

ALBRECHT DÜRER

Germany, 1471–1528

The Adoration of the Lamb and the Hymn of the Chosen (from the series, The Apocalypse), ca. 1498

Woodcut

Gift of Andrew Adams, 1937 (10618n)

This woodblock combines several verses from the *Book of Revelation*. Shown in the upper middle is the Lamb of God, depicted with seven eyes and horns on mount Sion. Surrounding the lamb are four Saints represented as their attributes. Matthew is the angel; Mark the lion; Luke the bull; and John is the eagle. Beneath the lamb are the pious and kings, revering at the vision of the lamb. The pious are holding their attributes of palm-leaves.

The *Book of Revelation* begins with an angel sent to Saint John to reveal the events that will unfold during the Apocalypse. The saint is ordered to write down everything that is shown to him and thus, the text is narrated by him. Here, in the lower center, Dürer has included Saint John receiving one of the visions.

ALBRECHT DÜRER

Germany, 1471–1528

***The Whore of Babylon (from the series,
The Apocalypse)***, ca. 1498

Woodcut

Gift of Andrew Adams, 1937 (106180)

Prominently placed in the lower right we see the Whore of Babylon depicted as a beautiful young woman. As described in the text, she is shown sitting on a scarlet beast donned in fine robes and precious jewels. As an allegory of all abominations, the woman symbolizes everything that is evil. Next to the woman are kings and others who have fallen to her evil ways.

The angel on the right, above the woman, points the viewer's attention to the literal representation of the fall of the city of Babylon. The entire composition is chaotic and tumultuous, communicating the instability and ultimately, the destruction of the city. This image warns the viewers who may be lured into the temptations set out by the Whore of Babylon.

ALBRECHT DÜRER

Germany, 1471–1528

The Angel with the Key and Saint John sees New Jerusalem (from the series, The Apocalypse), ca. 1498

Woodcut

Gift of Andrew Adams, 1937 (10618p)

Illustrating the last verses of the *Book of Revelation*, we see here, the conclusion of the Apocalypse. In the foreground is an angel imprisoning the beast-devil into the pit of Hell.

We again see Saint John, shown in the upper right, with an angel pointing to the newly created city of New Jerusalem. Intended to juxtapose Babylon, the visual representation of this city is the polar opposite of the one depicted in the previous woodcut. While one is orderly, calm, and peaceful the other is chaotic and the city is burning to the ground. The reader/viewer should be cautious and follow the correct path to salvation which will lead to New Jerusalem. Those who succumb to the temptations of Babylon will most certainly meet the punishments and fall to the chaotic destruction as represented in the woodcut to your left.