

The Beast Will Hate the Prostitute and Bring Her to Ruin

17: 16-17

DIG: When does the beast turn on the woman and destroy her? Who will cause the beast and the ten horns to hate and destroy the prostitute? Without the beast realizing it, how does this accomplish the will of Jesus?

REFLECT: Do you believe that all things work together for the good of those who love Him(Romans 8:28)? Have you ever seemingly been destroyed, only to find out later that it was part of God's plan for your betterment? Do you hate every form of false religion as much as the Lord does (Romans 8:9)? Or do you tolerate it? You know, coexist.

As the antichrist consolidates his power, his alliance with the woman, or the one world religion, will not last. Suddenly, at the moment of her greatest triumph, reigning proudly over the peoples of the whole world, she will meet her end. In every land there will be great churches, temples, mosques, shrines and images in her honor. In the schools and homes her humanistic philosophy will be taught and her rituals practiced. Priests, monks and counselors teach the people and receive their gifts. Tax money is poured into the monstrous system and commercial Babylon amply supporting the affluence of religious Babylon. The syncretistic union of all the world's religions will be accomplished.

During the first half of the Great Tribulation, while the beast is attempting to establish his supremacy over the ten kings, he quickly realizes that he can use mankind's religious nature to help implement his own ambitions. Through the special genius of the false prophet, he is soon able to gain a considerable following in many nations through promoting a cultic worship of himself throughout the world. With the lost naturally inclined to humanistic man-worship, it will be easy for the false prophet (using miracles as a means of persuasion) to seduce great multitudes into idolizing the brilliant and charismatic leader who will rise so quickly to world fame.

Then, when he finally achieves his goal of world dominance midway through the Great Tribulation, the leaders of the false religion will undoubtedly hope they will share in the glow of his popularity. But they will no longer be needed. The beast will make them obsolete because the whole world will soon be worshiping him and his image. At that time it will no longer be necessary to use religious go-betweens of any kind, since mankind will openly acknowledge and worship Satan. Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast (13:4).

The beast and the false prophet will quickly let it be known that **they** neither want nor need **the prostitute** anymore. **The beast and the ten horns**, or puppet kings, had probably always resented the power and influence of **the prostitute (17:16a)**. **She** had always gotten more attention than they had. Consequently, **they** will jump at the chance to destroy **their** rival once **the antichrist** gives **his** permission. There had already been a systematic purging against those who love **Jesus**, why not get rid of all religion? No worship will be tolerated except worshipping **the beast**.³⁸¹

Obviously there will be no more room for **the prostitute** and **her** one world religion. **The beast** cannot be god and subject to those who worship **him** at the same time. Someone has to go! **The antichrist** and **his** allies will destroy Mystery Babylon's religious system and anyone opposed to political/commercial Babylon. Apparently there will be no mourning connected with the destruction of **the prostitute**. **They** will confiscate her clothing, gold, and precious stones; **they** will persecute and kill her poor deceived people. The fact that **the beast** will turn on **the prostitute** and **bring her to ruin and leave her naked; eat her flesh and burn her with fire (17:16b)**, is indicative of the intensity and totality of **her** destruction. Nothing will remain of **her**.³⁸²

However, it is ironic that mankind will fulfill **ADONAI's** will even while they oppose it because **the Ruach HaKodesh** will put the idea of destroying **the prostitute** into the hearts of **the antichrist** and **his** henchmen. To accomplish **His** purpose, **God** will agree to give **the beast** and **his** gang **their** power to rule, until **the Lords** words are fulfilled (17:17). **They** will be instruments in **His** hands to accomplish **His** purpose and fulfill **His** words. All of **God's** words, every prophecy of **Christ's** return and the setting up of **His** kingdom will be fulfilled completely.³⁸³

After their release from the Sanhedrin, **Peter** and **John** explained this to the Jews in Jerusalem, saying: **The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against ADONAI and against His Messiah. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this City to conspire against Your holy servant Yeshua, whom You made Messiah, to do what Your power and plan had already determined beforehand should happen (Acts 4:26-28 CJB)**. **God** will use **ten horns** and **the beast** to destroy **the prostitute**. **His** words must be fulfilled, whether mankind means to or not (**Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 24:35**).

God hates every form of false religion and will not tolerate those who seek to rob Him of **His** glory. **I am the LORD; that is My name! I will not yield My glory to another or My praise to idols (Isaiah 42:8)**. Therefore, **the antichrist's** religious empire must be judged and destroyed.