



SESSION 32 | REVELATION 17:7- | THE DESTRUCTION OF BABYLON

THE ANGELIC EXPLANATION | REVELATION 17:7-8

- Verse 7 - **Wherefore didst thou marvel?**
 - What is seen is clearly not in John's expectations.
 - Whether this is because Babylon was largely uninhabited in John's day, or a safe-haven for Jews, it is uncertain.
 - There is certainly some **mystery** that John does not understand.
- Verse 8 - **The beast that thou sawest...**
 - Whether this is a reference to a death and resurrection of the Antichrist or is (as in 13:1) a reference to the nations that are contained in the Antichrist system is yet to be seen.
- Names written **from the foundation of the world**-
 - If this is an argument for election, it can only be true for election in the future age of the Tribulation.
 - Since 144,000 are certainly elect for a certain role, it could be reference to them.

A FURTHER EXPLANATION | REVELATION 17:9-14

- The mystery explained-
 - John is about to take away the mystery of this scene, but he warns that it is not easy to understand, thus it is for the **mind which hath wisdom**.
- The **seven heads** and the **seven mountains** explained -
 - We have seen the woman sitting on **many waters** (v. 1) as well as upon a **scarlet colored beast** (v. 3).
 - Both times, the **woman** was figurative of Babylon, and that which she sat on was symbolic of something literal. That is, the woman did not literally sit on **many waters** nor upon a **scarlet colored beast**.
 - Rather, she gained her support from the peoples of the earth and from the Antichrist.
 - Now we are told that the woman sits on **seven mountains** which are **seven heads**.
 - It is not consistent to take the **mountains** as literal unless we take the **sea** and the **beast** as literal.
 - Notwithstanding, most commentaries immediately look for a city with seven mountains (of which there are many: Istanbul (Constantinople), Brussels, Jerusalem, and Rome to start the list).
 - Since the **seven heads** and the **seven mountains** must be the same thing, it is without merit whatsoever to understand the **mountains** to be literal.
 - Rather, **mountain** is a further description of the **heads**.
 - This "mountainification of a person" is not foreign to Scripture - see Jeremiah 51:25 and Zechariah 4:7 and Daniel 2:35.
- Verse 10 - the **seven kings** -
 - More accurately, "they are." That is, the seven mountains are representative of seven kings.

- This would be much clearer if v. 10 was part of v. 9.
- Note that the heads = mountains = kings, and the heads do not equal kingdoms.
 - This invalidates a previous interpretation that the seven heads were the seven nations that attempted to overthrow the nation of Israel.
 - We must take Scripture at face value and say these seven heads are seven kings.
- Five are fallen:
 - This is at the time of the future vision, not at John's time, nor ours.
 - Therefore, to associate the first six Kings with John's experience in the first century and prior is irresponsible.
 - If we divide the time after the rapture into the *suntelia* (beginning of the end) and *telios* (end), using the words of Matthew 24, then we can say that the Antichrist Beast is, in a manner of speaking, a system of Kings, though one King will be "the Antichrist."
 - In the *suntelia* (prior to the seven years) there will be six kings, one of whom is reigning at the time of this vision.
 - Then the seventh begins and will reign for seven years, which is **a short time**.
- Verse 11 - The Beast
 - The Beast himself (the Antichrist) is **the eighth** King, who is **of the seven**.
 - Perhaps this means that the Antichrist is the seventh of these future kings, and, due to his resurrection, has both a pre and post fatal wound personality, thus is counted as the seventh and the eighth.
- Verse 12 - The 10 Horns
 - Since the 10 kings here have not yet received a kingdom, IF these kings are the same as in Daniel's prophecies, then there is no reason for us to look for a 10-nation confederation until late into the Tribulation.
 - One hour with the beast - More literally, "the same hour," therefore either the 7 years of the tribulation or the 3 1/2 years of the second half of the tribulation.
- Verse 14 - the war with the Lamb
 - This 10-King coalition is the coalition of Kings, under the leadership of the Antichrist, that engage in the Battle of Armageddon.
- Verse 15 - the faithful with the Lamb:
 - A Greek word ending in *-os* makes a noun into an adjective.
 - The *pistos* (*faithful*) are those of *pisteou* (*faith*).
 - This therefore does not speak of works, but rather (and more simply) the fact that these are people who can be described as having faith.

A FINAL EXPLANATION | REVELATION 17:15-18

- Verse 16 - the ten horns
 - It is important to recognize that the 10 Kings are not part of Babylon, but are haters of Babylon and instruments of her destruction.
 - Since the 10 Kings are of the Roman system, it makes it very hard to say "Mystery" Babylon is also of the Roman system. The Kings do not destroy themselves, they destroy Babylon.
- Verse 17 - The godless doing God's work. Even godless men can be used to accomplish God's will!
- Verse 18 - Clarity of the woman:
 - This is the most clear definition that could be given, and there is no merit to disregard the interpretation of Scripture.
 - The woman is a city, not a system, religion, spirit, individual or corporation.
 - Since the woman is a city and the city is real, we should take the name of the city also as real and not a symbol, i.e.: Babylon is the city of Babylon.