**Revelation 17 – December 26**

Chapters 17 and 18 deal with God’s judgment, specifically His judgment on false religion. The term and locality of Babylon is often associated with idolatry. Indeed, Babylon was known for its false religion and the carnality that ensued. We see in this chapter the worldwide scope of false religion. The fact that kings from all over the planet associate with the harlot is no shock. Idolatry has been a constant throughout human history. This idolatry will express itself most clearly in the last days with a manifestation of unified false religion unlike anything the world has ever seen revolving around the Antichrist.

We mentioned a few days ago that the Antichrist would receive worship but this text reminds us of the effect of that kind of nonsense. The Bible says that kings who associate with and worship the Antichrist are made “drunk” with immorality. The term drunkenness does not here refer to literal, physical inebriation. Instead, it is referring to a state of total incapacitation whereby the people can no longer perceive what is true by virtue of their association with what is false.

These men and women are so overcome with the influences of the false that they are totally immune to seeing things as they truly are and therefore, they are judged. This is indicated by the swift steps the Antichrist takes to consolidate even what is false. For awhile, the Antichrist will jive with false religions of the world. This is seen in the imagery of verses 15 and following. There will come a time when the Antichrist will consolidate all of the other false religions by doing away with other forms of worship and focusing all of the attention on himself.

This serves as a warning but also as a window into what happens to the lost man as he is led away by evil. This is evidently a slow process at first but over time this influential, charismatic, evil leader of men will escort men and women from their previously held convictions right into agreement and alliance with Him. It is interesting that the Scripture describes this process in terms of drunkenness. Just like a drunk man or woman is an easy target for a criminal, so those who have been inebriated by the false narratives of idolatry are an easy target for the master manipulator.

The answer of course to this nonsense is truth. Ephesians 4 teaches us that the word of God is the anchor which prevents us from being tossed to and fro on every wind and wave of doctrine. Unlike the lost, those who are in Christ are no longer drunk but sober minded. We see things clearly by virtue of the sight God gives us through His Word. This is what allows us to see clearly what others gloss over and it is ultimately the means whereby God saves His children from the advances and catastrophe of the evil that lurks around every corner.