

The Dragon Lady

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 17:1-19:5.
- B. The true church will not go through the Great Tribulation.

II. The woman on the seven-headed beast.

- A. The beast was one who would rule the nations.
- B. The woman...
 1. Is called a great prostitute, which seeks to teach us of the worship of God gone wrong. It is teaching people to dishonor God in His name.
 2. Is said to lead kings into spiritual adultery, and makes the common people drunk with enflamed religious thinking, which is delusion.
 3. Sits upon the beast, which means that for a time she will rule over him.
 4. Is wealthy and attractively dressed, which picture false spiritual riches.
 5. Holds a golden cup in her hand full of evil things, which is a picture of what looks like it is God-given but is evil.
 6. Is called mystery, which means that there is something hidden with her related to the name Babylon designating religious confusion.
 7. Is called the mother of prostitutes and the abomination of the earth.
 8. Is a persecutor of the saints of God.

C. The woman explained.

1. The woman is identified with the city of Rome because of the reference to the seven hills and the city that rules over the empire.
2. The woman is also described as a counterfeit church, but the church in Rome at this time was not a counterfeit church.
3. This is a description of the Roman Catholic church.
 - a. This does not indict everyone in the church but the teaching of the church.
 - b. It particularly indicts seeking after earthly power through religious authority.

D. The seven-headed beast is the Roman Empire.

III. When the Lord returns, all the believers will return with Him.

IV. The judgment of the Dragon Lady.

A. She is demonic.

B. There is an appeal for the saints to leave that system--in one day plagues will overtake her.

C. The ruin of the great city will affect the entire earth.

D. There is a great hallelujah chorus when the saints realize that the teaching of this woman has been removed from the earth.

E. Wherever you have the religious seeking to impress with outward splendor you have Babylonianism.

F. We have these things in Revelation because when we see the end of things we can identify them in our own time.

Application questions:

1. Who is the woman on the seven-headed beast?

2. How have churches sought after earthly power through religious authority today? How can believers make others aware of this?

3. How is having an understanding of end times valuable for the believer today? Explain.
