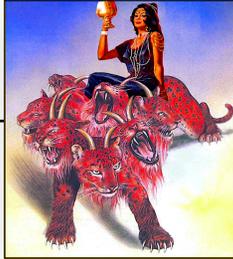


The Future One World Order



- Have you seen any movement towards a one-world government and religion?

The future One World Order is coming. More specifically, it is already forming. Today it is usually called "Globalism." One writer stated,

"Globalism is the orthodoxy of our day. The leaders of virtually every western nation are globalists. It is the editorial position of every major newspaper. The majority of CEOs are globalists. Every western university pushes globalist ideas.... The heresy today is nationalism. Nationalism is the idea that the government of a country should do what is best to benefit the citizens of that country...." Michael Sebastian, *Who Are The Globalists?* July 3, 2016.

Revelation 17-18 foretells of future Globalism. Revelation 17-18 go together dealing with two powerful forces in the seven-year tribulation period. Both of these forces are symbolically designated "Babylon" (see 17:5 and 18:10). Chapter 17 describes Babylon as a **one-world religion**. Chapter 18 describes Babylon as a **one-world government**. Another way to look at these is—**Religion without God** (chapter 17), and **Government against God** (chapter 18).

Central Lesson: We are witnessing today the beginnings of the future one-world religion and government. Christ's return is near.

The **subject** of chapters 17-18 is **JUDGMENT** of the future One World Order. *"1 One of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came over and spoke to me. 'Come with me,' he said, 'and I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute, who rules over many waters.'"*

Five Key Symbolism

1. The Great **PROSTITUTE**—One World Religion (17:1-2).

The one-world religion of the end times is symbolically pictured as a prostitute because of its unfaithfulness to God and His Word. It is centered on its desires and pleasures; it is a religion without God.

2. The Scarlet **BEAST** —The Antichrist (17:3).

This is the same beast described in Revelation 13 symbolizing the Antichrist.

3. The Seven **HEADS** of the Beast—7 World Empires. The 7th is the Empire of Antichrist (17:3, 9-11).

Revelation 17:9-10 states that the seven heads are *"9 ...seven kings. 10 Five kings have already fallen, the sixth now reigns, and the seventh is yet to come...."* Perhaps the best interpretations is one offered by Bible teacher John MacArthur. He writes:

"Here they [seven heads/hills] represent seven world empires embodied in their rulers... The five Gentile world empires that had fallen by the time of John's vision are Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. The one that existed at that time was obviously Rome. The other one that has not yet come is Antichrist's final world empire." (pp.169-170).

4. The Ten **HORNS** of the Beast—10 Leaders & Regions Under the Rule of Antichrist (17:3, 12-14, 16).

According to Revelation 17:12, the ten horns symbolize ten additional future kings who will support the Antichrist. This vision parallels the ten toes of Daniel's image in Daniel 2:36-45, which symbolically pictures a future revived Roman Empire. Interestingly, today's European Union is composed of the regions that once made up the Roman Empire.

5. The **WATER**—The People of the World (17:1, 15).

The water on which the prostitute is seated in 17:1 is clearly identified as the peoples of the world in 17:15. This symbolizes that the one world religion will have control over the whole world - politically, economically, and most of all, religiously.

Lessons About the End Times One World Religion

The Prostitute - The One World Religion

- The One World Religion will have control over the entire earth during the tribulation (17:1, 15).
- The One World Religion will have an intoxicating attraction and control over world leaders and world civilizations (17:2).
- The One World Religion will be devoted to serving the Antichrist (17:3).
- The One World Religion will appear extremely attractive to the world and at the same time be extremely evil (17:4-5).
- The One World Religion will persecute and kill many true Christ-followers during the tribulation (17:6).
- The One World Religion will exist only for the first half of the tribulation (3^{1/2} years) and be destroyed by the Antichrist (17:16)

The Life Application Study Bible comments: **"In a dramatic turn of events, the prostitute's allies turn on her to destroy her. This is how evil operates. Destructive by its very nature, it discards its own adherents when they cease to serve its purposes. An unholy alliance is an uneasy alliance because each partner puts its own interests first."** (NIV, p.2325).

The Beast - The Antichrist

- The Antichrist will astonish the world and gain control by being resurrected from the dead (imitating the resurrection of Jesus Christ) (17:8 compare 13:3,12, 14).
- The Antichrist will be the last of seven rulers over the world (17:9-11).
- The Antichrist will be assisted by ten rulers who will give him their power and authority (17:12-13).
- The Antichrist and the ten rulers will make war against Jesus Christ at His return to the earth, but Christ will defeat them (17:14).
- The Antichrist is granted a limited time to rule over the earth and is influenced by God to accomplish His purposes and to destroy the one world religion (17:17)

Central Lesson: We are witnessing today the beginnings of the future one-world religion and government. Christ's return is near.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ.
- ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.