

**ARE ALL RELIGIONS THE SAME?  
REV. 17 / 3-13-19 / WED**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Are all religions the same?
  - 1. Is there more than one way to be saved?
  - 2. Of course not because Jesus himself said, "I am the way"—John 14:6.
  
- B. During the Tribulation the Antichrist will rely on False Religions to solidify world domination. When he is through with them he will destroy them as he does Christians.
  
- C. Revelation 17 is a picture of this future event.
  - 1. John calls this false religious system "Babylon" in chapter 17.
  - 2. Let's see what he says about this false religious system.
  - 3. John describes this false system as a "she".

**I. FIRST, LET'S SEE HER DESCRIPTION.**

- A. She will be "popular"—17:1 and 17:15.

**Revelation 17:1 (Prostitution in the O.T. refers to Idolatry or Spiritual Adultery)  
One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters.**

**Revelation 17:15 ("Waters" is a symbol for great multitudes of people).  
Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.**

- B. She will be "persuasive"—17:2.

**Revelation 17:2  
2 With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."**

- C. She will be “powerful”—17:3.

**Revelation 17:3**

**Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.**

1. Earlier this was a description of the Beast from the sea, the Antichrist—13:1.

**Revelation 13:1**

**The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.**

2. “Scarlett” may either be a regal color or the color of the blood of Christian martyrs.

- D. She will be “prosperous”—17:4.

**Revelation 17:4**

**The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.**

- E. She will be “perverse”—17:5.

**Revelation 17:5**

**The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the great the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.**

1. “Babylon” was a name the O.T. often gave to perverse and wicked kingdoms.
2. “Prostitute” was another such name.

- F. She will “persecute” the Tribulation Saints—17:6.

**Revelation 17:6**

**I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God’s holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.**

## II. SECOND, LETS SEE HER DICTATOR.

### A. His "identity"—17:7-8.

#### **Revelation 17:7-8**

**7 Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. 8 The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.**

1. As we earlier noted, the first beast which is from the land is the Antichrist (13:1).
2. This Beast or Antichrist receives his power from the Red Dragon or Satan who is described in the same way—12:3.

#### **Revelation 12:3**

**3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.**

3. The purpose of this Prostitute or the second Beast which is from the Land will be to force people of the world to worship the Antichrist or Beast from the Sea—13:11-15.

#### **Revelation 13:11-15**

**11 Then I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. 12 It exercised all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. 13 And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. 14 Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth. It ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. 15 The second beast was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that the image could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.**

4. Verse 8 refers to a false resurrection the Antichrist will mimic (13:12).

### B. His "identification"—17:9-13.

#### **Revelation 17:9-13**

**9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. 10 They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. 11 The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. 12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. 13 They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.**

1. If you interpret Revelations as “past history” then the following may be true.
  - a. The seven hills are the seven hills upon which Rome was built.
  - b. The seven kings are seven particular Roman Emperors in the first century.
  - c. Or the seven mountains and kings in verse 10 refer to seven past world powers.
    - i. **“Five” have fallen**—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, and Greece.
    - ii. **“One is”**—Rome.
    - iii. **“The other has not yet come”**—kingdom of the Antichrist. (Probably Nero).
  
2. If you interpret Revelations as “future history” then the following has been suggested.
  - a. The seven hills may point to the Roman Catholic Church.
  - b. The seven hills may point to the seven continents of the world.
  - c. The ten horns (17:3) may point to some world-wide economic system or organization (Past Guess: European Common Market).
  - d. Others suggest the number 10 is symbolic of world-wide influence but not a particular entity or organization.

### III. **THIRD, LET’S SEE HER DESMISE.**

- A. This world-wide collection of nations will come against the “Lamb”—17:14.

**Revelation 17:14 (MORE ON THIS IN REV. 19).**

**14 They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”**

- B. They will also come against the “Lady” or False Religious System—17:16.

**Revelation 17:16**

**16 The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.**

- C. They will complete the “Lords” will—17:17.

**Revelation 17:17 (In the O.T. God often used wicked nations to judge others).**

**17 For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority, until God’s words are fulfilled.**