

The adulteress appears
Revelation 17:1-18

1. After the seven bowls were poured out, the great prostitute appeared! The great prostitute is powerful and has deceived many nations and peoples (verse 15). From the description of the great prostitute in the Bible, what can you determine that this "prostitute" symbolizes?
2. What is the relationship between the "scarlet beast" mentioned in verse 3 and this prostitute? How do you understand the expression in verse 8, "once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction" (Refer to Revelation 13)?
3. The great prostitute rides on the scarlet beast. The beast has seven heads and ten horns, and its body is covered with blasphemous names, representing different countries or political forces on earth. Are you more likely advocating for "separation of church and state"? Or "unity of church and state"?
4. Verse 5 mentions the names written on the woman's forehead: "Babylon the Great" and "the mother of abominations of the earth". How does verse 6 help us understand the meaning of these titles?
5. Verses 9-11, the seven heads of the beast represent seven kings (some people often think that they are related to the successive kings of the Roman Empire). Regardless of the explanation, when you observe the rise and fall of kings and the re-election of presidents, what are often persistent?
6. After the seven kings, "The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king". Do you agree that the political situation on earth is obviously getting worse? How can we keep watch and pray for this generation?
7. Verses 12-14 mention that the ten horns are "ten kings" who will "give their power and authority to the beast". This can be pure speculation. What current political alliances or combinations of antichrist forces do you see? Why are we still full of hope and serenity?
8. Verses 16-17 say that the beast and the ten horns will hate the prostitute and destroy her. What spiritual teachings or principles of judgment do you think this reversal expresses?
9. In verse 17, why is it that the kings' agreeing to hand over to the beast their royal authority is said to be accomplishing God's purpose and the fulfillment of God's words? What revelation does this have on the Christian view of the end of the world?
10. In the midst of turmoil and chaos, have you noticed that there is a group of people in 17:8 who "whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world"? Please list some of these people. What responsibility do we have towards this group of people?