

Seven Bowls of God's Wrath!

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:
'Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your Name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For your judgments have been manifested.'

After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God Who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

- Revelation 15:1-8

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Our God: A God of Love.

"...To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own Blood,..." - Revelation 1:5 *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* - 1 John 4:9-10

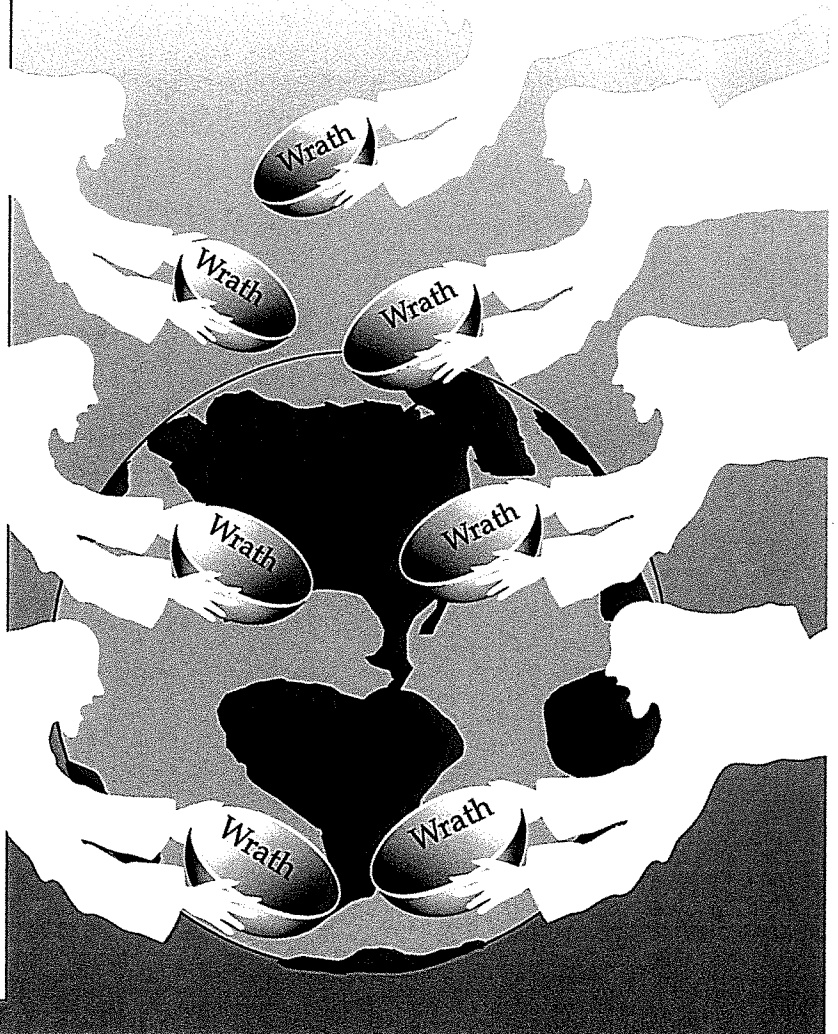
Our God: A God of Righteousness, Justice and Holiness.

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face." - Psalm 89:14 *"For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot (Mystery Babylon) who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants (the martyrs) shed by her."* - Revelation 19:2

God is merciful, yet just. God is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but He desires that all should come to repentance. At the end of the age, the whole world (all who will worship the beast) will receive the wrath of God because they did not receive the Son! During these bowl judgments, no one will be allowed to enter the temple. It is a possibility that God will weep because of the destruction of many people who He loves, just as He lamented over Jerusalem in Matthew 23:37-39. He loved the lost sheep of Israel, yet they rejected Him.

Those who are redeemed will sing the song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-18) on the other side of their tribulations. In Exodus, God delivered His people out of the hands of Pharaoh in Egypt, and they sang the song of Moses! This song will be a victory song at the end of the age, too! How did they get victory over the devil and his Antichrist? *"And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."* - Revelation 12:11

"Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord, "until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all My fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy." - Zephaniah 3:8



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 15:1-8

Discussion Questions

The intermission is over. We now return to heaven during the Tribulation. Remember, we have already had seven seal judgments and seven trumpet judgments. We are now entering the final stage of God's judgment, the seven bowl or vial judgments.

1. Read 1 John 4:8; what is God?

Note: God is love and He loves us so much that He stepped out of heaven to become man and suffer, die and rise again as payment for our sins. He became sin for us so we could have eternal life (John 3:16). When we read about all of the plagues and punishment during the Tribulation, God still gives the world many opportunities to turn to Him for salvation. When the people during the Tribulation take the mark of the beast (Rev 13:16-18), the door is closed to salvation. God's wrath is full and He will pour it out onto the world because they rejected His love and free gift of salvation.

2. Read Rev. 15:1; what did John see?

3. What was in the seven last plagues? (Rev. 15:1)

4. Can you name some of the things that we've seen in Revelation that God has poured out onto a Christ-rejecting world? War, Rev. 6:4; famine, Rev. 6:6; wide-spread death on the earth, Rev. 6:8; locusts that caused severe pain but not death, Rev. 9:3-6. Through all of this the world knew that this was coming from God, Rev. 6:15-17. Did they repent and turn to God for salvation? (Rev. 9:21)

5. Read Rev. 15:2; who was standing on the sea of glass?

6. Who are the ones who have victory over the beast? (1 John 5:4-5)

7. Read Rev. 15:2; what is the mark of the beast? (Rev. 13:18)

8. What instrument are they playing? (Rev. 15:2)

9. Read Rev. 15:3-4; what are the victorious saints singing?

Note: Exodus 14 tells us how God led Israel out of Egypt, which also represents the world. God took them by their hand and parted the Red Sea and walked with them on dry land to the other side. When they had crossed over into safety from Egypt by God's mercy and strength, they sang a song of victory to the Lord (Exodus 15). This is the same song sung here in Rev. 15:3-4 by the victorious saints. They overcame the world and the beast by God's strength and mercy and are now in heaven singing the marvelous song of Moses in victory to the Lord.

10. Read Rev. 15:5; what did John see?

11. What came out of the temple? (Rev. 15:6)

12. Describe the angels in Rev. 15:6.

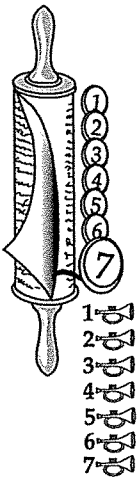
Note: The angels were clothed just like the priests who ministered in the temple. They ministered judgment for the Lord just as these angels are doing.

continued

13. What did the bowls contain? (Rev. 15:7)
14. What filled the temple? (Rev. 15:8)
15. God was in the temple alone and nobody was allowed to enter until when? (Rev. 15:8)
16. Why do you think that God is alone in the temple during this time?
17. Does the Bible say that we who are born again will be spared from God's wrath? (1 Thess. 5:9)

Memory Verse

"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,"
1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)



The First Three Bowls of God's Wrath are Poured Out!

"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.'

So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: 'You are righteous, O Lord, the One Who is and Who was and Who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.'

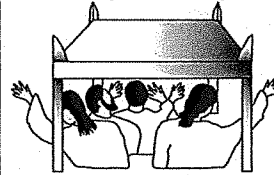
And I heard another from the altar saying, 'Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.' - Revelation 16:1-7

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- 1 Wrath
- 2 Wrath
- 3 Wrath

"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him." - John 5:22-23

This is the wrath of God on all who have rejected the Lord and who have worshiped the beast (Antichrist). God will avenge the blood of His own people. Do you remember the souls under the altar in heaven? They had been slain for the Word of God and for the testimony which they held. They cried out, saying:

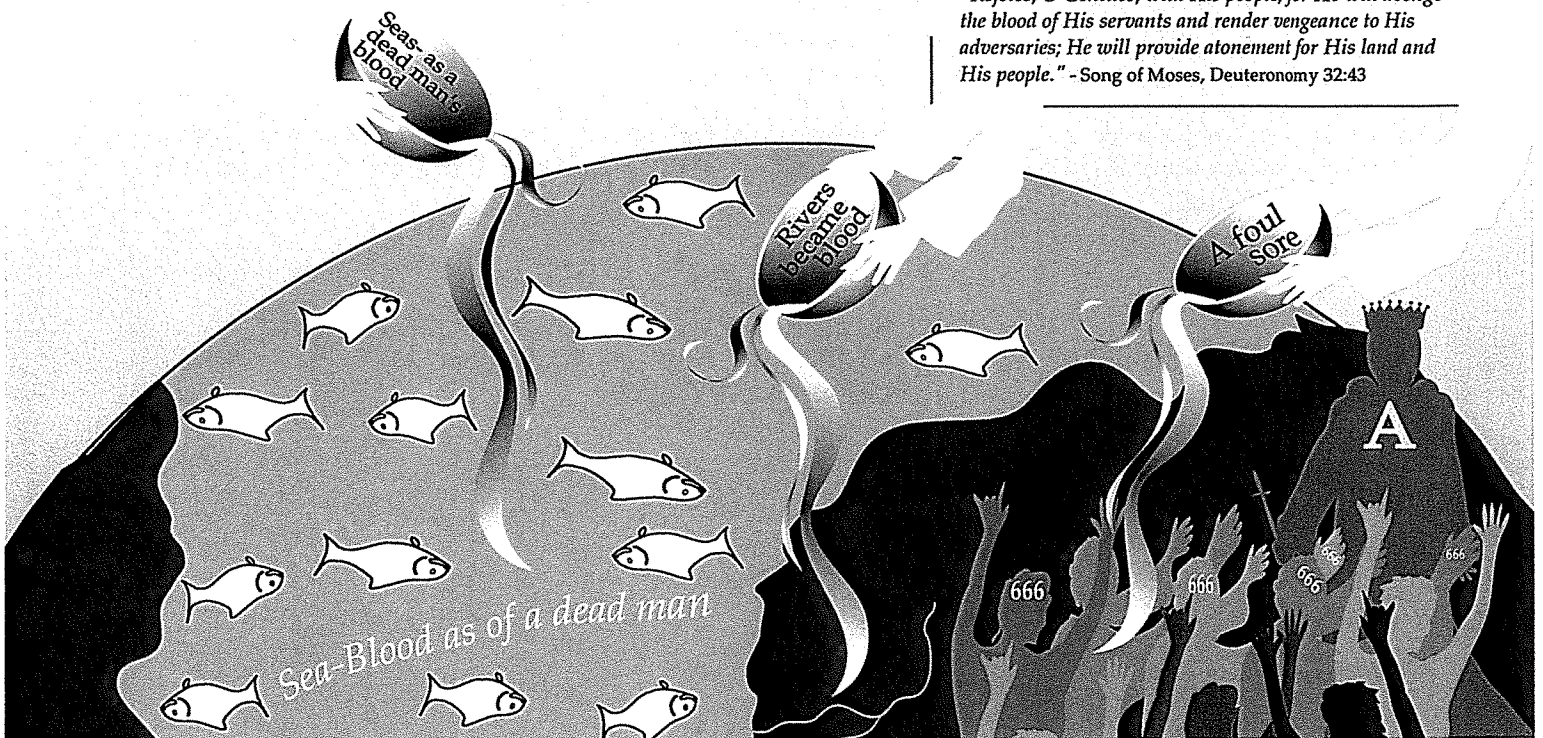


"... How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

-Revelation 6:10

In Genesis 4, Cain killed his brother Abel. The Lord said to Cain; "...What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." - Gen. 4:10 After the great flood in Genesis, God told Noah, "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man." - Genesis 9:5-6

God knows every sparrow that falls to the ground, and people are much more valuable to Him than sparrows. Many people will die at the hands of the Antichrist, but God will avenge the blood of His saints. He will give their murderers blood to drink! Their water will be turned to blood. The seas will become as dead man's blood. Everything in the sea will die. A loathsome and foul sore will be upon all those who have rejected the Lord and worshiped the Antichrist. "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants and render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." - Song of Moses, Deuteronomy 32:43



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 16:1-7

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 16:1; who was speaking from the temple? (Rev. 15:8)
2. Whose wrath are the angels told to pour out on the earth? (Rev. 16:1)
3. Were those on earth given warning before God poured out the bowls of His wrath? (Rev. 14:9-10)
4. What was in the first bowl? (Rev. 16:2)
5. Who were the ones infected? (Rev. 16:2)
6. What was in the second bowl and what happened? (Rev. 16:3)
7. Read Rev. 16:4; what happened when the third bowl was poured out?
8. Was there any water left to drink on the earth after the second and third bowls were poured out?

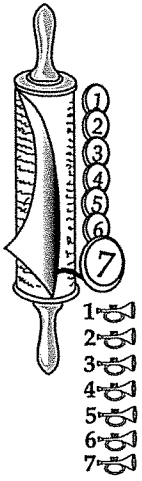
Note: Do the second and third bowls of wrath sound familiar? Rev. 8:8-11 describes things that are similar to this. These were the second and third trumpet judgments and only one third of the seas, rivers and springs were affected. Here in the bowls of God's wrath ALL of the seas, rivers and springs were affected.

9. Read Rev. 16:5-6; what is the angel singing about?
10. Read Matt. 23:34-36; did Jesus tell the Pharisees that these things would happen?
11. Do these things seem unfair or too harsh? Are God's judgments true and faithful? (Psalm 19:9)
12. What did the angel say in Rev. 16:7?

God has given us His Word and His saints to share the good news of salvation. Nobody has to go through any of these things if we turn to Jesus and trust Him as our Lord and Saviour. He has not appointed us to wrath but to be with Him for eternity if we so choose.

Memory Verse

"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,"
1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)



Two More Bowls of God's Wrath are Poured Out!

"Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the Name of God Who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

- Revelation 16:8-11

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- 1 Wrath
- 2 Wrath
- 3 Wrath
- 4 Wrath
- 5 Wrath

Because of their pains and their sores, they will blaspheme the God of heaven, and will not repent of their deeds. *What deeds?* They worshiped the beast and his image, which is idolatry. Those who do evil deeds love the darkness, so God will give them a horrible darkness. God will scorch them with great heat from the sun. In Numbers 25, we can read of Israel committing "harlotry" with the women of Moab. How? *"They invited the people (of Israel) to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel.' So Moses said to the judges of Israel, 'Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor.'" - Numbers 25:2-5*

In Ezekiel 8, we can read about idolatry in the house of Israel. God said, *"Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, 'The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.'"* - Ezekiel 8:12 But God *did* see the idolatry done in the dark! They worshiped the creation by making images of all sorts of creeping things and abominable beasts (Ezekiel 8:10). They worshiped the sun (Ezekiel 8:16). They wept for Tammuz (a Babylonian fertility god (Ezekiel 8:14)). Read 2 Kings 21, to see many of the various ways in which Israel practiced idolatry. Josiah, a godly king of Judah, tried to rid Judah of idolatry: *"Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the Lord, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people. Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons that were in the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image."* - 2 Kings 23:5-7

They worshiped the things that God made, but they did not worship Him. Idolatry is worshiping anything and everything other than God. It can be the sun, it can be the earth, money, another person, or anything that is put above God in your heart.

Those who do not know the Lord are in the dark. John 3:19-21, says: *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

The day of God's wrath will come to all who reject Jesus, the Light of the world. *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."* - John 1:4-5



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 16:8-11

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

blaspheme-the act of cursing or reviling God

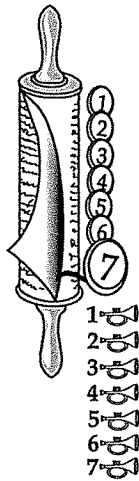
Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 16:8; what happened when the fourth bowl of wrath was poured out?
2. What did the people do when they were scorched? Did they repent? (Rev. 16:9)
3. Read Rev. 16:10; what happened to the throne of the beast when the fifth bowl was poured out?
4. What did the people do? Did they repent? (Rev. 16:11)
5. Who had power over all of the plagues? (Rev. 16:9)

Notice that in Rev. 8:12, the fourth trumpet judgment, one third of the earth was in darkness. Now in the fifth bowl there is **total** darkness. Each passing judgment gets worse and worse and men blaspheme God instead of repenting and turning to Him.







Memory Verse

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments,..."
Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)



The Sixth Bowl of God's Wrath is Poured Out!

"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

- 1  Watch!
- 2  Watch!
- 3  Watch!
- 4  Watch!
- 5  Watch!
- 6  Watch!

For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

'Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.'

And they gather them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."

- Revelation 16:12-16

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Earlier, in Revelation 9, we saw four angels who will be released at the Euphrates River on an exact hour, day, month, and year to kill a third of mankind. There will also be an army of two hundred million horsemen who will carry out their orders to kill by fire, smoke and brimstone. In Chapter 16, we learn that the Euphrates river will be dried up to make way for the kings of the east. Then we see three unclean "frog-like" spirits coming out of the mouths of those in the unholy trinity. Remember what Jesus told us about the devil's ministry: *"... 'He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.'"* - John 8:44

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." - 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

After a third of mankind is killed by a 200,000,000 army (Revelation 9), the Bible says: *"But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."*

-Revelation 9:20-21 There was no repentance!

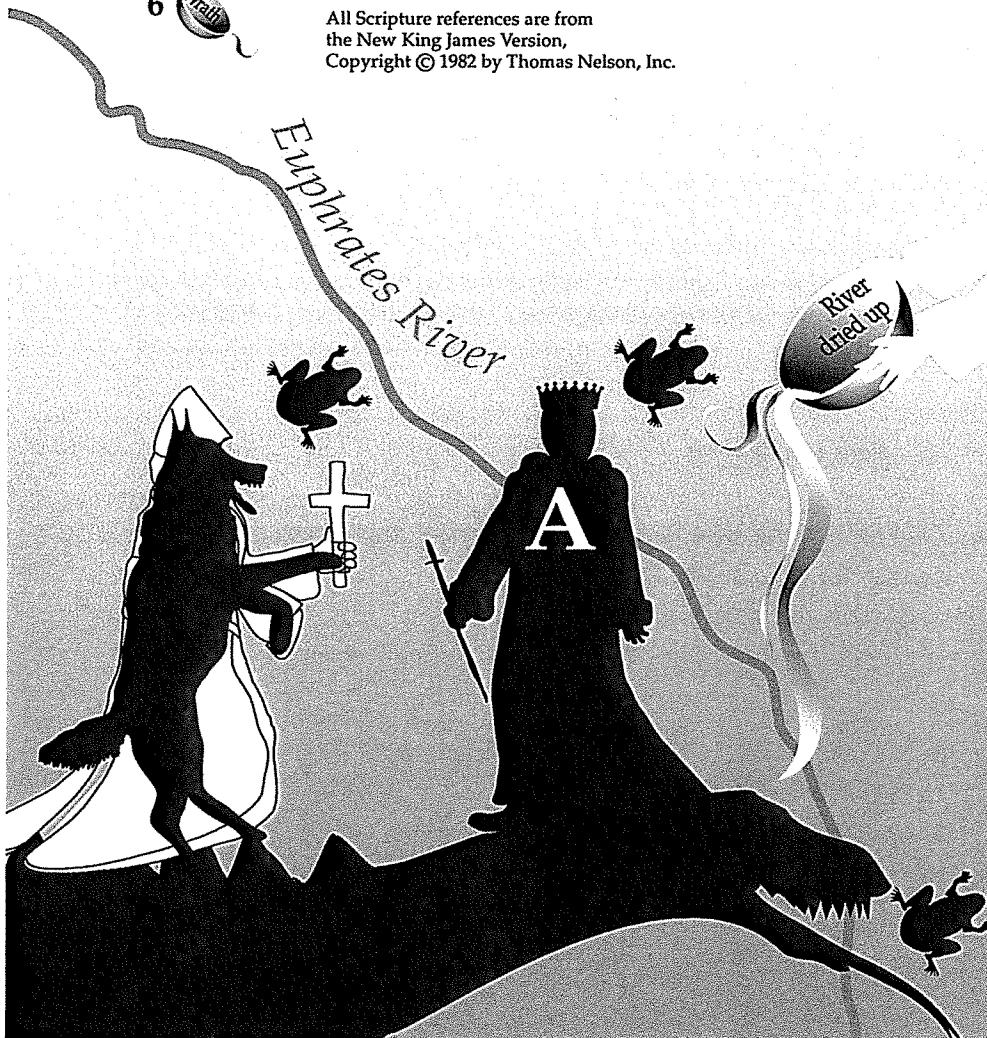
About the Tribulation, Jesus said:

"... 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My Name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.'" - Matthew 24:4-5

Watch! Jesus is coming!

During the Tribulation there will be both Jew and Gentile Believers, but the Church will have been taken to heaven in the Rapture. Jesus promised to keep those in Philadelphia from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10). But to the church in Sardis. He told them to be watchful because He would come upon them as a thief. They looked alive, yet they were dead! Jesus said, *"... 'Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.'"* - Revelation 3:3-4 Jesus said to those in Thyatira (a church that was tainted by sexual immorality and idolatry), *"And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds."* - Rev. 2:21-22

You will not be a part of the Rapture just because you sit in a church! You must be in the Body of Christ (a born-again Believer)! Are you born again?



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 16:12-16

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 16:12; what happened when the sixth bowl was poured out?
2. Read Rev. 16:13; where did the three unclean spirits come from?

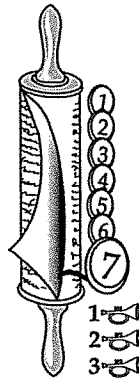
Note: Remember that the dragon is Satan, the beast is the Antichrist or world leader and the false prophet is the false religion during the Tribulation. Here Satan copies the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, with his own demon-possessed trinity. Satan counterfeits everything that God does.

3. Read Rev. 16:14; what did these demons do?
4. Are we warned about this anywhere in Scripture? (2 Thess. 2:9-12)
5. Read Rev. 16:15; what is Jesus warning us about?
6. What did Jesus warn the church of Sardis about in Rev. 3:1-5?
7. Read Rev. 16:16; where were the armies gathered together?
8. Do you know of any other events that happened in the valley of Megiddo?

Gideon and 300 men overcame the Midianites in a valley below a little hill called Megiddo; When Samson took on the Philistines, one of the key battles was at Megiddo; King Josiah was killed at Megiddo; Deborah and Barak defeated Sisera at Megiddo; The Turks, Muslims, Syrians, Egyptians, and the Europeans have all waged war in this valley; Napoleon passed through the Jezreel Valley in his disastrous excursion into Egypt. So we see that Megiddo has a very important place in history as well as the future.

Memory Verse

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments,..."
Revelation 16:15 (NKJV)



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- 1 Wrath
- 2 Wrath
- 3 Wrath
- 4 Wrath
- 5 Wrath
- 6 Wrath
- 7 Wrath

The Seventh Bowl of God's Wrath is Poured Out!

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!'"

And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.



And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent (120 lbs). Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."

- Revelation 16:17-21

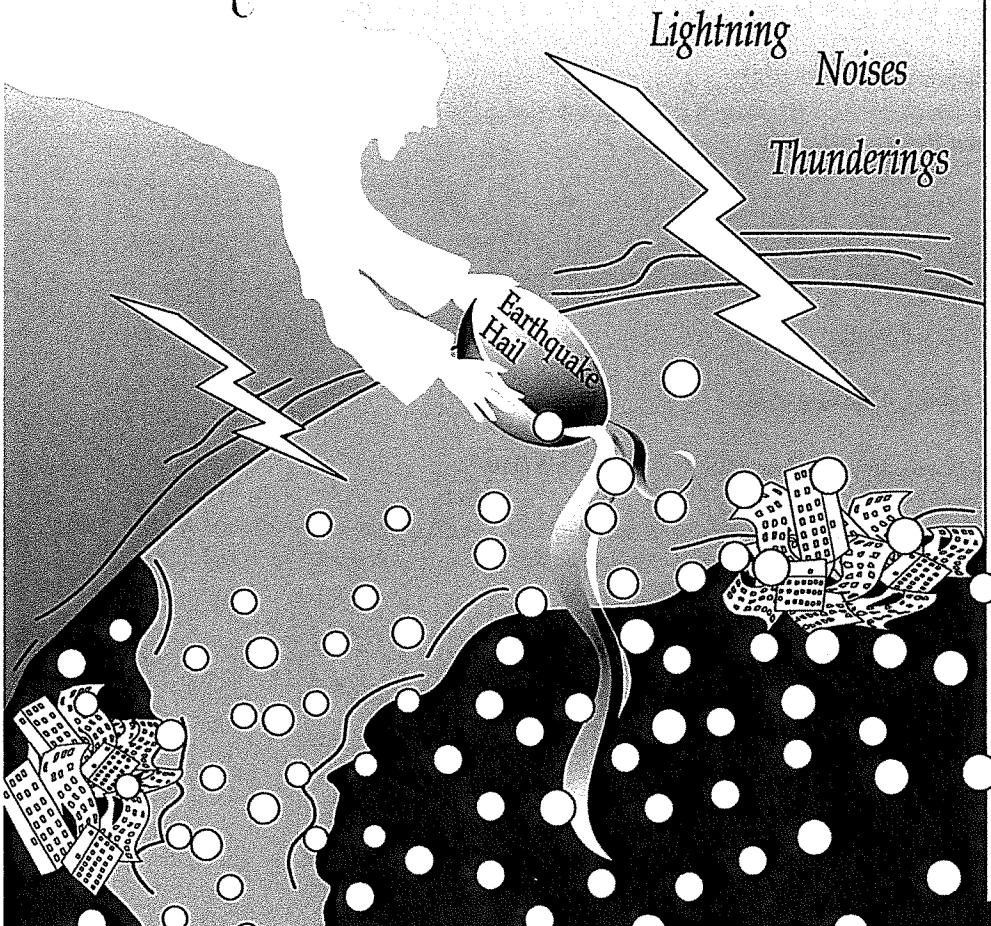
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A loud voice came out of the temple in heaven, saying, "It is done!" In His earthly ministry, Jesus paid for our sins on the Cross, with His own Blood. Just before He died, He drank some sour wine and cried, "It is finished!" (See John 19:30.) He finished the work of redemption that day and He will finish the work of vengeance during the Great Tribulation. There are two parts to Jesus' ministry. He came as a humble servant the first time. He preached good tidings (the Gospel) to the poor, healed the broken-hearted, proclaimed liberty to the captives, opened the prison of those who were bound, and proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord. But at His Second Coming, He will come as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will proclaim the day of vengeance of our God. In Luke 4, Jesus taught the Book of Isaiah to those in His home town, Nazareth. He read from Isaiah 61:1, and part of verse 2. Then He closed the book. He stopped reading just before He came to these words, "... And the day of vengeance of our God;" Vengeance wasn't part of His ministry during His time on earth. But during the Tribulation, He will fulfill the vengeance part of His ministry! The bowl judgments are the outpouring of God's wrath. People will blaspheme God rather than crying out for mercy. They will be like the Pharaoh of Egypt, seen in the Book of Exodus. With each plague the Pharaoh's heart grew harder. Proverbs 6:12-15, describes the outcome of the wicked.

During this time of God's wrath, many will be destroyed. Others will be comforted when His wrath is finished and His vengeance delivered. Jesus will, "...comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified.'" - Isaiah 61:2-3

Jesus will tread the winepress of God's wrath. Remember Revelation 14:17-20? The blood will come up to the horses' bridles for one thousand six hundred furlongs (184 miles)! Isaiah says, "Who is this Who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this One Who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- I Who speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered that there was no one to uphold; therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; and My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth." -Isaiah 63:1-6

Be sure that you are born again, walking with the Lord, and by His strength, doing His will. Salvation is free for us, but it cost Jesus everything! He loves us, that is why He came to die for our sins!



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 16:17-21

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

blaspheme-the act of cursing or reviling God

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 16:17; what did Jesus cry out from the temple when the seventh and final bowl of wrath was poured out?
2. When Jesus came to earth, He came to die for the sins of the whole world. What did He cry out from the cross when that was accomplished? (John 19:30)

Note: The first time Jesus came as a servant to die for us. The second time He comes will be as King of kings to judge the whole earth.

3. Read Rev. 16:18; what was going on after the seventh bowl was poured out?
4. Read Rev. 16:19; what is the great city? (Rev. 14:8)
5. What happened to Babylon? (Rev. 16:19)
6. Does God remember all of the evil things that Babylon did? (Rev. 16:19)
7. Will God give Babylon the judgment she deserves? (Rev. 16:19)
8. When we think that things are unfair in our lives, what is one of the promises of God we can rest in? (Rom. 12:18-19)
9. Read Rev. 16:20; what happened to the islands and mountains?

Note: Can you imagine that there will be no more mountains or islands!!!!!!

10. Read Rev. 16:21; what fell from heaven?

Note: 1 talent = 120 pounds

11. What did the men do when the hail fell? (Rev. 16:21)
12. Read Lev. 24:16; what is the punishment for blaspheming God?
13. Do the people during the Tribulation get their just punishment for blaspheming God?

Note: Remember way back in Exodus when God was going to deliver Israel out of Egypt? God sent plagues similar to the ones during the Tribulation. And with each plague Pharaoh's heart grew harder and harder. This is the same thing that is happening to the people during the Tribulation, with each plague they blaspheme God and refuse to repent.

Memory Verse

"...the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."
Psalm 19:9 (NKJV)

Supplement to Revelation Chapter 17:1-6

Apply Within For Kids -Mystery Babylon- Revelation Chapter 17:1-6

Mystery Babylon

She is a mystery, she is great, she is the mother of harlots (prostitutes) and of abominations of the earth.

1. She sits on many waters (representing peoples, which are multitudes, nations, and tongues. (Rev. 17:15)).



2. The kings of the earth commit fornication with her. (She and the kings of the world are yoked together in business, financial and political interests.) The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (They prospered by her relationship with the kings.)

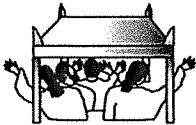
3. She is seen in the wilderness like the woman in Chapter 12 (representing Israel).

4. She sits on a scarlet beast which is full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. (See the description of the dragon in Revelation 12:3.)

5. She is arrayed in purple and scarlet. She is like royalty, wearing purple, but her king is not Jesus. Her sins are like scarlet and she is drunk with blood. Red garments cover the cardinals of the Catholic church. Red is worn by Buddhist monks. Red was worn by those who followed a false messiah who settled in Antelope, Oregon! Red is the color of communist China and Russia. The devil himself is seen as a fiery red dragon!

6. She was adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She is financially rich, but spiritually poor.

7. She has in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. (See Jeremiah 51:7.) In our communion, we drink juice in remembrance of the shed Blood of Jesus, Who bought us, and paid for our sins by shedding His Blood. But in her cup are the abominations and filthiness of her fornications with the world and the kings of the earth. She is drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs of God. She has the legacy of her father, the devil. She is a liar and a murderer.



The Deception of the False Church

The false church, Babylon the Great, is called "Mystery." But the true Church, the Bride of Christ is called a mystery. The false church is covered in red (her sins are as scarlet), but the true Church will be wearing white garments (Rev. 3:4) and her sins have been made whiter than snow (Isaiah 1:18). Revelation 1:5, says: "...To Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," The true Church is without spot, wrinkle or blemish (Ephesians 5:27). The true Church is separated from the world. But the harlot is a lover of the world and the things in the world, therefore she is an enemy of God (1 John 2:15-17). She is yoked to the world and all the false religions that came from Babylon. She can be bought with money (like a prostitute) through financial and political means by the kings of the world. She is wealthy with fine clothing, gold, precious stones, and pearls. But she does not know that she is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, like the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:17).

She is the universal church. She welcomes all doctrines, all philosophies, and all heresies for the sake of unity. She is ecumenical, broad-minded, and positive! (Many false teachers are very "positive," but they do not speak the truth!) The false church does not love the truth, and because she does not have the love of the truth she will believe the lie, and the delusion that God sends (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

What does God say about this?

"Flee from the midst of Babylon, and every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He shall recompense her." - Jeremiah 51:6

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.

For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?

And what communion has light with darkness?

And what accord has Christ with Belial?

Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?

For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

'I will dwell in them and walk among them.

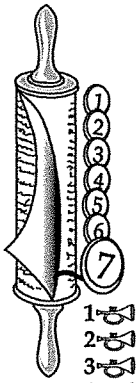
I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord.

Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.

I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.'" - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18





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Mystery Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, 'Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.'

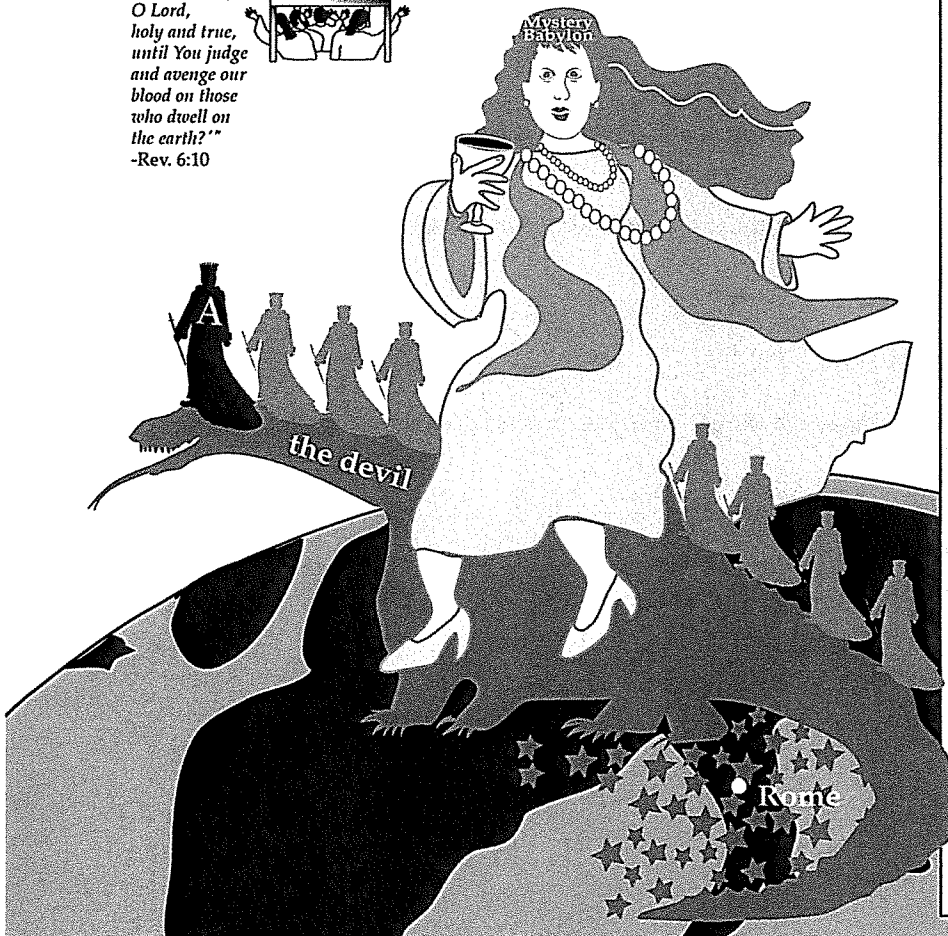
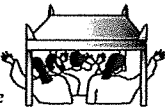
So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her I marveled with great amazement."

- Revelation 17:1-6

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"... 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'"
-Rev. 6:10



All spiritual "harlotry" leads back to Babylon. Those in Babylon said, "... 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.'" - Genesis 11:4 By pride and unity they built their city! The devil had similar plans. He said in his heart, "... 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation...'" - Isaiah 14:13

The devil has controlled the world system throughout the ages. The ideas that built Babylon were carried to every corner of the earth by all of those who were scattered from Babylon after God confounded their languages. All false religions come from Babylon and the devil. Remember we saw a fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads in Rev. 12:3. In this Chapter we see a scarlet beast with the same description. The dragon is the devil (see Rev. 12:9). His ten heads are ten kings. Three of them will be subdued by an eleventh king (the Antichrist). Eight kings will be left. Upon the devil and the kings of the revived Roman Empire, sits a harlot! She is the false church which will include all religions of the world except for those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

In Deuteronomy 18:9-14, God gave Israel a list of things that He called abominations. Read those verses.

During the Roman Empire, the Caesars were worshiped as gods, and there were many fertility cults that honored various gods and goddesses. Eventually a false form of Christianity became the state religion. Mary, the mother of Jesus, became an image, or idol in the false "Christian" church of Rome. Babylon's idolatry seated itself in Rome! The harlot is seen with a golden cup in her hand, filled with the blood of the saints. Many true Christians were murdered by the Caesars of the Roman Empire, and then later by the Roman Catholic church during the Inquisition. Millions of Jews also perished. The union of the church and the state was called the "Holy Roman Empire." The Roman government used the Roman Catholic church to gain control among its many regions. With everyone converted to Catholicism, a false peace was achieved in all the diverse regions of the empire! Anyone who would not convert was murdered.

The Antichrist will use the harlot church to gain power, and then he will destroy her. The word, "catholic" means universal, encompassing all, broad-minded, and liberal. Jesus said broad is the way that leads to destruction! The Pope is trying to create unity among all religions and he's seen as a peacemaker. All the world will marvel and follow the Antichrist (who gets his power and authority from the dragon). All the world and people of various religions will marvel when they see the Antichrist's mortal wound healed. Worship of the Antichrist will become the state religion of the revived Roman Empire. With no one fighting over religion and unity established, it will look like a new age of peace, safety, unity, and tolerance. They will even say, who is able to make war with him? (Rev. 13:4) But true peace can't come until the Prince of Peace comes!

This harlot is wearing the traditional colors of the Roman Catholic church. The colors of her clothing resemble the colors of the high priest's clothing listed in Exodus 28, except for the color blue. She has a fraudulent priesthood! She is a fake! Jesus is the High Priest for Believers. We do not need a mediator except for Him!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 17:1-6

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

fornication-all sexual acts outside of marriage; spiritual adultery; idolatry
abomination-repulsive; detestable

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 17:1-2; what did the angel show John?
2. What are the many waters that the harlot is sitting on? (Rev. 17:15)
3. Remember the church of Thyatira was warned about her works. Read Rev. 2:20-23; what is it God had against her? Is it the same as in Rev. 17:2?
4. Read Rev. 17:3; what did John see in the wilderness?

Note: The harlot is identified with Babylon. All false religions started in Babylon (Gen. 11:4). When we read of the harlot, or Babylon, it is describing the false religion during the Tribulation. Read about it on the front of the lesson.

5. Read Rev. 17:3; what is the woman sitting on?

Note: The beast is described in Rev. 13:1-2. It represents the Antichrist whom Satan has empowered during the Tribulation. The harlot (the false church), is united with the Antichrist.

6. Read Rev. 17:4; describe what the woman is wearing.

Note: Scarlet represents the Roman Church; purple is the dominant color of Roman imperialism; gold, precious stones, and pearls represent great wealth and outward beauty.

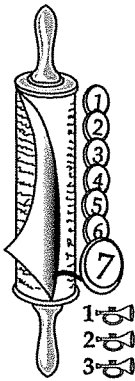
7. Read Rev. 17:4; what was in the harlot's hand? What do you think this was? (Rev. 14:8; 17:8)
8. Read Rev. 17:5; where was the name written, and what did it say?
9. Read Rev. 17:6; what was the harlot drunk with?

Note: At the time John wrote this, there was great persecution of the Church. Throughout this terrible persecution more than six million believers perished.

Memory Verse

"...Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.' "

Revelation 16:7 (NKJV)



The Meaning of the Harlot And the Beast that Carries Her

"But the angel said to me, 'Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

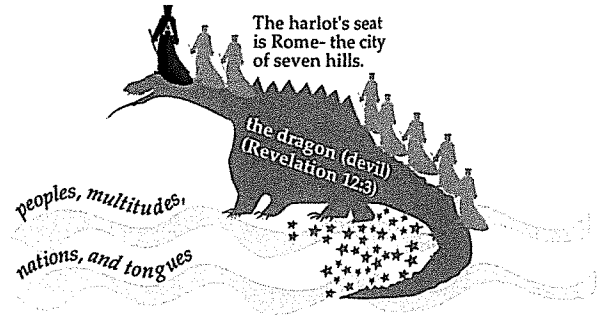
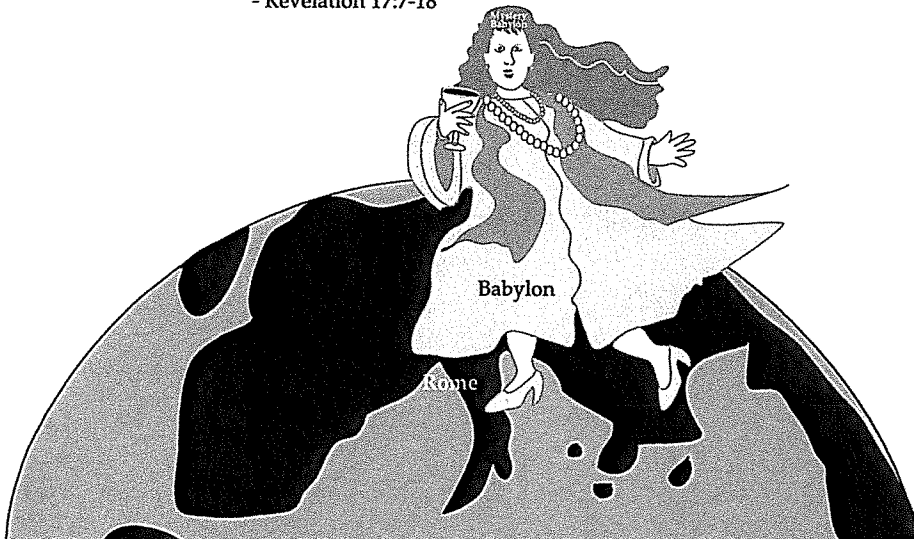
Here is the mind which has wisdom:
The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.'

Then he said to me,
'The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the Words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.'"

- Revelation 17:7-18



The beast that carries the woman has seven heads and ten horns. There will be ten kings (horns) plus the Antichrist (another horn), and he will subdue three of the ten kings (horns) leaving seven kings besides himself. He is the eighth (Daniel 7:24-25). The fiery red dragon in Revelation 12:3, has the same description as the beast that carries the harlot! The harlot rests upon the devil and the world system. James 4:4, says, "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

The ten kings will receive authority for one hour with the Antichrist. The dragon will give him his power, his throne, and great authority (Revelation 13:2). It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. He will have authority over every tribe, tongue and nation (Revelation 13:7). The waters where the harlot sits are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (Revelation 17:15). God will make these ten kings be of one mind. (They will form a one-world government with the devil empowering them.) All who dwell on the earth, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life, will worship the Antichrist (Revelation 13:8).

The harlot is a prostitute with the world system and the kings of the earth. We, as the true Church (the Bride of Christ), are not to love the world or the things in the world. If we love the world, we are at enmity with the Lord. We are to stay unspotted by the world. The harlot has not kept herself separate from the world. God never wanted His people to be joined to the world or idolatry in any way. That is why the Israelites were not to marry the pagan women around them. It always led to idolatry and sexual sin! The Lord rebuked the church at Pergamos because they had some who held to the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality (Rev. 2:14). They also had the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which Jesus hates. The church of Thyatira allowed a woman named Jezebel, who called herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce His servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat things sacrificed to idols (Rev. 2:20). See 2 Cor. 6:14-18, 2 Timothy 3:1-9, and 1 John 2:15-17!

Not everyone who claims to be your brother or sister, is *in* Christ! We cannot be yoked together with unbelievers, the world system, or idols, if we want to walk with the Lord. We are not earth dwellers, but we are citizens of heaven!

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 17:7-18

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

perdition-perishing; destruction

mystery-hidden truth

revelation-a previously hidden truth

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 17:7; what is the angel going to show John?
 2. Read Rev. 17:8; where will the beast come from? Where will the beast ultimately end up?
- Note: Remember in Rev. 13:10, the patience of the saints? God says that He will judge justly and all who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword and he who leads into captivity shall go into captivity.*
3. Who are the ones who will marvel at the beast? (Rev. 17:8)
 4. Read Rev. 17:9; what are the seven heads of the beast?
 5. The woman, or the world religion, will be united with the one-world system. What does James 4:4 tell us about being friends with the world?
 6. Read Rev. 17:10-12; read the description on the front of the lesson about the beast and the kings.
 7. Read Rev. 17:13; the ten horns, or kings, are united, whom do they serve? Whom do they give their power and authority to?
 8. Read Rev. 17:14; who do the kings make war with? Who will be victorious?
 9. Who are the ones with Jesus? (1 Peter 2:9-10; Rev. 17:14)
 10. Read Rev. 17:15-16; what happens to the harlot?
 11. Read Rev. 17:17; God is in control, even over those who reject Him. He works all things according to His purpose. Read 2 Thess. 2:9-12; is this the same thing as Rev. 17:17?
 12. Read Rev. 17:18; who is the woman? (Rev. 14:8)

Memory Verse

"...Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.' "

Revelation 16:7 (NKJV)

Please
save for
reference!

Cast of Characters -The Kings - Supplement Apply Within For Kids - Revelation Chapter 17 & 18

The Kings of the Earth

In Revelation 16:12-16, we saw that when the sixth angel poured out his bowl, the Euphrates River dried up to make way for the kings of the east. Then John saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast (the Antichrist) and the false prophet. Those demons will go and gather the kings of the earth for the battle at the place called Armageddon.



1. The kings of the earth commit fornication with the great harlot (the false church) who sits on many waters (peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues). (See Revelation 17:2.)

2. The ten horns are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they will receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are the ten kings who will reign with the Antichrist during the Tribulation. The Antichrist will become an eleventh king among the ten. Then he will subdue three of the original ten, leaving seven. He will be the eighth king. (See Revelation 17:12, and Daniel 7:23-25.)

3. These kings will be of one mind and they will give their power and authority to the beast. (See Revelation 17:13.)

4. The ten kings will make war with the Lamb and He will overcome them. (See Revelation 17:14.)

5. The ten kings will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked. They will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. (See Revelation 17:16.)

6. God will put it into the king's hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdoms to the beast until the Words of God are fulfilled. (See Revelation 17:17.)

7. The great harlot (the woman that John saw) is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. (See Revelation 17:18.)

8. When the great harlot is destroyed, the kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her when they see the smoke of her burning. (See Revelation 18:9.)

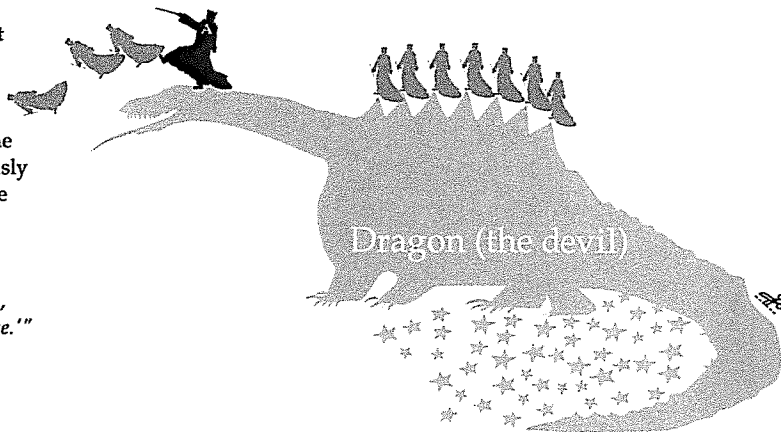
9. The kings will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, and say, "... 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'"
- Revelation 18:10

10. The Antichrist and his armies will be defeated by the Lord. An angel will call to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, and say, "... 'Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.'"
- Revelation 19:17-18

"Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us break Their (the Trinity) bonds in pieces and cast away Their (the Trinity) cords from us.'" -Psalm 2:1-3



This is a king of the earth. The Antichrist will rule over ten kings. He will subdue three of the ten, leaving seven plus himself.



Teachers: You may enlarge these on a copier, cut them out and use them for a display!

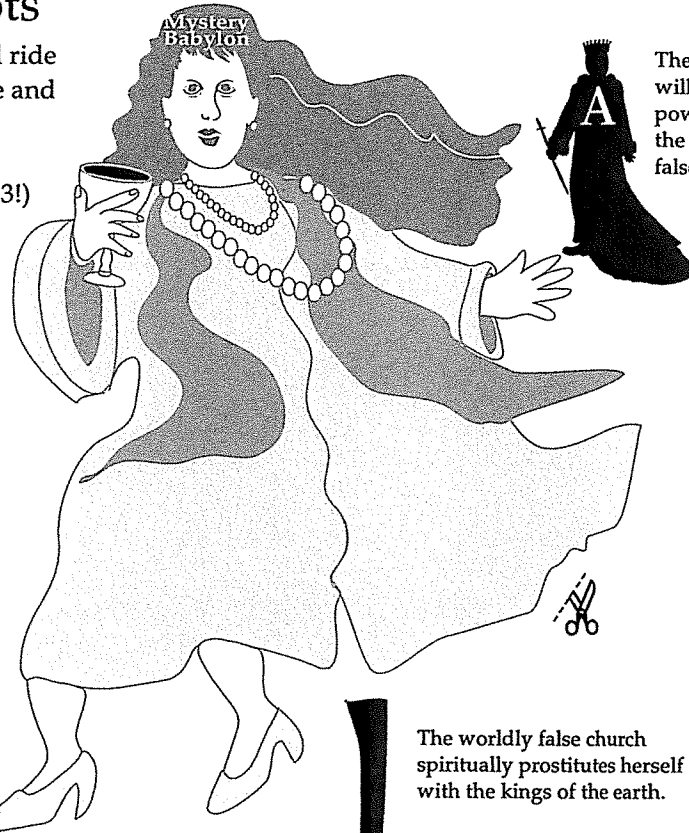
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Cast of Characters - The Big Picture! - Supplement

Apply Within For Kids - Revelation Chapter 17 & 18

Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots

The Babylonian religious-system will ride on top of the Revived Roman Empire and its kings. That empire has the same description as the devil! (Compare Revelation 12:3-4 with Revelation 17:3!)



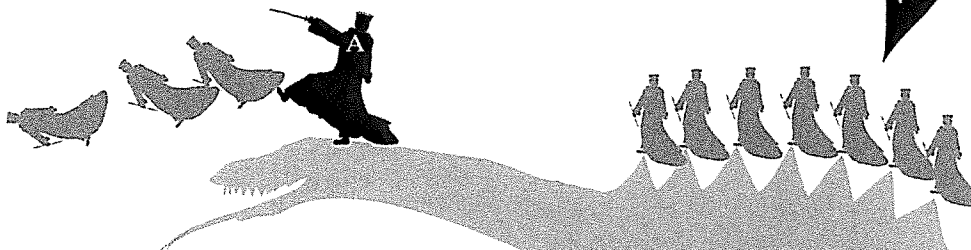
The Antichrist will come to power with the help of the false church.

The false prophet causes the world to worship the Antichrist. The devil has a church and a congregation!



The worldly false church spiritually prostitutes herself with the kings of the earth.

She will sit on seven hills (Rome?) and she rides on a beast that has the same description as the Dragon. (See Revelation 12:3-4.)



Dragon (the devil)

Teachers: You may enlarge these on a copier, cut them out and use them for a display!



Rome

Cast of Characters -The Shipmasters - Supplement

Apply Within For Kids - Revelation Chapter 18

Bodies and Souls of Men
 Purple
 Scarlet
 Frankincense
 Gold
 Cattle
 Wine
 Fine Flour
 Cinnamon
 Horses
 Citron Wood
 Silk
 Ivory Pearls
 Marble
 Chariots
 Precious Wood
 Sheep
 Fine Linen
 Incense
 Silver
 Bronze
 Wheat
 Oil
 Precious Stones

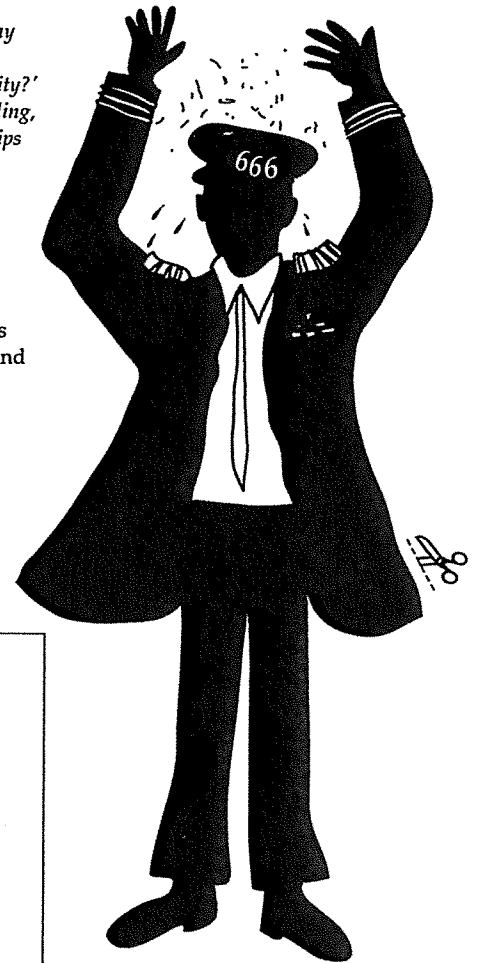


Babylon's Shipmasters

"...Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'" - Revelation 18:17

Read Ezekiel 27! This Chapter discusses Tyre, which was a city on the Mediterranean Sea. It too, suffered a similar fate and all the mariners cried and threw dust on their heads! The description of the king of Tyre, in Ezekiel 28, is a clear description of the devil. The devil is the master-mind of the Babylonian world-system. Money and trading are the idols that replace the Lord in the hearts of all who are in love with the Babylonian system. Money is not evil, but idolatry is evil. Where is your heart?

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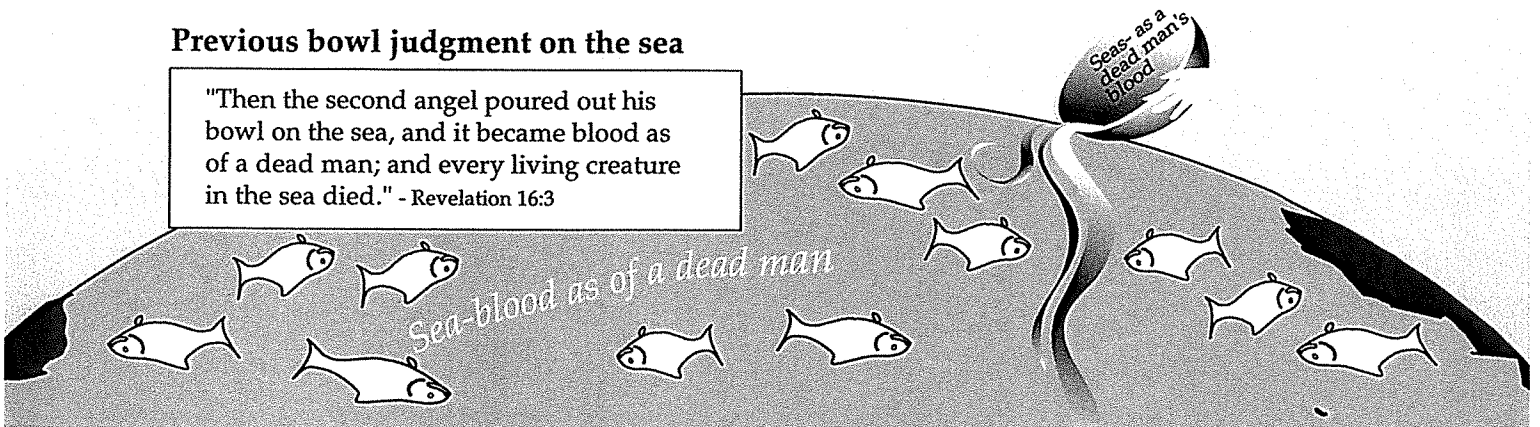
Previous trumpet judgment on the sea & ships



"Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed." - Revelation 8:8-9

Previous bowl judgment on the sea

"Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died." - Revelation 16:3



Cast of Characters -The Merchants - Supplement

Apply Within For Kids - Revelation Chapter 18

The Merchants of The Earth

1. The merchants of the earth became rich through the abundance of the harlot's (false church) luxury. (See Revelation 18:3.)
2. The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her (Babylon), when she is judged. For no one will buy their merchandise anymore. (See Revelation 18:11.)
3. The merchandise was of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, marble, cinnamon, incense, fragrant oil, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, chariots, and bodies and souls of men. (See Revelation 18:12-13.)
4. The merchants of these things (listed above), became rich by Babylon, and will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing! They will say, "... *Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.* ..." - Revelation 18:16-17
5. The merchants of Babylon were the great men of the earth. By Babylon's sorcery, all the nations were deceived. (See Revelation 18:23.)
6. The beast out of the earth caused all, both small and great, rich and poor to receive a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. No one could buy or sell except those who have the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16-17). The merchants had to be part of the Babylonian/devilish world-system in order to buy or sell.



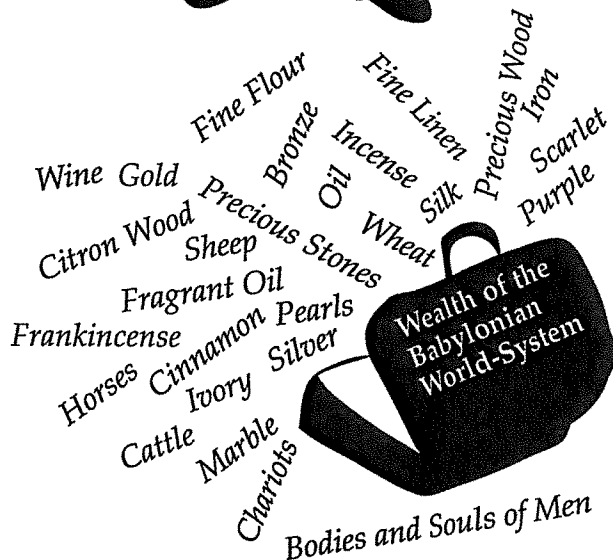
The Devil (*called the King of Tyre*) is also a merchant!

Speaking of the devil, Ezekiel 28:4-5, says:
"With your wisdom and your understanding you have gained riches for yourself, and gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; by your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, and your heart is lifted up because of your riches,...."

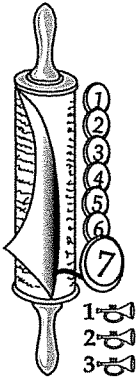
Ezekiel 28:16, says:
"By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones."

Read Ezekiel 27! This Chapter discusses Tyre, which was a city on the Mediterranean Sea that was destroyed. The merchandise listed there sounds very similar to the merchandise listed in Revelation 18.

The mariners cried bitterly and cast dust on their heads because of the destruction of Tyre. The city of Tyre may be a picture, or example of what will happen to Babylon!



Teachers: You may enlarge these on a copier, cut them out and use them for a display!



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Political & Commercial Babylon is Fallen!

"After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!'"

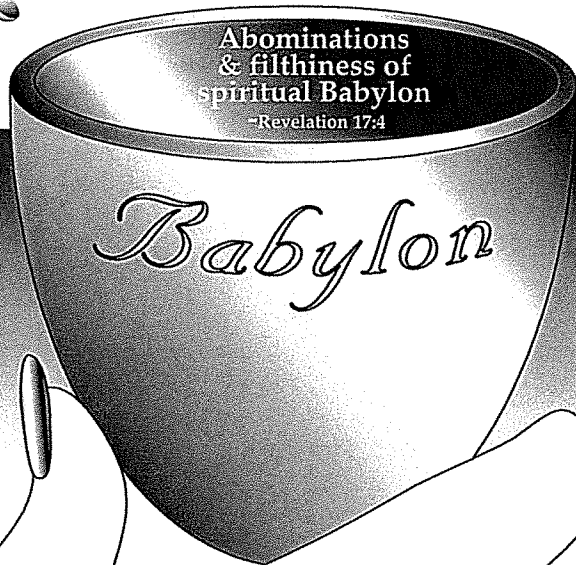
For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.'"

"And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her.'

In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day--death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God Who judges her.'"

- Revelation 18:1-8

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Babylon is Fallen!

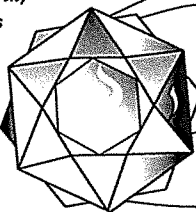


The unrepentant world will be judged by fire. All the business deals, all the riches, all the power of the most powerful politicians cannot stop the judgment of the Lamb upon the Babylonian world-system. Those of the world worship idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. (Idols can even be worshiped in the heart.) In the future, those in the world will worship the beast and his image. Jesus told us that you cannot serve God and mammon. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat you flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your hearts as in a day of slaughter. You have condemned, you have murdered the just; he does not resist you." - James 5:1-6

Jesus said, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:19-21

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." - Matthew 6:24



666

Isaiah 47:1-15, foretells of the destruction of Babylon. No one knows the location of the future city of Babylon. It is possible that it will be in Iraq, due to the information found in Isaiah 13:19-22, and Jeremiah 50:38-40. Read these verses and see!

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 18:1-8

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

fornication-all sexual acts outside of marriage; spiritual adultery; idolatry

Discussion Questions

Note: Revelation showed us that the harlot represented the false church, spiritual Babylon. At first the Antichrist and the world embraced her. The Antichrist used her, the spiritual system, to get what he wanted to be praised as God. When he was seated in the temple and was worshipped as God, Antichrist destroyed spiritual Babylon because he has no use for her anymore.

1. Read Rev. 18:1-2; "After these things" refers to the fall of the false religion in Chapter 17. What is the angel saying has fallen? (See the front of the lesson.)

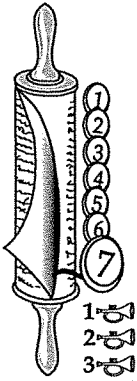
Note: Isaiah 13:19-22 and Jeremiah 50:38-40 describe the destruction of the literal city of Babylon. It is the same description we read in Rev. 18:2. Although we don't know for sure which city in Rev. 18 is Babylon, we do know that God's promises are true and the city of Babylon will be totally and completely destroyed.

2. Read Rev. 18:3; this isn't talking about spiritual fornication, but it is literal. How do you think this can happen?
3. Read Rev. 18:4-5; will there be believers during the Tribulation? (Rev. 7:13-14)
4. What did God tell His people to do in Rev. 18:4?
5. What does God tell us to do? Why? (2 Cor. 6:17-18)
6. Read Rev. 18:6-7; Babylon is going to get just punishment from God. How will God punish her?
7. How does Babylon see herself? (Rev. 18:7)
8. Read Rev. 18:8; how will Babylon be destroyed and how long will it take? Who is the One who judges her?

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)



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The Babylonian World-System Falls!

"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all.

The merchants of these things who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.'

Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

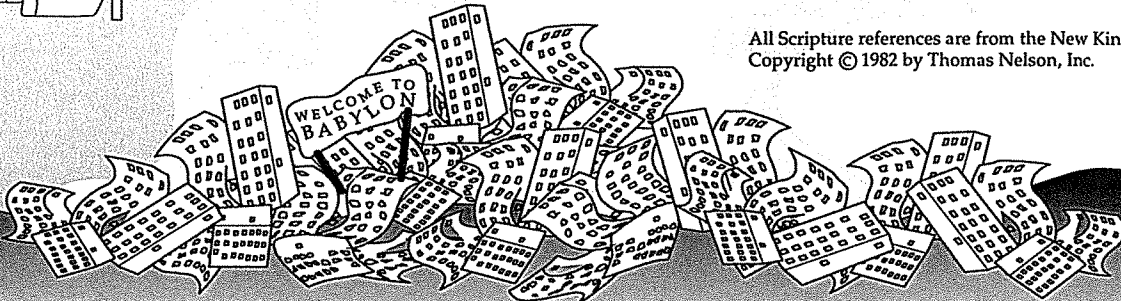
Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!" - Revelation 18:9-20

The false religious system helps the Antichrist and his government come to power. Babylon, the mother of harlots, is like a woman who can be bought with money by the kings of the earth. (Even now, our politicians are bought with money by large corporations for special favors, which is a type of fornication with the kings of the earth.) When the Antichrist comes to power and all the world worships him, he will not need the worldly prostitute church anymore. He will then have control over all the world's resources and its economy. How? "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." - Revelation 13:16-17

No merchants (store owners) will be able to sell their merchandise unless they have the mark of 666. No consumers (buyers) will be able to buy things from store owners unless they have the mark of 666. Those who take his mark will love money more than God. What happens to those who are greedy for gain? "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, 'Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; We shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse'- my son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. Surely, in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird; but they lie in wait for their own blood, they lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners." - Proverbs 1:10-19

Jesus said, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?..." - Matthew 16:26
Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Jesus' sake, will find it! How do you lose your life for Him? You come after Him, deny yourself and your own plans, take up your cross daily, and follow Him. You just let go and obey Him the rest of your life. If you hang on to it, you're going to lose it! We can take nothing with us when we leave this earth except for other people who we told about Jesus! There is no need to fret about obtaining stuff! "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." - Matthew 6:33
Is your heart on the Lord? Or the things in this world? Seek Him and His kingdom first! Babylon is going to burn! This world is going to burn. How do you spend your time? This world is not the home of the Believer. It's like a short hike through the wilderness behind Jesus. Don't worry! He packed a lunch for you, and He's got your clothes packed too. We're on our way home to meet His Father!

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 18:9-20

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 18:9-10; where are the kings standing when they weep for Babylon? Why?
2. Read Rev. 18:11; why do the merchants weep? What is their only concern?
3. Read Rev. 18:12-14; what are all the things that are wiped out with the destruction of Babylon?
4. Read Rev. 18:15-16; why are the merchants weeping?

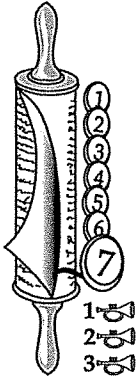
Note: It's interesting to see how tightly the world holds onto their 'stuff.' The merchants mourn over it all! Everything we have comes from and belongs to God, we're to be wise stewards of it all and use it to glorify God.

5. Where does God tell us our treasures should be? (Matt. 6:19-21)
6. Read Rev. 18:17-19; those left on earth cry and weep over Babylon's sudden destruction. She controlled the wealth and economy of the entire world, everyone was affected by her destruction. What does Proverbs 1:19 tell us about greed?
7. Read Rev. 18:20; while the people on earth are mourning over the destruction of Babylon, what are those in heaven doing?

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)



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The Babylonian World-System Falls!

"Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore.'

The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore.

The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.

For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.'" - Revelation 18:21-24

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God's Kingdom
 (The Stone cut without hands.)
 - King Jesus, the Rock is coming!

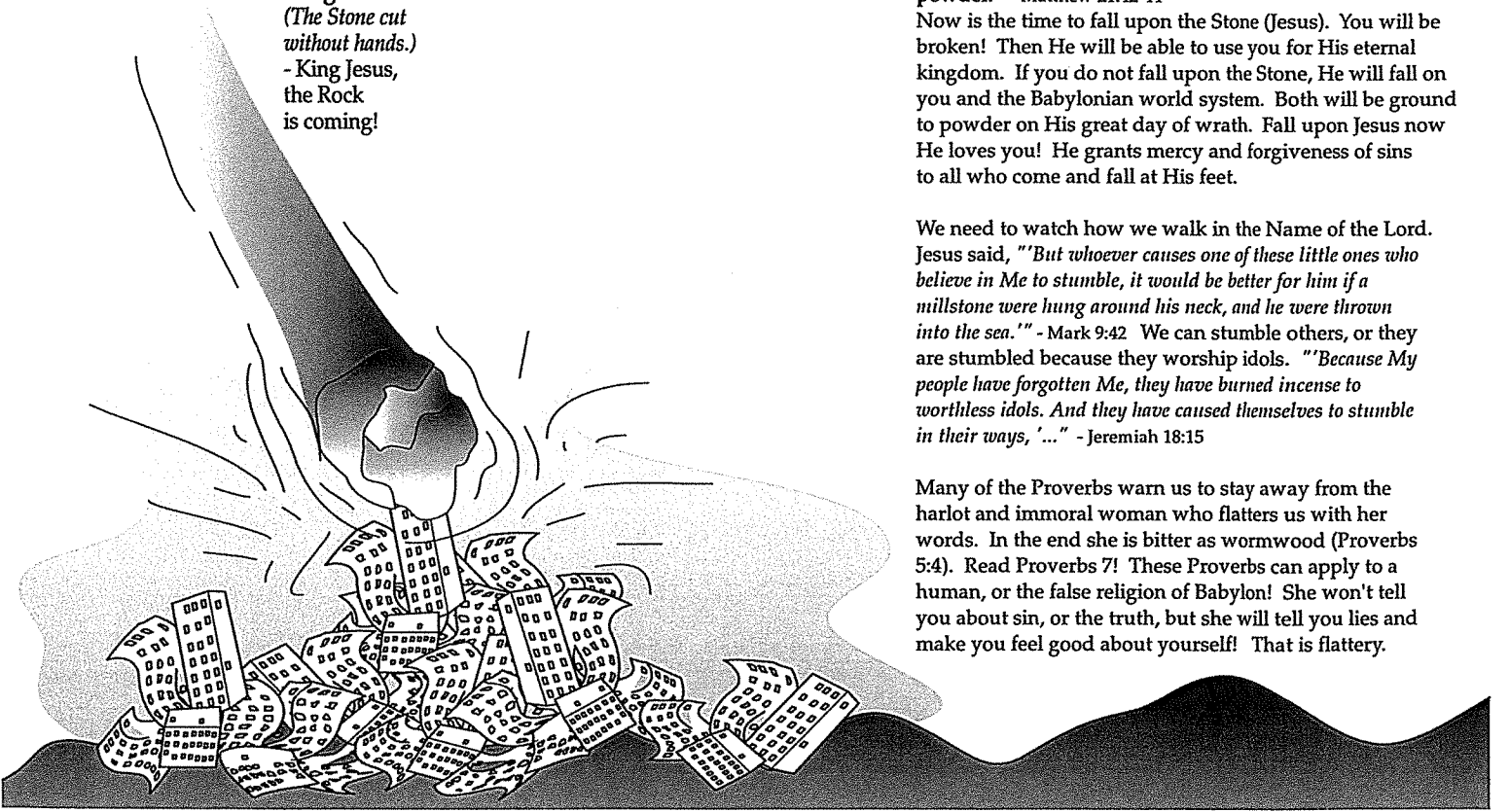
During the time that Daniel the prophet, was in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar saw a great image in a dream. Its head was of gold, the chest and arms were of silver, the belly and thighs were of bronze, and the feet were made partly of iron mixed with clay. Daniel 2:34-35, says: "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Jesus is that stone! He is going to strike that image on the feet, and it will be broken into pieces. The worldly empires will disappear like chaff in the wind. That image represented the four Gentile world empires of Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, Rome and its revived empire under the Antichrist. All the kingdoms of this earth will be no more and Jesus will set up His everlasting kingdom! We saw a sneak preview of that day, in Revelation 11:15, "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!'"

On the Day of the Lord's judgment, Jesus is going to be like a millstone to Babylon. What do millstones do? They crush and grind wheat and grains. The grain is ground to flour and the chaff is blown away in the wind. "Jesus said to them (the Pharisees), 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"?' Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.'" - Matthew 21:42-44

Now is the time to fall upon the Stone (Jesus). You will be broken! Then He will be able to use you for His eternal kingdom. If you do not fall upon the Stone, He will fall on you and the Babylonian world system. Both will be ground to powder on His great day of wrath. Fall upon Jesus now He loves you! He grants mercy and forgiveness of sins to all who come and fall at His feet.

We need to watch how we walk in the Name of the Lord. Jesus said, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.'" - Mark 9:42 We can stumble others, or they are stumbled because they worship idols. "Because My people have forgotten Me, they have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, '..." - Jeremiah 18:15

Many of the Proverbs warn us to stay away from the harlot and immoral woman who flatters us with her words. In the end she is bitter as wormwood (Proverbs 5:4). Read Proverbs 7! These Proverbs can apply to a human, or the false religion of Babylon! She won't tell you about sin, or the truth, but she will tell you lies and make you feel good about yourself! That is flattery.



The Revelation of Jesus Christ Chapter 18:21-24

Vocabulary in Context With Today's Lesson

sorcery-the practice of the occult arts under the power of evil spirits or demons; translated pharmakia or drugs
millstone-a circular stone about eighteen inches or twenty inches in diameter used to grind grain

Discussion Questions

1. Read Rev. 18:21; read the front of the lesson about the Stone cut without hands.
2. Read Rev. 18:22-23; name those things that will end with the destruction of Babylon.
3. Read Rev. 18:23; who were the merchants and how were the nations deceived?
4. What is James talking about in James 5:1-6?
5. Is having 'stuff' a sin? Is it okay to skateboard or play video games? I think so as long as you don't put these things before God. The Bible tells us to do everything unto God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31). Where are our treasures to be stored? (Matt. 6:19-20)
6. Read Rev. 18:24; what was found in Babylon?

Memory Verse

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)