### Revelation

## Chapter 17

1Then one of the seven messengers that had the seven bowls came over and spoke to me. He said:  
  
 ‘Come here and I’ll show you the judgment on the great whore that sits over many waters. 2[She’s the one] with whom the earth’s kings have had sex, and who made the people of the earth drunk from the wine of her sexual immorality.’  
  
3So he carried me on the wind into the desert, and there I saw a woman who was sitting on a scarlet-colored wild animal that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.  
  
4This woman was wearing purple and scarlet clothes that were covered with gold, precious gems, and pearls. In her hand [she held] a gold cup that was full of disgusting things and the filth of her immoral sexual acts.  
  
5She also had a mysterious name written on her forehead:  
  
 ‘The Great Babylon, the Mother of Whores and of [all] the Disgusting Things of the Earth.’  
  
6It was then that I realized that this woman had been getting drunk on the blood of the Holy Ones, as well as on the blood of the witnesses of Jesus.  
  
Well when I saw her, I was both confused and amazed.  
  
7So the messenger asked me:  
  
 ‘Why are you so confused? I’ll tell you the mystery of the woman and of the wild animal with the seven heads and ten horns that she’s riding.  
  
 8‘The wild animal that you see had once been, but then it was not.   
  
 ‘However, it’s about to come out of the abyss again, and then it’ll go off into destruction.  
  
 ‘Yet when they see the return of the wild animal that once was but is no longer, those who live on the earth will marvel at it… But their names haven’t been written in the Scroll of Life since the founding of the world.  
  
 9‘Here’s where intelligence and wisdom are required:  
  
 ‘The seven heads are seven mountains upon which the woman is sitting.  
  
 10‘And there are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, and the other hasn’t arrived yet. But when he gets here, he will only be allowed to stay for a little while.  
  
 11‘However, the wild animal that was, but isn’t, is an 8th king that comes from the seven, and it’ll go off into destruction.  
  
 12‘Now, the ten horns that you saw represent ten kings who haven’t received a kingdom yet. However, they’ll be authorized to be kings for one hour with the wild animal. 13And they’ll all have the same idea in mind… To give their power and authority to the wild animal.  
  
 14‘Then they’ll go and fight against the Lamb. But because he’s the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lamb and those who are with him (the called, elected, and faithful) will conquer them.’  
  
15And then he said this:  
  
 ‘The waters over which you saw the whore sitting mean peoples, crowds, ethnic groups, and languages.  
  
 16‘Because the ten horns and the wild animal that you saw will hate the whore, they’re going to take away everything that she has and leave her naked…  
  
 ‘Then they’ll eat her flesh and burn [what’s left] in a fire!  
  
 17‘For God will put [the thought] into their hearts to do what He knows she deserves, and He’s also the One who’ll give them the idea to hand their kingdoms over to the wild animal, so that whatever God says will be fulfilled.  
  
 18‘Now, the woman whom you saw means the great city that dominates the kings of the earth.’