

Rev. 17 (part 2) - An Exposé of the Enemies of Christ

Welcome to virtual church – “Mizpah church” may the Lord watch between you and me....Gen. 31:49. Today we are back in Rev. 17. Last week we highlighted some things about Jesus in the chapter (Title, Book, People, Plan) and this week we are going to look at the enemies of Jesus. 17 & 18 = expose’

The enemies are revealed and yet a mystery. Much debate over the precise identity of these enemies. Jesus has enemies- will be UNITED, will become DIVIDED, and ultimately be DEFEATED

old saying “you have to know your enemy in order to defeat your enemy” I acknowledge that I don’t understand...I am not going to defeat them....Jesus is! Jesus knows His enemies and He has revealed them to us in this chapter. It is good for us to consider them so we can recognize them

An Evil House UNITED

1. The Diversity of Christ’s enemies Unity implies “more than one” numerous/diverse
 - a. Great Prostitute (Mystery Babylon) 17:1,4-5,18 (*mega porne* & mystery city)
 - i. Kings of earth she is in bed with. Along with inhabitants of earth 17:2
 - b. Scarlet colored Beast 17:3,8,11 Anti-christ system and person (Rev. 13)
 - i. Inhabitants of the earth 17:8
 - ii. 7 kings - 17:10 (the beast is part of them)
 - iii. 10 kings - 17:12 subordinate rulers under Beast 17:17
 - c. At least 6 different enemies listed that vary from one another (2 major and 4 minor)
 - i. JESUS’ ENEMIES DO NOT ALL LOOK THE SAME Rev. 6:15
 - ii. Scribes, Pharisee, Sadducee, Herodians, Pilate, Herod, Crowds, thief, soldiers
 - iii. Left, right, center, capitalist, communist, socialist, religious, irreligious, etc.
 - d. All roads do not lead to heaven but the broad road to destruction has many lanes
2. The Description of Christ’s enemies (the two prominent one – front and center in this chap.)
 - a. The Great Prostitute (we will look at her more in chapter 18)
 - i. Great - *mega* big enemy with big influence. Big Time in all her ways
 - ii. Prostitute - *porne*-Gr. she is for sale/anything for money (in bed with world)
 - iii. Immoral - physically and religiously
 1. Adulterous - implies a broken relationship with God (Ezek. 16/23)
 - iv. Mystery - she is a mystery but has a meaning - (perhaps hidden until end)
 - v. Babylon - city/political superpower 17:18
 - vi. Multicultural - people, multitudes, nations/languages 17:15
 - vii. Beautiful, seductive and intoxicating 17:2
 - viii. Filthy rich/excessive luxury 17:4; 18:3,7 “lived deliciously” KJV
 - ix. Prolific - she reproduces her harlotry 17:5 Mother & Murderous - 17:6
 - x. Amazing -17:6 John was amazed/astonished /blow away (like people w/ beast)
 - xi. Prideful 18:7 full of glory, full of pride, full of self (2 Tim. 3:1-2)

- b. Description of scarlet colored Beast
 - i. Blasphemous/big mouth - 17:3 Rev. 13:1, 5-6 loves to break 3rd command
 - ii. Multifaceted and ferocious
 - 1. 7 heads/10 horns = kings 17:9-10 (7 hills = Rome?)
 - 2. Multifaceted/diverse Power that rules at end of time
 - iii. Satan empowered and inspired (there is a power behind all thrones)
 - 1. 17:8 "out of the abyss" Rev. 13:1-2
 - iv. Spans history-17:8a "once was, now is not, and yet will come" (I'm baaaack)
 - v. Miraculous-17:8 "resurrection" deadly wound healed – Rev. 13:3,12,14)
 - 1. Anti-christ is an: Idea, Entity, Institution and eventually an Individual
- 3. The Unity of Jesus' enemies
 - a. Beauty and the Beast are both enemies of Jesus (unite) 17:7- Beauty rides the Beast
 - b. J. Lennon "Imagine" when the world will be as one (these separate entities unite)
 - c. Unbelief makes strange bedfellows. Odd alliances in common hatred
 - d. Herod and Pilate (enemies) became friends over mutual enemy Jesus Luke 23:12
 - e. James 4:4 – friendship with world = enemies of God. Enemy of my enemy = friend
 - i. The enemies of God are common friends for they have a common enemy

An Evil House DIVIDED

- The diverse and unified enemies of Jesus eventually turn on each other 17:15-18
 - o Rev. tells of one world economics but not one world politics (wars and rumors of wars)
 - o When this world tries to be one this world is done. (Lennon's utopia = a dystopia)
 - o The 10 kings of Beast fight against the prostitute city that rules over earth
 - Bull rider that gets thrown the trampled
- A house divided cannot stand this evil house is united (for a time) then becomes divided
 - o Bedlam (house divided) Civil War
 - o Matt. 12:25f - when Satan begins to cast out Satan then his kingdom will fall
 - o Unbelief is self destructive. Temporarily united but ultimately divided
 - Fight one's self/turn on each other Gideon – Judges 7:22

A Evil House DESTROYED

1. 17:14 Rev. 18:2,21 Rev. 19:1-2 Rev. 19:20
2. Rev. 12:5 – male child to rule all nations with rod of iron Psalm 2
3. Psalm 110:1-2 "the LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My....rule in the midst of Your enemies"
4. 1 Cor. 15:24-25 "He must reign until He has put all enemies under His feet"
5. Revelation reveals that Jesus has enemies but that Jesus reigns over His enemies
 - a. They will be UNITED, but will become DIVIDED, and will ultimately be DEFEATED
 - b. Jesus reigns over friend and foe It is much better to be His friend
6. "And though this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us, we will not fear for God has willed...the price of darkness grim...his rage we can endure for lo his doom is sure..."