiness of world's way recorded in Book of Ecclesiastes
Solomon sums it up in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
2. God will judge harlot for what she has done – 17:6

She is drunken with the blood of saints & martyrs of Jesus

One reason for judgment; avenge God's people

3. Beast sees harlot as rival and destroys her – 17:16-17

God will use antichrist & 10 kings to destroy her
Idolatry of harlot, worship of false gods, will end

All worship is focused on Beast and on Satan – 13:4, 14-15

This was Satan's desire when he rebelled against God

This world system will end worshipping man and Satan

The Way of Wisdom – Proverbs 9:1-12

“Wisdom has built her house,
She has hewn out her seven pillars;
She has slaughtered her meat,
She has mixed her wine,
She has also furnished her table.
She has sent out her maidens,
She cries out from the highest places of the city,
'Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!'
As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him,
'Come, eat of my bread
And drink of the wine I have mixed.'
Forsake foolishness and live,
And go in the way of understanding.
He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself,
And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.
Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;
Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.
Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
For by me your days will be multiplied,
And years of life will be added to you.
If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,
And if you scoff, you will bear it alone.

“A foolish woman is clamorous;
She is simple, and knows nothing.
For she sits at the door of her house,
On a seat by the highest places of the city,
To call to those who pass by,
Who go straight on their way:
'Whoever is simple, let him turn in here';
And as for him who lacks understanding,
she says to him, 'Stolen water is sweet,
And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.'
But he does not know that the dead are there,
That her guests are in the depths of hell.”

The Way of Folly – Proverbs 9:13-18