"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
REVELATION 17:1-11

November 1, 2026

Last Week: The Sixth and Seventh Bowl Judgments—"And they blasphemed God"

Today: Beauty and the Beast

OUTLINE:

- 17:1-6, Introduction of Beauty (Babylon) and the Beast
- 17:7-11, Explanation of Beauty (Babylon) and the Beast

17:4/ The woman Babylon: "Holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality."

"Whatever is used by the world to turn believers away from their God is in this cup: pornographic literature, sports in which one becomes completely absorbed, luxuries, worldly fame and power, the lusts of the flesh, and so on…it includes things that are bad in themselves ***as well as*** *things which become bad because one does not view them as a means but an end in themselves…" Beware of "playing the harlot!"* - William Hendricksen

17:5/ "Mystery: Babylon the great…drunk with the blood of the saints…the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

The ancient false beliefs of Babylon even penetrated the church (RCC):

1. Isis—"Queen of Heaven" and Horus (worship of a virgin and a child)
2. Sins must be purged after death (purgatory)
3. The dead must aid the living in their prayers (praying to the saints)
4. Repetitive sacrifices (the Mass)

Who or What is Babylon and the Beast in Rev. 17?

1. Preterist ***(past)***:
    a. Babylon: Jerusalem (Is. 1:21) or Rome (1 Pet. 5:13)
    b. The Beast: The Roman Empire
2. Historicist ***(timeline)***:
    a. Babylon: The False Church of Rome (Roman Catholic Church)
    b. The Beast: The political powers that cooperate with the Roman Catholic Church
3. Idealist (***spiritual***):
    a. Babylon: A symbol of spiritual unfaithfulness.

    "That which allures, tempts, seduces and (uses) all things to turn people away from God…it symbolizes the concentration of the luxury, vice, and glamour of this

world. (Babylon) is the world viewed as the embodiment of 'the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life…' Babylon is past, present, and future. Its form changes; its existence remains. Therefore we conclude that the (harlot) represents the world as the center of anti-Christian seduction at any moment of history." - William Hendrickson

   b. The Beast: Any power that opposes God and persecutes His people.
4. Futurist (***future***):
   a. Babylon: A one-world religion or system allied with the Antichrist (RCC, apostate churches, all false religions opposed to God); ***all of it related*** to ancient Babylon. Babylon is also a city; it is most likely Rome or a literal rebuilt city of Babylon, Iraq.
   b. The Beast: The Antichrist, as well as the powers (or empire) that support him.

17:9-11/ Seventh Bowl: Widespread Destruction

What are the seven heads/mountains and the seven kings?

1. Preterist ***(past):***
   a. Seven Heads/Mountains: Rome, "the City on the Seven Hills"
   b. Seven Kings: Seven emperors of Rome
2. Historicist (***timeline***):
   a. Seven Heads/Mountains: Rome, "the City on the Seven Hills"
   b. Seven Kings: The seven forms of government under the Roman Empire (e.g., kings, military tribunes, Caesars, etc.)
3. Idealist ***(spiritual***):
   a. Seven Heads/Mountains: World powers that oppose God and oppress God's people
   b. Seven Kings: Rulers that oppose God and oppress God's people
4. Futurist ***(future)***:
   a. Seven Heads/Mountains: Rome, "the City on the Seven Hills"
   b. Seven Kings: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and "the one not yet come"- the empire of the Antichrist (Revived Roman Empire), - while the eighth king may be the Antichrist himself?