

## Revelation 17 Part 2

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at Revelation chapter seventeen, we're in part two of that, and this is unit thirty-five in our series on the book of Revelation.

Before we go any further there may be a few queries over the insistence, if you like, of Rome being the Babylon the Great, or being the main problem. It isn't the people of Rome. It isn't the people within the church. It is the system that we're talking about. Any time that men organise the system or the church, take control of it, although they claim to be led by the Holy Spirit they are working in opposition to God. God's original plan, the original church that was set up at Pentecost, each person operated as led by the Holy Spirit. There was no organisation. There was no need to decide who could go where, who could preach what or so on.

A classic example has to be Philip who had a revival in Samaria and the people he converted didn't receive the Holy Ghost so he called down Peter and others to come and pray for the people, and they laid hands on them and yeah, they received the Holy Ghost. That's fine. That's organisation at a very simple level. And it was Philip that organised it, not Peter. So then Philip is called away and he's taken to the wilderness to meet with one Ethiopian eunuch on his way back to Ethiopia. Just one man. He comes straight from a revival, led by the Holy Spirit, from a really effective revival, just to meet one man. And once he'd met that one man he was then headed back, he was suddenly found many, many miles away in another town, starting a new revival again. Doesn't sound like logic. It doesn't sound like man's organisation. It wasn't. That eunuch went back and started the church in Ethiopia. Philip was just following the leading of the Holy Spirit just as Peter and all the others were. That is how the church should run. That is how each of us should be. We each have a gift, we each have a calling, and we should each follow the Holy Spirit as He leads.

Now it generally doesn't matter whether you're Church of England, Methodist, Lutheran, whatever, you cannot just go and preach in one of their churches, you have to be tested or you have to be checked out, you have to have all sorts – you may even have to be qualified, go through college for umpteen years. That's not the way God worked.

But back to our Biblestudy. Revelation chapter seventeen, verse eleven.

*'And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.'*

All I can really confirm about that is, of course, that is the Roman Empire. As we've mentioned on the last session, Daniel saw four sections of a statue, each one different. The first was the head of gold was Babylon, then there was the Medes and Persians, then the Greeks, and finally Rome. And that comes all the way to the return of Christ. There is no other world system.

Rome, of course, was destroyed, and seemed to have died. It was the beast or the power that was, that isn't, and yet, of course, it became the Roman Catholic church, and its riding on that same power. Again it doesn't mean that every single person in the Roman Catholic church is of the devil, not at all. It's the system.

Right, and verse twelve, *'And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.'*

*'These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.'*

Now this is a fascinating description. Kings without kingdoms. These are elected people. These are powerful world leaders. They're not kings, but they're acting as kings. And they have given their power to Rome, to the church, and that is exactly what is going on now with America, England, and many other countries, all joining together in war against various countries or beliefs. One has only to look at Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and so on, Syria, all of those sorts of countries, which are, of course, generally Muslim, and Rome is making war against them but she's using the armed forces of other countries. And they're willing to do it.

Verse fourteen, *'These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.'*

The system, world system of churches, the world system will try and get rid of all people who are pure Christians, who believe in Jesus Christ and follow Jesus Christ. They will make war with the Lamb, but they won't succeed.

Verse fifteen, *'And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.'*

So that's what she's sitting on. She's controlling all those.

*'And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.'*

There's going to come a judgement on the world system which is going to completely and utterly destroy it.

Verse seventeen, *'For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil His will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.'*

You know, many times we think that the world system, or even our own lives, are in our control. No, they're not. God is able to adjust situations so that His Word, His written and prophesied Word will be fulfilled. Here we have a classic example of that, when the very ones that at first seem to be supporting the Roman system or the world religious system still to come, then turn against it, and completely destroy it. God has put those ideas in their heads because He wants His Word fulfilled, He wants to bring destruction on the whore, and the way of doing that is through the people who actually worked with her.

And verse eighteen, *'And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.'*

Here we have an absolute classic description of the fact that it is Rome. It's a city. The woman sitting on the beast, the beast is the Roman Empire, the woman sitting is the church of Rome, she's sitting there and she has great influence. No one else, no other – take Islam, take Hindus, they do not have ambassadors in different countries. They don't have embassies throughout the world. Nothing else fits this description except Rome and the Roman Catholic church.

We know from earlier in the book of Revelation it talks about the image to the beast. Yeah. The daughters of the beast, daughters of Rome, get together and they form the world council of churches. They form an image to the beast. Image is doing the same sort of thing as the original. What was the original? To control the church by men, by people setting a dogma, setting a range of doctrines, that will control the people. And that's the Nicolaitan spirit, to control the people, control the laity.

Now, many people get confused by the book of Revelation simply because, of course, they have their own ideas of what should actually be there. But the whole thing here is consistent. It starts with Jesus Christ confirming that He is the one and only God. It then goes into the seven church ages, and the seven church ages are shown to be influence by the first four seals, and they are the influence of the devil working against the Christian church or true Christians. The whole book of Revelation revolves around man's trying to take control of Jesus Christ's church.

May God bless you.