

INTRODUCTION

1. Review - Rv 17 vss 1-7
2. Resume at v8-9a. v8 - summary of whole story - 12:5; 14:8. v9a = 4th & final *Here is...* statement.

1st: The Beast is a Satanic Mockery of God - v8

1. Bst *was*, & *is not*, & *is about to come* = perversion of God *who is*, & *who was* & *who is to come* [1:4] *the Almighty* [1:8]. God or Mammon [Mt 6:24]
 - i. Bst *who is* - appears to be present, even omnipresent: like God.
 - ii. Bst *who is not* & *is about to come* - recovery from a fatal wound [13:3-4] - a false 'resurrection'.
 - iii. Bst appears to be eternal & ever present - like God; but Bst is creaturely w/ a beginning & an appointed end.
2. *about to come up out of the abyss* - Satanic: Rv 11:7; 9:11 *King of abyss is Apollyon* [Destruction/Destroyer]. Abyss is opposite of heaven. 17:10-11 *he goes to destruction* [v8]: a play on the word *Apollyon*.

2nd: The Beast is Worshipped by Earth-Dwellers - v8

1. *Those who dwell on earth*: profiled in Revelation - worshipers of Bst
2. *names not in book of life from foundation of world* - metaphor, list of citizens; of legal legitimacy; ledger; *from foundation of world* - election & reprobation
 - i. We worship the Creator - not turn His sovereignty into impersonal fatalism - Dt 29:29.
 - ii. God's decrees are manifested in created history & actions of people.
 - iii. Final Judgment - Rv 20:12. Seen by fruit - Mt 7:16; harvest - Rv 14:14ff
3. Earth-dwellers *will wonder when they see Bst*: wonder of worship - Rm 1:25. Worship dead idols - *having no hope & w/o God in the world* [Eph 2:12].
4. Future tense. Jn sees Bst span history but there is a future manifestation - the *last hour* [1Jn 2:18]. The "already" presses us into the "not yet".

3rd: We Are Offered Biblical Wisdom - v9a

1. *Here is...* 13:10 *perseverance*; 13:18 *wisdom* - 666; 14:12 *perseverance*; 17:9's *wisdom* connect to 13:18's 666.
 - i. Revelation should unsettle & arouse us to courageous overcoming. Sardis told to *wake up!* [Rv 3:2-3]. Greg Beale 868 "The elect remnant can be conformed to some degree to the spiritual anesthesia of an unbelieving community, but God delivers them from permanent identification w/ unbelief by shocking them out of their spiritual torpor thru prophetic exhortations, wh/ serve only to harden those who are truly apostate."
 - ii. 17:14 We are *called, chosen, AND faithful*.
2. We are called to persevere in wisdom. By the enablement of the HS, we can even truly, not omnisciently, understand Rev 17!

Applic 1: Pray for Wisdom

1. v9a *Here is...* = invitations of 2 wmn in Prvs: Lady Wisdom & Lady Folly [Prv 9:4,16] Prv 9:10
2. *a mind wh/ has wisdom* - *mind*: intellect & moral perception - Prv 2:1-16
3. Sun Tzu - "know your enemy" = a mind of wisdom. Better yet, know wisdom: Jesus Himself - Col 2:3. Know Christ & the AntiChrist can't fool you.
4. Pray for me.
5. Pray for GCBC.
6. Pray for those you know who are heeding Lady Folly's call.
7. *Here is...* come here!