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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of "**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**" This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

EP137 Revelation 17 verses 1-2

In our last podcast, we addressed the 7th vial of judgment that was poured out on the earth. With this judgment the wrath of God is complete. It was dramatic, there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth. The great city was split in three parts and every island fled and the mountains were not found. Then came the hail, huge hailstones about 100 pounds each rained down upon mankind. Still men blasphemed the God.

Now let's pick back up *Revelation 17*.

Revelation 17

Overview: Judgment of Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots, and the Abominations of the Earth. The Administration of the Kingdom of the Beast.

Revelation 17:1-18

Then one of the seven angels who is **now** having the seven vials {bowls} came and spoke with me, **now** saying,

"Come here, I will in the **future** show you the judgment of the great harlot who **now** chooses to be sitting on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who are **now** dwelling on the earth were caused to be made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

And he carried me away in Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman that chose to **now** be sitting on a scarlet Beast, **now** being full of blasphemous names, **now** having seven heads and ten horns.

And the woman was being clothed, by choice, in purple and scarlet, and was caused to be adorned, with gold and precious stones and pearls, **now** having in her hand a gold cup **now** being full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name caused to be written, mystery, "**BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**"

And I saw the woman **now** being drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses

of Jesus. When I was seeing her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said to me,

"Why did you wonder? I will in the **future** tell you the mystery of the woman and of the Beast that is **now** carrying her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

The Beast that you saw was, and **now** is not, and is **now** about to **now** come up out of the abyss and **now** go to destruction.

And those who are **now** dwelling on the earth, whose name was not caused to have been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will in the **future** be caused to wonder when they are **now** seeing the Beast, that he was and **now** is not and will in the **future** choose to come.

Here is the mind which is **now** having wisdom. The seven heads **now** are seven mountains on which the woman **now** chooses to sit, and they **now** are seven kings; five fell, one **now** is, the other has not yet come; and when he may come, he **now** must remain a little while.

The Beast which was and **now** is not, is **now** himself also an eighth and **now** is one of the seven, and he **now** goes to destruction.

The ten horns which you saw **now** are ten kings who have **now** not yet received a kingdom, but they **now** receive authority as kings with the Beast for one hour. These **now** have one mind, and they **now** give their power and authority to the Beast.

These will in the **future** wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb in the **future** will overcome them, because He **now** is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with Him **Called and Chosen and Faithful.**"

And he **now** says to me,

"The waters which you saw where the harlot **now** chooses to sit, are **now** peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

And the ten horns which you saw, and the Beast, these will in the **future** hate the harlot and cause her to being desolate will in the **future** make her naked and will in the **future** choose to eat her flesh and will in the **future** burn her up with fire.

For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common mind agreeing to give their kingdom to the Beast, until the words of God will in the **future** be caused to be fulfilled.

The woman whom you saw **now** is the great city, which is **now** reigning over the kings of the earth."

In this chapter, and the next, it can be easy to find oneself lost and completely confused by the imagery, the names, the roles, the changes in the **Code**, and so on. Therefore, to simplify things upfront, it is best to understand that Babylon, *the great city*, Babylon the great (the mother of all harlots and abominations of the earth) is the system of apostate religion (including the religion of Christianity). The woman, this harlot, is the spirit that is behind the system. So, in effect, they are one. The system and the spirit move as one and cannot be separated from one another. Just like the Beast and the kingdom of the Beast are one in the same and are not viewed separately.

This image of the harlot is one of the most controversial images in this book, largely because experts try and figure out the "who," and assign this image to a specific institution. But the Spirit utilizes metaphors to explain metaphors, therefore, the "who" is not as important for us to figure out than is the "what." If we learn **what** she does, **what** she is like, **what** she peddles, and so on; then we will know the

“who,” no matter the form in which she chooses to present herself to us. Knowing the “**what**” will also help us understand who it is that we are to flee.

The demise of Babylon the great was predicted previously by an angel that is even now saying to the inhabitants of the world: “*Fell, fell Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the “wrath” of her immorality {or harlotry}.*”¹

This angel warns the peoples of the earth that this harlot is on her way to complete and utter destruction. Therefore, this angel’s cry serves as a warning to the inhabitants of the world to stay away from her and to no longer indulge in her sexual pleasures. To clarify, the **Code** uses sexual immorality as a metaphor for spirituality gone bad. Then with the pouring out of the 7th bowl of God’s wrath, this great city is split into 3-parts as God remembers Babylon and gives her the cup of wine of His fierce wrath.

Strangely, this image of the prostitute or harlot is tied to what we discovered regarding the number of the beast. **666** speaks of the religious traditions of men, which are wielded by those who are extremely clever to garnish great wealth, power, control, or extreme influence over the souls of humanity.

THE DESIRES FOR WEALTH AND POWER, WRAPPED IN THE CLOAK OF ALL THAT IS GOD, ARE THE THREE PILLARS WHICH SUPPORT THIS GREAT CITY, BABYLON.

Spirituality is the cup, and inside the cup is the corruption, deceit, damage, violence and so on, caused by a lust for wealth, power, and control over others. And perhaps with the great city being split into 3-parts, God is decoupling this powerful bond, and He separates the power from the wealth from the religion thereby completely dismantling the pillars which support this great city.

The Great Harlot

Revelation 17:1-2

Then one of the seven angels who is **now** having the seven vials {bowls} came and spoke with me, **now** saying,

"Come here, I will in the **future** show you the judgment of the great harlot who **now** chooses to be sitting on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who are **now** dwelling on the earth were caused to be made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

With the conclusion of the vision regarding the seven vials of wrath, John is redirected to another scene. This is somewhat of a flashback that dives into the details of this harlot’s demise.

One of the seven angels who now has the seven vials (perhaps the 7th angel whose judgment remembered Babylon) came and spoke with John telling him that if he would come with the angel, the angel would show him the judgment of the great harlot.

¹ ***Revelation 14:8***

It is important to note that “judgment” is not a verb but a noun. This angel will show (**future** tense) to John what the **future** holds for this harlot, what her future existence (her state of judgment) will be.

Why a Woman?

Some might be thinking, “Why is this evil entity depicted as a woman and not a man?” Throughout the **Codex**, Women, who represent the glory of mankind, are symbolized as having a level of spirituality that men simply do not. And for their part, men have always had a level of extreme vulnerability when it comes to women.

Accordingly, the serpent approached Eve and not Adam, and it was Eve who convinced Adam to partake and not the serpent. It is this level of spiritual vulnerability that led the Spirit to say to the church at Corinth that women should wear a covering as a sign that they are submitted to a spiritual authority, because of the angels.² In other words, their spiritual vulnerability needs to be protected by one who is not as susceptible. It is a metaphor, a picture of our need to be protected by Christ from spiritual manipulations. He is to be our covering of protection.

The female imagery is used often all throughout the book of **Proverbs** where women are used to contrast two spiritual principles, wisdom vs wickedness. Even the famed **Proverbs 31** woman is a picture, a metaphor, about wisdom expressed in action. And since Jesus is the wisdom of God, we know that this picture of wisdom personified as a woman is a picture of Christ as He is expressed-in-and-through our lives.³

And like the woman who rides the Beast, wisdom is the only other woman in the **Codex** that deals with both **scarlet** and **purple** clothing. All her household are dressed in scarlet (the children of wisdom are appointed for sacrifice), and she is clothed with purple linen (the color of royalty).⁴

Wisdom personified as a woman is Christ as He indwells and expresses Himself through His people. In contrast, wickedness personified as a woman is none other than the harlot –this woman who rides the Beast. She represents spiritual apostasy and spiritual licentiousness as it indwells in the heart, minds, and souls of people.

In the **Codex**, we are given another image of wickedness embodied, and it is also in the form of a woman. The prophet Zechariah had a vision where the woman (wickedness) is being carried by two female angelic beings (they had wings like a stork) to build a temple for this woman in the land of Shinar (or Babylon), where she will be set there on her own pedestal.⁵ This is the woman who rides the Beast, the embodiment of wickedness and abominations whose abode is the *great city* of religious apostasy.

² **1 Corinthians 11:10**

³ **See 1 Corinthians 1:24, 30**

⁴ **Proverbs 31:21-22**

⁵ **Zechariah 5:5-10. Fiction Alert:** it has been proffered by many that angels are only of the male gender, but in this vision of Zechariah, the angels (demonic spirits imaged as birds) are female in gender.

Why a Harlot?

"Come here, I will in the **future** show you the judgment of the great harlot who **now** chooses to be sitting on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who are **now** dwelling on the earth were caused to be made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

Like a harlot (or in some translations, a "prostitute"), this woman gives herself to all who will have her. And as for her, it is a matter of choice not compulsion; no one is forcing her to prostitute herself. She **now** chooses to be sitting on many **waters**, which, according to the **Code**, would be upon many peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages.⁶ Her influence is global, and she impacts all segments of society. Her influence occurs in every moment of now.

As mentioned previously, the imagery of the harlot is used in the **Codex** as a contrast to wisdom and as a picture of those who refuse the intimacy and love of the Father and instead give themselves to the harlot, and in so doing engage in sexual immorality with other gods. The harlot represents spiritual apostasy and spiritual licentiousness as it indwells in the heart, minds, and souls of people who have tasted her wine and who drink and drink and drink.

Proverbs 5:3-6

For the lips of an adulteress drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold of Sheol. She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable; she does not know it.

Proverbs 6:23-26

For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her capture you with her eyelids. For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, and an adulteress hunts for the precious life.

Proverbs 7:4-5, 24-27

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your intimate friend; that they may keep you from an adulteress, from the foreigner who flatters with her words. ... Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, and pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims she has cast down, and numerous are all her slain. Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death.

Proverbs 9:13-18

The woman of folly is boisterous, she is naive and knows nothing. She sits at the doorway of her house, on a seat by the high places of the city, calling to those who pass by who are making their paths straight:

⁶ **Revelation 17:15-16** – "sits" is rendered in the *present middle participle*

"Whoever is naive, let him turn in here," and to him who lacks understanding she says, "Stolen water is sweet; and bread eaten in secret is pleasant." But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

This harlot of spiritual apostasy is always looking for those who will give into her call, who will lust for all that she has to give to them. And what we will find is that once a person indulges in her sexual proclivities, it is very hard to escape. She is intoxicating.

The Kings of the Earth

"... with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality..." We were first introduced to this phrase "kings of the earth" in **Revelation 1:5** where we were told that Jesus, the firstborn of the dead, is the ruler or the prince of the "kings of the earth." This is a non-Hebraic way of saying that Jesus is **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Hosts), the commander of the angelic forces, the Elohim, the gods, who have been given charge or rule over territories of the earth.

The "kings of the earth" are ruled by higher level Spirit Princes, but they have been assigned, by **Yahweh**, territory over which they rule humanity.

These "kings of the earth" are those mentioned in **Psalms 2**, along with the angelic "rulers," who take counsel together against **Yahweh** and His Anointed (which means the "Messiah" the "Christ"), saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart and cast their cords from us." The "kings of the earth" plot to gain their freedom from their master, their prince, their ruler, **Yahweh Sabaoth**. After all, it is likely that they too know the prophecy: "He will cut off the spirit princes; He is feared by the kings of the earth."⁷

So how have these "kings of the earth" committed acts of immorality with the harlot? Think about it. In every territory that these kings' rule, they have permitted the so called "gods" (who, as we have learned, are just demons in disguise) to be worshipped and honored within their territory.⁸ They have provided the platform for the demonic to introduce all manner of idolatry into the realms of humanity.

Who knows, maybe they too have taken on the form of a god to be worshipped by humanity. From the gods of Egypt to Baal, Ashtoreth, Milcom, Molech, Chemosh, to the golden cows of Samaria and Dan, to Apollo, Ares, Athena, Hera, Hermes, Zeus, to the pantheon of Hindu gods, to Allah, to Mary – the queen of heaven, to the thousands of incarnations of Jesus that are worshipped across the Religion of Christianity, these kings of the earth have joined with this harlot, the Woman who rides the Beast, and thereby committed acts of immorality.

Intoxication

"... and those who are **now** dwelling on the earth were caused to be made drunk with the wine of her immorality."⁹ It is important that we do not miss the meaning of this image. Sharing a cup of **wine** is simply a picture of mutual intimacy and shared experience between people. It expresses an agreement or a

⁷ **Psalms 76:12**

⁸ See: **Exodus 34:14-17, 2 Kings 19:21; Proverbs 1, 2, 5, 7; Jeremiah 18:13-16, 31:4, 21; Lamentations 2:13; James 4:4-5.** See also, **1 Corinthians 10:18-20**

⁹ "dwell" is rendered in the *present active participle*; "made drunk" is rendered in *aorist passive indicative*

“*covenant*” of relationship between those who share the cup.

It is a similar picture to Christians taking “communion.” When believers take communion, they share in a cup that symbolizes a *covenant* and an act of intimate fellowship between a person and God and all those who share in the cup. The wine is a picture of that which binds the covenant, which in the context of communion is the blood of Jesus.¹⁰

Sharing a cup is a declaration of shared association and allegiance.¹¹ In the context of the harlot, the wine which binds the covenant, association, or allegiance is *sexual immorality*, which is **Code** for idolatry and the worship of demons.

Following the lead of the kings of the earth, those who are now dwelling, who have made their permanent abode, on this earth likewise drank until they were overcome (*caused to be made drunk*) with the wine of her idolatry.

This woman is sensual and is intoxicating. Her invitation to imbibe in her immorality (her idolatry), is hard to resist, for her aged vintage of wine is a concoction of spiritual apostasy. And like a prostitute, she does not care too who her customer is so long as they pay her. She sells her services, she sells her body for a price, and she has a world-wide clientele.

The implication is that the kings of the earth (the spiritual rulers who are the powers behind their human counterparts), embrace her harlotry and in effect sponsor at a regional level, whether formally or informally, her activities so that the wine of her immorality becomes generally available to the masses, to the people who are looking for something, anything, other than an actual relationship with **Yahweh**, to provide their connection to the spiritual realm.

Hence, she is not just an ordinary street walker. She attracts the kings of this world and they come running into her doors and drink deep of her cup of sexual immorality. They have all committed sexual immorality with this woman. There is a sense here that this woman is so seductive, and her drink is so intoxicating, that all aspects of humanity are willing to walk in her doors and drink of her passion.

The nations of the world are all built on the foundation of some sort of worship. Even the pagan and purely humanistic societies, which worship nature for its beauty and worship man for all his intellect and abilities, have drunk of her wine.

It is in the very construct of mankind to worship. It is how God made us. The issue at hand is the object of that worship. We were designed to find fulfillment in **Yahweh**, but this harlot has seduced mankind to seek fulfillment in her embrace, her touch, her love, care, affection, safety, provision, security, rules, constructs, and grand assemblies.

Clearly, she is not a woman that can just be used and tossed away as a sexual object. The people who indulge in her pleasures literally get drunk with her sexual immorality. That means they come back to her over-and-over-and-over again until they have completely lost themselves in her sexual exploits. The wine in her cup does more than sparkle in her cup, it stimulates lust, entices need, a craving, and it creates an insatiable desire, an addiction for her unique vintage. Those who drink never get enough. This is all captured in picture form in the **Codex**.

¹⁰ See **1 Corinthians 10:14-15, 21-22; Matthew 20:22-23, 26:26-29**

¹¹ **1 Corinthians 11:25-27**

Proverbs 23:26-35

Give me your heart, my son, and let your eyes delight in my ways. For a **harlot** is a deep pit and an adulterous woman is a narrow well. Surely, she lurks as a robber, and increases the faithless among men. Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? **Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine.**

Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will utter perverse things. And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. "They struck me, but I did not become ill; they beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink."

Clearly, sexuality and prostitution refer to spiritual infidelity, and with the odd coupling of this image to the drinking of wine, we know that this describes those who drink deeply from the insatiable cup of her immorality. Just think of those in the Religion of Christianity who have become drunk with this woman's concoction. It is the reason that throughout the centuries there is always something new, some new way to do Christianity better, to serve God and to honor God. Her ways create an insatiable desire that is never quenched. When a certain way to control or to conquer sin does not work, don't worry, another way will soon be promoted and publicized for all to embrace. It never ends.

The Relationship Between the Harlot, the Beast, & Satan

There is one instance in the **Codex**, above all the others, which speaks ever so powerfully to this image of the harlot. It is found in the passages which speak of Tyre and its King. Tyre represents the dangerous combination of religion, power, rule, money, and commerce. In fact, the kingdom of Tyre is a window into the kingdom of the beast (**666**) and to this woman who rides the Beast.

The image of Tyre is even more compelling in terms of apocalyptic imagery when you realize that the king of Tyre is likened unto to Satan, or, more precisely, Satan is addressed through the human avatar of the King of Tyre. Beyond the metaphor, it is very likely that Satan was the motivating spirit behind this King.

And when it comes to the Beast, the dragon (Satan himself) is the source or the power behind his kingdom. Remember, Satan gives his power, throne, and great authority to the Beast. Therefore, when the Spirit addresses the King of Tyre, we are given a layered picture of both Satan and ultimately the kingdom of the Beast.

But let's save that for our next podcast where things will not just get bizarre, but they will blow your mind in terms of the connection of ancient Tyre and many things in our modern political system. Simply mind blowing.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."