Current Affairs #171 – The Woman in the Wilderness Sam Soleyn April, 2022

We wish to drill down into this phenomenon of a false church referred to as a prostitute. We spoke of the spirit of prostitution that has been here with us since the beginning of time, and it reaches its apogee in the end of the age, as part of the concluding events and judgment coming upon it. Let us backpedal from there and now look at this phenomenon in the Book of Revelation.

It is so obvious that we do not think nor do we anticipate or expect to see biblical references to things that are commonplace around us. Everyone knows we would have to be living in a cave, and that in a time warp, not to know that church is not what it appears to be. It is rare that anyone goes to church who does not think, "This is not it." But absent of what it is, they will settle for what they are presented. And then there are groups of people, church groups, that one wonders how in God's name could the people continue to be members of those things when they are so obviously and blatantly wrong? How could you justify, for example, being a member of a church in which the leadership has, for hundreds of years, raped and plundered the children? Not occasionally, not a few rotten apples, but the entire structure is rotten. What justifies that? I want to look into that.

But at a surface level, one asks the question, "What are people thinking?" To switch it, how could the Russian people be members of a church that solidly supports a brutal dictator bombing a maternity ward, or a theater where people are huddled in the basement to avoid the rocket onslaughts that are destroying their apartments and houses? And they have done nothing to warrant this sort of wanton raining of death upon them. How could the Russian people be members of Kirill's church, the Russian Orthodox Church? How could anybody be a follower anymore of someone like Kenneth Copeland, who was publicly shamed by God Himself—claiming to be a prophet of God, speaking for God, and he did so at the beginning of COVID, blowing as if the breath of his mouth was the breath of God? Hundreds of thousands of deaths later, and millions of infections later, how could they appear again in front of the people? And say what? But they do, and the people believe them.

So this phenomenon of a false church and false leaders is staring us in the face. There is no way to wash it clean of its taint. It is like Lady Macbeth who could not wash her hands clean of the blood of the king, in the Shakespearean drama *Macbeth*. These people cannot absolve themselves from the extreme corruption. This is not a little bit of something; this is not a misstep. This is a thing that is corrupt in its nature, so much so as to be a tool of the enemy and firmly opposed to Christ. In making these comments, I am not attempting to suggest that anybody or everybody who goes to a church is like this. No, they are not. There are people in these institutions who love God, who truly love God, but they do not know anything different. But I am saying that a thinking person of reasonable intelligence would ask themselves, "Why am I a member of a church whose leadership has a known history?" This is not a small thing. It is endemic to the thing itself of the abuse of people in horrifying ways, and it is in our faces. It is not like nations were co-opted into this silence. It is in our faces. Where is our conscience? Where is our conviction?

We are seeing these things, and yet we attempt to justify them? We are conflating the role of a prostitute with that of a bride. And what I am here to tell you is, the Bible makes it altogether obvious that such a false entity claiming to be the bride of Christ does exist. Let us explore what it is. When we are done, if you continue to decide that it does not matter to you, then you have not heeded the warning of these messages, and you will be deceived. In fact, arguably, you are already deceived. Your blood is not on my hands. It is on your own because you have been warned. When the truth comes, you can no longer plead innocence, having heard the truth. You cannot say you did not know. Then you are held accountable. God never just gives you an advisory opinion. When He speaks to you, He means for you to hear—to hear.

We will begin in Revelation, chapter 17, verse 1. In chapter 16, the bowls of God's final wrath are being poured out, because it is the final analysis. We are down to the wire, so to speak. The very end of the age is approaching, and God is not holding back because times have become desperate. This is a time when you either hear the Word of the Lord and come in to the safety of His House, or you continue to behave as normal, and the wrath of God poured out upon the earth by these angelic declarations will affect you. You cannot be somewhere in between. The day of grace has reached a point of confrontation where you must choose.

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth [so not just the kings, but the inhabitants of the earth together with their kings] were made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17: 1-2 NKJV, comment added in brackets).

That is the imagery of being seduced: made drunk, your senses dulled, impairing your judgment with the wine of her fornication. So she is a seducer. She is seductive, and having seduced both kings and people alike, she sits on them as one who sits upon many waters.

"Waters" has multiple meanings:

- One of the meanings is "humanity;"
- Another of the meanings is "word, propaganda."
- When "waters" are used in conjunction with God, they refer to the eternal Word of God—that which brings light and understanding, and upon which we may place our hope in what God has said. Such as, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God.¹ And the same became flesh, and dwelt among us."² That Word is the eternal person of the living God, whose utterances are the foundations of our faith. They are our epistemology—from the word *pistis*,³ which means faith. We place our faith in the eternal Word of God, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and all that He has uttered.

But the word "waters," in general, means other things, such as: when used in connection with people, it means the people of the world; and it also means a corrupted word, a lying word. These people and their kings were made drunk with a lying word. What does "drunk with a lying word"

This transcript is presented with the hope of preserving the authenticity and spirit of the spoken message, while addressing areas that may require clarification in the written form. All Scripture quotations in the footnotes are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See John 1:1-2: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

² See John 1:14: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

³ See *pistis*, Strong's Greek 4102 - https://biblehub.com/greek/4102.htm

imply? It implies that this harlot, this false church, told them what they wanted to hear, which is a thing that the Scriptures make very plain will happen in the end of the age: that men will not endure the soundness of the truth, but having itching ears, they will heap to themselves teachers for whatever they lust for, and they will turn from the truth and will turn to fables.⁴ This is not about the Body of Christ, where God is faithfully represented by those who know Him, by fathers who know Him who is from the beginning.⁵ No. This is about something else: a deceiving word.

Therefore, this word that deceives the nations and their kings alike comes from a false church, comes from that which is organized along what people want to hear. This has depths of meaning that I wish to get to in subsequent messages, such as a mouth that arises in the form of a horn on one of the seven heads of this beast on which the woman sits.⁶ This is a horn with a mouth speaking blasphemous things against the Most High and against those who dwell in heaven⁷—those who are the *naos*⁸ of God, the dwelling place of God, whose orientation is toward the truth and the things that are true in heaven. Even if they are living upon the earth and acting upon the earth, they are acting and living out of a heavenly grace. This little horn speaks blasphemous things. This beast upon which the woman sits—and I am ahead of myself in this—speaks blasphemous things against God. These are religious utterances.

That is the nature of this prostitute. Her fornication is not a sexual fornication. It is the deceptive allurement, much like the attraction of a prostitute to a client. There is a deceptive allurement: the promise of experiencing the sexual favor of a woman but at a price. It is a pure transaction. There

⁴ See 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

⁵ See 1 John 2:13a: "I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning."

⁶ See Daniel 7:8: "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words."

See also Revelation 13:1: "Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name."

⁷ See Revelation 13:5-6: "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven."

⁸ See *naos*, Strong's Greek 3485 - https://biblehub.com/greek/3485.htm

is no love attached to it, and certainly no potential of oneness. Indeed, there is a distortion of the greater good that exists as the form of a relationship between a husband and a wife. It is a counterfeit. The wine of that fornication is "word." The clients have itching ears, and the word seduces them like the allure of a sexual favor seduces a client of a prostitute. That is the comparison.

He says, "Come, I will show you the great harlot because she is now set for judgment." That tells us she has been around for a while. The practice of her seduction of kings and of nations alike is a well-established reality. It has reached its apogee. It has gone as far as God will allow. Which also is as far as it can go. So now it is time for it to be judged.

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication (Revelation 17:3-4).

In other words, that is a direct parallel to inhabitants of the earth being drunk with the wine of her fornication. So this deceptive word is held up as if it were a cup, analogizing to "with the wine of her fornication." If you like, the water is like wine, and it is in this golden cup, so it appears to be of a precious nature because it is encased in a precious container of gold; but what is in it is abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. You will notice just right over in the next verse, verse 6, and I have skipped the latter part of verse 5, I will come right back to it. It says,

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus (Revelation 17:6a).

Keep in mind, what is in the cup is not the blood of the saints. She is drunk with the blood of the saints. She is unsteady on her feet, having waged war and drunk the blood of the saints. But the cup represents the deceptions by which she made drunk the kings and the nations. She has offered the kings and the peoples to drink from this filthy cup, but she herself is drunk with the blood of

the saints. She is not drunk with her own filthiness, no more than a prostitute is satisfied with her own offerings. That is for the consumer. But she herself has waged war against the saints in the fashion of the enemy as he appeared in Cain who spilled the blood of righteous Abel. And the focus even then by God was about the blood of Cain's brother: "Cain, where is your brother?" God asked him. And Cain said, "How am I to know? Am I my brother's keeper?" And God said, "Your brothers blood cries out to me from the ground."

And in case you think that is simply an accidental reference, or one of no consequence, when Jesus charged the false church of His day with their malfeasance—the scribes and the Pharisees—He said, "Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, you are hypocrites" (Matthew 23). They were the false church opposed to Christ, ultimately, seeking His crucifixion. He said, "You have shed all the righteous blood on the earth, beginning with the shedding of the blood of righteous Abel and all the way up to Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you slew between the temple and the altar, that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth." There is no mistaking who this prostitute is. Over the centuries, beginning with the shedding of righteous Abel's blood, the seed of Cain—who is the seed of Satan—has proceeded through creation and crops up conspicuously at various points in time as the prostitute. And even Jesus Himself brought the accusation against the scribes and Pharisees, the religious people of His day, calling them drunk with the blood of the saints, the martyrs of Jesus.

Now, where do we find her, this woman whom on her forehead a name was written?

And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:5).

⁹ See Genesis 4:9-10: "Then the LORD said to Cain, 'Where *is* Abel your brother?' He said, 'I do not know. *Am* I my brother's keeper?' And He said, 'What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.""

¹⁰ See Matthew 23:35-36: "...that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

It seems as though the false church is the location in the earth from which every abominable thing springs. Where do we find her? We find her in the wilderness: "He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness." You will notice that when He announces the judgment of the great harlot, He said, "She is sitting currently on the waters"—she is sitting on the nations—"and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, together with the inhabitants of the earth." So the wilderness is not an unpopulated place. The wilderness is in the midst of humanity. So, then, in what regard is it a wilderness, if it is not that of an unpopulated place? The wilderness represents the absence of God's presence—where God is not. Where the presence of the Lord is, that is a fertile field, 11 a well-watered garden. 12 The absence of the Lord is a wilderness, a barren place where you encounter the devil.

Let us go back and introduce the woman in the wilderness from the Book of Revelation, chapter 12. There it says,

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems [crowns] on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. [And then what happens to the woman?] Then the woman fled into the wilderness, [Where do we find the prostitute? In the wilderness,] where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days (Revelation 12:1-6, comments added in brackets).

¹¹ See Isaiah 32:15 NIV: "...till the Spirit is poured on us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest."

¹² See Jeremiah 31:12: "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, Streaming to the goodness of the LORD— For wheat and new wine and oil, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all.

See also Isaiah 58:11 BSB: "The LORD will always guide you; He will satisfy you in a sun-scorched land and strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

As we go on to read, what you will find is the woman who gave birth to the Son caught up to God's throne—enthroned, which would be Christ—she who gave birth to the Son becomes the prostitute in the wilderness. That is the gap we will close when I come back for further discussion.

We have never thought about this, have we? What happened to the woman in the wilderness? She remained in the wilderness, plying her trade for her survival, and changed from one who once had the favor of the Lord to one taken over by the evil one, becoming a primary agent for the deception of the populations of the earth, including deceiving those, some of whom were legitimately seeking God. She is a nasty entity and not one to be trifled with, not one to be consorted with.

I am Sam Soleyn. We will talk more about this when we come back. I will see you then. Bye-bye.