

Revelation 17

John describes in highly metaphorical language a filthy religious prostitute.

I. The Information in Regard to this Prostitute (17:1-6)

A. Her corruption (17:1-2, 4)

1. She commits adultery with both potentates and people of this earth (17:2).
2. She says blasphemous things about God (17:4b).
3. She is utterly materialistic (17:4a).

B. Her compromise (17:3): She has aligned herself with the godless political systems of this world.

C. Her caption (17:5): On her forehead is written, "Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World."

D. Her cruelty (17:6): She is drunk with the blood of martyrs she has murdered.

II. The Interpretation in Regard to this Prostitute. (17:7-18)

A. What John sees (17:7): He sees a woman riding a beast with seven heads and ten horns.

B. What John is told (17:8-18)

1. *The woman represents a corrupt religious system depicted by the city of Babylon* (17:8).
2. *The beast represents various kings* (17:9).
 - a. Some have already ruled (17:10-11).
 - b. One king will be the most powerful (17:13).
 - c. Ten kings are yet to rule (17:12).
 - d. These kings will destroy the woman but will themselves be destroyed by the Lamb (17:14-18)