

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 17:8-13. Review

1st: "The Already" History of the Beast - v9b-10b

1. Key: the symbolic significance of the #s - #7 & #8.
2. History: rise & fall of empires [Dan 7]: symbolic #s point to history: v9b-10
 - i. 7 heads = 7 mtns = 7 kings. Symbols of gov't powers: the Bst
 - ii. #7 = completion, totality. 7 kings - Bst as state authority.
 - iii. We live in the time of the 6th king just before the arrival of the 7th king.
3. Interpreting symbolically - *a mind wh/ has wisdom* to learn *the mystery of the wmn & of the bst* [v7]. Interp, not politically but theologically. The 7 kings symbolize anti-God civil idolatrous gov'ts/nations since the Fall but we live in the time of the 6th king, or manifestation of the Bst. Next will be the 7th.

2nd: "The Not-Yet" History of the Beast - v10c-11

1. v10: the 7th king - a global manifestation; mobilizes *whole world* by the *kings of the earth* [16:14] who attack *camp of saints* [20:9]: *Armageddon* [16:16]. *A little while* - overcomes 2Wits [11:7] then Jesus returns: resurrection.
 - i. The 7th king is the combination & culmination of all the kings who will launch the Dragon's/Bst's last & final attack on the church.
2. *he must remain a little while* - 12:11-12 brief intense persecution
 - i. 11:11 - 3.5 days
 - ii. 12:17 Satan *knows that he has only a short time* [12:12]
 - iii. Rv 20:1-10: overview of Satan's activity: *released for a short time* [v3]
 - iv. v10 - *he must* - God's sovereign purpose
3. v11 - 3rd 3fold distortion of God [2x in v8]: omits *about to come* - b/c w/ arrival of 8th king, the final form of bstly rule has come. Here is the *little while*
 - i. #8 - symbolizes eschatological, end-times realities.
 - ii. *one* is italicized [NASB]: *he is the 8th & is of the 7*. The the 8th is like the 7 but is distinctly Satanic. Derek Thomas says 8th = Satan himself!

4. But look: *goes to destruction* [v8,11]. Not only is *destruction* [eternal death] the Bst's destiny, but bstly kingdoms are under wrath: 5th plague of darkness - failure. Final kingdom of 8th bst is a fake heaven on earth, w/o God & saints.

3rd: "The Already-Not Yet" History of the Kings - v12-13

1. All previous bstly kingdoms have foreshadowed the 7th/8th global Bst. Symbolic #s. 10 horns/kings not 7. 16:12-16. The 10 kings = *kings of the whole world*
2. All the worlds kingdoms combine - global AntiChrist Bst. v13 unified *purpose & power & authority*. It'll all be legal: Pharaoh; Sanhedrin & Pilate; Paul in jail, Jn on Patmos.
3. Final, global bstly kingdom *not yet* [v12]; world will be under false authority of Satan's Bst for a *short time - for 1 hour*. Rv 3:10-11 all men tested/tempted
4. Here is a mind w/ wisdom: to discern Satan's strategy & destiny: he *goes to destruction* but the saints go to unimaginable glory!

Applic #1: Does History Have a Purpose?

1. Bstly kingdoms have a unified *purpose* superintended by God's *purpose*: v17. Cf. Pharaoh; Pilate [Jn 19:10-11]. Why was Jesus crucified? A 2:23.
 - i. Never lose sight of our Father & know that He is actively purposeful in our lives. Who can stay His hand? [Isa 46:10].
 - ii. We can ask Christ's enemies, "What are you up to?" God's purpose.

Applic #2: Our Already-Not Yet Purpose While Living in Beastly Kingdoms

1. "What are you up to?" "God's purpose."
2. 2Th - Man of Sin - antiChrist - persecution 2Th 2:13-15
 - i. Already: beloved; chosen; called - sanctified lives of faith in truth
 - ii. Not Yet - salvation in glory
 - iii. Now: v15 persevere. v16-17 - AMEN.