

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Chapter 17

The Woman and the Beast

The previous visions all end with a preview of God's final judgment against Babylon, the great attacker of the church. This judgment is now set in greater detail in a new vision.

1) Who is the great prostitute pictured here? (see Isaiah 1:21; Jeremiah 2:20)

2) Who are the waters the prostitute sits on? (see vs. 15)

Note: Don't judge a church for its faithfulness by its size or success in the world

3) How does world government sometimes join forces with the unfaithful church and support its apostasy?

Note: The Scarlet Beast is the Beast of the Sea=world government as it serves Satan

4) What do we learn about the financial condition of the apostate church?

5) What is the city of seven hills?

6) Who are the ten kings who have not received a kingdom?

7) What will secular governments one day do toward the apostate church?

8) What assurance do we have when the apostate church is attacked?

His Word in My Life:

History proves that whenever church and state confuse their roles, they do so to the detriment of gospel preaching and good government. What do false churches seek to gain by aligning themselves with the government? What do governments look to get through their alliance with false churches? Why must we keep church and state—and our service to each—distinct?

The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 18

This whole chapter gives a dramatic portrayal of the fall of the enemies of the church or the end of all cares, riches and pleasures by which Satan had led believers to abandon Christ.

1) What are God's people encouraged to do as far as the false church is concerned?

2) What does it mean that the sins of the apostate church have piled up to heaven?

3) How does the punishment of the apostate church with fire resemble the punishment for adultery on the part of a priest's daughter? (Leviticus 21:9)

4) Who or what is rejoicing with the words, "Rejoice over her, O Heaven!"

5) What is the "magic spell" (18:23) that false churches and sects cast over the unsuspecting?

His Word in My Life

Human betterment through self-help underlies the false teaching in the churches Saint John describes as Babylon in chapter 18. Why is self-help theology so appealing to a materialistic society?