

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 17 profiles Bab[ylon] - review: enticed to apostasy - [Rv 17:1-5](#)
2. Cf. Ezek 23. Graphic description of apostasy/harlotry. Read on your own.

1st: An Attractive Woman

1. [v1-2](#) = summary, preview. *Come here* = v3: *carried in Spirit to a wilderness*.
2. *One of the 7 angels* - chpt 17. 18:1, another angel. Angels of, 6th & 7th bowls?
 - i. *on many waters* - historical Bab on *Euphrates* [16:12]
 - ii. [v15](#) interps *waters* w/ another 4-fold all-encompassing description
3. *sits on* => reigns over [Rv 18:7] global population [v1] & *scarlet beast* [v3].
4. A *wmn* [v3,4]: demonic counterfeit of *wmn* seen in 12:1f. 2 *wmn*: Lamb's Bride or Satan's Seductress. 2 "mothers" [Gal 4:21ff] 2 seeds [Gn 3:25].
5. [v4a](#) - not forced, rather seduction: *purple & scarlet; gold, jewels; gold cup*
 - i. Attraction feels "natural" - cf. Rom 1 - promiscuity & perversion: power of idolatry: described w/ metaphor of prostitution & adultery.
 - ii. Is the pull into sexual sin powerful? So too is the pull into idolatry.

2nd: An Abominable Woman

1. Inlusio - [17:2](#) & [18:3](#). Bab's sin: *immorality* ['porneuo'] of a *harlot* ['porne']: loving this girl is lethal [deadly].
2. Recall suppression of truth & belief in lie necessary to be idolater [Rm 1]. Moral insanity - drunk on harlot's *wine of abominations & unclean thgs* [17:4].
 - i. [Rv 14:8 & 9-10](#) spiritually drunk & deaf to warnings
 - ii. [Rv 16:19](#) [1st ref *Bab*]: drink wine of idolatry then jdgd w/ wine of wrath.
 - iii. A scene of drunkenness - [Rv 16:5-6 & 17:6](#).
3. Idolatry is intoxicating: *abominations & unclean things*
 - i. *unclean*: ceremonial impurity
 - ii. *abomination*: abhorrent repulsion to sexual sin, witchcraft, unjust scales

iii. Apostasy is especially abominable: idols in temple or worship Lord as tho He were a pagan deity [Dt 12:30-32].

- a. [Ezek 5:11](#) as Rm 1, Ld's wrath = exp'ing His judicial abandonment
- b. [Ezek 8:6](#) sees pagan gods in temple; angels mark remnant & slay the rest [9:4,6]. 1Pt 4:17 jdgmnt begins in house of God w/ apostasy.

4. *Foreheads* mark on foreheads; words written on Harlot's - [Rv 17:5](#).

- i. *a name* - Babs built tower in Gn 11 - to *make a name* for selves
- ii. *mystery* - God's purpose gradually revealed then clearly manifested.
- iii. *forehead* - what is she thinking? 1] *Bab the grt* - [Dan 4:30]; 2] *mother of harlots* - Bab is a brothel of spiritual seductresses; 3] *abominations of the earth* - all the world's false religion.

3rd: A Blasphemous Beast

1. [Rv 17:3](#) formulaic - prophetic visions [Ezek 2:2;3:12,14,24;11:1;43:5] results in prophetic words [Rv 1:10;4:2;21:10]. Rv 17-18 = words of jdgmnt
2. *wilderness* - different thgs happen in *wilderness*. Chpt 12 - Bride: protection. Chpt 18 - Bab: desolation.
3. Scarlet Bst - [Rv 13:1](#) = Statist authority - looks like *Dragon* - [12:3](#).
 - i. #7 & #10 = symbols of complete fullness: fake power & purposes of God
 - ii. *heads & horns* - leaders & strength, power, authority
 - iii. social ordering/rule: in 17:2 & 18:3 - intoxicated w/ idolatry
4. Bst is full of *blasphemies*: angry rebellion against Creator & murder Messiah.
5. Dennis Johnson [246]. Her seductive affluence & the bst's coercive violence are symbiotic... threat of force & allure of affluence work perfectly together.

Applic #1: We Live in Babylon

1. Impoverished Xns persecuted by Bst, can have a clarity of conviction w/ courageous faith not always characteristic of Xns in embraced of Bab. Spiritual Stockholm syndrome.
2. Calibrate conscience - purity & devotion to Jesus lest we be deceived by serpent [2C 11:3]. See how lethal it is to be spiritually intoxicated. Discern!