

# The Beast, The Whore, The Bride & The Groom



Revelation 12-19

# Revelation 12:1-6 The Woman & Dragon

## Act 2: After the Seventh Trumpet

- Setting: Heaven moving to Earth.
- The Woman with the Sun, Moon and Crown: Giving Birth (12:2)
- The Red Dragon (Satan), with his tail he sweeps a third of the stars down from heaven. He opposes the Woman (12:3-4)
- The Child: Identified as Jesus, was caught up to Heaven. The Woman Retreats into the wilderness. (12:5-6)

# Revelation 12:7-12 The Heavenly War



Michael and His Angels declare war on the Dragon

Satan is Cast Down with his minions

Heaven Rejoices: “Now Salvation the of our Christ has come”

# Revelation 12:13-17 The Woman & The Dragon Part 2

The Dragon Pursues her and the earth aids the woman. The earth opens its mouth to swallow the water that the Dragon intends to destroy her with.

The Dragon then pursues her children, attempting to make war with them.

# Discussion Question #1

Koester notes that the woman in labor should be understood as the people of God, and notes, “Christian readers might naturally identify her with Mary... By the end of the chapter, however, it becomes clear that the woman is the mother of all believers...” (123)

Is this interpretation of the woman valid? Why or why not?

# Revelation 13: The Beasts



- The Beast from the Sea (13:1-10): 10 Horns and 7 Heads and 10 Diadems. It was worshipped, given authority to conquer and was utterly blasphemous. Everyone worshipped it except those who were found in the Book of Life.
- The Beast from the Land (13:12-18): Two horns like a lamb. Speaks like the dragon. It is authoritative over the first beast and causes the people to worship it.
- The second beast is shown to be a false prophet. Performs wonders and signs.
- The mark: 666

# Revelation 14: Praise, Judgment and Harvest



# 14:1-5 The New Song

- Setting: Mount Zion (Heavenly)
- The Lamb and the 144,000 redeemed.
- Marked with the name of God
- Singing a new song only they were taught.
- They are called virgins who did not defile themselves.

# Revelation 14:6-13 - The Reminder

- 3 Angels
- 1st: Reminder to fear God and keep his Commandments because his Judgment has come.
- 2nd: Fallen is Babylon the Great
- 3rd: Final Warning: His judgment is now, time's up!

# Revelation 14:14-20 - The Harvest

- 2 Harvests: 1 for the righteous and one for the sinful.
- One like the son of man is given sickles by two angels and told to reap the earth because the harvest was ripe. This reaping was positive.
- The next harvest was for the unrighteous.

# Discussion Question #2:

In light of Chapters 12 and 13, concerning the Beasts, how do these chapters relate back to our ongoing discussion of Rome and its conquering nature? Are the Beasts representatives of actual people, or should they be understood as a symbol of Roman power? Could they be both?

# Revelation 15-16

## God's Final Judgment



# Proclamation of God's Judgment

- 15:1 - "...seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished."
- Praises offered to God and the lamb. (15:2-4)
- Heaven is opened and the angels emerge with 7 bowls. (15:5-8)

# Revelation 16: The Bowls of Wrath

- Bowls 1-4 mirror trumpets 1-4.
- Bowl 5 plagues the Beast mirroring trumpet 5 with the Destroyer.
- Bowl 6 (again like the trumpet) describes a massive army
- Bowl 7 God's wrath is finished in a mighty earthquake.

# Revelation 17

## The Whore of Babylon



# Who/What is this Whore?

- “The Great Prostitute”
- “Seated on many waters”
- Seated on the 7 Headed Beast
- The woman was clothed like royalty
- Her name: “Babylon the Great, the mother of Prostitutes and of earth’s abominations.”
- The Seven Heads are the Seven Mountains where the Woman is seated. (Rome)

# Conflict of Evil

- “Who was and is not and is to come”  
(Contrasting God who was, and is, and is to come)
- 7 horns are 7 kings.
- 10 horns are also 10 kings (who have yet to receive power)
- The Kings will make war on the Prostitute
- Evil self destructs.

# Revelation 18: The Fall of Babylon



## Two Parts to Chapter 18:

### 1. Babylon's Funeral 1-8

- It is now pictured as a gruesome haunt.

### 1. Babylon is Mourned 9-24

- Such a powerful city brought to ashes.

# Revelation 19:1-10

## Praise and Marriage



# Revelation 19:1-5 Wrath Completed

- The rejoice at the salvation brought to them by God.
- They also rejoice in the torment of the Prostitute who now suffers.
- We see again the elders and the creatures bowing and praising God.

# Revelation 19:6-10

## The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

After all the judgment, the Bride (the Church) is ready for her husband (The Lamb Jesus)

The Lamb has Triumphed

# Carey: Dragon Myth and Imperial Ideology

Shows that Dragon/monster stories of Greco-Roman and Oriental traditions were common place for John's audience. If read in context (especially ch.12-15), he shows that an emperor slaying a dragon or some other kind of beast is a common myth surrounding the rulers of that time. Revelation however depicts the emperor as the dragon and shows that God will defeat it... making sure no one else can claim the title of deity.