17
CHAPTER

WORKBOOK STUDY COMPANION · REVELATION 17

God Eradicates *Religion*

REVELATION 17

Scripture written out in the NASB95, every question answered in one sentence, cross references, verse-by-verse commentary from three trusted teachers — and for each question, a point of critical thinking and a key question to carry into the week.

Amir Tsarfati
REVEALING REVELATION

John MacArthur
GRACE TO YOU

David Guzik
ENDURING WORD

01 CAPTURE THE SCENE

What do I see?

Using my Bible, reading Revelation 17:1-6 and working through the chapter verse by verse.

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1 How does Psalm 144:7 describe "great waters"? How does Revelation 17:15 describe the "many waters" mentioned in Revelation 17:1?

Psalm 144:7 NASB95

Stretch forth Your hand from on high; Rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, Out of the hand of aliens

Revelation 17:15 NASB95

And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."

IN MY WORDS

In Psalm 144:7 the "great waters" are hostile foreigners David needs rescuing from, and Revelation 17:15 says the harlot's "many waters" are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues — so both pictures mean masses of humanity, not literal oceans.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 17:12-13** "the uproar of many peoples Who roar like the roaring of the seas... The nations rumble on like the rumbling of many waters."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

"Sits on many waters" means her reach is worldwide — she rules over peoples and nations, not one region. This is a real, global, end-times religious system, and the seeds are visible now in interfaith summits and movements that blur the line between Christ and every other faith so no one has to choose.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Scripture interprets its own symbol here in verse 15 — a mercy the reader should not miss. That the harlot sits over "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues" tells us plainly this will be a truly worldwide, one-world religion.

CRITICAL THINKING

The angel does not leave the image to speculation — he decodes it fourteen verses later. When Revelation explains its own symbol, that explanation outranks every clever theory built on top of it.

KEY QUESTION

Do I let Scripture define its own images, or do I decide first and go looking for support?

2 If the woman is sitting on a scarlet beast, which of the two is in control (Revelation 17:3)?

Revelation 17:3 NASB95

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

IN MY WORDS

At this point the woman is in control — a rider directs the animal she sits on, so religion is steering the political power of the beast, though verse 16 shows that grip does not last.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 17:16** "the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Her position riding the beast indicates she is supported by the political power of the beast and that she is in a dominant role (Walvoord) — at least outwardly. A rider is only ever in charge for as long as the animal permits it.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

At the beginning of this period the woman dominates the scarlet beast — religion controls the political decisions and direction of governments around the world. But as the chapter unfolds there is a tremendous shift in power: religion is destroyed, and government and money become the power brokers.

CRITICAL THINKING

The whole chapter turns on this seating arrangement — whoever rides is only borrowing the strength underneath them. Religion that climbs onto political power for a platform has already agreed to go wherever that beast decides to walk.

KEY QUESTION

What am I riding for influence that could throw me the moment I stop being useful to it?

3 How does this chapter define the seven heads and the ten horns (Revelation 17:9, 12)?

Revelation 17:9-10 NASB95

Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Revelation 17:12 NASB95

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.

IN MY WORDS

The chapter says the seven heads are seven mountains and also seven kings — five fallen, one present, one still to come — and the ten horns are ten kings who have no kingdom yet but will receive authority with the beast for one hour.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:24** "As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The seven heads are better understood as the seven kings of verse 10 than as a bare reference to Rome's seven hills: five have fallen — Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, and Greece — one is, Rome, and the other, a coming revival of that same empire, has not yet arrived. The ten kings likely picture a ten-nation confederation echoing the ten toes of Daniel's image.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Note that the text itself supplies the interpretation twice over — heads are kings, horns are kings. The vision is symbolic, but the sovereignty behind it is literal: God is naming, numbering, and timing world empires before they exist.

CRITICAL THINKING

"Here is the mind which has wisdom" is the angel's own warning label — this is the hardest passage in the chapter, and he says so before he explains it. Humility about the details is not weak faith; it is obedience to the verse.

KEY QUESTION

Can I hold a firm conviction about what Scripture states plainly while staying humble about what it only sketches?

4 What is the purpose of the ten kings (Revelation 17:13)?

Revelation 17:13 NASB95

These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.

IN MY WORDS

They exist for one purpose — to hand their combined power and authority over to the beast, so the Antichrist rules a united world bloc rather than fighting ten rivals.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 17:17** "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Ten kings, one purpose, one loaned hour of power — a coalition still ahead of us, though the trajectory toward a unified global bloc is unmistakable already. Whatever its exact shape, Scripture is not vague about the outcome: they make war on the Lamb and lose.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

"These are of one mind" and they hand their power to the beast, joining the war alluded to in the sixth and seventh bowls. Throughout history, false religion and surrendered thrones have too often been the willing servants of tyrants.

CRITICAL THINKING

Ten kings voluntarily surrender their own crowns — no conquest is described, only agreement. The greatest consolidation of power in history arrives not by force but by consensus, which is exactly why it will look reasonable at the time.

KEY QUESTION

What am I willing to hand over for the sake of unity — and is any of it something Christ alone should hold?

5 Compare this scarlet beast with the beast that Daniel saw in Daniel 7:7-8, 23-25, and the beast that John saw in Revelation 13:1-10.

Daniel 7:7 NASB95

After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Revelation 13:1 NASB95

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

IN MY WORDS

All three are the same power seen from different angles — ten horns, blasphemy against God, war on the saints, and a final ruler who rises out of the ten — except that in Revelation 17 the beast is scarlet and carries a woman, showing the religious system riding the political one.

a. **Daniel 7:7-8 — a fourth beast with ten horns; a little horn comes up among them, uproots three, and has a mouth uttering great boasts.**

b. **Daniel 7:23-25 — a fourth kingdom devouring the whole earth; ten kings arise, another after them subdues three, speaks out against the Most High, wears down the saints, and holds them for a time, times, and half a time.**

c. **Revelation 13:1-10 — a beast from the sea with ten horns, seven heads, blasphemous names, a healed fatal wound, worldwide worship, and authority to make war with the saints for forty-two months.**

d. **Revelation 17:3-13 — the same seven heads and ten horns, now scarlet and carrying the harlot; the heads are explained as kings, the horns as ten kings who give their power to the beast.**

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 7:25** "He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One… for a time, times, and half a time."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

This lines up with Daniel's image of the empires — a succession of world powers culminating in a final, revived form. The harlot rides the very beast of chapter 13: religion and global government moving together, exactly as we see forming today when political power courts religious legitimacy and religious leaders court political influence.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Daniel and John are describing one reality across six centuries: the same ten horns, the same blasphemy, the same war on the saints, the same fixed end. Prophecy given twice, separated by generations, and agreeing in detail — that is not coincidence, it is authorship.

CRITICAL THINKING

Daniel 7 shows the beast's teeth, Revelation 13 shows its worship, Revelation 17 shows its rider. The same creature is being turned slowly under the light so that no generation of readers misses the part that most concerns them.

KEY QUESTION

Am I reading the Bible as one book with one Author, or as scattered passages I keep in separate rooms?

6 Explain Revelation 17:11 in light of Revelation 13:3.

Revelation 17:11 NASB95

The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

Revelation 13:3 NASB95

I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast;

IN MY WORDS

The beast "was and is not" and comes back as an eighth who is also one of the seven, which matches the head with the fatal wound that was healed — a counterfeit death and resurrection that astonishes the world and still ends in destruction.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 13:8** "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written… in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The beast's "was, and is not, and is about to come" is a grotesque parody of Christ's own eternality — Satan's counterfeit resurrection for his final champion. Yet his destination is already fixed in the same sentence: he goes to destruction.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The eighth ruler comes out of the seventh — the Antichrist rising from a revived Roman-style order. The world will follow him precisely because of the wound and the healing; a fraudulent resurrection is the one credential the devil can counterfeit.

CRITICAL THINKING

The world is amazed at a healed head, but John records the beast's obituary in the same breath as his rise. Satan can imitate the empty tomb; he cannot imitate the ending.

KEY QUESTION

Am I more impressed by what looks miraculous, or by what is actually true?

7 **Both a history and a prophecy appears within Revelation 17:9-11. What is the history? What is the prophecy?**

> **Revelation 17:10-11 NASB95**
>
> and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

> **IN MY WORDS**
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> The history is the "five have fallen, one is" — the world empires already gone and Rome ruling in John's day; the prophecy is the seventh king still to come and the eighth, the Antichrist, who rises out of him and goes to destruction.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 2:44** "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed… it will itself endure forever."

> **David Guzik** ENDURING WORD
>
> Five have fallen — Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, and Greece; one is — Rome; and the other, a coming revival of that same empire, has not yet arrived. The list is past, present, and future all in one verse, written from John's vantage point on Patmos.

> **Amir Tsarfati** REVEALING REVELATION
>
> When the Bible speaks of the nations, it speaks of them in relationship to Israel. That seventh nation could not appear until after 1948 and Israel's rebirth — we believe it will be a revised Roman Empire, out of which comes the eighth ruler, the Antichrist.

> **CRITICAL THINKING**
>
> Five of the seven were already verifiable history when John wrote — God stakes the credibility of the unfulfilled part on the accuracy of the fulfilled part. Prophecy always shows its receipts before it asks for trust.

KEY QUESTION

Do I let what God has already done settle my confidence in what He has said He will do?

02 ANALYZE THE MESSAGE

What does it mean?

Reading Ezekiel 16:35-43 and Revelation 17:7-18 — using both my Bible and my copy of Revealing Revelation.

1 Describe, in a paragraph, the days of Israel's youth and the nation's relationship with God (Jeremiah 2).

Jeremiah 2:2 NASB95

Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth, The love of your betrothals, Your following after Me in the wilderness, Through a land not sown."'

Jeremiah 2:13 NASB95

For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.

IN MY WORDS

In her youth Israel was a devoted bride who followed God through a wilderness she could not live off of, holy to Him and safe under His care — and then she forsook the fountain of living water to dig her own cracked cisterns, chasing other gods until the marriage became spiritual prostitution.

CROSS REFERENCE **Jeremiah 2:32** "Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me Days without number."

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The "fornication" language of Revelation 17 is the Bible's consistent term for idolatry, and Jeremiah 2 is where that vocabulary is set. False religion is never merely an intellectual error; it is covenant betrayal against a God who calls Himself a husband.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The harlot image did not begin in Revelation. God had already used it of His own people, which is why the picture stings: it is drawn from the family album, not invented for the enemy.

CRITICAL THINKING

Jeremiah 2 does not open with accusation but with tenderness — God remembers the honeymoon before He names the betrayal. The charge lands harder precisely because He starts by recalling how good it once was.

KEY QUESTION

What did my early devotion to Christ look like — and what have I traded it for since?

2 What is Israel's hope for the future (Ezekiel 16:59-63)?

Ezekiel 16:60 NASB95

Nevertheless, I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

Ezekiel 16:62-63 NASB95

"Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD, so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done," the Lord GOD declares.

IN MY WORDS

Israel's hope is not her own faithfulness but God's — He says "nevertheless" after all her unfaithfulness and promises to remember His covenant, establish an everlasting one, and forgive her completely.

CROSS REFERENCE **Romans 11:26-27** "all Israel will be saved... THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

God is not finished with Israel. He gathered His people from all the world and re-established them as a nation in 1948 exactly as He said He would, and the everlasting covenant Ezekiel promised is still on the table — which is why the last-days timeline runs straight through Jerusalem.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Note the order in verse 63: forgiveness comes first, and the shame that silences her follows it. Grace is not the reward for repentance here; it is what makes true repentance possible.

CRITICAL THINKING

The chapter that calls Israel a harlot ends by calling her forgiven — the same passage holds both. Revelation 17 shows a harlot God destroys; Ezekiel 16 shows a harlot God redeems, and the difference is not the sin but the covenant.

KEY QUESTION

Do I believe God's "nevertheless" is bigger than my worst chapter?

03 COMPARE THIS CHAPTER WITH THE REST OF SCRIPTURE

Is this supported by other passages in Revelation, John's other books, the Old/New Testaments?

Letting Scripture interpret Scripture.

1 John was carried away in the Spirit into a desert (Revelation 17:3). Who else had an "in the Spirit" experience?

> **Revelation 17:3 NASB95**
>
> And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

> **IN MY WORDS**
>
> Ezekiel, David, Simeon, and Paul were all moved, carried, or led by the Spirit, and Romans 8:9 says every believer is "in the Spirit" — so what John experienced in vision is the extreme end of something the Spirit does ordinarily in God's people.

a. Ezekiel 37:1 — the LORD brought Ezekiel out by His Spirit and set him down in the middle of the valley full of bones.

b. Matthew 22:43 — Jesus says David, "in the Spirit," called the Messiah "Lord."

c. Luke 2:27 — Simeon came "in the Spirit" into the temple the very day the infant Jesus was brought in.

d. Acts 19:21 — Paul purposed in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, and then to see Rome.

e. Romans 8:9 — every believer is not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in him.

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 1:10** "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet."

> **David Guzik** ENDURING WORD
>
> John is taken into a wilderness to see her — the vantage point matters. Set against the desert, all her purple and gold has nothing to reflect off of; the setting itself begins the exposure.

> **John MacArthur** GRACE TO YOU
>
> Every major revelation in Scripture comes by the Spirit's initiative, never by human technique. John did not climb into the vision; he was carried.

> **CRITICAL THINKING**
>
> The same Spirit who set Ezekiel in a valley of bones sets John in a desert with a harlot — both shown death dressed as something else. Where God takes a man to look from often determines what he is finally able to see.

KEY QUESTION

Am I living "in the Spirit" in the everyday sense Romans 8:9 means — or only admiring it in men like John?

2 Who else had seven heads?

Revelation 12:3 NASB95

Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.

IN MY WORDS

The dragon of Revelation 12:3 and the sea beast of Revelation 13:1 both have seven heads, which ties the scarlet beast of chapter 17 directly to Satan himself and to the Antichrist's kingdom.

a. **Revelation 12:3 — the great red dragon, seven heads and ten horns, with seven diadems on his heads.**

b. **Revelation 13:1 — the beast from the sea, ten horns and seven heads, with blasphemous names on his heads.**

CROSS REFERENCE **Revelation 12:9** "the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The same seven heads run through the dragon, the sea beast, and the scarlet beast because it is one satanic program wearing three faces. Behind every world system that demands worship stands the same being who wanted it in Eden.

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Notice the deliberate contrast with the woman of Revelation 12 who represents God's people — two women set as opposites, one clothed with the sun, the other clothed in stolen splendor.

CRITICAL THINKING

The dragon wears diadems on his heads; the beast wears blasphemous names on his. Satan crowns his own authority, and his champion signs it — the same seven powers, claimed twice.

KEY QUESTION

Do I recognize that what looks like politics or culture often has a spiritual author behind it?

3 Who else had ten horns?

Daniel 7:24 NASB95

As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

IN MY WORDS

Daniel's fourth beast, the red dragon, and the sea beast all have ten horns — the same ten-king confederacy Daniel saw six centuries earlier is the one John sees handing its power to the beast.

a. **Daniel 7:7, 20, 24 — the dreadful fourth beast has ten horns; a later horn uproots three; the horns are ten kings arising out of that kingdom.**

b. **Revelation 12:3 — the great red dragon has ten horns.**

c. Revelation 13:1 — the beast from the sea has ten horns with ten diadems on them.

CROSS REFERENCE **Daniel 2:41-42** the feet and toes "partly of potter's clay and partly of iron… so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

The ten kings likely picture a ten-nation confederation, echoing the ten toes of Daniel's image. Alford wrote in 1866 that this precise form "had not yet arisen" — and that is still true today, which should keep us humble about naming the members in advance.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Daniel's image and John's beast are two views of one final structure. Watch the realignments happening in Europe and the wider world; the stage is being assembled in plain sight, though the day and hour remain the Father's alone.

CRITICAL THINKING

The number ten holds steady across Daniel, Revelation 12, 13, and 17 — six hundred years and four visions without drift. Details that survive that kind of distance are not literary decoration; they are dictation.

KEY QUESTION

Does the precision of prophecy make me steadier — or just more curious about headlines?

4 What are the various activities of the Lamb in Revelation?

Revelation 17:14 NASB95

These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.

IN MY WORDS

The Lamb opens the seals, shepherds and comforts His people, brings heaven to silence, stands with the 144,000 on Mount Zion, and overcomes the kings who make war on Him — He is judge, shepherd, priest, and conquering King all at once.

a. Revelation 6:1 — the Lamb breaks the first of the seven seals and the judgments begin at His hand.

b. Revelation 7:17 — the Lamb in the center of the throne shepherds them and guides them to springs of the water of life, and God wipes every tear away.

c. Revelation 8:1 — the Lamb breaks the seventh seal and there is silence in heaven for about half an hour.

d. Revelation 14:1 — the Lamb stands on Mount Zion with the 144,000 who bear His name and His Father's name on their foreheads.

e. Revelation 17:14 — the Lamb overcomes the ten kings who wage war against Him, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings.

CROSS REFERENCE **John 1:29** "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

"The Lamb will overcome them" is stated as an accomplished fact before the battle is even joined — that is how certain God's Word is. His title, "Lord of lords and King of kings," is not aspirational but factual, now and forever.

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The war of verse 14 lands at the end of the tribulation, when the Lamb returns to earth to set up His kingdom — the moment He is openly called King of kings and Lord of lords two chapters later. That certainty is the church's comfort: not fear, but sober alertness.

CRITICAL THINKING

Note who shares the victory in verse 14 — not the powerful or the many, but "the called and chosen and faithful." Heaven's battle honors go to ordinary believers who simply held on.

KEY QUESTION

Would "called, chosen, and faithful" be an honest description of me this week?

04 EXECUTE

So what? How does this affect my life?

Principle: A personal relationship with Christ is the only thing that will keep you from God's judgments. — Bringing Revelation 17 home to my own walk.

1 Check your own worldview—how do you see and interpret the events of your life and your country in light of Scripture?

Romans 12:2 NASB95

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

IN MY WORDS

I want to read my life and my country through Scripture rather than reading Scripture through the news — taking God's Word as the fixed point and letting everything else be measured by it.

CROSS REFERENCE **Colossians 2:8** "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception… rather than according to Christ."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

Two conditions mark the latter days: deception, which is the Antichrist's work, and delusion, which is God's. Both will be worldwide during the tribulation, but we already see them running rampant and replacing common sense — which makes a Bible-shaped worldview a matter of survival, not preference.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

Every reader of Revelation 17 should examine whether his own faith is genuine devotion to Christ or merely a nominal, convenient religion — the kind the beast would find just as disposable as the harlot.

CRITICAL THINKING

A worldview is not what I say I believe; it is the lens I reach for automatically when something goes wrong. Revelation 17 warns that the most dangerous deceptions arrive wearing religious vocabulary.

KEY QUESTION

When the headlines shift, what actually moves me first — Scripture or my feed?

2 How would you describe the worldviews of your family and friends?

2 Corinthians 4:4 NASB95

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

IN MY WORDS

Some in my circle read life through Scripture, some through culture and feeling, and some are simply blinded — which tells me who needs prayer and a patient conversation rather than an argument.

CROSS REFERENCE **2 Timothy 2:25** "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Marx said religion is the opiate of the masses, and he was only partly right — it is *empty* religion that is the opium of the masses. That distinction is exactly what most of our friends and family have never been shown.

CRITICAL THINKING

Blindness in 2 Corinthians 4:4 is imposed, not chosen — which reframes the people I love from opponents into captives. You argue with an opponent; you pray for a captive and keep the door open.

KEY QUESTION

Am I treating the unbelievers closest to me as arguments to win or as people to reach?

3 How would you evaluate the preaching and teaching of the church you attend?

2 Timothy 4:3-4 NASB95

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

IN MY WORDS

I evaluate my church by whether the Bible actually drives the message — including the parts about prophecy, Israel, and the Lord's return that are easiest to leave out.

a. Is it Bible-centered? How can you tell? — The text sets the agenda rather than illustrating a point already chosen; I can open my Bible and follow along.

b. Does the pastor ever preach on prophecy? — Roughly a quarter of Scripture was prophetic when written; a pulpit that never touches it is teaching a shortened Bible.

c. What is your pastor's understanding of God's future purpose and plan for Israel? — Does he hold that God still has an unfinished, covenant future for national Israel (Romans 11:26-29)?

d. What is your church's position on the rapture? — Is the church taken before the tribulation, and is that taught plainly or avoided?

e. Does your pastor incorrectly teach that God is finished with Israel and that the church is the New Testament Israel? If so, how would you counter that argument? — Romans 11:1-2 says God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew, and 11:29 says the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

f. What is your pastor's view on the Lord's return? — Is it treated as a literal, personal, bodily return, or softened into a symbol?

g. Does your pastor believe in a future and literal 1,000-year reign of Christ from Jerusalem? — Revelation 20:2-7 states the thousand years six times; taking it literally is the plain reading.

CROSS REFERENCE **Acts 17:11** the Bereans were "examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."

David Guzik ENDURING WORD

Scripture describes something far larger than one denomination — an ecumenism of "all isms" (Seiss). That is why the test of a church is never its label but whether the Word of God still governs the room.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The apostate system of Revelation 17 includes branches of professing Christianity that traded the truth of God for compromise and power. The safeguard is not suspicion of everyone; it is sound doctrine, preached plainly and tested openly.

CRITICAL THINKING

Paul says the drift starts with the listeners, not the preacher — people "accumulate for themselves teachers" who say what they already wanted. Evaluating the pulpit honestly means first admitting what my own ears are itching for.

KEY QUESTION

Am I choosing teaching that corrects me, or teaching that agrees with me?

4 What does it look like for a Christian to compromise his or her stances on what the Bible says is sin in favor of tolerance or a more "loving" approach?

Ephesians 4:15 NASB95

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

IN MY WORDS

It looks like slowly going quiet — calling sin a preference, praising what God calls wrong to avoid being labeled unloving — and it is not love at all, because real love tells the truth and stays in the room.

CROSS REFERENCE **Isaiah 5:20** "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness."

Amir Tsarfati REVEALING REVELATION

The world now demands not just tolerance but full acceptance and celebration of every new idea, and anyone who stands against a clearly antibiblical belief is immediately canceled. If a society founded on Judeo-Christian principles can shift this fast, it can happen anywhere — and the harlot's hands are covered with the blood of the tribulation saints.

John MacArthur GRACE TO YOU

The Antichrist's pattern is Satan's own: use religion as a tool, then destroy it once it no longer serves him. A faith that has already surrendered its convictions to stay acceptable has nothing left to surrender when the pressure turns real.

CRITICAL THINKING

Compromise is almost never announced — it arrives as kindness, one softened sentence at a time. The harlot is not ugly in this chapter; she is beautifully dressed, which is precisely why John had to be told what he was looking at.

KEY QUESTION

Where have I already gone quiet, and told myself it was love?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Revelation 17 is not an attack on faith — it is the exposure of a counterfeit. The woman is beautiful: purple and scarlet, gold and precious stones and pearls, a golden cup lifted high. Everything about her looks expensive and important, and that is exactly the problem. Underneath the splendor she is drunk with the blood of the saints, and John, who had already watched dragons and plagues without flinching, says of her only that he "wondered greatly." Deception always dresses well.

The chapter is built on a seating arrangement. She rides; the beast carries her. For a season religion steers the politics of the world — and then the ten kings and the beast turn on her, strip her, and burn her. God Himself put it in their hearts to do it. That is the sentence the workbook's title is drawn from: God eradicates religion, because organized religion has always been the devil's substitute for a person. It cannot save, it will not last, and in the end even the world discards it.

Which leaves the principle exactly where the workbook puts it: a personal relationship with Christ is the only thing that will keep you from God's judgments. Not membership, not heritage, not a label on a building. The angel showed John her judgment before he showed him her face, and the Lamb is declared the winner before the war in verse 14 even begins. So the question Revelation 17 leaves on the table is not which system will rise, but Guzik's: does Babylon reign over me, or am I a citizen of a better city?

> ***"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."***
>
> **REVELATION 17:14**

Religion will be used and then burned; the Lamb will be worshiped forever. Do not settle for a faith the world would still find convenient — be found among the called, the chosen, and the faithful, while it is still called today.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

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