

THE WOMAN RIDING THE BEAST

(Revelation 17:1-7a)

- I. INVITATION to View the Woman (Rev. 17:1-4)
 - A. A PARTICULAR call (17:1a)
 - 1. Issued by one of the ANGELS with the BOWLS
 - 2. Intended to reveal a SPECIAL JUDGMENT
 - B. A PORNIC personage (17:1b-2)
 - 1. Characterized as a HARLOT
 - 2. Compassed “MANY WATERS”: symbolic of HUMANITY
 - 3. Committed IMMORALITY with the KINGS of the EARTH: symbolic of FALSE RELIGION
 - 4. Caused DRUNKENNESS among mankind: DELUDED with lies
 - C. A PANORAMIC view (17:3a)
 - 1. Spans all TIME
 - 2. Set in “WILDERNESS”
 - D. A PERPLEXING vision (17:3b-4)
 - 1. Her DIABOLICAL steed
 - a. The scarlet BEAST of 13:1
 - b. Represents human EMPIRES under SATAN’S control
 - 2. Her DECEPTIVE appearance
 - a. Seems to be in CONTROL of the Beast
 - b. Seen in ROYAL APPAREL
 - c. Shown to be offering ABOMINATIONS
- II. INSCRIPTION on the Vile Woman (Rev. 17:5-6a)
 - A. Her NAME inscribed (17:5)
 - 1. Called a “MYSTERY”: counterfeit RELIGION
 - 2. Called “BABYLON the great”: rooted in ancient REBELLION
 - 3. Called “MOTHER of harlots and abominations of the earth”: the SOURCE of all false WORSHIP
 - B. Her NATURE described (17:6a)

1. REVELED in PERSECUTING the SAINTS
 2. INTOXICATED on the BLOOD of the SAINTS
- III. IDENTIFICATION of the Vile Woman (Rev. 17:6b-7a)
- A. Historically
1. Began under NIMROD in BABEL (Gen. 10:10-11; 11:1-9)
 - a. Wife, Semiramis I, bore a SON, Tammuz
 - 1) Called him the promised DELIVERER (Gen. 3:15)
 - 2) Claimed he DIED and ROSE AGAIN
 - b. "CENTRAL mystery," was the image of the MOTHER and CHILD
 - c. Several "LESSER mysteries" also passed down
 - 1) Purification in PURGATORY after DEATH
 - 2) Salvation by many SACRAMENTS
 - 3) Sprinkling with HOLY WATER
 - 4) Dedication of VIRGINS to the GODS
 - 5) Weeping for Tammuz for 40 DAYS prior to Istar in the spring
 - a) Celebration of Tammuz' RESURRECTION
 - b) Used EGG as sacred symbol of new life
 - 6) Set up EVERGREENS in honor of Tammuz' BIRTH at the winter solstice
 - 7) Sacred symbol of "life-giving principle": " T "
 2. Perpetuated after CONFOUNDING of LANGUAGES
 - a. Phoenicia: ASHTORETH and TAMMUZ
 - b. Egypt: ISIS and HORUS
 - c. Greece: APHRODITE and EROS
 - d. Rome: VENUS and CUPID, then MADONNA and CHILD
- B. Prophetically
1. Includes organized CHRISTIANITY
 2. Includes ALL world RELIGIONS
 3. Caused John to MARVEL, and the angel wondered WHY
 - a. The depth of idolatry's DEPRAVITY
 - b. The scope of Satan's CONSPIRACY