

Understanding the Bible

Lesson Seventeen

God's View of Endtime Christianity

I. What shall be the sign of thy coming?

And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Matthew 24:3

A. Aion: the end of the age

II. A time of extreme deception

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:4-5

A. Deceivers will come under the banner of Christianity

III. Judgment of the great whore

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Revelation 17:1-2

A. Judgment is decreed against someone or something

B. Who is it?

IV. Woman rides a beast

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:3

- A. The beast is the 7-headed, Endtime, world government beast of Revelation 13
- B. This depicts a union of politics and religion

V. Who is the woman?

And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

Revelation 17:18

- A. The woman is a city

VI. What are the waters?

And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Revelation 17:15

- A. A city, yet an international system

VII. The seven heads

And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman (city) sitteth.

Revelation 17:9

- A. Rome: The city of seven hills
- B. Headquarters for a vast international power—the Vatican

VIII. Dressed in purple and red

And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication.

Revelation 17:4

- A. Cardinals wear red
- B. Bishops and archbishops wear purple

IX. Drunken with the blood of thee saints

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Revelation 17:6

- A. The Inquisition (Now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)
- B. John Hus, William Tyndale, Martin Luther
- C. Millions were killed

X. Who is Mystery Babylon?

And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Revelation 17:5

- A. Babylon—The origin of manmade religion

XI. Why is Catholic Church depicted as a harlot?

- A. A church is always portrayed as a woman in scripture
 - 1. The true church is symbolized by a virgin

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:2

- 2. False churches are symbolized as harlots

XII. When did she become a harlot?

And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them.

Judges 2:17

- A. They started believing in the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost as separate persons

XIII. Council of Nicea—325 AD

- A. Formula for baptism changed to reflect belief in more than one God

1. "The early church always baptized in the name of the LORD JESUS until the development of the Trinity Doctrine in the 3rd century. Afterward they were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." - Canney Encyclopedia of Religion, pg 53

XIV. Baptism is a marriage ceremony

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:27

- A. The bride takes the name of the bridegroom during the marriage ceremony
- B. We must take the name to be in the bride

XV. Mother of Harlots

- A. Who are the daughter harlots?

1. Council of Trent: 1545-1563 AD
2. "Protestants did not forsake the mother church's baptism."
 - a) Became the daughter harlots

XVI. Rome calls Protestants daughters

A. Vatican Council II: 1962-1965

1. "We, the Mother Church, are opening our arms to all of our daughters to return home. Anyone who holds to our baptism may return home without being re-baptized."

a) If you have been baptized like they did in the Bible, you have to be re-baptized to join the Roman Catholic Church

XVII. Baptism is the defining issue

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

A. False Christianity baptizes with the phrase Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. This practice was not done one time in the entire Bible

B. True Christianity baptizes in the name of Jesus Christ as was done every time in the New Testament church

XVIII. Remission of sins only available through the name of Jesus

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 24:47

A. Belief in one God and baptism in Jesus name is the cornerstone of true Christianity

XIX. Catholics, Evangelicals Affirm Ties That Bind

- A. "Statement recognizes that all are Christians, seeks to end attempts to convert each other."
1. "In what's being called a historic declaration, evangelicals, including Pat Robertson and Charles Colson, joined with conservative Roman Catholic leaders Tuesday in upholding the ties of faith that bind the nation's largest and most politically active religious groups. They urged Catholics and evangelicals to increase their efforts against abortion and pornography and to lobby for value-laden education, but to no longer hold each other at theological arm's length and to stop aggressive proselytizing of each other's flocks."

a) Indianapolis Star: March 30, 1994

XX. Southern Baptists Embrace Catholics

- A. "National convention overwhelmingly endorses declaration of unity despite theological differences."
1. "Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics can be more than political soul mates, the nation's largest Protestant denomination declared Thursday. In a major step toward ecumenism, the Southern Baptist Convention said born-again believers may be found in all Christian denominations, and endorsed Baptist-Catholic dialogue."

a) Indianapolis Star

b) June 17, 1994

XXI. What about the Muslims?

A. "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."

1. Catholic Catechism, 1994, pgs 242-243

B. One compromise leads to another

1. Quotes from The Global Ethic

a) "We are women and men who have embraced the precepts and practices of the world's religions."

b) "We affirm that a common set of core values is found in the teachings of the religions, and that these form the basis of a global ethic."

c) "There already exist ancient guidelines for human behavior which are found in the teachings of the religions of the world and which are the condition for a sustainable world order."

d) "We must sink our narrow differences for the cause of the world community, practicing a culture of solidarity and relatedness."

C. Attending: Catholic, Protestants, Buddhists, Jews, Wiccans, Zorastrians, Indigenous Peoples, etc.

XXII. What should we do?

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Revelation 18:4

A. Come out of her my people!

B. God has people in the harlot church and in her daughter churches

XXIII. The judgment of the great whore

How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.
Revelation 18:7-8

A. God's judgment will soon fall on false Christianity

XXIV. Peter fulfilled Matthew 28:19

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:19

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
Acts 2:38

A. Jesus is the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

XXV. Jesus is not a member of the Godhead

For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Colossians 2:9

A. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus

XXVI. The name of Jesus is necessary for salvation

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

XXVII. This message to the world!

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:14

XXVIII. Next Week

A. The Future-an overview