

December 25–31. Revelation 15–22: “He That Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things”

War Against the Saints of God

John gives us an image of a woman luxuriating in all the wickedness and pleasures of the world. She is intent on corrupting the nations of the world, and warring against the Saints of God

Rev 17:1-6

[1] And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

[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.

[3] So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having even heads and ten horns.

[4] And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

[5] And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

[6] And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

What are some of the characteristics of this “mother of... abominations?”

She “sitteth upon many waters”

She is arrayed with all the desires of the world

She is in league with wicked kings of the earth, “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication”

She is “drunken with the blood of the saints”

Stephen E. Robinson

"It appears in Revelation that the beasts, the image of the beast, and its horns represent kingdoms or governments, while the symbol of the unvirtuous woman represents false religion, false beliefs and ideologies that often capture and motivate governments." ("**Warring against the Saints of God," Ensign, Jan 1988**)

[I recommend you read this whole article]

Note that one of the names written in her forehead is “Babylon the Great”. She is often referred to as the Whore of Babylon.

Hugh Nibley states that Babylon is the anti-zion and exists at different times in different places

Hugh Nibley

“Babylon, like Zion, is a real society—a type, place, and environment of human existence, described in the scriptures with great clarity and precision... Though Babylon is vividly described by the prophets, the best way to define her is as the exact opposite of Zion in all things. Babylon is just as pure in its way as is Zion; it is pure evil...

"Babylon is the culmination of the worldly power wherever it happens. Through the ages, that power has actually culminated in just such world centers as ancient Babylon. Rome itself was entirely eligible for the name. The church of Rome called itself ‘the church that is at Babylon’ (1 Peter 5:13)... And in the last days we must have a Babylon, too. For the call has gone forth, ‘Go ye out of Babylon’ (D&C 133:7)." (Approaching Zion, pg. 16, 30)

Compare John’s vision with Nephi’s vision

1 Nephi 14:10-13

[10] ... whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.

[12] And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters...

[13] And it came to pass that I beheld that the great mother of abominations did gather together multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God.

What are some similarities with the cunningly wicked woman described by John?

She also called the “mother of abominations”

She is everywhere on the earth, “sat upon many waters”

In league with the nations of the Gentiles, “did gather together multitudes”

Persecutes and murders the church, “fight against the Lamb”

In what ways do principalities of the world work with, or are controlled by the “mother of abominations”?

Bruce R. McConkie

To a greater or lesser degree, as the case may be, all of the governments of the earth are in league with the great whore in that, from time to time, they do such things as:

- Prohibit the worship of God;
- Enact laws defining religious beliefs and prescribing forms of worship;
- Maintain state-supported, false systems of religion;

- Deny freedom of religious belief to all their citizens;
 - Impose the religious beliefs of conquerors upon conquered people;
 - Permit the mingling of religious influence with civil government;
 - Foster one religious society and proscribe another;
 - Deny to men their inherent and inalienable rights;
 - Fail to guarantee the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life;
 - Enact laws which curtail the agency of man;
 - Require the teaching of false principles in their educational systems;
 - Deny the representatives of certain churches the right to teach their doctrines or proselyte among their people; and
 - Fail to punish crime and protect the rights of their citizens, particularly unpopular minority groups.
- (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:553-554.)

What I get from this is that the “mother of abominations” is an evil entity – the anti-zion – filling the earth with worldly desires, false beliefs, and evil practices. And the beast with it's horns represent the governments and institutions that support her or are controlled by her

But the Church of God will overcome the Mother of Harlots and the wicked powers of and influences of the earth

Rev 17:12-14

[12] And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

[13] These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

[14] These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Compare with Nephi’s vision

1 Nephi 14:14-15

[14] And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory.

[15] And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon that great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth.

Compare with Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

Daniel 2:44-45

[44] And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a

kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

[45] Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold...

It would seem that the establishment of Zion will correspond with the destruction of Babylon

Rev 18:1-4,9

[1] And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

[2] And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

[3] For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

[4] And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

[9] And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

George Q. Cannon

“This chapter which I have read in your hearing (Rev 18), contains a series of important predictions concerning Babylon. It is found four chapters after another prediction concerning the restoration of the Gospel [which] says: And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth' (Rev 14:6). The next verse says—'And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication' (Rev 14:8). We would infer from this that one consequence of the preaching of the Gospel, or the declaration of it by this angel that should fly through the midst of heaven, would be the downfall of Babylon.” (JD 22:357)

The Second Coming

John sees that Christ comes and accepts His Church

Rev 19:5-9

[5] And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

[6] And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many

waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

[7] Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

[8] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

[9] And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Who does the wife represent who has made herself ready and will be arrayed in fine linen?

(for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints)

Bruce R. McConkie

"The Bridegroom, who is the Lamb of God, shall come to claim his bride, which is the Church composed of the faithful saints who have watched for his return.... The elders of Israel are now issuing the invitations to the marriage supper of the Lord; those who believe and obey the gospel thereby accept the invitation and shall sit in due course...at the marriage feast."

(DNTC, 3:563-564)

John reviles a vision that appears to be the second coming of Christ

Rev 19:11-16

[11] And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

[12] His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

[13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

[14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

[15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

[16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

JST Rev 19:15 - And out of his mouth *proceedeth the word of God, and* with it he will smite the nations: and he will rule them with *the word of his mouth...*

Why do you think that when the Lord returns He will be clothed all in red?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Having bled at every pore, how red His raiment must have been in Gethsemane, how crimson that cloak!

“No wonder, when Christ comes in power and glory, that He will come in reminding red attire, not only signifying the winepress of wrath but also to bring to our remembrance how He suffered for each of us in Gethsemane and on Calvary!” (CR, April 1987)

The First Resurrection

In the passage we just read it seems that John made reference to the first resurrection in verse 14, “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean”.

John goes into more detail

Rev 20:4-6

[4] And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

[5] But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

[6] Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

What is meant by the first resurrection and when will it take place?

(the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years)

What is meant by the second resurrection and when will it take place?

(rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished)

Bruce R. McConkie

“Two great resurrections await the inhabitants of the earth: one is the first resurrection, the resurrection of life, the resurrection of the just; the other is the second resurrection, the resurrection of damnation, the resurrection of the unjust.... Those being resurrected with celestial bodies, whose destiny is to inherit a celestial kingdom, will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection.....

“At the end of the millennium, the second resurrection begins. In the forepart of this resurrection of the unjust those destined to come forth will be ‘These are the rest of the dead; and they live not again until the thousand

years are ended, neither again, until the end of the earth' (D&C 88:101)."
(Mormon Doctrine, pg. 640)

The Millennium

It states that they will rule with Christ for 1,000 years
John tells us that Satan will be bound for this 1,000 year period

Rev 20:1-3,7-10

[1] And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

[2] And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

[3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

[7] And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
[8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

[9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

[10] And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

What does it mean to bind Satan? How is he bound?

1 Nephi 22:26

And because of the righteousness of his people, Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness, and the Holy One of Israel reigneth.

Bruce R. McConkie

"During the Millennium Satan will be bound. He will still be on earth, attempting to tempt every person, as he has since the Fall of Adam, but he will be bound because no one will hearken to his temptations (1 Ne. 22:26)." (Encyclopedia of Mormonism, Vol.1, DEVILS)

The Judgment

Rev 20:11-15

[11] And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

[12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

[13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

[14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

[15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

What are the "books" that we will be judged from?

D&C 128:7

You will discover in this quotation that the books were opened; and another book was opened, which was the book of life; but the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works; consequently, the books which contained the record of their works, and refer to the records which are kept on the earth. And the book which was the book of life is the record which is kept in heaven

Celestial World

Rev 21:1-7

[1] And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

[2] And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

[3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

[4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

[5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

[6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

[7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Who will be living on this earth when it has been transformed as described by John?

(He that overcometh shall inherit all things)

David O. McKay

"The city, I understood, was [the Savior's]. It was the City Eternal; and the people following him were to abide there in peace and eternal happiness. 'But who were they?' As if the Savior read my thoughts, he answered by pointing to a semicircle that then appeared above them, and on which were written in gold the words: These Are They Who Have Overcome the World--Who Have Truly Been Born Again!" (Cherished Experiences from the Writings of President David O. McKay, pg. 60)