



The Book of Revelation: Week 17

Chapters 17-19:

Babylon Is Fallen

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Chapter 17 1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 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.” 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. 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 her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.** 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.

- What is Babylon? Babylon is a symbol of worldliness and false religion.
- God portrays her in the New Testament as a harlot (prostitute). She is also called the mother of harlots, meaning she produces many more.
- She sits on many waters: many nations are involved in her sinful deeds.
- The kings of the earth commit fornication with her. Rather than serve God, the leaders of the earth allow themselves to be seduced by Babylon.
- Third, the people of the nations join in.

A Woman Riding The Beast

- This beast represents all the empires of history which have persecuted the people of God, including the last one which is coming.
- Her gold and wealth is only a deception. False religion can seem beautiful!
- She is called the “mother of harlots and abominations.” However, at the top of her list of crimes is the slaughter of the believers. She is drunk on their blood.

7 But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to 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 yet is.

- If we remember that the beast represents empires which are anti-Semitic or antichristian, then one of these empires will return to power.

9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. 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. 11 The beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

- The angel is giving us the key, but he is not going to spell it all out for us.
- The mountains are seven empires which persecute God’s people.
- There are also seven kings. Who are they? We don’t know for sure, but it may be that there are seven kings who represent this Satanic power at its highest. We only know who the eighth one is, and that’s the Antichrist.
- What about the angel’s words about five are already past, and so on? At the time the Book was written, five were already in the past, and King #6 was then ruling.
- Who are the empires? Our opinion:
 - 1 = Egypt
 - 2 = Assyria
 - 3 = Babylon
 - 4 = Medo-Persia
 - 5 = Greece
 - 6 = Rome
 - 7 = Unknown, but this beast is also gone before the Antichrist.

- Revelation 13 says that one of the heads suffers a deadly wound but is revived. So we know that the empire of the Antichrist will be a revival of one of these empires, but it will be of the seven. In other words, it will have elements or characteristics of each of the seven.
- This is an expanded version of the visions of the Prophet Daniel.

No.	Empire	Metal Statue (Daniel 2)	Beast (Rev. 17)
1	Egypt	Not seen by Daniel	1 st Head
2	Assyria	Not seen by Daniel	2 nd Head
3	Babylon	Head of Gold	3 rd Head
4	Medo-Persia	Chest and Arms of Silver	4 th Head
5	Greece	Belly and Thighs of Bronze	5 th Head
6	Rome	Not seen by Daniel?	6 th Head
7	Islamic?	Legs of Iron	7 th Head
8	Antichrist	Feet of Iron Mixed with Clay	8 th King

- Daniel only saw four empires, starting with Babylon. How do we know? Daniel was specifically told that the first one he saw in his vision was Babylon. But when John saw the Beast, they were already on King #6. This means there were two empires on the list before Babylon. This is why the Beast has seven heads, and Antichrist becomes Number 8.
- Antichrist's empire = is it will be a European or Islamic?

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

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.”

- This is how the last empire forms. Ten kings arise and give their authority to Antichrist. This empire could cover the Middle East and more.

15 Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. 16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. 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. 18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.

- Who is the harlot? The traditional Protestant view says it is the Roman Catholic Church. In this viewpoint, the Catholic Church is a power which has controlled the nations, and the nations resent this.
- Others take a larger view say that this is the apostate end-times religion. While the harlot certainly describes the Roman Catholic Church at many points in its history, it may be just one of many organizations who take part in the general falling which the Holy Spirit said would happen at the end of the age.
- Religion that is separated from God has been a powerful tool of the Devil, but ultimately the Devil is only using that tool to put his final man in place.

Chapter 18 **1** After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. **2** And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! **3** For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.

- Many people want to argue about what this city is. Is it Rome? Is it someone else? There are many views, but the most important question we can ask as we read this chapter is whether **we** are living in Babylon.
- *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away and its lust) but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 John 2:15-17)*

4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. **5** For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. **6** Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. **7** In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ **8** Therefore her plagues will come in one day— death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

- The boast of Babylon is that she will not see sorrow.

9 “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, 10 standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’”

- I think most of us have lived long enough to meet some people who can’t cry over anything except the loss of their wealth and their goods.

11 “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: 12 merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; 13 and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men. 14 The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 17 For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance 18 and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’”

- Notice at the end of the age there is literal slavery. This is true already nowadays in Islamic nations and in sex trafficking. Notice also the great mourning.

19 “They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate. ’20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

- It’s appropriate at this point for the saints to rejoice in God’s just judgment of Babylon, the judgment of the world that murdered the people of God.

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, “Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. 22 The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. 23 The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.”

- As Christians we are called to forgive, but the world will know that God will avenge the blood of His people on all who do not themselves repent.

Chapter 19 1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! 2 For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her.” 3 Again they said, “Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!” 4 And the twenty- four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, “Amen! Alleluia!” 5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, “Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!”

- An awesome scene in Heaven as they rejoice in the judgment of the harlot. Now there’s rejoicing in Heaven because God has completed his outpouring of wrath on the world system, on the harlot, and on the empire of the Antichrist. These are our three enemies at the end of the age!
- Soon Jesus will descend with the armies of Heaven!

Jesus says, “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.”
