

Reflection Questions for Chapter 17

For the next session on March 4th, please read Chapter 17, pages 271-286 in *The Revelation* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: *"Lord Jesus, I give You thanks, For You have kept Your promise to remain with us. In the people with whom we share our lives, we can see Your face. When we need direction, You are there to guide us, if only we follow the signs. When we need encouragement, we can always come to You. In times of painful uncertainty, You remain steadfast in Your love and understanding. Lord, You know my every care and dream; May I remain always with You. Amen."*

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **March 25th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

In this chapter we meet the Harlot (1-6), the Beast (7-11), the Alliance Against the Lamb (12-14), and the Beast and Kings Turn Against the Harlot (15-18).

The seven bowl judgments have been poured out. The angel is about to show John about the final judgment upon the world. Babylon represents the evil world—a history that set itself up against the Lord. The original Babel set itself against God's command, creating their own culture, kingdom, and religion with the goal of independence from God. In Jeremiah 3:6-9 we see the pursuit of other gods, including idols, as harlotry.

The Harlot (1-6)

1. (1-2) We need to stand firm, uniting with other believers. (Eph 4:1-6)) *How can we guard against the creep of secularism into the church and say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..."? (Romans 1:16)*

2. (3-6) Sin makes lofty promises, none of which will be fulfilled. This woman stands in stark contrast with a woman of God. Believers who won't buy into the deceit will be done away with. *Why do you think that Jesus' followers will be targeted? What can this teach us about the world today?*

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The Book of Revelation with Father Andrie

The Beast (7-11)

3. (8) "The beast that you saw existed once but now exists no longer. It will come up from the abyss..." *What do you think it means that the beast was, and is not, and is about to rise from the abyss?*



Seven Hills
The woman is seated on seven hills (17:9; 17:18). Rome had for centuries been known as *the city of seven hills*. In fact the Roman historian Suetonius tells us that there was a yearly festival celebrating the enclosure of the seven hills with the Roman walls.

Rome's Seven Hills
Image: From Wikimedia Commons

4. (8) Those whose names were not written in the book shall be amazed. Those without Christ are blinded, but God gives believers discernment. *What can we do to be sure to remain standing on the rock of Christ?*

The Alliance Against the Lamb (12-14)

5. (12) "they will receive royal authority along with the beast for one hour." *What do you think it means that they will receive power for one hour?*

6. (14) *How are believers described here?* (See also 2 Timothy 3:12 and Matt. 5:10)

The Beast and Kings Turn Against the Harlot (15-18)

7. (17) "God has put into their minds to carry out his purpose..." On pg. 283 the author says, "God inspires evil to destroy evil." *What role is God playing in all of this?* (Is. 46:10, Prov. 19:21 and 21:1)

What else stood out for you in these chapters?

For your personal prayer:

Our role is simple. Be faithful. As we read in Luke 16:10 "The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones." And Philippians 1:9-10 – And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.