

The “Anti-Church” Rev. 17

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 22nd

God wants us to understand His Plan so we can be Prepared! Eph. 5 opens with: *“Be ye therefore followers of God...”* The middle encourages us to *“be filled with the Spirit”* (18) and closes with *“this is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church”* (32,33) The “Mystery of Marriage” is that it’s a picture of our relationship with Christ. The Church or “Bride of Christ” is becoming increasingly “unfaithful”, and is being “wooded” by the god of this world.

(2 Cor. 11:1-3) As of 2012, there are 2.4 billion “Christians” in the world. (34 % people)

According to Barna’s “The State of the Church” 73% of Americans identify as “Christians”, 35% claim to be “Born again”, 31% attend church at least monthly, 23% read the Bible (weekly).

17% are involved in SS or Small group, and only 7% are “Evangelical”

(Defined as: born again, believe they should witness, believe in Satan, Jesus was sinless son of God, Bible is accurate, Salvation is by grace (not good works) and God is the powerful creator.)

Rev. 3:14-18 describe this process of Satanic Seduction in Laodicea and vs 19-22 represents Jesus final warning to the church, calling them to repent.

The very next verse (Rev. 4:1) describe the rapture of the true church.

What happens to all the “religious” people that are left after this? *“the door was shut”* Mt. 25:19

Rev 17:1 *“I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters”*

Characteristics of the “Anti Church”

1. World Wide Rev. 17:14 *“The waters ...are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”*

A. This “church” will break down barriers between beliefs and settle for the “lowest common denominator”. Amos 3:3

B. The current "Ecumenical" movement is paving the way for this!

- 1) The WCC (2005) had a membership of 349 member church groups which together claimed 590 million members in more than 120 countries and 520,000 local congregations.
 - a) The WCC has been engaged in official dialogues with most “faith groups”: Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Humanists, Traditional African Religions and Communists.
- 2) October 1989 Pope Paul gave the Archbishop of Canterbury a ring which he later described as a type of “an engagement ring”.
- 3) In 1986 the Pope met with Dalai Lama, witch doctors, snake handlers from Togo, Hindu gurus from India, and even Protestant Clergy in Assisi, Italy for an unprecedented Prayer meeting. He declared that there were many paths to God.

2. Wealthy. Vs 4 *“Arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold, precious stones and pearls”*

A. Like Laodicia, they’ll equate wealth with “blessing” and success. 1 Tim. 6:5-10

3. Whorish. Vs 2 *“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.”*

A. Compromise leads to corruption!

- 1) Compromised “purity” for “Power”. Vs 5 *“the mother of harlots...”*
- 2) Compromised integrity for influence.

B. The “Beast” will carry this “Church.” Vs 3 *“sit upon the scarlet beast”*

- 1) The “Beast” is the political “System” of the Anti Christ. Rev. 13.
- 2) They will “mutually” use each other for a season. (See 2 Cor. 6:14-17)
 - a) Historically, many godless governments have pressured the church for support.
 - (1) This is what led to the “Dark ages”.
 - (2) This is what’s happening in Jihad!
 - (3) Remember Hitler and Stalin!

C. Politics make strange bedfellows.

- 1) The “Church” will use the Beast! (Power, Possessions, Pride, Positions)
- 2) The Beast will use the “church”. *Can Satan use even “sincere” people for His purposes?*

4. Worldly (Satanic) Rev. 18:2 *“Is become the habitation of devils”*

1Tim. 4:1-3 *“some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...”*

A. Satan will use the anti-Christ and false prophet to seduce people into following him!

2 Thes. 2:7,10 *“the mystery of iniquity doth already work,..”*

B. Once Satan has gained her support, he will eventually turn on her. *Rev. 17:16,17*

Conclusion: Satan is the ultimate counterfeiter.

The Holy Trinity: Father , Son, and Holy Spirit vs The Unholy Trinity: The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. (Rev. 16:13,14)

The “Holy Bride of Christ” Rev. 19,21 vs. The “Unholy whore” of the Antichrist. Rev. 17

Application:

2 Th 2:7-8 *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now letteth will let (katech’ō: holds down or back) until He be taken out of the way. Then shall that Wicked be revealed”*

**What’s God waiting for?
Maybe He’s waiting for You!**

2 Peter 3:9-12

*“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance...
But the day of the Lord will come...
Seeing then that all these shall be dissolved,
what manner of persons ought ye to be?
looking for the coming of the day of God”*

