

# BELPRES CHURCH

## A Tale of Two Cities

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One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. <sup>2</sup>With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries." <sup>3</sup>Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. <sup>4</sup>The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. <sup>5</sup>The name written on her forehead was a mystery:

Babylon the great  
the mother of prostitutes  
and of the abominations of the earth.

<sup>6</sup> I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. <sup>7</sup> Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns

<sup>9</sup>... The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.

<sup>16</sup>The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

<sup>18</sup>The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 17:1-7, 9b,16 and 18 (NIV)

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**Discussion Questions:** Please read all of Revelation 17 and 18

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1. In your own words, taking your best guess, what do you think the prostitute and the beast represent? Explain.
2. What sins and problems does the prostitute symbolize? Where do you see these sins and problems in our culture? In yourself?
3. How do the voices from the world greet the fall of Babylon (vv.18:9-20)? Why do they mourn?
4. What is the most important lesson you have learned from these two chapters?