

# *Trinity Bible Church*

*The Carpenter's House*

**April 19, 2020**

## **The Mark of the Beast**

### **Announcements:**

- \*\* Some have asked about how to give their offerings. You can mail them to Roger Mueller, 13225 St. Andrews Dr., OKC, OK 73122 or make them online through our website. It is safer to contribute in this manner than mailing your offering to the church.**
- \*\* We are going to continue to record the classes early and have them ready for Sunday morning, until further notice.**
- \*\* A new dimension of the website has been added which are podcasts. Go to: [tbcokc.org](http://tbcokc.org) then the "Resources" tab. You will see a link to "Podcast Development" where the Revelation and Coming Events series have been added. You can also go to the "Vimeo" link and get the video of these classes and 25 other studies.**

	March	Total 2020	General Fund	Building Fund	Missions 2020
<b>Income</b>	\$ 7,761.00	\$ 24,013.00		\$ 45,629.42	\$1,200.00
<b>Expenses</b>	7,470.38	25,170.70		Missions Bal	1,200.00
<b>Balance</b>	\$ 290.62	\$ -1,157.70	\$19,965.31	\$11,321.95	\$ 0.00

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**Religious Babylon**

**Revelation 17:1-7**

## Coming Events: Personalities of the Tribulation

- A. The 144,000.
- B. The Two Witnesses.
- C. Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire:
  - 1. Names:
  - 2. Personality:
  - 3. Reasons for his rise to power:
  - 4. He is an individual who lived prior to the Apostle John. Rev 11:7; 13:3,12,14; 17:8,11
  - 5. The Anti-Christ consolidates the old Roman Empire. Rev 17:10-11
  - 6. He is a special enemy of Jesus Christ as a counterfeit Messiah. Dan 7:25; 8:25; 2 Thes 2:4,11
  - 7. The "Mark of the Beast:" Rev 14:9, 11; 13:16, 17; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4
    - a. The words "and" and "or" are key to properly understanding the "Mark."
    - b. The intent of the Mark is control. Rev 13:16-17  
 13:16-17 C.T./L.T. = *And he tries to make all the small and the great, and the rich and the poor and the free men and the slaves that there may be given to them a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead. <sup>17</sup>In order that no one may be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.*
      - 1). The "Mark" is instituted with the establishment of the idol in the Temple. Rev 13:14-15 cf. 2 Thes 2:8
      - 2). The "Mark" consists of the Beast's name or number branded on the forehead or right hand or both. Rev. 14:9,11; 13:16,17; 20:4
      - 3). The "Mark" is designed to control all social, economic, religious and political strata of society.
      - 4). The "Mark" will bring with it a promise from a self-proclaimed divine being, probably offering godhood. Cf. Acts 17:29
      - 5). It is reasonable to suppose that the Antichrist and False Prophet will claim that the 144,000 have the "Mark of the Beast," and what they offer is the true "mark of God." Cf. Rev 7:3; 14:1
      - 6). The "Mark" is never universal, as evidenced by the 144,000, but it is the Beast's objective.
      - 7). To worship the Beast requires receipt of the "Mark," so to deny the "Mark" instantly places one in religious and physical jeopardy.
    - c. If a person chooses to worship the beast and his image, in addition to taking the "Mark," he will face the wrath of God being poured out on earth. Rev 14:9b-11

- 1). The third point of the angelic sermon is "Don't take the mark."
  - 2). This condemnation is for a threefold acceptance of the Antichrist: to worship him, his image and, take the "Mark."
  - 3). The Lord and His Holy Angels do not go to hell to watch torment, so they are watching this judgment on earth in time.
  - 4). The Lord earlier promised a "fire and brimstone" judgment on earth. Isa 34:1-10
  - 5). Special blessings are promised for those who refuse the "Mark" and die as a result. Rev 14:12-13
- d. The First Bowl Judgment targets those who worship the Beast and take the "Mark." Rev 16:2
- 1). This is a selective plague.
  - 2). The skin disease resembles the Sixth Plague on Egypt that was to judge Imhotep, the god of medicine. Cf. Exo 9:9-11
  - 3). The description is only one growing sore per person.
  - 4). It is reasonable that a "resurrected" man from the past would claim a formula for eternal health, since he had overcome the "plague of death." Cf. Rev 13:3
- e. People who worship the Image of the Beast and take the "Mark" are said to be "deceived." Rev 19:20
- 1). Jesus warned against being deceived by false Messiahs. Matt 24:4-5
  - 2). He also warned against being deceived by false prophets. Matt 24:11
  - 3). He also said that even the "elect" could be deceived. Matt 24:24
  - 4). Being deceived does not negate discipline, but it usually indicates that grace is not far away.
- f. No one will be saved who has worshipped the Beast or his image AND takes the Mark on BOTH his hand AND forehead. Rev 20:4-6
- 1). This judgment takes place at the outset of the Millennium and involves the Resurrection of the Old Testament saints and the Tribulational martyrs. Dan 12:1-3
  - 2). The ones who do the judging are the "overcomers," who have won the victory by grace through faith. Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 4:4
  - 3). Those of the First Resurrection will reign with the Lord for 1,000 years, although it will be in varying degrees based on personal rewards.
  - 4). Evidence exists that someone could take the mark of the Beast and still be saved.
    - a) God's Plan has forever revolved around Grace.
    - b) The Gospel is the same forever. Rev 14:6

- c) **This is not a time frame when loss of salvation could occur as an angel proclaimed an eternal gospel at the outset of the Tribulation. Cf Rev 14:6**
  - c) **There is still a call to repent. Rev 9:20-21; 16:9,11**
  - d) **God's promise of salvation is for "everlasting life" which means that it cannot be lost, and is received by grace through faith. John 3:16; Eph 2:8-9**
- 5). **The possibility exists that a Tribulational individual could take the mark on the hand OR the head, worship the beast or his image, believe and be saved, then die as a martyr and be resurrected for the Millennium with no rewards.**
  - 6). **If a person accepts the Mark in BOTH places it indicates that he has accepted the Beast's religion (forehead) and entered into service to him (hand). It means he has fully embraced the Beast's lies.**
  - 7). **No one who takes the "Mark" in BOTH places will be saved otherwise they would be resurrected for the Millennium which will not happen according to direct statement.**
  - 8). **It is not that they cannot be saved but rather prophesies that no one who takes the "Mark" in BOTH places will choose to believe.**
  - 9). **Believers who take the "Mark" will undergo unprecedented temporal discipline due to the clarity of the command.**
  - 10). **Unbelievers with or without the "Mark" will end up in the Lake of Fire after their destruction as "goats."**

#### **D. The False Prophet**

## **Revelation 17:1-13**

### **Following the Beast**

#### **Section D—The Things Which Will Be 4:1–22:5**

#### **13. Religious and Economic Babylon 17:1-18**

#### **a. Following the Beast 17:1-13**

#### **17:1 = John's Invitation**

**L.T. = And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me saying, "Come on. I shall show you the judgment of the great prostitute who sits on many waters,**

#### **17:2 = The Harlot's Activities**

**L.T. = with whom the kings of the earth fornicated and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**

#### **Summary:**

- 1. A harlot is one who tempts with lust for personal gain.**
- 2. More than one harlot is in view as verse five talks about the "mother of the harlots."**
- 3. "Babylon the Great" is made up of two different end-time entities which comprise the "Great Harlot." Cf. 14:8; 18:2**
- 4. The kings of the earth have accepted the harlots' offers, which indicates an ongoing action before destruction.**
- 5. "Sitting on many waters" indicates influence over nations.**
- 6. This woman makes the inhabitants of the nations drunk with lust for what she has to offer.**
- 7. She then peddles her influence to kings.**
- 8. The wine refers to her doctrines.**
- 9. Fornication begins in the mental attitude and is warned against multiple times in the Scriptures. 1 Cor 6:18; 7:2; 2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:3; Rev 2:21; 9:21; 14:8**

#### **17:3 = A Woman**

**L.T. = And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names having seven heads and ten horns.**

#### **Summary:**

- 1. This "Beast" is the Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. Cf. Rev 11:7; 13:1,2,3,4; 17:7-8**
- 2. The "scarlet" indicates his kingship.**

3. The “woman” is historical Rome's worldview that began at the Tower of Babel. Cf. Gen 11:1-9; 1 Pet 5:13; Rev 17:9
4. The Beast does not hate the woman (the worldview) but the harlot (cf. 17:16) who is a tangible offspring of the woman (cf. 17:5).
5. Worldviews begat followers and wrong worldviews begat enemies within those worldviews.
6. The “heads” refer to kingdoms and kings who were anti-Israel and anti-Elohim. Cf. 17:12
7. The “horns” are power bases or nations of the seventh head. Cf. 17:12
8. The “woman” has both a religious and political side.
9. The Beast, a self-proclaimed god, will carry on the religious and political sides of the Roman Empire.
10. The “blasphemous names” are her claims to deity and messiahship.

#### **17:4 = Her Clothing**

**L.T. = And the woman kept being clothed in purple and scarlet, and kept being gilded with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her fornication.**

#### **Summary:**

1. The religious part of this system has accumulated massive wealth and will keep doing so in the Tribulation.
2. The two harlots she spawned in this context have done the same.
3. It has done so by misrepresenting God's plan, just as the Pharisees did. Luke 16:15; Matt 23:10-39
4. Before God this is “unclean.”
  - a. It is purely ritual without any reality of soul for the appreciation of The God.
  - b. It is morally corrupt and gains fame, fortune, power and pleasure while sacrificing godly principles.
5. Her “cup” contains doctrines that lead to spiritual fornication.
6. Many of the roots of Roman Catholicism can be traced back to the Tower of Babel.
7. This however does not mean that all Catholics are unbelievers, but that the organizational structure is in place to unify the false church since the true one was taken at the Rapture.
8. Members of the Catholic Church who have trusted Jesus Christ alone for their salvation will also be taken at the Rapture.

### **17:5 = The Historical Roots**

**L.T. = And upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."**

#### **Summary:**

- 1. "Mystery" describes the title but is not a part of it.**
- 2. Since it is a "mystery" analytical thought is required.**
- 3. It is called "Babylon" due to the confusion within it that has been spread to others.**
- 4. It is called "Great" because of the extent of its influence and long history.**
- 5. The fact that Historical Babylon during the period of the captivity of Israel (586-516 B.C.) was one of the seven "heads" rules out the possibility of it being the "woman." It can't be both the "head" and the "woman."**
- 6. Therefore, the "woman" is the viewpoint of the Tower of Babel that was passed through the Seven Heads.**
- 7. The "harlots" refer to those who have followed the viewpoint and attacked Israel as a result.**
- 8. This includes Religious and Economic Babylon of the end-times.**
- 9. Nimrod was the first post-flood human to promote this viewpoint.**  
**Cf. Gen 10:8-9**
- 10. Nimrod was at the head of ancient Shinar (Sumer) and was known as Etana.**
- 11. His wife Semiramus became the head of a cult that deified Nimrod after his death.**
- 12. According to legend:**
  - a. She gave birth to a son named Tammuz. Mentioned in Ezekiel 8:14**
  - b. He was to be a savior.**
  - c. Idols were made picturing the baby in his mother's arms.**
  - d. These idols exist in all civilizations.**
  - e. A priesthood oversaw the rites of the mother-son cult.**
  - f. Tammuz also became the husband of his mother Semaramus.**
- 13. From ancient Sumer, the cult spread to many nations:**
  - a. Egypt–Isis and Osiris**
  - b. Assyria–Ashtaroth and Baal**
  - c. Babylon–Ishtar and Bel**
  - d. Persia–Anahita and Mithra**
  - e. Greece–Artemis (Latin: Diana) and Bacchus-Zeus**
  - f. India–Isi and Iswara**
  - g. China–Shing Moo (Holy Mother) and many others.**

14. Israel fell under discipline for following the "Queen of Heaven" which was patterned after this cult Jer 44:17-18,25; 7:18
15. The original cult spawned other systems of religious harlotry.
16. A summary of the symbols:
  - a. Woman = viewpoint of the Tower of Babel
  - b. Harlots = kingdoms accepting that viewpoint
  - c. Great Harlot = focal points of the Babylonian viewpoint in the last generation
  - d. Beast = Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire
17. A power play will pit harlot against harlot.

#### **17:6 = The Reason for Judgment**

L.T. = And I saw the woman drinking wine from the blood of the saints and from the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And having seen her, I wondered a great wondering.

#### **Summary:**

1. Throughout history the Babylonian viewpoint has persecuted the saints.
2. Specifically, that worldview will play a role in the motivation that murders both Church Age and Tribulational saints.
3. This woman's "doctrine" dictates this massacre.
4. The viewpoint persists through the Revived Roman Empire even after the particular organizational structures of these two harlots is destroyed. Cf. 16:6
5. They are killing Believers in the name of "Christianity."
6. After all, they claim to be the "real" church. After the Rapture, they will be quite angry that they have been "left behind." Cf. John 16:2-4
7. John's amazement is at least twofold:
  - a. How this false Christianity could exist.
  - b. The extent and magnitude of the viewpoint.

#### **17:7 = The Angel's Response**

L.T. = And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and ten horns."

#### **Summary:**

1. The angel informs John that these symbols can be identified.
2. The Beast carries the Woman, which denotes the human agents that are used in spreading this false doctrine.
3. For a period of time, the Dictator caters to the two harlots.