

# Book of Revelation – Revelation 17—Judgment of Babylon

Series REV-44A                      -Addendum

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## ADDENDUM

The following insert is from Leslie Hardinge's book, *The Lamb—God's Greatest Gift*, pages 371-375. I decided to do up an addendum, since there is no reason to reinvent the wheel. It will give a picture which is valuable as we study this chapter.

Revelation 17:1, "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and he talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither, I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters." Every Book of the Bible ends in the Book of Revelation. All the illusions, all the symbolism of the Book of Revelation find their roots elsewhere in the Bible. Here is a woman that is called a whore. The characteristic of a whore is that she is not loyal to one husband. She is promiscuous.

In Scripture Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom. He is the husband of the Church. The church is the Bride of Christ. Paul told the Corinthian

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believers, "I would espouse thee unto one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" (II Cor 11:2).

### **The Foundling Loved By God**

Ezekiel 16 is one of my favorite Chapters. I never tire of reading the imagery of this Chapter, and rejoicing in it. Verse 2, "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations." In the sign language of the Scriptures, Jerusalem stands for the capitol of God's people. And say,

nativity was in the land of Canaan. Thy father was an Amorite. Thy mother was a Hittite." What is he saying? Don't trust in a pedigree. Don't say, "We have Abraham to our father." In fact, He says, "Ye are of your father the devil" (John 8:44). That was Christ Who said that. I would blanch a little at saying that, but Christ didn't. He said, "You are of your father, the devil" (Ibid). With the Divine insight that He had he continued, "the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." Now back to Ezekiel 16:4 and 5, "As for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou was not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. None eye pitied thee to do any of these things unto thee, to have compassion on thee. But thou wast cast out into the open field." This child was a filthy unwanted foundling. Thrown out into a field. God is talking to and about Jerusalem. Not much picture here of pride. Nobody wanted that poor child.

Ezekiel 16:6 continues the story, "When I passed by thee, and saw thee [God doesn't put any blinders on.] polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou was in thy blood, Live." "The blood is the life" (Deut 12:23). To state that another way, one could say, "By your own life (in the blood), I saw you were polluted." As has been said a million times, man is his own worst enemy. Self is our greatest enemy. "And when I passed by thee, I saw thee polluted in thine own blood. I said unto thee, when thou wast in thine own blood, Live. Yea, I said unto thee when

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thou wast in thy blood (three times), Live. (vs. 7) And I caused thee to multiply as the bud. Thou didst increase and waxen great and thou art come to excellent ornaments."

Ezekiel 16:8, "Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold thy time was the time of love." Here God has waited for this little foundling girl to grow into maturity, until the time was the time of love. "And I spread my skirt over thee." Exactly what Boaz did to Ruth in Ruth 3:9, put his garment over her. "And I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea I swear unto thee and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine" (Ez 16:8). Paul says in Hebrews 6:17, "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath." He made a Covenant and he made an Oath, that two immutable things, by which God couldn't lie, "He entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becamest mine" (Ez 16:8).

Then what did He do? "Then washed I thee with water; yea, thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil," which is from the fountain for sin and for uncleanness, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. "I clothed thee, [righteousness by faith]. I covered thee ... with [the robe of righteousness] silk and linen. I decked thee with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck, put a jewel in thy forehead . . . a beautiful crown on thy head" (vs. 10-12). These jewels obviously included the seal, the *arabon* (bucksheesh or tip) the signet ring. "And thou wast exceedingly beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom. And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through My comeliness, that I had put on thee, saith the Lord God" (Ez 16: 13, 14). These are examples of righteousness by imputation, righteousness by impartation, and righteousness by faith. God thus clothed her.

Everything that happened to this baby girl, every prosperity of this baby girl was directly dependent on God. Notice the first word of Ezekiel 16:15. "But" "But, thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of thy renown, And pouredst out thy

fornications on everyone that passed by; his it was. And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckest thy high places with divers colours, and playedst the harlot thereupon: ... and of all the things that I gave thee, thou hast taken the jewel and madest thyself images of men. Took My brodered garments . . . thou has set My oil and mine incense before them. verse 19, My meat also, which I gave thee, fine flour, oil, and honey." The "meat" was not flesh, but food. He defines the meat there as fine flour, oil, honey, which I fed thee, set before thee a sweet savor. What did she do with it? Ezekiel 16:20, "Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters thou has borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured." She had slain His children! Whenever the father and the mother move away from God, they offer their sons and daughters as a sacrifice to Molech. Their children are also destroyed. It never fails.

Ezekiel 16:32, "But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband." He then says with disgust in verse 33, "They givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them." This is the picture that the Bible paints of a Christian who has discovered Jesus Christ, and then consciously and deliberately moves away, and uses all the Divine insights and talents and resources, to follow the paths of the evil one.

"Wherefore," verse 35, "O harlot, hear the word of the Lord, (36) Thus saith the Lord God, because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, with all the idols of abominations, by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them; (37) Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. (38) And I will judge thee as women that break wedlock, and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy."

We'll leave Ezekiel now and turn back to Revelation 16:5 "And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art

and wast and shalt be, because Thou hast judged thus, (6) For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink, for they are worthy." Ezekiel was talking about God's people and so is Revelation. People who were called to follow God, but chose to follow the devil. The stories are exactly the same.

Ezekiel goes on in Chapter 16:44, "Behold every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, As is the mother, so is the daughter. (45) Thou art thy mother's daughter, that loatheth her husband and her children; and thou art the sister of thy sisters, which loatheth their husbands and their children. Your mother was a Hittite, and your father was an Amorite. (46) And thine elder sister is Samaria." Ezekiel then goes on to Sodom and others to continue this allegory, with the sign language that He has chosen to use.

With this background, we can get the same message in many other prophetic statements, Isaiah, Jeremiah, other parts of Ezekiel, they all emphasize this same truth. God considers stepping away from His 'Thus saith the Lord', and accepting the authority and the lifestyle and the life principle of anything else as spiritual harlotry.