

2024-2025 BSP#15 Group Time Discussion

(A) 為查考和認識的題目 Questions for Studying and Understanding (10 minutes)

1. 在 2:18-20 若望用先知婦人依則貝耳的惡行(列上 16:31-33, 列下 9:22) 反對提雅提辣教會。在 17 章又稱巴比倫為「淫婦」，預告「那十隻角和那獸，必要憎恨那淫婦，使她成為孤獨淒涼，赤身裸體的，並吞食她的肉，且用火焚燒她」(17:16)。若望似乎有低貶女性之嫌？
 - a. 若望深受重男輕女的當代文化影響，他低貶女性是可以理解的。這思想也流露於默示錄中。
 - b. 天主默感的聖言理應寫實。事實是女性在若望心中是低下的。
 - c. 若望跟隨舊約先知傳統，將拜邪神的人稱為「淫婦」。
 - d. 「淫婦」形象適當地描述出賣自己去勾結政權，共行不公義的事的人與物。
 - e. 默 12「身披太陽，腳踏月亮，頭戴十二顆星的榮冠」的女人和 19 章「穿上了華麗而潔白的細麻衣」與羔羊結合的女人讓這謬論不攻自破。

In 2:18-20, John uses the evil deeds of the prophetess Jezebel (1 Kings 16:31-33, 2 Kings 9:22) to oppose the church in Thyatira. In Chapter 17, Babylon is also called "the harlot" and it is predicted that "the ten horns and the beast will hate the whore and make her desolate and naked, and they will devour her flesh and burn her with fire" (17:16). John seems to be disparaging women?

- a. If John is deeply influenced by the contemporary culture that favors men over women, it is understandable that he would belittle women. This way of thinking is also evident in the Book of Revelation.
- b. The inspired Word of God should show the reality. The reality is that women are inferior in John's mind.
- c. John follows the tradition of the Old Testament prophets and calls people who worship false gods "harlots."
- d. The image of "harlot" appropriately describes people and things who sell themselves to collude with the political power and commit injustice.
- e. The Rev 12 woman who is "clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars on her head" and the woman in Rev 19 who is clothed in "fine linen, bright and pure" and is united with the Lamb make this fallacy clear.

2. 在古代語言中 - 包括希伯來文、希臘文、拉丁文 - 每個字句或名稱都有個數字。默 13:18 由地下上來的獸的數字是「666」。這也是羅馬君王尼路的名字的總數。所以很多釋經學者認為這獸是尼路。在默 17，若望告訴我們，羔羊要戰勝巨獸和他的爪牙，「因為他是萬主之主，萬王之王」(17:14)。這名字的總數是「777」。若望用「666」和「777」象徵邪惡的巨獸和正義的羔羊是要給我們甚麼訊息？
- 數學是眾科目中最崇高的，所以天主說話喜歡運用數字。
 - 希伯來文化中「7」是個完滿數字；「6」在「7」之下，縱使默示錄中魔鬼(「6」)以天主(「7」)的姿態出現去迷惑眾生，但邪惡並不完滿也不是天主。
 - 若望推崇很多香港人喜愛「8」因為它使人發達的心態。
 - 像君王般「有十隻角和七個頭，角上有十個王冠」的獸(13:1)，最終不能為王。真的君王是耶穌，「他是萬主之主，萬王之王」，他要戰勝邪惡。
 - 將默 13:18 和 17:14 牽強相比，只是釋經學者的想像力。

In ancient languages, including Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, every word or name had a number. In Revelation 13:18, the number of the beast that comes up from the earth is "666." This is also the number for the name of the Roman king Nero. Therefore, many commentators believe that this beast is Nero. In Revelation 17, John tells us that the lamb will conquer the beast and his followers, "for he is Lord of lords and King of kings" (17:14). The total number of this name is "777". What message does John want to give us by using "666" and "777" to symbolize the evil beast and the righteous lamb?

- Mathematics is the highest of all subjects, so God likes to use numbers when he speaks.
- "7" is a perfect number in Hebrew culture; "6" is under "7". Even though the devil ("6") appears in the form of God ("7") in the Book of Revelation to deceive people, evil is neither perfect nor God.
- John promotes many Hong Kong **people's** mentality of loving the number "8" because it makes people rich.
- The beast that is like a king and has "ten horns and seven heads, and ten crowns on its horns" (13:1) cannot be a king in the end. The true King is Jesus, "Lord of lords and King of kings," who will defeat the beast.
- The far-fetched comparison between Revelation 13:18 and 17:14 is just the imagination of the scriptural exegetes.

(B) 為反思和應用的題目。Reflection and application question (15 minutes)

第七位天使把第七盃倒下後，17章展開了邪惡勢力全面敗退和真理最後全面彰顯的結局。默示錄給我們的強心針是：世上魔鬼橫行無忌，這現象在末世將更甚。但大能的天主仍控制一切，「並奇妙地從惡中引發出善」，「因為天主允許惡，為能從中取得更大的善。」(教理 311, 412)

不幸地，當今世界充滿了痛苦和仇恨。社會道德敗壞，善惡不分；世局不穩定，戰火連天；世人生活在極度危機中，全球性的災禍隨時一觸即發。上述默示錄訊息，對身處這可怕的世局中的你有甚麼幫助？它的教導如何改變了你的心境和待人接物的方法？

After the seventh angel poured the seventh bowl, Chapter 17 began the conclusion of Revelation in which the evil forces were completely defeated and the truth fully revealed and established. The book of Revelation gives us a shot in the arm: The devil is rampant in the world, and this phenomenon will be even worse in the last days. But the Almighty God is still in control of everything, "and mysteriously brings good out of evil", "because God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good" (Catechism 311, 412).

Unfortunately, the world today is filled with pain and hatred. Social morals are corrupt, and there is no distinction between good and evil; the world is unstable and war is raging; the world is living in an extreme crisis, and global disasters are about to break out at any time. How can the above-mentioned apocalyptic messages help you in this terrible world situation? How have its teachings changed your state of mind and the way you treat others?