

# Book of Revelation—Revelation 17—Addendum

## Part A -Jehovah Keeps His Covenant

## Part B -Mystery of Godliness & Mystery of Iniquity-What's the Relationship?

### Series REV-45

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#### ADDENDUM

##### PART A

Jesus as Jehovah Keeps His Covenant with His people.

In the Revelation, ultimately, this great prophetic book is written for the individual members of the church of the Lord Jesus. This fact is again brought to view in the study of Rev 17. The glorious promise of victory given in each of the messages to the seven churches is addressed to the individual: “To *him* that overcometh...” (Rev 2:7, 11, 26; 3:5,12, 21). Seven times in chapters two and three we read: “*He* that hath an ear, let *him* hear.” Note that we do not read this expression anywhere else in the Apocalypse except in Rev 13:9. Hence, the messages to the seven churches are of the utmost importance. This confirms our belief that Rev 13:9 also contains an important message for the individual believer at the time to which we are directed in that prophecy.

In connection with this expression, calling upon each believer to give ear, is the solemn statement in verse 8: “*all that dwell upon the earth* shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” The connection between this prophecy and that given in Rev 17 may be readily discerned by comparing this verse with Rev 17:8—

Rev.13:

V.8—“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names Are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Rev.17:

V.8—“And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.

Let us keep in mind that, “*there is one great central truth to be kept ever before the mind in the searching of the Scriptures—Christ and Him crucified. Every other truth is invested with influence and power corresponding to its relation to this theme.*” {7A BC 458.1} Let us not forget that the Testimony of Jesus includes Rev 17.

The information for this Addendum was adapted from Louis Were’s book, *The Woman and the Beast in the Book of Revelation*.

## PART B – Mystery of Godliness vs. Mystery of Iniquity

Mysteries regarding iniquity are mentioned in Rev. 17: “Upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT.” Later the angel tells John, “I will tell thee the *mystery* of the woman and of the beast that carrieth her” (5, 7). Both the woman and also the beast are involved with this mystery.

The two great mysteries revealed in the Scriptures:

- 1) “The Mystery of Godliness” (1 Tim. 3:16);
- 2) “The Mystery of Iniquity (2 These 2:7)

There is a relationship with these to the mysteries of Rev. 17. There is an underlying principle governing the understanding of these messages in the book of Revelation. Just as we have already seen how Jesus as Jehovah keeps His covenant with His people, so the people of God should recognize that when the “mystery of iniquity” is referred to it is intended that they consider the bearing it has upon “the mystery of Godliness”. The Apocalypse places the contending forces in opposition, and this is done in such a way that when one is under consideration the other will naturally present itself to the thoughtful reader.

The essence of “the mystery of iniquity” is deception: to make wrong look right; to make error appear truth; to make rebellion counterfeit obedience. In the closing scenes of the great drama of evil, Satan will work more speciously than ever under the guise of a benefactor while leading the world to its doom.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. . . And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils” (GC 589, 590).

Because Satan’s kingdom is a counterfeit of the Lord’s kingdom, the things pertaining to Babylon are described in similar language to those pertaining to the Lord’s kingdom centered in Jerusalem—the church. In both Rev 17:5 and 19:16, we have the titles of both the Lord and His blasphemous counterfeiter written in large capital letters. When reading the title of Babylon or anything else by which it is designated, the reader will loathingly turn away from the counterfeiting system unto the Lord; away from Satan and his errors to Christ. It is not the purpose of the Revelator merely to describe the evil system, but to point to it as the *opposite* of Christ. That this is the basis of the imagery employed in the Revelation is obvious from the declarations concerning God and His people, and the *imitating counterparts* descriptive of Satan and his Babylonian kingdom.

Carefully observe the following facts:

## GOD AND ISRAEL

Rev 1:4, 5 – The Godhead—Father Son, and Holy Spirit.

Rev 1:1; 6:2 –God commissions His Son, and gives Him authority and power (Chain of Command).

Matt 9:17; 1Cor 11:25; DA 279—Wine, true doctrine, vital truths (New Testament).

Rev 5:6 –Christ is likened to a Lamb with seven horns—all power in heaven and in earth.

Rev 22:16 —Jesus means Saviour (cf Matt 1:21)

Rev 5:6 –The Lamb (used 27 times in the Book concerning Christ) cf 14:1.

Rev 14:7 – Worship the Creator. “Worship” is mentioned 24 times in the Apocalypse -12 x concerning God’s people

Rev 22:16 —Jesus, in the Greek, numbers 888

Rev 12 The “woman” —Christ’s church is mentioned 8 times.

Rev 19:16 —The Lord’s title written in large capital letters.

Rev 1:18; 3:7 Keys of death and of hades.

Rev 3:21 —Christ’s “throne”.

Ps. 113:5; Isa 40:18 —“Who is like unto the Lord?”

Rev 5:6 “A Lamb as it had been slain.”

Rev 18; 2:8 —Christ died and lived again.

Rev 1:8 —Jesus: “He which is, and which was, and which is to come.”

Rev 11:17 R.V. drops last term of the above description.

Rev 6:16 —The wrath of the Lamb—comes down with great wrath.

Rev 7:2 —God’s seal.

Rev 7:3 —Seal in forehead.

Rev 14:1 —Contains the name of God.

## SATAN AND BABYLON

Rev 12: 13; 16:13, 19—False Trinity: dragon, beast, false prophet.

Rev 13:2 —The dragon gave the beast his “power, seat, and great authority.”

Rev 14:8; 17:2; 18:3 —Wine, False Doctrine.

Rev 13:11 —False prophet has two horns like a lamb, but speaks later as a dragon—political power controlled by the church.

Rev 9:11 —Apollyon or Destroyer.

Rev 12:7-9; 20:2 —Satan or Adversary.

Rev 13 — The Beast.

Rev 14:9, 11 Not *to worship* the beast. “Worship” is mentioned 12 times concerning Satan’s people.

Rev 13:17, 18 —The Pope’s title, in Latin, numbers 666.

Rev 17:4 —The “woman”—Satan’s church – is mentioned 6 times.

Rev 17:5 —Babylon’s title written in large capital letters.

Rev 9:1 —Key to Bottomless pit.

Rev 2:13; 16:10 “Throne” of Satan.

Rev 13:4 “Who is like unto the beast?”

Rev 13:3 —One of the heads of the beast “as though it had been slain” (see margin)

Rev 13:14 —Beast received stroke of death “and lived” R.V.

Rev 17:8 —Beast “was, and is not”, and is to come out of the bottomless pit.

Rev 17:11 Last term of above description is dropped.

Rev 12:12 —The wrath of the dragon —comes down with “great wrath”.

Rev 13:17 —Beast’s Mark.

Rev 13:16; 20:4 —Mark in forehead or the hand.

Rev 13:17 —Contains the name of the beast

Rev. 7:4 –The tribes of Israel.	Rev 1:7 –The tribes of the earth.
Rev 16:12 –The kings of the east.	Rec. 16:14 –The kings of the earth and of the whole world.
Rev 19:11-14 –The armies of heaven.	Rev 19:19 –The armies of earth.
Rev 21:24-26 –Nations saved.	Rev 16:19; 20:8 –Nations destroyed.
Rev 14: 14-16 –Harvest of grain for Heaven.	Rev 14:17-20 –Harvest of grapes for destruction.
Rev 12:7; 16:14:16; 19:11 –The “war” or “battle” against Satan and his followers.	Rev 12:17; 17:14; 20:8 -The “war” or “battle” against Christ and His people.
Rev 7:1-4; 14: 6-17 –Christ’s messengers come “down” from heaven “above” (See John 3:3, 7 margins; vs. 31)	Rev 11:7; 13:1, 11 –Satan’s messengers come “up” from the earth “beneath”. (See John 8:23)
Rev 18:1 –“Come down from heaven.”	Rev 17:8 “Come up out of the abyss”. (R.V.)
Rev 14:7 –“Fear God.”	Rev 14:8; 18:3 –“The wrath of her fornications”—nations support Babylon through fear; boycott; persecution, etc.
Rev 10:9 –The marriage supper of the Lamb; the triumph and joy of Israel.	Rev 19:17-20 –The supper of the birds; the defeat and death of Israel’s enemies.
Rev 12:17 – God’s remnant.	Rev 19:21 –Babylon’s remnant.
Rev 12; 19:7; 21:10 – The Lamb’s wife.	Rev 17:1, 5, 18 –The harlot of Babylon.
Rev 2:1. etc. –The Lord’s church.	Rev 2:9; 3:9 – <i>The synagogue</i> of Satan.
Rev 21:14 –Apostles of the Lamb.	Rev 2:2 – <i>False apostles</i> .
Rev 11:2; 14:20 –The holy city, Jerusalem —God’s church.	Rev 14:8; 16:19; 18:2 etc. –The unholy city, Babylon—Satan’s church.

The foregoing, which reveal the principle of contrasts by which the things pertaining to “the mystery of Godliness” and those pertaining to “the mystery of Iniquity” are designated, enable us to understand the significance of several statements in Rev. 17—

- Thus, the beast is said to “ascend out of the bottomless pit” or “the abyss”, to indicate the emergence of a Satanic power, in contrast to
- The heavenly messengers which “*come down from Heaven*”(Rev 18:1):
- The power thus represented will be actuated by the spirit which has possessed Satan from the inception of His rebellion against God.

The harlot of Babylon, described in Rev 17, is set forth in contrast to the bride of Christ, described in Rev 12. In Rev 12:17 this “woman” obeys the Commandments of God and has the testimony of Jesus Christ. Thus, by the principle of contrasts, we know that “the great whore”, while professing to be the bride of Christ, does not keep the Commandments of God and does not have the testimony of Jesus Christ; on the contrary, she persecutes those who do obey God and thus bears evidence that she is led by Satan into hatred for Christ and His people.

"The mystery of Godliness: God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim3:16). Jesus, the One equal with God, came down to this world to set an example of perfect obedience to the will of God. The mystery of Godliness is continued in the lives of all who, though buffeted by Satanic hatred, obey all of Heaven's holy Commandments, through the mysterious union of the Divine in the human soul—see Mark 4:11; Ephesians 3:9; 6:19; Col 1:26,27; 4:3; 2:2, to name a few. How men born to sin can be changed to cease from sinning, is a divine mystery.

In Rev 17, both the woman and the beast are associated with mystery—they are agencies through which Satan continues "the mystery of iniquity".

I hope this was an insightful study and one that makes clearer the understanding of this great Book.