

STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD – BY ERIC D. SMITH

CHAPTER 8 - THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT WHORE

“So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.”

– Revelation 17:3-7

The first clue to the identification of Mystery Babylon is the label that God puts on her. God allows John to label her as “The Great Whore”. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines a whore as “ a person who engages in sexual intercourse for pay”. In addition to this understanding, a whore never enters into a permanent commitment to the man in marriage, nor ever takes on the name of the man. It was the Roman Catholic Church that gelled together a doctrine of a Trinitarian God. It was also the Catholic Church that stopped following the apostles’ teaching of water baptism by complete immersion and from using the name of Jesus in baptism by substituting the titles of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A whore is one that never takes on the name of the man or submits to him.

The next prophetic sign given to us to identify Mystery Babylon is that she sits upon many waters. When the angel tells John of the mystery of the woman, the angel says in verse fifteen, “*And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*” The woman is not limited to one region of the world, but easily crosses borders and boundaries.

The next prophetic sign is from verse two of Revelation chapter seventeen, and it allows us to see that the kings of the earth have committed fornication (spiritual idolatry) with her. Throughout history, there are accounts of kings that have had to get the blessing of the Pope in order to reign, to marry, or even to go to war. Once again, it points to the Roman Catholic Church.

Questions, Discussions and Notes

1. Does a whore take on the name of the man in her relationship with him? Why do they not take on the man’s name?
2. The Church in the Book of Acts baptized everyone in the name of Jesus Christ. What denomination or church started excluding the name of Jesus in water baptism?
3. What do the waters refer to according to verse 15?
4. Have a discussion (or do research if going through study alone) on why the Catholic Church would have influence or power over kings of the earth?

Also, in verse 2, the scripture identifies the whore by the fact that *“the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”* Most would understand this phrase as when a person becomes intoxicated, they will lose their senses in making good decisions. Scripturally speaking, a person can become so indoctrinated (intoxicated) that even when shown what the Bible actually says, they will refuse truth because of what they have been taught all of their lives.

Three prophetic signs are issued in Revelation 17:4, the first of which is *“the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour”* The second prophetic sign is that the woman is *“decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”* The third prophetic sign is that the woman has *“a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”*

Another prophetic sign given to us so we can determine the identity of the Great Whore is in Revelation 17:5. It reads, *“And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”* The actual mystery that is being revealed here to the saints of the New Testament Church is the fact that this coming organized spiritual movement labeled as the Great Whore actually began with the religious worship that started in Babylon. But also notice that Revelation 17:5 says that the mystery harlot is referred to as the “Mother of Harlots”. This is referring to all of the offspring churches that follow the same type of doctrinal error that denies the name of Jesus in the work of salvation that takes place in water baptism.

Another prophetic sign given to identify the Great Whore is found in Revelation 17:6. John tells us that he saw *“the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus”*. *Strong’s Concordance* says that the phrase can mean metaphorically “one who has shed blood profusely”.

The last prophetic sign is found in Revelation chapter seventeen verse nine. *“The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”* God prophesied these signs of the Great Whore ever before the Catholic Church headquartered itself in Rome.

5. Do you think that a person can become so indoctrinated that they could NEVER accept truth if shown in the Bible? Explain your answer.
6. Are there any images of Catholic ceremonies that come to your mind that reflect the purple and scarlet colors, the gold and jewels, or the golden cup?
7. Could John the Revelator be referring to the ancient Babylonian religious traditions? Are there any similarities mentioned on pages 79 and 80.
8. Why would God call this Great Whore “the Mother of Harlots”?
9. Has history recorded any Christians refusing to follow the Catholic church’s doctrine being slain?
10. How many of these clues or signs were prophesied before the existence of the Roman Catholic Church?