

A couple of quick reminders. Thresher Media Group is a 501c3 *public charity*, and we rely entirely on donations from our listeners. If the Spirit leads you, I encourage you to support this ministry. It is easy to do, just go to the website, threshermediagroup.com and click the “Donate” tab in the header.

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*.

EP139 Revelation 17 verse 3-4

The Woman Who Rides the Beast

Revelation 17:3-4

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 being 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 ...

Now Sitting

The first thing John describes is that this woman “*chose to **now** be sitting*” on a scarlet beast.¹ As with the heads and the horns of the Beast, this is rendered in the *present* tense and as a *participle*. Once again, this is a picture of a spiritual reality that existed back in John’s day and still exists in this sorted and wicked union even today. The activity of this woman, this Harlot, as she is mounted on kingdom of the Beast, is not something that is reserved for the **End Times**. She is even now operating within the spiritual realms significantly impacting the functioning and the machinations of our physical realms.

This picture also communicates that they use each other, and their means is subterfuge or deception. The goal is to keep everyone’s eyes on this seductive harlot, this wonder, for as long as everyone is focused on her, they will be unaware of the true agenda of the Beast. She positions herself for prominence and visibility to kings, peoples, and nations, as she promotes the ministry and political positioning of the Beast.

In effect, her religious draping gives the kingdom of the Beast cover, or a certain element of legitimacy in the world as those within this kingdom manipulate, contrive, and covertly attack others to consolidate their control. The Beast uses her, and she uses him, and neither of them care, they are both getting their share.

¹ “sitting” is rendered in the *present active participle*

At first it will seem that she is the one in control, the one who holds the reigns, so-to-speak, on the Beast's ascension to power, but all of that is pretense. For there is another plan at work, a dark and treacherous plan, that will ultimately result in the demise of this woman.

AS THE KINGDOM OF THE BEAST ARISES TO POWER AND POSITION, THE DEFINING ATTRIBUTE OF ITS MOVEMENT THROUGH THE PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF THIS WORLD IS THE RAMPANT IMMORALITY OF THIS HARLOT—HER APOSTATE RELIGION.

Remember, the subject matter is religious apostasy. This is about both the apostate system as well as those who wield its power to seduce those who are weak in faith. This is what our study in *Jude* was all about. This harlot represents false, perverted, and twisted forms of religion; and its particular wine of renown, that has been aged for centuries, is the apostasy of those within the household of God who are trying extremely hard to be good for God, to serve God, to be good Christians, to be good people, and to grow their ministries, and so on.

***JUDE AND REVELATION* TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.**

Severed from Christ

It is to the participants of Christendom that this **WARNING** is given. In the last days (which technically is an epoch of time that began when Jesus came to the earth), people will be seduced paying attention to false and deceitful spirits and to doctrines of demons—those little whisperings in the ear from the image of the Beast that at first may be subtle but will grow like an infection. What once started as a whisper of a lie will develop into a personal truth.² And the impact is that in holding to their so-called “truth” they will fall away from the truth.

Many people who “believe” in God and consider themselves to be born-again “Christians” abiding in the Household of God will turn from the truth and literally fall away by the seductions of this prostitute (many have already fallen away).³

Based on what we learned in the letters from Jesus to the believers in Ephesus and Sardis, and in the book of Galatians, those who hold to even just one area in their lives where they are convinced they can “please” God by what they do, or if they believe they can find His blessing and secure His care by what they do, have already fallen and have been severed from Christ.⁴ And that is her goal, to separate people from dependence upon God and to entice them to come and worship in her house of religious indulgence.

² *1 Timothy 4:1*

³ See *2 Thessalonians 2:3*

⁴ *Galatians 5:3-4; Revelation 2:4-5, 3:1-6*

THIS ISSUE OF RELIGIOUS APOSTASY IS AN ISSUE OF BELIEF

This issue of religious apostasy is an extremely hard issue to discuss, much less accept, within the normal confines of our Christian institutions. But according to the **WARNINGS** of *Revelation*, so many of our religious institutions are apostate, as well as many of their devotees. And this reality crosses the spectrum of Christendom: from Evangelicalism to Catholicism through every mainline denomination and break out group.

Apostate religion holds out many benefits and promises of success and recognition for those who can conform to her requirements. But she functions by preying on a person's predilection for guilt, duty, fear, judgment, and conformance. This harlot keeps people focused on what they can do, and what others must do, whether it is to not sin, on-the-one-hand, or to serve God and serve people, on-the-the-hand. But grace, as understood in accordance with the **Codex** brings forth an altogether different religious experience.

**GRACE IS THE WEAPON THAT STRIKES DOWN THE HARLOT.
GRACE SPEAKS OF OUR 100% DEPENDENCE UPON WHAT GOD DOES
FOR US, IN US, AND THROUGH US.**

The Source Matters, the Source is Everything

This issue of religious apostasy is scary. This woman is powerful, ever so tempting, and she knows what to say and how to say it to entice not just those who are weak in their faith, but those who think they are strong. Worst yet, those who have fallen from grace believe they are "good" with God because of how hard they work to please Him, serve Him, honor Him, worship Him, and so on. But the kicker is they can all provide story after story of how God did amazing things in the lives of others through their diligent work. **But they are all drunk with the wine of this harlot's immorality, and each day they wake up and seek another drink.**

We must never forget, **the source matters, the source is everything!** If what we do is a result of God doing His work in and through our lives, then it is good, because **Only God is Good**. But if what we do, what we say, where we go, and so on is a result of our trying to be a good Christian (our trying to be good for God) and our trying to fulfill God's mission without it having been specifically assigned to us by the Father, then it is lawlessness, garbage, sin, and it stems from this harlot's lies and deceptions. Yes, such religious indulgences, duties, acts of worship, casting out demons, prophesying, miracle working, and so on are just sin regardless of our sincerity, commitment, diligence, and hard work.⁵

This is an extremely hard truth, but we must remember we are told to follow Jesus' example in all things.⁶ And Jesus only did what His Father told Him to do, He only said what His Father told Him to say,

⁵ See *Matthew 7:21-23*

⁶ *1 John 2:6; Ephesians 5:1*

and He only went where His Father appointed Him to go.⁷ This is the example He wants us to follow. He does not want us to follow the ways of this seductive harlot, indulging our religious appetites and desires.

Her Clothing

“*And the woman was being clothed, by choice, in purple and scarlet ...*” The Spirit makes the point that she chose, sometime in the past, to be continually clothed in purple and scarlet.⁸ She chose it. From a marketing perspective, this speaks of this demonic spirit’s “branding,” it is her intellectual property, so-to-speak. She chose to be identified by these garments, which are colored purple and scarlet, and these colors loudly communicate to us much about her mission.

As we discussed with the Beast, scarlet is **Code** for blood and sacrifice. Whereas purple is **Code** for power, wealth, and royalty. In Biblical times, purple dye was expensive and was derived from a certain sea snail that was so rare it was said to be worth its weight in gold. Therefore, purple was worn only by those of high rank in royal courts.⁹ Because of this association, the color purple suggests the power and wealth of royalty. And of course, the purple dye trade was centered in none other than the region of Tyre, the home of the harlot Jezebel (duh!).¹⁰

**THIS WOMEN’S VESTMENTS ARE CODE FOR
BLOOD, SACRIFICE, POWER, WEALTH, AND ROYALTY.**

Today, within Christendom, it is largely Catholicism and Orthodox sects that utilize vestments of purple and scarlet to display leadership, authority, and prosperity. It is so strange how people are attracted by earthly glory. People are legitimately wowed and mesmerized by wealth and prosperity. Sadly, so many people believe, errantly so, that if one is truly godly, that they will experience the “blessings” of wealth and prosperity. And this belief systems runs rampant all throughout the religion of Christianity in all its branches.

Her Jewelry

“*... and was caused to being adorned, with gold and precious stones and pearls ...*” Unlike her clothing which she chose to put on sometime in the past, her adornment with gold and precious stones and pearls was done by others, perhaps by her lovers, by those who paid for her services.¹¹ They want her to look good, they want her to dress as would be fitting for a Queen. These are images that, like her clothing, are intended to entice and seduce.

⁷ *John 5:19-20, 26-27, 36, 8:28, 38, 10:32, 37-38, 12:50, 14:10-11, 30-31, 15:15* and *John 4:4* where Jesus “had” to pass through Samaria, as “had” is rendered in the *imperfect active indicative*. In other words, the Father appointed it in the past and Jesus therefore had to complete this task. He was bound to complete it.

⁸ “was” is rendered in the *imperfect active indicative*; “clothed” is rendered in the *perfect middle participle*

⁹ *Luke 16:19; Judges 8:26; Esther 1:5-6, 8:15; Song of Songs 3:9-10; Lamentations 4:5; Ezekiel 23:5-6; Daniel 5:7, 16, 29*

¹⁰ See *Acts 16:14*

¹¹ “adorned” is rendered in the *perfect passive participle*

Gold & Jewels

Being adorned in gold and not innately possessing gold (gold being **Code** for divinity), indicates that she is not naturally associated with the divine, but has received items by which she can deceive others into believing that she is worthy, that she is godly, and has obviously been shown great favor by God. After all, to the mind of many, her “blessings” prove the Lord’s approval and affinity for her sort of business.

Jewels and pearls are adornments of wealth, excess, abundance, but are once again meant to mimic that which is heavenly and divine.

In **Revelation 21**, we are given a description of the “**New Jerusalem**,” where her brilliance is imaged through the pictures of jewels and costly stones. In fact, the foundations of her walls are adorned with every type of precious jewel, and the gates of the city (12 in all) are each one huge pearl. The city streets are pure gold.¹² This is all imagery, metaphors, to help us understand a little bit of our eternal destiny, and these images give us insight into the ways of this harlot.

She is adorned with all these accoutrements to convince others that she is **legitimate** (that she is from God), that she has the requisite **authority** on this earth to be the spiritual light, and that her cup of wine is more than worth drinking, for her love is the pathway to **blessing** after **blessing**.

Pearls

Here is an odd little tad-bit that we do not want to miss. She is adorned in “*pearls*.”¹³ Idiomatically, this means that her ministry, her outreach, her services are provided primarily to gentiles and not to the Jews. This plays out practically such that even though the church started out Jewish, it now is, and has been for centuries, filled with gentiles and very few Jews.

The pearl was unclean amongst the Jews as it came from an unclean animal. Thus, the pearl was something in which the gentiles could exclusively relish but not the Jew. Thus, this idiom is exclusively gentile and not Jewish.

RELIGION IS HER TRADE AND SHE USES THE BEAST TO GAIN PROMINENCE

THE BEAST USES HER AUTHORITY TO GARNISH HIS OWN.

The Cup of Abominations

“... **now** having in her hand a gold cup **now** being full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality ...”¹⁴ With “gold” being **Code** for the divine, this pictures for us how she wields religion, and the things of the divine, to authenticate her authority. This cup has the signature mark of divinity, but it is full of terrible things, abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality. It’s not clear how she came into possession of a gold cup. Perhaps it was given to her before her fall from the angelic hosts of heaven, perhaps she stole it, we really do not know. All that we know is that she now is having it in her

¹² **Revelation 21:10-21**

¹³ Just to be clear, “*pearls*” are **not Code** for a wonderful tequila and lime mixture, even though the Greek word is: “*margaritias*.”—ha.

¹⁴ Both “having” and “full” are rendered in the *present active participle*

hand, and it is now being full of terribleness.

The Greek word translated “*abominations*” comes from a root word which means to stink, to detest, or to be disgusted. It is the same word Jesus used when He spoke of the coming ***Abomination of Desolation*** of the Beast, which could literally be translated as “a stinky waste.” Jesus viewed the religious piety of the Pharisees in the same way. People who justify themselves in the sight of men literally stink and are detestable.¹⁵ In like manner, our goodness is a terrible odor in the nostrils of God, it stinks.

The ***abominations*** that fill this woman’s cup are all the stinky deeds done where-in-which a person exalts themselves by believing that they can be good for God and do something for God (their religious piety). The truth is that **Only God is Good**.¹⁶ Therefore, when a person tries to be good in any area of their life, including their service and worship of God, their ministry, their personal holiness, their faithfulness, and so on, they are in effect committing their own personal ***Abomination of Desolation***, creating their own “stinky waste.” Like the Beast, they are in effect declaring that they are like God, and they are good, or that they can be good and should be good.

All throughout Christendom, this truth is ignored, and people are continually compelled to do right for God, to act like good Christians, to serve Him faithfully, and so on. Yet, if what a person does is not from Christ literally doing the work in and through their lives, it stinks, it is a terrible odor in the nostrils of God. It is a **work of their hands** that according to ***Revelation 9:20*** is demonic and idolatrous.

THE SOURCE MATTERS, THE SOURCE IS EVERYTHING!

Her cup is now and continually full because religion has people, the world over, believing they can earn some sort of honor, reward, blessing, salvation, affection, care, or relief from God by their being good. But it is all a lie. Yet, the nations and peoples of the world are actively drinking and getting drunk from the concoction of lies in her cup.

Her cup is filled with all manner of legalism, blatant and subtle, that establish the rules by which a person can be judged worthy in the sight of man and the sight of God. It is a cup whose drink is a concoction of power, hierarchy, authority, control, and the requirement for submission, and it is all based on the lie that we can be good, and we should be good.

LEGALISM IS ROOTED IN THE BELIEF THAT WE CAN BE LIKE GOD. WE CAN BE GOOD AND WE SHOULD BE GOOD.

This woman serves up a cup whose drink makes promises of wealth, success, blessing, health, power, authority, and so many other so called “blessings” that are passed off as being emblems of godliness. It is a cup whose drink promises access to God, forgiveness, eternity, and so on, if only you “do” as you are instructed. Or, if you cannot do that, and you want to continue to do as you please, then all you must do

¹⁵ ***Matthew 24:15; Luke 16:15***

¹⁶ ***Matthew 19:17; Luke 18:19***

is “give” abundantly as you are instructed.

Drinking from this woman’s cup motivates those who will do whatever it takes to maintain control, power, prominence, and influence over the people, just like the Nicolaitans, whom Jesus hates. This includes their doing whatever it takes to maintain the wealth and luxurious living of those who run the show. And as we will see, murder, persecution, torture, are not excluded from her list of abominations.

It is a cup that is filled with idolatry, with mystery, with spiritualism, and with anything that will take one’s heart away from the One True Living God, the only one who is good. It is a cup whose drink tastes so wonderful, but its concoction is fundamentally in opposition to the true gospel of Jesus Christ, which is based on grace and the truth that **Only God is Good**.

JUDE AND REVELATION TARGETS THOSE WITHIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH WITH A MESSAGE WHICH SEPARATES THOSE WHO STAND ONLY ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD FROM THOSE WHO ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO BE GOOD FOR GOD.

Once again, this harlot’s abominations that now and continually fill her cup are all the ways in which we, as believers in the household of God, do not live like sons of God in absolute and **unrestrained freedom** from law (the law, your law, my law, anyone’s law), but live like slaves trying so hard to not sin, to not fail, to not do it wrong, and so on. These deeds, as noble as they may sound, are worthless in the sight of God, for they stink, are detestable, and they disgust God. They are the unclean things of her immorality (her idolatry). They are the filthy rags of our goodness.¹⁷ They seduce us to exalt our own **Abomination of Desolation** in the form of the “ME.” They are lawless deeds.

THE ONLY WORK THAT GOD DELIGHTS IN IS THE WORK OF FAITH, WHICH IS TO NOW AND CONTINUALLY BELIEVE IN HIM WHO THE FATHER SENT, YAHWEH THE SON, OUR I AM, THE ONLY ONE WHO IS GOOD.¹⁸

Let’s stop here, which is a bit shorter than normal. But the next section is so fascinating, I did not want to start it and then break it up into pieces, for risk we might lose the continuity. The story is not just exciting and fun, it fills in so many blanks in other things we have read in the Old Testament that just seemed to be incomplete. So, hang on until our next podcast. I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”

¹⁷ *Isaiah 64:6*

¹⁸ *See Hebrews 11:6; John 6:28-29*