

***STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION***  
***IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS***

**Lesson 30 – The Woman on the Beast - Revelation 17:1-18**

**Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.**

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

REV 17:1 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. [2] With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

REV 17:3 Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. [4] The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. [5] This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY  
BABYLON THE GREAT  
THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

REV 17:6 I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. [7] Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. [8] The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

REV 17:9 "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. [10] They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. [11] The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

REV 17:12 "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. [13] They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. [14] They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

REV 17:15 Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. [16] The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. [17] For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. [18] The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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404. What did one of the seven angels show John? (17:1)
405. How did the angel describe the evil of the "great prostitute"? (17:2)
406. What did John see when the angel carried him away? (17:3)
407. How did John describe the woman he saw? (17:4-5)
408. What could John tell about the woman he saw? (17:6)
409. What amazed John? (17:6)
410. How did the angel react to John's astonishment? (17:7)
411. What did the angel explain to John? (17:7)
412. Why will people all over the world be astonished at the beast? (17:8)
413. What do people need in light of the events that are coming? (17:9)
414. How did the angel explain the seven heads of the beast? (17:9-11)
415. How did the angel explain the ten horns that covered the beast? (17:12)
416. What action will the ten kings take and what will be the result? (17:13-14)
417. What was the significance of the waters that John saw the woman sitting on? (17:15)
418. What is the relationship between the beast, the ten kings, and the prostitute? (17:16-18)