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John Marvelled
when He Saw the
Prostitute Woman

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John marvelled when He Saw the Prostitute Woman.

After an angel had shown John in a vision, "A woman sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names, and arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and sexual immorality, drunk with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, and the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations, written on her forehead. (Rev. 17:3-6), John then says:

- When I saw her, I marveled greatly. (Rev. 17:7).

The prime focus of this study is not upon the the ten horned beast, or the prostitute woman clothed in scarlet, but rather upon John's words, "when I saw her, I marvelled." These words of John, "I marvelled," do not mean he had a high regard and respect for the woman, because much of the world's population had affectionately embraced her religion, or because kings and rulers of nations supported her and paid homage to her. Rather seeing her apostate state, John was moved to sorrowful amazement at seeing such an awful ungodly downhill change in the church, for the following reasons:

- The world that should be beastly to the church, is embraced by the church, rather than evangelising the world the world has changed much of the church.
- Much of the church that is called to be the faithful Bride has become a monstrous thing.

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It is in this sense John wondered and marvelled as his godly eyes saw a great portion of the church in unity with the world. The abominations John speaks of here, can be likened to the abominations (i.e., horrible things) spoken of Old Testament Israel in the following verses:

- **Jeremiah 5:30:** An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land of Israel.
- **Jeremiah 18:13:** Thus, says the LORD: Ask among the nations, who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing.
- **Jeremiah 23:14:** In the prophets of Jerusalem, I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil; all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah."
- **Hosea 6:10:** In the house of Israel, I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.

The godly state the church is called to is to be far higher than the state of the world, but what John saw was a church proclaiming false doctrines and had become like the world.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROSTITUTE WOMAN

John in his vision saw the woman:

- Seated on many waters (signifying the populations of the world).
- Kings committing sexual immorality with her, signifying they paid homage to her and her idolatry. (Rev. 17:1-2).

- Arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold, jewels, and pearls, signifying religious garments and ceremonial pomp.
- Holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and sexual immorality (Rev. 17:4), signifying all things offensive to God.
- Written on her forehead the name mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." (Rev. 17:5), signifying all things worldly and offensive to God.
- Drunk with the blood of faithful martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:6), signifying, the faithful who opposed the woman's heresies and did not accept her doctrines being persecuted and put to death.
- Sitting on the ten horned beast (Rev 17:18), signifying the ten horned beast nations support her.
- Seated on seven hills (Rev. 17:9), signifying Rome which is built on seven hills.
- Hated by the ten horns beast (Rev. 17:16), signifying the beast will turn against her and will hate her (ultimately, they bring her to ruin).
- A great city with dominion over the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:18), signifying religious influence over the nations.

WHO THE WOMAN SIGNIFIES

Amongst theologians there are different ideas concerning the identity of the prostitute woman clothed in scarlet, the following two are the most common:

1. The whole world of wicked humanity, but this cannot be so, for it is the population of the world that this woman has made drunk with the wine of her fornication, obviously the woman that made them drunk, and those that were made drunk by her, cannot be the same.
2. Ancient pagan Rome.
3. The Roman Papal Church, the Vatican with its Popes, and its Cardinals and clergy.
4. The Roman Papal Church, the Vatican with its Popes, and its Cardinals and clergy, including all churches and religious organisations that come under its umbrella.

The most accepted idea is that the woman firstly embraces ancient pagan Rome, because Rome was being influenced by Christianity prior to its ruin, and over the following years the Papal Roman Church, because it rose up out of the ruins of Rome, and has become a global religious power with greater influence over the world than the ancient Roman Empire had. For these reasons it is believed by most Christians that the latter days harlot woman in John's vision embraces the Roman Papal Church, the Vatican with its Popes, and its Cardinals and clergy, and all churches and religious organisations that come under its umbrella.

THE WOMAN RIDING ON A TEN HORNED BEAST

- **Revelation 17:3** And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

The ten horns signify:

1. Egypt.
2. Assyria.
3. Babylon.
4. Media Persia.
5. Greece.
6. Rome.
7. The ten latter day antichristian beast nations.

The ten horns signify:

- The ten latter day antichristian beast nations.

The woman is pictured as riding on a ten horned beast: in the same way that a horse and its rider can be seen as one and the same, because they both travel together in the same direction and for the same purpose. Likewise, the prostitute woman sitting on the beast can be seen as one entity.

In the same way that the horse and the rider spoken of in the following four seals can be, seen as one and the same:

- The white horse and its rider that went forth conquering. (Rev. 6:2).
- The bright red horse and its rider that takes peace from the earth. (Rev. 6:3-4).
- The black horse and its rider that brought famine to the land. (Revelation 6:5-6).
- The pale horse and its rider that brought forth death. (Rev. 6:7-8).

Together the rider and the horse bring about the same event or purpose whether it was war, the withdrawal of peace, famine, or death, likewise the prostitute woman and the ten horned beast, together bring about the fall of the world and the judgment of God, which leads to the return of Christ, so in this sense, though they are two separate entities, they can be seen as one, because both are leading the world to ruin.

The woman and the beast: the woman sitting on the ten-horned beast, are together an emblem of a church united with a world governing empire in the latter days that has authority over much of the world. In ancient coins, Rome is pictured, as a woman sitting upon a lion, here the woman is pictured sitting on a ten-horned scarlet coloured beast, signifying his bloodthirsty cruelty, and perhaps an allusion to the distinguishing colour of the Roman emperors and magistrates, and the colours of the religious robes of the Roman Papal Church.

The beast the woman rides on: signifies the form of government, that was existing in John's time, which was pagan imperial Rome; and the government that has succeeded from it (though in a different form) and has continued for a long space of time, is the Roman government, which is now the European nations

Two separate entities: the following verse clearly shows that the ten-horned beast is a separate entity to the prostitute woman:

- The ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire. (Revelation 17:16).

The fact we are told the ten horned beast, hates the prostitute woman, and will burn her up, clearly shows they are two different entities.

The blood of the martyrs: the following two verses show that the blood of prophets, the faithful and the martyrs are found in the great prostitute woman and the great city Babylon (a symbol of the world and worldliness).

Chapter seventeen states:

- On her (the great prostitute woman) forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." ⁶And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. (Rev. 17:5-6).

And chapter eighteen states:

- In her (the great city Babylon) was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth." (Rev. 18:24).

CONCLUSION: it was not because of the woman's beauty, that John marvelled, but for all the reasons mentioned above, much like the apostle Paul, would have been shocked when he saw that the Galatians he had converted to the true word of God and the Gospel of grace, had turned back to the law, and upon seeing this, said, "O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. (Gal. 3:1). The apostle John upon seeing this prostitute woman clothed in scarlet, could have said the same thing, "O foolish woman! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified." This is because the woman:

- Was birthed out of Christianity.
- Proclaims to be Christian
- Proclaims to have the truth.
- Proclaims to be the mother of all Christian churches.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
