

BBC 10/20/24-AM – HBS – “The Two Cities” – Rev. 17:1,15-18; 21:9-10

In the latter chapters of the book of [Revelation](#), 2 of the 7 angels who had just poured out the last 7 plagues of God’s purging wrath upon the earth ([ch.15](#)), reveal to John “*two cities*” (*organized authorities*). In [ch.17](#) one of the angels reveals a “*great whore*” as a ‘city’ that sits upon “*many waters*,” who’s judgement is described in [ch.18](#). In [ch.21](#) another angel reveals a “*great city*” described as the “*bride*” & “*Lamb’s wife*” who descends upon the earth from heaven. – *Below are some definitions to help understand the symbolic language:*

Great Whore= a false and deceptive religious system which throughout time has countered & opposed God’s truth. She is carried by the “**Beast**” (*the Antichrist*), aided by the “**False Prophet**” & the **Beast’s 10 earthly kings**.
Many waters= the world’s populations; “*the peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues,*” ([17:15](#)).
Bride/Lamb’s Wife= The glorified raptured Church, still in heaven, who after the Wrath of God (*trumpet & bowl judgments*), the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the judgments of the **Beast**, **False Prophet**, & finally the **Dragon** (*who is Satan*, [ch.19-20](#)), is revealed from heaven. In [ch.21](#) the ‘Bride/Lamb’s Wife’ is described as a great holy city called the ‘**New Jerusalem**’ descending from heaven onto a totally purged new earth.

In [Revelation ch.17](#), a warning is revealed of the Devil’s treachery; in that after the Beast’s 10 confederate kings are done with the Whore’s usefulness in polluting of the world, they turn on her to destroy her ([v.15-17](#)). **Jesus** had previously similarly warned in [Matthew 7:6](#), “*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn to rend you.*”

Discussion: 1) Should sinners view Satan as an ally who will be as loyal to them as they loyally trusted him?
2) [Matt. 7:6](#) is normally understood as an instruction to move on and not waste excess time preaching the Gospel to those who refuse to hear ([Mk 6:11](#)). But in light of [Rev 17:15-17](#), in that the Devil uses them and turns on his own, how secure should a sinner feel in his sin?

The Devil who causes men to stumble (*sin*), and then turns to accuse them before God ([Rev. 12:9-10](#)), has been at his craft since the beginning and will continue his deceptive work of destruction until his end:

1. Pre-Flood: 1) Satan promised Eve with assurances that she would benefit from following his deceptive suggestions in disobedience to God ([Genesis 3:1-6](#)). 2) Satan filled men with self-justified pride and violence ([Gen. 4:23-24](#)). 3) Satan’s demons crossed God’s forbidden barrier in order to prevent the perfect “Seed of the woman” from ever coming ([Gen. 3:15, 6:1-8](#)). They polluted the human genetic pool to try and prevent the ‘Son of Man’ (*Savior*) from coming as a human in sinless perfection in order to be able to redeem mankind.

2. Post-Flood: Inspired by Satan, Nimrod ([Gen. 10:8-10; 11:3-4](#)), is the father of all false religions that teach men they may “*reach heaven*” by their own power. As Nimrod attempted to reach God-status through a tower, so modern men strive to achieve “religious options” apart from Christ through their own polytheistic idolatrous imaginations, “New Age” cults, and their own salvation through spiritual inventions of religious syncretism.

3. End-time Church Age: As seen in the Old Testament by the principal false deities who plagued Israel (Baal, Molech, Ashtoreth...), the Devil creates his own end-time polytheistic unholy ‘trinity’ to oppose the Church; the Dragon, the Antichrist (*referred to in Revelation as the “Beast”*), and his miraculous False Prophet.

In every era, Satan’s strategy has been to alienate mankind from the One true and holy God by rendering man sinfully contaminated and unacceptable to Him. This is clearly seen in our modern world now, more than ever:

1. Evolution: Man’s origin is not from God with an eternal divine purpose. Man is merely the result of animal life evolution. Therefore, as any animal, man can be controlled, prevented, bred, aborted, euthanized, etc.

2. Sexual Obsession: Mankind is entitled to be unhindered in any & every lustful passion and carnal desire. Therefore, men & women don’t need a piece of ‘marriage’ paper to authorize their sexual intimacy. Men ought to be free to experience sexual and psychological pleasures through unrestricted behavior, drug use, lifestyles.

3. Gender rebellion: God cannot dictate who we are ‘inside.’ “Assigned” birth-genders can be freely rejected and changed at will, and at any age without anyone’s consent. Men can even identify and decide to become any variation or combination of genders, and even as the non-human animals we allegedly evolved from.

Discussion: 1) What clear comparisons can we draw between the two ‘cities’ from [Rev. chpts.17 & 21-22](#)?
2) If the origin of Satan’s deception is spiritual, then what deliverance does the Bible teach us?
3) Is it wiser to believe the treacherous Devil, or the faithful God who loves, cannot lie, & always makes a way of escape? See: [Titus 1:2](#); [James 4:7](#); [1 Cor. 10:13](#); [John 3:16; 8:32,36](#)