

An Introduction to 'the Great Prostitute'

Rev. 17:1-6 Series: End Times Motivation

On May 17, 2020, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Ways people handle difficult Scriptures:

- 1) Avoidance
- 2) Pat answers/ repeating what others say
- 3) Cry out to God and dig into the text

How should we study Scriptures?

- 1) Pray
 - a. Cleansing your heart (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - b. Sharing with God
 - c. Requesting to hear from God
- 2) Read (in a language you understand!)
- 3) Note observations, underline helpful verses, etc.

Let's Try It! What does Revelation 17 mean?

Keys to understanding Scripture

- ✓ Identify the complete _____ and its

- Look for words or phrases that act as

- ✓ Find the _____ of/ _____ the text

- ✓ Note initial observations/ questions

- 1) Who is "the great prostitute"?
- 2) When is her judgement?

- ✓ Understanding the author and his original audience

Structure Observed (Rev. 17:1-6)

- I. Introduction (v. 1-2)

- A. Connection to preceding events by common

_____ (v. 1)

- B. More _____ to come (v. 2)

- II. "The Great Prostitute" described (v. 3-6)

- A. Supported by the beast (v. 3)

1. Scarlet beast
2. Full of blasphemous names
3. Seven heads
4. Ten horns

- B. Consumed with immorality, idolatry, and wealth (v. 4)

1. Arrayed in expensive, fine cloth (scarlet, purple) associated with prostitutes (immorality, idolatry)
2. Adorned with fine jewelry (wealth)
3. Holding cup of abominations, sexual immorality (immorality, idolatry)

- C. Identified with Babylon, "name of mystery" on her forehead (v. 5)

1. Mother of prostitutes
2. Mother of earth's abominations

- D. Guilty of slaying Christians (v. 6)

1. "Drunk with the blood of the saints"
2. "the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

Understanding the author and his original audience in light of the emphasis of the structure we conclude that we must:

- 1) Resist staunchly the pressure to conform to the world's systems that oppose God's,
- 2) Stand against Satan's increasing persecution for resisting the pressure to conform – his end is coming!

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Ways people handle difficult Scriptures:

- 4) Avoidance
- 5) Pat answers/ repeating what others say
- 6) Cry out to God and dig into the text

How should we study Scriptures?

- 4) Pray
 - a. Cleansing your heart (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - b. Sharing with God
 - c. Requesting to hear from God
- 5) Read (in a language you understand!)
- 6) Note observations, underline helpful verses, etc.

Let's Try It! What does Revelation 17 mean?

Keys to understanding Scripture

- ✓ Identify the complete **thought** and its **context**
 - Look for words or phrases that act as **markers**
- ✓ Find the **structure** of/ **outline** the text
- ✓ Note initial observations/ questions
 - 3) Who is "the great prostitute"?
 - 4) When is her judgement?
- ✓ Understanding the author and his original audience

Structure Observed

- III. Introduction (v. 1-2)
 - A. Connection to preceding events by common **angel** (v. 1)
 - B. More **judgment** to come (v. 2)
- IV. "The Great Prostitute" described (v. 3-6)
 - A. Supported by the beast (v. 3)
 3. Scarlet beast
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- E. Consumed with immorality, idolatry, and wealth (v. 4)
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