

末世預言進階課程 **Prophecy Course Level 2**

第八課：大災難中的主要人物 (3)：大淫婦 - 巴比倫

Lesson 8: Central characters in the Great Tribulation (3): the Harlot – Babylon

課前預備 Lesson Preparation

經文：啟 17:1-19:4

Passage: Rev 17:1-19:4

怎樣預備 How to study

1. 研讀上述經文，嘗試了解關於啟示錄 17:1-19:4 的重點。不要放過任何你認為有趣或不解的細節。寫下所有你發現的問題。
Study the above passages. Try to figure out the main points concerning Revelation 17:1-19:4. Don't let go any details you find interesting or confusing. Write down all the questions you have.
2. 閱讀並思想「一頁聖經研究」，看看它有否解答你寫下的問題。閱讀後，你可能有更多的問題，也把它們寫下來。
Read the One Page Bible Summary and ponder on it. See if it answers your questions written. Write down any additional questions you have after your reading.
3. 找出在下面「思考問題」的答案。若你認為有些問題太過困難，可以跳過不答。
Answer the Questions to Ponder below. If you find some of them too difficult, you can skip them.
4. 若你發現這段經文不易理解，或是下面的問題不容易回答，不要沮喪。你可以把你的問題帶到課堂時詢問，你也可以在課堂之前，以電郵詢問你的問題。
If you find that the passage/ questions are not easy, don't feel frustrated. You can ask your questions/ what you do not understanding during the lesson. You can also ask your questions via email before the lesson if you wish.

思考問題 Questions to Ponder

1. 啟 17:1 中所描述的「大淫婦」象徵甚麼？請給予理由來支持你的答案。
What does the great harlot in Rev 17:1 symbolize? Give reasons to support your answer.
 - 它象徵了一個服侍敵基督的偽宗教體系（很可能是偽教會），因為
 - 1) 在聖經中，淫婦通常是象徵對神不忠，特別是指偶像崇拜——這是屬靈的姦淫（例如以西結書 16 及 23 章，以及整卷何西阿書）；
 - 2) 巴比倫一直是悖逆神及外邦宗教的發源地（創 10:8-10, 11:1-9），這就是她被稱為「作世上的淫婦和一切可憎之物的母」的緣故（啟 17:5）；

- 3) 那淫婦騎著代表敵基督的獸，象徵這偽宗教體系與敵基督有關。
- It represents the false religious system (possibly apostate church) serving the Antichrist because
 - 1) in the Bible, harlot represents unfaithfulness towards God, in particular referring to idol worship, which is spiritual adultery (e.g. Ezek 16, 23, all of Hosea);
 - 2) Babylon has a long history of rebelling God and being the source of pagan religions (Gen 10:8-10, 11:1-9). That's why she is called "the mother of harlots and of abominations of the Earth" (Rev 17:5);
 - 3) the harlot is riding on the beast, which represents the Antichrist – the symbol of linking the religious system to Antichrist.
2. 這淫婦與以下各方有什麼關係? 請以經文支持你的答案。
How is the Harlot related to each of the following parties? Support your answers with relevant Scripture.

(a) 敵基督與假先知 Antichrist and the False Prophet

- 巴比倫是敵基督（大淫婦所騎的獸，17:3）所使用的偽宗教體系。
- 這偽宗教體系很可能是由假先知所帶領，最後導致整個世界敬拜敵基督（13:12）。
- 最後巴比倫要被敵基督（及十王）所毀（17:6）。
- Babylon is the false religious system utilized by Antichrist (symbolized by the beast rode by the Harlot, 17:3).
- The false religious system is probably led by the False Prophet, who finally leads the world to worship the Antichrist (13:12).
- Finally the Babylon will be destroyed by the Antichrist (and the ten kings, 17:16).

(b) 地上眾國的人及眾君王 people of nations and kings on the earth

- 地上眾國及眾人要被巴比倫所迷惑，參與偶像崇拜並行淫（17:2, 15; 18:3, 23）。
- 商人因與她貿易就發了財（18:11-15），世人亦享受在巴比倫中的感官享受如音樂、藝術、宴樂等（18:22-23）。
- 巴比倫被毀時，他們會為巴比倫哀哭（18:9-20）。
- Nations and peoples will be deceived by the Babylon, participate in idol worship and commit immorality (17:2, 15; 18:3, 23).
- Merchants will be made rich from trading with her (18:11-15). People enjoys sensual entertainment such as music, arts, feasts, etc. in Babylon. (18:22-23)
- They will mourn for the Babylon when she is destroyed (18:9-20).

(c) 信主的以色列人及基督徒 believing Jews and Christians

- 信主的以色列人及基督徒會被巴比倫逼迫及殺害（17:6, 18:24）。
- Believing Jews and Christians are persecuted and killed by the Babylon. (17:6, 18:24)

3. 那淫婦所騎的獸有七頭，這七頭所代表的是甚麼？請提出證據支持你的答案。
The beast rode by the Harlot has seven heads. What do they represent? Support your answers with evidence.

- 七頭有雙重意義：
 - 它們象徵巴比倫所坐落的七座山（17:9）。
 - 它們也象徵了地上的七個王國，即埃及、亞述、巴比倫、瑪代波斯、羅馬（「先前有」，參看但以理書 2 章），及將來要出現的、被敵基督統治的羅馬帝國（「還沒有來到」，17:10-11）。
- The seven heads have dual meanings:
 - They represent seven mountains of which Babylon locates (17:9).
 - They represent seven kingdoms on the Earth, namely Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Rome (one is, cf. Dan 2), and the future Rome reigned by the Antichrist (the other has not yet come, 17:10-11).

4. 17:8 形容那獸是「先前有、如今沒有、以後再有」的，是甚麼意思？
The beast in 17:8 is described as “was, is not, and is about to come up”. What does that mean?

- 它很可能指敵基督要裝作被殺，並且偽冒復活（參看 13:3）。
- It probably means that the Antichrist will be allegedly killed and resurrected (cf. 13:3)

5. 你認為大巴比倫對當時的人是否吸引？為甚麼？這對你有甚麼啟示？
Do you think that the Great Babylon is attractive to people at that time? Why? What does this mean to you?

- 是的，因為那城極其富有，並充斥各種感官娛樂，甚至有迷惑人的邪術。這些能滿足人的私慾，以致吸引他們。這也是他們會為巴比倫被毀而哀哭的原因。
- 當人注目在那些能刺激他們私慾的事物時，他們很容易被迷惑，並受邪惡力量所支配（參 18:2）。我要小心不讓自己深陷私慾的享樂中。
- Yes, because the city is extremely rich and full of sensual entertainments, even there is deceiving sorcery. They satisfy the lusts of men and they will be attracted. That's why they mourn when the city is destroyed.

- With eyes on things that stimulating worldly lusts, one will easily be deceived and manipulated by evil powers (cf. 18:2). I should be careful, not allowing myself to dwell in lustful pleasure.

6. 大巴比倫認為自己「坐了皇后的位，並不是寡婦，決不至於悲哀。」（啟 18:7）她為甚麼如此自信？這對你有甚麼啟示？

The Great Babylon thinks, "I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning." Why is she so confident? What does this mean to you?

- 她很可能因自己富有、權力及對世界的影響力而誇口（18:7），她認為這些東西能保護她。
- 這世界的東西並不可靠，而且最終要被毀。若我把這些作為我生活的中心，我定會後悔。
- She probably is boastful about the riches, the power and the influences she has over the world. (18:7) She thinks that these things will secure her.
- Worldly things are not reliable and will be destroyed finally and I will be regret if they are the focus of my life.

7. 你認為巴比倫是否一座實在的城？若是，你認為她在哪裡？為甚麼？若不是，為甚麼？

Do you think that Babylon is a city in reality? If so, where do you think it locates?

Why? If not, why not?

- 聖經多次稱巴比倫為一座城（17:18, 18:10, 16, 18-19, 21）。她有清楚坐落之處（17:9）、人們能與她作貿易（18:11-15）、有各種娛樂在其中（18:22-23），並能被火焚燒（17:16, 18:8, 18）。以字義來看，她必定是實實在在的一座城。
- 三個可能的地點：
 - 伊拉克（舊巴比倫所在地）：非常不可能，因為她並非七山之城（除非那些山是指王國），而且她並不近海，並沒有港口可供貿易（幼發拉底河太小，不足以作海路貿易）。
 - 伊斯坦堡：有可能，因為她是一個富庶的七山之城，並且海上貿易頻繁（18:19）。另外，歷史上她曾逼害基督徒：
 - 1204 年，羅馬天主教教會的十字軍在他們去解放耶路撒冷的途中，洗劫了信奉東方基督教的君士坦丁堡。這是西方羅馬教會攻擊東方基督教會的可怖及可悲的時期。
 - 1453 年，鄂圖曼土耳其人（信奉穆斯林）圍攻君士坦丁堡（即今日的伊斯坦堡）。土耳其軍掠奪、搶劫及屠殺了三整天。很多向教會尋求庇護的人當場被殺，修女被強姦，很多貴族遭殺害。估計有約三萬個信主的居民被當為奴隸被擄。（Serano, Ernest. Istanbul Is Mystery Babylon: The Bible Prophecy Investigated . Kindle Edition.)

- 不過，她今天是一個穆斯林城市，要成為偽宗教體系的基地似乎很難。
 - 羅馬：很大可能，因她是個七山之城，若她被燒毀，也能在海上看見，而且羅馬天主教的大本營梵諦岡就是在羅馬，很符合作為將來世界的宗教中心（若我們考慮天主教一直推動宗教大合一，羅馬是很符合聖經所描述的巴比倫）。再者，歷史上羅馬曾逼害猶太人，也逼害基督徒。唯一問題是她現時並沒有可供海上貿易的港口（但若羅馬在末世時擴張至海岸，就不成問題）。
- The Bible mentioned Babylon as a city several times (17:18, 18:10, 16, 18-19, 21); she has a location (17:9), people can trade with her (18:11-15), have entertainments in her (18:22-23), and can be burned up with fire (17:16, 18:8, 18). Taking the literal sense, it must be a city in reality.
- Three possible locations:
 - Iraq (where old Babylon located): very unlikely because it is not a seven-hill city (unless we interpret the mountains as kingdoms). Also it is not close to sea and can have no seaport for trade (Euphrates is too small for marine trade).
 - Istanbul: likely because she is a wealthy seven-hill city, with many marine trade through its seaport (18:19). Also historically she has persecuted Christians:
 - The Roman Church crusaders on their way to free Jerusalem sacked Eastern Christian Constantinople in 1204. This was a terrible and tragic time when the Western Roman Church attacked the Eastern Church.
 - The Ottoman Turks, who were Muslims, took over most of the Byzantine Empire and in 1453 besieged Constantinople. The Turkish troops pillaged, plundered and massacred for 3 days. Many people, who sought refuge in the churches, including the Hagia Sophia, were butchered there. Nuns were raped. Most of the Nobles were killed. It is estimated that 30,000 Christian inhabitants were enslaved and deported. (Serano, Ernest. Istanbul Is Mystery Babylon: The Bible Prophecy Investigated . Kindle Edition.)
 - However, she is a Muslim city now, which is difficult to become the foundation of a false religion system.
 - Rome: very likely as she is a seven-hill city, and can be seen from the sea if burned. Also Vatican, the centre of Roman-Catholicism, is located in Rome, which fits as the religious centre of the world (It fits very well if we consider the ecumenical movement supported by the Roman-Catholic). Also, historically, she persecuted Jews as well as Christians. However she has no seaport now for marine trade. (The problem can be solved if, in the end times, the city expands.)

8. 今次查考預言，你對神和祂的計劃多了甚麼認識？這對你今天的生活有甚麼影響？寫下兩個你在今次查經想到的應用。
- What do you know more about God and His Plan in this study? How would this affect your life? Write two applications of your Bible Study.**

任何符合聖經真理的應用

Any application in line with the truth in the Scripture