



Summary

- The apostle John was taken to the “Lord’s day” in spirit (**Rev 1:10**).
- The “Lord’s day” is the “day” during which Jesus Christ will begin to personally intervene in the world’s political and religious situation.
- The main theme of the book of Revelation is to describe the events which will occur particularly during that day, the day of God’s intervention – the day of God’s Wrath (**Rev 6:16-17; Joel 2:11, 30-31**).
- Christ instructed John to write how God’s Church would survive these ages until the Lord’s day (through the seven letters to the seven churches) and how Satan would always be trying to destroy God’s church (**Rev 2-3; Rev 12**).
- He also wrote about world events up to the Lord’s day (**Rev 6; Matt 24; Mark 13; Luke 21**).
- Then he described prophetic events which will occur during the Lord’s day:
 - The seven trumpets, the coming of Christ, and the seven last plagues (**Rev 8-16**).
- The seven last plagues list God initiated events building up to the destruction of Satan’s kingdom (**Rev 16**).

Spiritual Fornication

- **Rev 17:1-2** – “... the judgment of **the great harlot**... with whom the kings of the earth committed **fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her **fornication**.”
- Satan’s influence over mankind, and over the realm of the Beast, proceeds from **the great harlot**.
- **Rev 18:2** – “Babylon the great ... has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit...”
- Rome has inherited mysterious idolatry of ancient Babylon and has a history of being “drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: ...” (**Rev 17:6**).
- Rome has followed a system in opposition of obedience to God’s commandments (**Rev 14:12**).

Spiritual Fornication (Syncretism)

- Aside from Rome, no other city in the world fits the biblical description of **Rev 17**.
- She is portrayed as a harlot riding the Beast (consisting of an empire of ten kings) where she is a cultural and spiritual center (**Rev 17:3**).
- The symbolism of **spiritual harlotry**:
 - It is **not** from heathen nations that do not know God;
 - But it's from **people who externally represent (use) God's name** while actually worshiping and serving other gods.
- Israel's Apostasy:
 - **Ezekiel 16, 23; Hosea.**
 - **Ezek 16:2-13, 15, 20-26, 28, 36-38, 46, 49... 53-55, 60-63**
- God (YHWH - In this case Jesus Christ) in the Old Testament is the husband of Israel (**Is 54:5-8; Jer 3:14; 31:32**).



False religion is an enemy

- The Church is considered **a virgin** - destined to be joined to her husband (**2 Cor 11:2**), but is warned of **spiritual harlotry**.
- Note that Jesus Christ "died" on the cross. Marriage is until death do us part. Therefore the Word who became flesh, as a resurrected being is free to marry the Church (**Rev 19:9**).
- **James 4:4**: "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
- The "alliance" of a church (or for that matter any religious person) with the political powers of the world of this age:
 - Corrupts the true spiritual character of the church (or of that religious person);
 - Compromises his "witness" (teaching of God's Word);
 - And has the devastating effect of causing religious "drunkenness."
- False religion (teaching/doctrine) is always one of the true religion's worst enemies.
- It imposes a stupefying "drunkenness" with regard to spiritual things.



The False Church and the Beast

- **Rev 17:3** – "So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw **a woman** sitting on **a scarlet beast** which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."
- It is the same beast as in **Rev 13:1** – However, only after the fall of the Western Roman Empire (AD 476) and after the first 3 horns (Vandals, Heruli and the Ostrogoths) were destroyed at the instruction of the papacy. (Refer to study #22).
- The Beast is the restores Roman Empire under the influence of the Catholic Church.
- The woman religious power and the beast political power.
- The beast "carries" the woman, but, apparently, the woman has a dominant role over the beast.
- The seven heads are varying forms of successive governments.
- The 10 horns are 10 kings who rule simultaneously at the end time.


