



The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

- 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying ^[a]to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”
- 2 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.
- 3 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of ^[b]her fornication.
- 4 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.

- 5 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast

- 6 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the ^[c]mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.
- 7 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to ^[d]perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and ^[e]yet is.
- 8 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.
- 9 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to ^[f]perdition.
- 10 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.
- 11 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.
- 12 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
- 13 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.
- 14 And the ten horns which you ^[g]saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
- 15 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.
- 16 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

Footnotes

[a] 17:1 NU, M omit to me

See Acts 17:11 — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

[b] 17:4 M the fornication of the earth

[c] 17:7 hidden truth

[d] 17:8 destruction

[e] 17:8 NU, M shall be present

[f] 17:11 destruction

[g] 17:16 NU, M saw, and the beast

Notes on Footnotes

The KJV / NKJV is based on the received text, the version where there exist most ancient Greek manuscripts.
NU - stands for Netsle-Aland Greek New Testament /United Bible Society. These are texts based on the oldest, but not the most numerous ancient manuscripts.

The NU-Text found in the footnotes represent the text found in Alexandria / Egypt, because this text is considered to be oldest version of the new testament still in existence. However, old does not automatically mean correct. Alexandria is known to be the seat of occult teachings in ancient times. Even in the 1st and 2nd century there were already incorrect versions of Paul's letters in circulation, but the majority of the copies (i.e. the received text) agreed with each other.

M - Masoretic Text - Traditional text of the Old Testament. Often compared to the LXX (Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Old Testament.)



Revelation 17 (NKJ) The Fall of Religious Babylon

Ephesians 2:1 By Grace Through Faith

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the [Greek aion, aeon]course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

2 Corinthians 4:4 The Light of Christ's Gospel

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor [adulterating the word of God]handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Concept of Babylon. Revelation 16:19 and 14:8 have already declared Babylon's fall. In Revelation 17 and 18, the fall of Babylon is carefully detailed.

Revelation 16:19 Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Babylon mentioned: 287 times in the Scriptures, more than any other city except Jerusalem.

Babylon was a literal city on the Euphrates River.

After the Great Flood, Babylon was the center of the civilization that expressed organized hostility to God. (Genesis 11:1-9 *Below)

Babylon was later the capitol of the empire that cruelly conquered Judah.

Under the Antichrist, Babylon will have influence over the earth as never before.

Babylon, to the Jews, Was:

- The Esence of All Evil
- The Embodiment of Cruelty
- The Enemy of God's People
- Carnality, Lust and Greed."

Babylon is Associated With:

- Organized Idolatry
- Blasphemy
- Persecution of God's People.

In John's day The city of Rome was the clearest fulfillment of the Babylon attitude, it epitomized antagonism and opposition to the Christian faith.



Revelation 17:1-18 — The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

The great harlot (religious Babylon) is described by the angel.

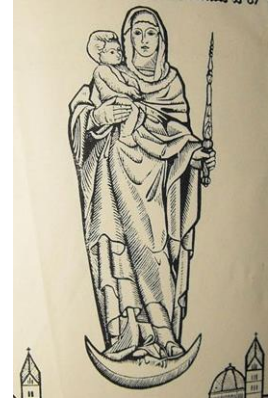
1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying ^[a]to me, “Come. I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Harlot: is repeated four times in this chapter (vs 1, 5, 15,16)

Many Waters: represents nations

I will show you the judgment of the great harlot: Her judgment is assured at the outset. There is never any doubt regarding the fate – and ultimate failure – of Babylon.

According to the historian Eusebius, and legend, the Babylonian religion was founded by **Nimrod’s** wife, **Semiramis**. She was a high priestess of idol worship, and she gave birth to a son, **Tammuz**, who she claimed was conceived miraculously. Many ancient artifacts remain with the familiar motif of the mother Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz, which predate Christianity. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast and then miraculously brought back to life. **Baal** was the local, Canaanite name for the Babylonian Tammuz.



The image of a mother holding her child is pervasive throughout nearly every culture throughout history. This gives some credence to the import of Semiramis and her place in history.

See: Ezekiel 8:14

13 And He said to me, “Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing.” 14 So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord’s house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for [A Sumerian fertility god similar to the Greek god Adonis]Tammuz.

See: Jeremiah 7:18

16 “Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you. 17 Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. 19 Do they provoke Me to anger?” says the Lord. “Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?”

See: Jeremiah 44:17-19

17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of [Lit. bread]food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. 18 But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.”

19 The women also said, “And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands’ permission?”

See: Jeremiah 44:25

24 Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, “Hear the word of the Lord, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt! 25 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: ‘You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, “We will surely keep our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her.” You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!’

Who sits on many waters: She presides over many nations. She has a universal, international character.

See: Revelation 17:15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

See Acts 17:11 — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

2 with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.”

The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk: Religious Babylon intoxicates kings and peoples.

“Religion is the opiate of the masses.” (Karl Marx) —WRONG! It’s false and empty religion that is the opium of the masses!

made drunk with the wine of her fornication: Throughout the Bible, fornication often has strong associations with idolatry.

John 14:6 The Way, the Truth, and the Life

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many [*Lit. dwellings*]mansions; if it were not so, [*NU would I have told you that I go or I would have*]I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. 4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus said to him. “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 10:9, 10 Jesus the Good Shepherd

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came [a]before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(3-6) **What John saw.**

3 So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Wilderness: merriam-webster.com describes as: a tract or region uncultivated and **uninhabited** by human beings; an area essentially **undisturbed by human activity** together with its naturally developed life community

He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness: John is carried away into the wilderness; the desolate nature of the wilderness is an appropriate setting for a vision of judgment.

Sitting on a scarlet beast: The harlot rides the same beast (seven heads and ten horns) that was previously seen in **Revelation 13:1 – the Antichrist and his dictatorship.**

1 Then [*NU he*]I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having [*NU, M ten horns and seven heads*]seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name

Sitting on the beast: indicates that she is supported by the power of the beast, or maybe she is in a dominant role and directs the beast.

4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of ^[b]her fornication.

The woman was arrayed: The woman is clothed with emblems of luxury (purple, gold and precious stones) and government (scarlet). Yet she offers idolatry (abominations) and impurity (filthiness of her fornication) in this sumptuous setting.

Purple and scarlet were colors of splendor and magnificence; the dyes to make fabric these colors were rare and costly.



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5 And on her forehead a name was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS
OF THE EARTH.

Jerusalem and Babylon: The two predominant cities in scripture: **Jerusalem**, 815 times; **Babylon** 274 times (NKJ)

Harlot: is repeated four times in this chapter (vs 1, 5, 15,16)

On her forehead a name was written: Roman prostitutes frequently wore a headband with their name engraved upon it.

See Revelation 12: for the contrast between the woman in Revelation 12, representing Israel, God's people, and this woman, representing idolatrous, false religion). As Antichrist corresponds to Christ as a rival and antagonist of Christ, so Great Babylon corresponds to the Woman that bears the Man-child, as her rival and antagonist.

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT: This title is for spiritual Babylon; but its (mystery) representation, which is the source (mother) of all idolatry (abominations) and spiritual adultery (harlots).

This harlot is the embodiment of Satan's own religion of the world system.

Our world, strong with the philosophy that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe, is prepared for the harlot's seduction.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

For Additional Reading: See: Foxes Book of Martyrs [FOXES BOOK OF MARTYRS \(ntslibrary.com\)](http://ntslibrary.com)
A Woman Rides the Beast: Dave Hunt: 9781565071995
Amazon.com: Dave Hunt: Books, Biography, Blog, Audiobooks, Kindle Christianbook.com
[Dave Hunt \(Christian apologist\) - Wikipedia](http://Dave Hunt (Christian apologist) - Wikipedia)
DAVE HUNT - YouTube

Drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: The woman not only persecutes, she also revels in her persecution of the godly as a drunk revels in wine.

I marveled with great amazement: John was amazed because this wasn't pagan persecution, as in his day, but false religion and persecution. This is a false church, thirsty for the blood of the saints. False religion is the worst enemy of true religion. Some of the most vicious persecution conducted against Christians has been done in the name of the "church".

(7) The Meaning of the Woman and the Beast is interpreted.

7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the ^[c]mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her: The explanation is on the beast. The harlot ruled (rode) the beast (the Antichrist's system), but he is the stronger character, using her as a tool to accomplish their purposes.

(8) The beast carrying the woman is plainly connected with the beast of Revelation 13

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to ^[d]perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and ^[e]yet is.

(9) Seven mountains associated with the beast.

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

See Acts 17:11 — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

The seven heads are seven mountains: Many associate the seven **mountains** with Rome and the Papacy, because Rome is well known as the city on seven **hills**. But, the Greek word means mountains, not hills.

In the Bible **mountains are sometimes a figure of governments** (as in **Daniel 2:35**) and the city of Rome is built on hills, not mountains.

Daniel 2:35

31. This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. **32** This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and [*Or sides*]thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of [*Or baked clay*]clay. **34** You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

(10) Seven kings and kingdoms.

10 There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come: Some explain these seven kings, five past, one present, and one to come in the succession of Roman Emperors in John’s era, but there are some historical difficulties with this.

Another possibly may refer to five world empires before John’s day: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, and Greece

The other has not yet come: may refer to the one world empire to come.

When he comes, he must continue a short time: This seventh will quickly be taken over by an eighth – and will become the state of the Antichrist.

11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to ^[f]perdition.

Perdition: (Merriam Webster’s Dictionary: eternal damnation, Hell utter destruction)

Is himself also the eighth: He is of the seven in the sense that he shares characteristics with all previous world empires, but his fate is clear.

Perdition: means “destruction,” and the beast will be destroyed.

A chronologically Ordered List of 1st Century A.D Roman Emperors.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Augustus (31 BC–14 A.D.) | 8. Aulus Vitellius (July–December 69 A.D.) |
| 2. Tiberius (14–37 A.D.) | 9. Vespasian (69–79 A.D.) |
| 3. Caligula (37–41 A.D.) | 10. Titus (79–81 A.D.) |
| 4. Claudius (41–54 A.D.) | 11. Domitian (81–96 A.D.) |
| 5. Nero* (54–68 A.D.) | 12. Nerva (96–98 A.D.) |
| 6. Galba (68–69 A.D.) | 2nd century A.D. |
| 7. Otho (January–April 69 A.D.) | 13. Trajan (98–117 A.D.) |

**Nero there are many online accounts about Nero, both Secular and Christian, that name Nero as the beast or Antichrist.*

12 “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet: Some take ten as a symbolic number but. This probably refers to a ten-nation confederation (as in the toes of the Daniel 2:24-45 image),

Daniel 2:24-45 Daniel Explains the Dream of

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I



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will tell the king the interpretation.”

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the *[Lit. sons of the captivity]* captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.”

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. **28** But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: **29** As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. **30** But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may *[Understand]* know the thoughts of your heart.

They are ten kingdoms which shall arise out of the fourth great kingdom there: ten European powers, **31** “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. **32** This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and *Or sides* *[k]*thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of *[Or baked clay, also vv. 34, 35, 42]* clay. **34** You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. **37** You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; **38** and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. **39** But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. **40** And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. **41** Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. **42** And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly *[Or brittle]* fragile. **43** As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. **44** And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall *[Or crush]* break in pieces and *[Lit. put an end to]* consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. **45** Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

1 John 4:3 Love for God and One Another

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **2** By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess [a]that Jesus [b]Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

See Acts 17:11 — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

These are of one mind: Many have seen the European Union (formerly the European Economic Community) as the potential fulfillment of this. Now there are more than ten nations in this revived European power, and more on the way. But, nations join and leave the EU.

These are of one mind, and **they will give their power and authority to the beast:** Whatever their identity, their actions to join with the Antichrist in the war against Christ, in the battle alluded to in the sixth and seventh bowls.

Revelation 16:12-21) Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. **13** And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **14** For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings [NU, M omit of the earth and]of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, [Lit. Mount Megiddo; M Megiddo]Armageddon.

Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken

17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” **18** And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. **19** Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. **20** Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. **21** And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.”

Harlot: is repeated four times in this chapter (vs 1, 5, 15,16)

The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits: The harlot’s influence is worldwide, through her connection to the beast. This will be a one-world religion.

Throughout history, religion – not true Christianity – has often been the willing servant and supporter of tyrants.

(16) Antichrist’s allies turn on the great harlot.

16 And the ten horns which you [g]saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Harlot: is repeated four times in this chapter (vs 1, 5, 15,16)

These will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire: This apostate religion discovers the true nature of the beast.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 The Great Apostasy

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, **2** not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of [NU the Lord]Christ had come. **3** Let no one deceive you by any means: for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of [NU lawlessness]sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits [NU omits as God]as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.



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(17) God's Hand Ultimately Directs All This.

17 For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

God has put it into their hearts: God directed the judgment against religious Babylon. God will sometimes use a wicked group (here, the ten kings) to be an instrument of His judgment against another wicked group (here, religious Babylon).

Habakkuk 1:1-11 The Prophet Questions God's Judgments

1 The [*oracle, prophecy*]burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The Prophet's Question

1 The [*oracle, prophecy*]burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2 O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save.

3 Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see [*Or toil*]trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises.

4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

The Lord's Reply

5 "Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe, though it were told you.

6 For indeed I am raising up the Chaldeans, A bitter and hasty nation Which marches through the breadth of the earth, To possess dwelling places that are not theirs.

7 They are terrible and dreadful; Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards, And more fierce than evening wolves. Their [*Lit. horsemen*]chargers [*Lit. spring about*]charge ahead; Their cavalry comes from afar; They fly as the eagle that hastens to eat.

9 "They all come for violence; Their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand.

10 They scoff at kings, And princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold, For they heap up earthen mounds and seize it.

11 Then his [*Lit. spirit or wind*]mind changes, and he transgresses; He commits offense, Ascribing this power to his god."

To be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast: God will give the world just what it wants: godless religion and godless rulers.

(18) The great harlot is identified with Rome.

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

That great city: In John's day, Rome was the political, economic, and religious center of the world.

But Babylon – in the sense of the world system – has always been that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth. The question is, "Does it reign over me? Or am I the citizen of a better city, the Jerusalem above?"

Galatians 4:26 Two Covenants

21 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, 24 which things are symbolic. For these are [g]the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— 25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— 26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. 27 For it is

See Acts 17:11 — Be like the Bereans; “receive the word with all readiness, and search the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so.”

written:

“Rejoice, O barren,
You who do not bear!
Break forth and shout,
You who are not in labor!
For the desolate has many more children
Than she who has a husband.”

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. **29** But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. **30** Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” **31** So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

That great city: Rather, Rome was the ready personification of Babylon – the world in rebellion against God – in John’s day. Today, idolatry is just as strong, but more dispersed. Today, which city in the world is most readily identified with the world system? Hollywood? Wall Street? Washington?

Footnotes

- [a] 17:1 NU, M omit to me
- [b] 17:4 M the fornication of the earth
- [c] 17:7 hidden truth
- [d] 17:8 destruction
- [e] 17:8 NU, M shall be present
- [f] 17:11 destruction
- [g] 17:16 NU, M saw, and the beast