

Revelation: Seven More Interludes

Lesson 22

Interlude #1:

The Woman And The Beast

- [Revelation 17:1-18](#)
 - I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters.
 - Committed adultery with all of the kings and inhabitants of the earth
 - The reference to Babylon the great in v 2 is nearly identical to the one in [Revelation 14:8](#) in which the nations are caught in her seductive web of luxury, idolatry, depravity, and brutality.
 - The woman was in the desert, riding on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns covered with blasphemous names. (Do you think this is the end times beast???)
 - Satan is never called “the beast” in Scripture. This beast, which we first encountered in [Revelation 13:1-2](#) is so possessed by the evil one that when he comes on stage his reign is utterly diabolical.
 - That the beast is now scarlet may indicate he has fully assimilated the nature of the red dragon of [Revelation 12:3](#)
 - The woman was gorgeously arrayed in regal colors and glittered with gold and jewels.
 - In her hand was a golden cup filled with abominations and filth.
 - Notice her title written on her forehead
 - The woman was drunk on the blood of the saints she murdered in her hatred of truth and righteousness and her glorification of evil.
 - The nations she controlled likely became her accomplices in savaging the followers of Christ. (V 6)

Interlude #1: (2)

Mystery: Babylon The Great

- [Revelation 17:3](#)

- Description of Babylon the Great could symbolize the anti-God political/religious spirit ruling the world down through the ages.
- However, [Revelation 17:18](#) identifies the woman as the “great city that rules over the kings of the whole earth”.
 - A rebuilt, restored Babylon
 - Another great city
 - An anti-God governmental or religious system of the end times
 - Could have a double meaning.
 - Babylon the Great is probably the capitol city of the seventh world empire that “has not yet come.” ([Revelation 17:10](#))
 - Bottom line: The “Babylon the Great” spoken of in this passage will one day assert her influence over the whole world and implement vicious anti-Christian laws and practices. ([Revelation 17:6](#))

Interlude #1: (3)

The Beast Once Was, Now Is Not, And Yet Will Come

- Read [Revelation 17:7-8](#)
 - When John was shown the prostitute, he was greatly astonished.
 - To help John unravel the mystery of the prostitute the angel pointed to the beast the prostitute was riding. (Note: the prostitute and the beast have separate identities.)
 - John was told the beast the prostitute was riding on “once was” (in former times)
 - “now is not” (in John’s time)
 - “And yet will come” (future time)
 - The unredeemed world will be astonished when they see the beast who once was, but now is not, revived for a short time.
 - Note this passage states three times that the best ‘once was, now is not, and yet will come.’
 - This is the second clue to the beast’s identity that is quite compatible with the first clue: a beast with seven heads, one of which seemed to have a fatal wound, but the fatal wound has been healed. ([Revelation 13:3](#))

Interlude #1: (4)

Seven Heads – Seven Kings

- [Revelation 17:9-10](#)
 - John is told the seven heads are seven kings – five have fallen, one is, and the other is yet to come.
 - John was told that the seven heads of the beast the woman was riding signified seven hills and seven kings.
 - Nothing further is said about the hills.
 - V 10 states that five have fallen (former kings or kingdoms),, one is (present kingdom: Rome), and the other (7th) has not yet come (Future king or kingdom)
 - When the seventh king/kingdom does come, he will rule for a little time.
 - Note that the explanation of the seven kings provides a third clue to the identity of the beast -- a perspective that is different, yet not at odds with the beast
 - WHOSE FATAL WOUND WAS HEALED
 - ONCE WAS, NOW IS NOT, AND YET WILL COME
 - [Revelation 17:10](#) does not necessarily indicate that the 7th king, the one yet to come, is a revival of one of the first five kings.

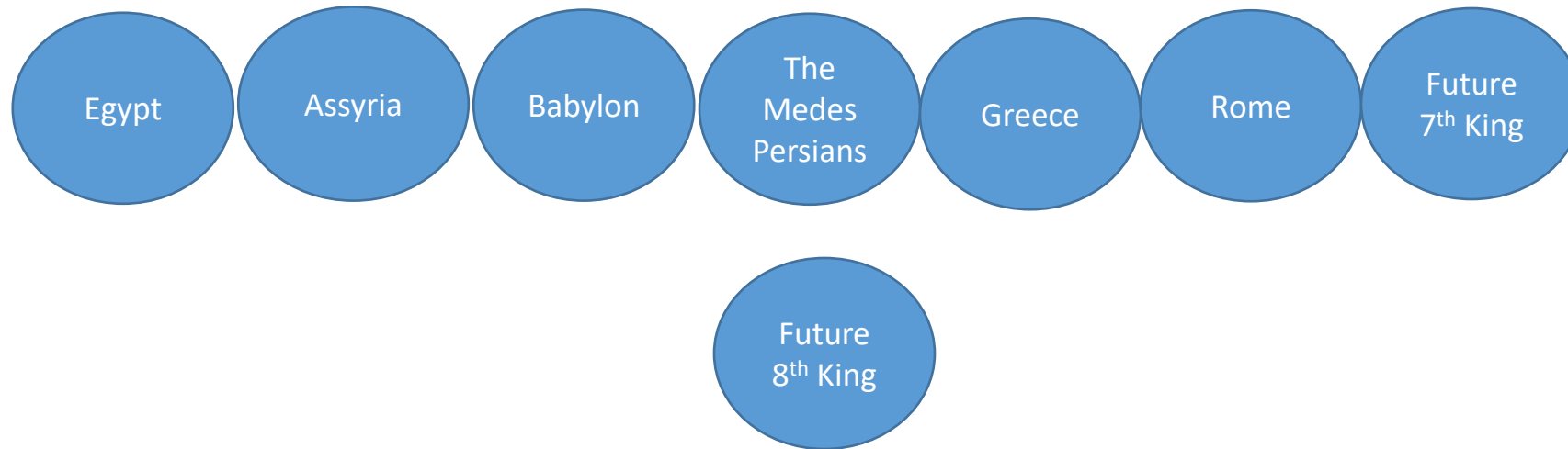
Interlude #1: (5)

The Beast Is An Eighth King

- [Revelation 17](#):
 - The beast whose seven heads represent seven kings, the 7th of which is yet to come, is also an eighth king who belongs to the seven.
 - This means the beast not only epitomizes the seven beast kingdoms in composite ([Revelation 13:2](#)) but also functions as an eighth king who belongs to the seven and is headed for destruction.
 - The seven-headed beast reaches its end apex in the eighth king.
 - Thus the eighth king furnishes us a 4th clue to the beast's identity.
 - The beast is an eighth king who proceeds fro/arises after a future 7th kingdom.

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Interlude #1: (6)

The Ten Horns

- [Revelation 17:12-14](#)

- The ten horns are ten kings who will receive lesser kingdoms and will join their authority and power to the beast for one short hour.
- Little information is given as to the identity of the ten kings, but since the beast as the “little horn,” comes up among the ten horns of the Roman Empire ([Daniel 7:24](#)), it seems likely the ten horns who pledge allegiance to the beast are the same nations once controlled by Rome (most of which are now under Muslim rule – excluding, at present, Greece, and Israel).
- The beast and his coalition of ten nations will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because of Who he is – the Lord of lords and King of kings.

[Revelation 19:11](#)

Interlude #1: (7)

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Interlude #2:

The Fall of Babylon

- [Revelation 17:15-18](#)
- The prostitute's power and authority are global
- The waters she sits on are peoples and nations
- Up to this point it appears the woman and beast she is riding on are enmeshed. But ..
 - The beast (8th king) and his ten confederates hate the prostitute
 - Turn on the prostitute
 - Bring the prostitute to ruin
 - Leave the prostitute naked
 - Eat the prostitute's flesh
 - Burn the prostitute with fire
- Apparently, in order to attain a stranglehold on the world and set himself up as God ([2 Thessalonians 2:4](#)), the 8th king, in collusion with the ten kings, will subdue everything that stands in his way – including the prostitute ruling the earth (V [15-16](#)).
 - The 8th king's fiendish objective is to remove her from power, gain control, force global submission and demand worship. ([Revelation 17:15](#), [13:7-8](#))
 - The reason the ten kings hand their power to the beast is because God planted this plan IN THEIR Hearts in order to bring His plan to completion.

Interlude #3:

Hallelujah In Heaven

- John hears a great multitude in heaven shouting “Hallelujah” God’s people celebrating:
 - The righteousness and justice of God.
 - For judging the great prostitute who corrupted earth
 - Avenging the blood of His servants.
- The 24 elders and four living creatures join in
- A voice from the throne exhorts all God’s servants to praise Him – and they do
- The wedding supper of the Lamb has come.
 - The bride of the Lamb is given bright, clean linen to wear – which symbolizes lived righteously
 - Those invited (his bride) to the wedding supper of the Lamb are blessed.
 - This wedding symbolizes the bride (us) being joined to the Lord forever.
 - ([Acts 1:11](#))
 - The redeemed will always be present with Jesus ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#))
 - Compare the jubilation of the bride to the wretched state of the lost on the day “he comes to be glorified in his holy people ([2 Thessalonians 1:6-10a](#))

Interlude #4:

The Rider On A White Horse

- The rider, whose name is Faithful & True, The Word of God (John 1:1, 14) and a name he alone knows, rides out to judge and punish defiant mankind.
 - His eyes are afire
 - Crowned with many crowns
 - Dressed in a blood-soaked robe ([Isaiah 63:2-3](#))
 - From Crucifixion or from rebellious humanity
 - Behind him follow the armies of heaven riding on white horses and dressed in white linen (possible of the wedding apparel of the bride) ([Revelation 19:8](#))
 - A Sharp sword issues from his mouth to strike down the nations and destroy the wicked.
 - His wrath is terrible ([Isaiah 11:4](#), [2 Thessalonians 2:8](#))
 - On his robe and on his thigh is written “King of Kings And Lord of Lords”
 - Review [Revelation 19:11-16](#) And [Revelation 17:14](#)

Interlude #4:

The Rider On A White Horse (2)

- Armageddon

- The beast and the kings of earth and their armies mass at Armageddon to fight against the rider and his armies ([Revelation 16:12-16](#))
- There is no contest.
- The beast, the false prophet were captured and thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur
- The rest of the 200,000,000 army were killed with the sword from the rider's mouth
- The Great Supper of God takes place.

- Supper of God

- An angel summoned all the birds in midair to eat the flesh of kings and generals, horses and riders, free men and slaves, small and great
- The great supper of God, which undoubtedly relates to the great final battle at Armageddon, appears to take place, after the wedding supper of the Lamb ([Revelation 19:9](#), [Ezek 39:17-20](#))

Interlude #5:

The Thousand Years

- Dragon Chained
 - An angel seizes the dragon (aka ancient serpent, the devil, and Satan) and chains
 - Angel throws Dragon into the Abyss, locked and sealed it to prevent the Devil from deceiving the nations for a thousand years.
 - After a thousand years, the Devil will be set free for a short time to once again deceive the mankind.
 - Why: Possibly to unequivocally demonstrate the intractable fallen nature of man.

Thousand Year Reign

- Those given authority to judge were seated on thrones
- The souls of those who had been beheaded
 - Because of their stand for Jesus and because they had not worshipped the beast's image or received his mark came to life
 - They are blessed and holy
 - Reign with Jesus and serve as priests of God for a thousand years.

Interlude #6:

Satan's Doom

- At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released to go out and deceive the nations of the earth – God and Magog
- Gather the nations once again, to attack and overthrow Christ's kingdom
- These forces, as numberless as sea sand, will march across the earth and surround Jerusalem
- But...fire will come down from heaven and consume them.
- Notice there is no indication of battle here.
- The devil will be thrown into the “fiery lake of burning sulfur” to be tormented forever – along with the beast and false prophet. ([Revelation 19:20](#))

Interlude #7:

The Dead Are Judged

- The Great White Throne

- John saw the Lord seated on a great white throne (not informed where i.e. Earth and sky have fled away)
- The Books are opened
- The Sea, death and Hades gave up the unsaved dead for judgment
- Each person sentenced in accordance with his works as recorded in the books that were opened.
- Believers do not stand before this throne.
 - They already have eternal life ([1 John 5:11-13](#))
 - They already have passed from death to life ([John 5:24](#))
 - They already have experienced resurrection ([1 Corinthians 15:51-52](#))
 - They already have become a kingdom and priests to serve God ([Revelation 1:6](#))
 - Some are already the bride of Christ

- Death and Hades destroyed

- Death, Hades and all whose names were not found written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire.
- For believers, the second death holds no threat.