

DAY 36: ZION AND BABYLON

I. THE WOMAN, ISRAEL

- A. The woman is glowing, pregnant, and wearing a crown of twelve stars (v. 1)
 - 1. The 12 stars are the 12 tribes of Israel
 - 2. Israel did give birth to Jesus
- B. The child was caught up to God (v. 5)
 - 1. Jesus was caught up, He's coming back in the same way (Acts 1)
- C. She flees to the wilderness for 1,260 days (v. 6)
 - 1. Time marker, final 3.5 years
- D. The woman reappears and is described as the Bride (Revelation 21:9-10)
 - 1. It is not accurate to describe the Bride as the Church in the place of Israel
 - 2. On Mount Zion the Lord will throw a choice feast for all people
 - a) Gentiles included, not in place of Israel
- E. Jerusalem, Zion, and Israel can be used interchangeably here
- F. Her fate is to become the perfect, spotless, Bride of Christ

II. THE WOMAN, BABYLON

- A. "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute..." (Revelation 17:1)
 - 1. The whore, the harlot
- B. Graphic depiction of this woman, Babylon shows that she is a queen, but that she is also a prostitute (Revelation 17-18)
 - 1. This was not thrust onto her, it is something that she is choosing
 - 2. She is murderous, violent, evil, bloodthirsty
- C. Her fate is to burn and perish, complete destruction (Revelation 18:8, 10, 20-21)

III. ISRAEL'S BACKSTORY

- A. There are multiple places throughout scripture where the Lord indicts Israel, calling her a harlot; however, Jerusalem is not Babylon
- B. She may begin as an unfaithful bride, but she ends as Christ's redeemed
- C. Israel is sinful, God chastises His people, purifying them (Isaiah 1:1, 21-27)
- D. If we read the whole story, we see Zion will be redeemed (Isaiah 66:10-14, Ezekiel 16:1-2, 15, 60-63)
- E. Hosea's entire prophecy plays out this story of the harlot who becomes the Bride

