

Bereans Bible Institute

Module XI – Revelation

Lesson 44 – Rev. 17:9-18

I. The 7 heads on the red beast (Satan) are human “heads” of Satan’s Kingdom of Darkness.

A. Review: The first 5 “kings” which had fallen by John’s day – Enemies of God & His people:

1. Satan took dominion from Adam, & ruled through “Tyrants” descendants of Cain who built the first city named Henoah (implying dominion). God intervened with the flood.
2. Satan ruled through Nimrod, tower of Babel, introduced pagan worship. God intervened by confounding the languages.
3. Satan ruled through Pharaoh in Egypt. God intervened with the 10 plagues.
4. Satan ruled through king of Tyre (who fell into sin in the Garden of Eden).
5. Satan ruled through Antiochus Epiphanies, who caused Israel to worship Greek gods.

B. Remaining “kings”

6. The 6th head of Satan’s Kingdom of Darkness – which “is now” – was the old Roman Empire, enemy of God.

- a. Rome’s ruler, Herod the Great, slaughtering many infants attempting to kill the Messiah.
- b. The emperor Nero slaughtered many Christians, including Peter and Paul.
- c. The emperor Domitian was brutally persecuting Christians when John wrote Revelation.
- d. From AD325 on, the woman (Rome) is not the 6th “king” (one of the 7 heads) yet she rides the red beast.
 1. Same city, but the dominion has changed. Rather than being a “king” of Satan’s Kingdom, she is a “queen” claiming her own dominion (Rev. 18:7). She continues until Antichrist arrives as “king.”

7. The 7th head was Hitler’s Nazi Germany. Seeking to exterminate the Jews

- a. Major clue – vs. 10, “*whenever he should come, he must continue briefly.*” (less than 11 years, 1934 - 1945).
- b. This eliminates the Ottoman and British Empires.

8. The 8th head is the second coming of one of the seven previous kings – Antiochus Epiphanies resurrected. He is the one head among the seven that was wounded to death, but his deadly wound healed (Rev. 13:3).

C. Vss. 12-14 The 10 Kings reigning simultaneously w/Antichrist

1. The 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s Image (Dan. 2:41-45)
2. The 10 horns of Daniel’s Fourth Beast (Dan. 7:7-8,19-20,24)
3. The 10 kings (w/Antichrist) do battle with Christ at His coming (Rev. 19:21), “*And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom ...*” (Dan 2:44)
4. The “called, and chosen, and faithful” are already gathered to Christ when the 10 kings are destroyed.

D. Vss. 15-18 Final loose ends:

1. vs. 15 – The “waters” are various nationalities
2. vs. 16 – The 10 horns/kings/toes will destroy Mystery Babylon when they begin to reign with Antichrist:
 - a. They arise out of the Fourth Beast (Roman Empire) (Dan. 7:7,-8,11-12,20-21,24)
3. vs. 17 – They are unknowingly doing God’s will – punishing Rome just as Cyrus punished Babylon
4. vs. 18 – The woman positively identified as Rome, “*the city, the great one, the one having dominion over the kings of the land.*”
 - a. The present tense verb (having dominion) is from John’s perspective in time because the angel was explaining to John the meaning at the time of his vision.