SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 17

Mystery Babylon, the Harlot on the Beast

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 17:14

"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."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 17

Revelation 17 pulls the mask off false religion — beautiful on the outside, poison in the cup. This week it asks you to check what you are really drinking, and to stand with the Lamb who wins. You are already called and chosen; this week, be faithful.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Revelation study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Glitter Is Not Godliness

READ · REVELATION 17:1–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How is the woman dressed, what is in her gold cup, and what is she drunk with (vv4–6)?

REFLECT

The people of the earth 'were made drunk with the wine of her immorality' (v2). Have you ever traded one high for another — even a religious feeling that never changed your heart? What did that look like?

REFLECT

John 'wondered greatly' (v6) that the persecution came from religion. Where have you been hurt by religious people, and what would it look like to stay close to Jesus anyway?

RESPOND — TODAY

Ask God to show you one place where you are impressed by how something looks instead of whether it is true. Write it down and pray over it.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 17:14)

DAY 2 OF 5

The Beast Who Was and Is Not

READ · REVELATION 17:7–8

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to the angel, where does the beast come up from, where is he going, and who will wonder at him (v8)?

REFLECT

The world is amazed at the beast — the people 'whose name has not been written in the book of life' (v8). What tends to impress you more: what looks miraculous, or what is actually true?

REFLECT

The beast's end, 'destruction,' is written in the same sentence as his rise (v8). What looks powerful in your life right now that God has already written an end for?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank Jesus by name that the book of life belongs to the Lamb who was slain (13:8). If you are not sure your name is written there, talk with your group leader this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 17:14)

DAY 3 OF 5

Everything Counted Runs Out

READ · REVELATION 17:9–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the angel say the seven heads are (vv9–10), and what does he say about the eighth (v11)?

REFLECT

The angel says this takes 'the mind which has wisdom' (v9). Where are you tempted to argue about the details of prophecy and miss the point God is making?

REFLECT

Every king in these verses is numbered, and every one ends. What habit, past or system feels like it rules you — and what changes when you remember it has an end and Jesus does not?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the 'numbered thing' that has the strongest grip on you. Underneath it write: My King has no end. Pray that over it today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 17:14)

DAY 4 OF 5

Called, Chosen, Faithful

READ · REVELATION 17:12–14

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How long do the ten kings rule, what do they do with their power, and what happens when they fight the Lamb (vv12–14)?

REFLECT

The kings hand over their power to the beast for 'one hour' (vv12–13). What have you handed yourself over to that only gave you an hour back?

REFLECT

Those with the Lamb are 'the called and chosen and faithful' (v14). God did the calling and the choosing. What would being faithful look like for you, one day at a time, this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Choose one act of faithfulness for today — a promise kept, a meeting attended, a phone call made — and do it before you go to sleep.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 17:14)

DAY 5 OF 5

God's Hand Behind It All

READ · REVELATION 17:15–18

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What do the ten horns and the beast do to the harlot (v16), and who put it in their hearts to do it (v17)?

REFLECT

The beast burns the woman who rode him (v16). Where have you seen the world use a man and then throw him away — maybe you?

REFLECT

God is at work 'until the words of God will be fulfilled' (v17). Where do you need to trust that God is still in charge, even when evil people seem to be calling the shots?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name the news story or situation you fear most. Pray it through, and end by saying out loud: 'the Lamb will overcome them' (v14).

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 17:14)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The harlot's many waters are peoples and nations (v15). Where do you see religion today that never asks anyone to choose Christ — and how do we love the people caught in it?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Revelation sets the woman of chapter 12 against the harlot of chapter 17. What sets the true people of God apart from a counterfeit that looks just as religious?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

In what one area does 'the great city' (v18) still reign over you this week, and what would living as a citizen of a better city look like there?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God and King of kings, keep me from the gold cup of false religion and make me faithful today by…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 17:14

"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."