

Revelation 17: 1-18

“Babylon”

Revelation 17:1-2 (KJV)

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”

In chapter 16 we witnessed the final judgment of God against this world.

- * We saw God destroy this world through a series of powerful plagues.
- * We also witnessed the defiance of fallen man
- * We say that even in the face of judgment, man refused to repent.

The last plague in Revelation 16:17-21 brought about a great earthquake that destroyed the cities of the world

- * This final, great quake devastated all the places that man had created
- * This earthquake destroyed everything that represented the greatest accomplishments of humanity
- * All of mankind’s centers of pleasure and profit are wiped out
- * greatest accomplishments of humanity

Genesis 1:1-2

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters”

- * In the beginning God created heaven and earth
- * In Revelation 16 the great earthquake put back in place the fact that God Created!
- * A fact is being made that what man had created in nothing in the eyes of God
- * What man has taken for granted, what man has taken credit for, God says all human involvement in the creation matter must be put in its place.
- * For without God heaven and earth have no form, they are void, empty, dark.
- * **The awesome fact is that GOD CREATED!**

God has the power to take a person and make a new creation out of him

God has the power to take that new person, that new creation, and move him along stage by stage until he reaches the climactic moment of redemption and perfection—all at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"

Philippians 1:6

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"

Genesis 1:31 (KJV)

"31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day"

Since the dawn of time man has been in the business of trying to get by without God

Genesis 2:8-9 (KJV)

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil"

Genesis 2:15-17 (KJV)

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"

Genesis 3:1-7 (KJV)

"Now the serpent was more subtil [subtle, shrewd, crafty, sly] than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, *God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

4 And *the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and *ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

Man rests on his power, his accomplishments, his ability to produce and his ability to enjoy pleasure

Revelation 16: 19

“And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath”

- * In that last great judgment, everything man trusts is taken away.
- * We are also told that “great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath,” Revelation 16:19

Babylon is a city, but it is also a system

- * Babylon represents everything mankind has accomplished apart from God
- * This system is judged in the seventh bowl judgment

What we have in chapters 17 and 18 is another parenthetical passage

- * These two chapters give us the details of the destruction of the Babylonian system

In chapter 17 we will see the destruction of religious Babylon

In chapter 18 we will see the destruction of economic Babylon

Revelation 17:1-2 (KJV)

“And there came one of *the seven angels which had the seven vials*, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of *the great whore* that sitteth upon many waters:

2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication”

Revelation 17:3-6 (KJV)

"So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration"

THE BABYLONIAN HARLOT DESCRIBED

* The first verses tells us that we are going to witness "*the judgment of the mother of harlot*"

* The word "*harlot*" ["*whore*"] is a word that we do not use in decent company

It translates the Greek word "*pornay*", which refers to "a woman who sells her body for sexual uses; a harlot; a prostitute"

* It is also used to refer to a woman who is an "*idolatress*"

In this passage the word refers to the whole system of false religion embraced by this world

* These verses teach us about this system of false religion and how it will be judged someday

False religion has done more to doom people than any other single thing. How?

* By its deception

* False religion promises life, salvation, peace, security, and hope in some kind of life hereafter without Jesus Christ

* But if it is false, it is a lie, total deception

* This will be the great tragedy of false Babylon, of false religion in the end time. It will doom people by the millions, doom them for eternity.

This is the reason this particular chapter is given in Revelation: to warn us about false religion and to warn us of religious Babylon, the false religion that is going to sweep the earth in the end time

Revelation 17:1-2 (KJV)

“And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

The Scope Of This System

* We are told that the harlot “*sitteth upon many waters*”

Verse 15 gives us the commentary on this verse

Revelation 17:15 (KJV)

“ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”

What we see here is a one world religious system

* Right now there are thousands of religions on this planet, and there is little agreement between them

* The primary religions recognized by most people are Christianity, Catholic, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, Satanism

Most of the world’s population observes one of these religions

* There will come a day when all the religions of the world will be brought together under one banner

* The Antichrist, or the False Prophet, will have a plan that will iron out all the difference between these systems of belief.

* One day there will be a one world- religion

There is already a great push in that direction now

* There is an ecumenical movement working in our day that is seeking to bring all the religions of the world together.

Christianity is different from all other religions on the earth because it is not really a religion, it is a faith

* When the Rapture occurs, all true Christians will be removed from this world. What will be left will be those who “*have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof*”

* Those people will be easy prey for the devil and demonic religion.

Revelation 17:2 (KJV)

"With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication"

The Seduction Of This System

- * According to **verse 2** the entire world will come under the spell of this great end-time religion
- * Kings and world leaders will be a part of the movement
- * The whole world will be intoxicated by the teaching of this false system of belief
- * Like a slick seductress, this great harlot will seduce the world with her promises and her power

The point is this: in the end time there will be a world-wide religion, a religion of the state.

- * There will be a religious Babylon, a false religion that will seduce
- * The false religion will have the support of the kings and leaders of the world.

How many people prefer to belong to a religion or church that allows worldliness into their doctrine?

2 Corinthians 6:17-18

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"

1 John 2:15-16

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love 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"

Many governments support major religions because of the good the religions do. Religion helps the state in promoting law and order, loyalty to the state, peace, morality, and discipline

- * There is going to be a One –World Religion
- * It will be politically correct and it will be a False Doctrine

Revelation 17:3 (KJV)

“3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns”

The Supporters Of This System

- * This harlot is supported by the Antichrist
- * The Antichrist is the “beast” and he carries this religious system to great power in the world.

Religious Babylon sits upon a scarlet colored beast

- * Sitting means that the false religion is supported and dependent upon the state

The scarlet colored beast is the antichrist

- * It is he who is full of names that blaspheme God
- * This means that all the heads or governments under his authority blaspheme and rebel against God.

The phrase “full of names of blaspheme” reminds us that Antichrist will set himself up as God

- * He will enter the Jewish Temple and he will demand that the world worship him.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

“ 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”

He will demand worship and a deluded world will give him what he desires

2 Thessalonians 2:11

“ 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”

He will give this religion its power

Revelation 17:9 (KJV)

“9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth”

This system sits on “seven hills”

- * This could be a reference to ancient Rome which was built on seven hills
- * Some people think that this reference ties this system in with Roman Catholicism
- * The seven hills could be a reference to the seven continents, which would indicate that this system is worldwide in nature
- * Never the less again we are talking about a one-world system

I believe the final construction of this end-time religion is best left in the hands of the Lord!

Revelation 17:4 (KJV)

“And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication”

The Success Of This System

- * Just as a prostitute usually dresses provocatively to draw attention to herself, so does this false religious system
- * This religion wears the colors “purple and scarlet”

These are the colors of royalty and nobility. She is “decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”

- * This speaks to her wealth and prosperity
- * This system will be wealthy beyond words
- * This is true of many of the “great religious systems” of our day

There is big money on religion!

- * Some people grow very wealthy at the expense of others!
- * Again I am talking about Religion not Ministry – Big Difference!
- * The Spirit of Religion – The System of Religion.

The Bible tells us that this system is well connected and prosperous

This harlot holds in her hands "a golden cup full of abominations and filthiness of her fornications"

- * While this religion appears healthy, good and prosperous on the outside, it is really filled with corruption.
- * It is an abomination to God!
- * Because they will not minister to those in need.

There is a danger as any church or denomination grows that it will thrive on its prosperity and forget its allegiance to the Lord

Revelation 17:5 (KJV)

"And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"

The Spirit Of This System

- * In ancient times, it was common for prostitutes to wear identification so that prospective customers could recognize them
- * This system is identified by God as "*the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth*"

When we speak of Babylon, many people immediately think of a city

- * It is a city located in the country of Iraq
- * Babylon the city was once the grandest capital of the most powerful nation in the world

Babylon is also a system

- * Babylon is described as the system from which every false religious system in the world originated.
- * That is what the title "*mother*" implies.

This Babylonian system first appears in Genesis 11:1-9

Genesis 11: 1 (KJV)

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech"

- * The city was called Babel then and was founded by a very wicked man named Nimrod
- * The people of Babel decided to build themselves a tower so that they could leave their mark on the world

Genesis 11:2-4 (KJV)

“And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth”

The flood was fresh in their minds and they wanted to leave their mark on the world”

- * This tower was designed that its top may reach into Heaven
- * It was designed as a temple of Heaven.

The constellations were placed on the top of this tower and men climbed it to worship the heavenly bodies

Genesis 11:4 (KJV)

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth”

- * This tower, and the religion in represented, is the first of many false religions started by man
- * They were the first false religionists, but they would not be the last.

Seeds of humanism and pride are found in their attempt at forming their own religion

- * God judged these people for their rebellion and for their foolish worship.
- * Just as He judged them, He will one day judge all the false religions of the world.

That is what we see here in Revelation 17

- * This chapter clearly reveals what will happen to the false religions of this world at the end of the Tribulation Period.

Many religious practices have their root in ancient Babylonian worship rituals. Things like Easter eggs, unicorns, the circle of life, yin yang - etc. have their origins in ancient Babylon

Genesis 11:6 (KJV)

“And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do”

The Slaughter Of This System**Revelation 17:6 (KJV)**

“6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

* This system of belief is responsible for the deaths of every saint of God who has ever died at the hands of false religion

* From the death of Abel, to the prophets, to the early Christian martyrs, to the martyrs of the inquisition, all the way the millions of martyrs of the Tribulation; every single death can laid at the feet of the Babylonian harlot

* This Anti-Christ Religious System is responsible for the deaths of God’s children and she will be judged for her blood thirsty ways!

Revelation 17:7-10 (KJV)

“And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

* Simply the source of the power of religious Babylon, of false religion will be the beast [antichrist]

Verse 10 refers to the seven great world kingdoms. Five were already passed in John’s day, (Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia; and Greece). One was ruling, Rome. The one to come is the kingdom of the Antichrist.

Revelation 17: 11

11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition

Verse 11 refers to the reign of the Antichrist. He will be a world leader, but after the miracle of his death and resurrection, he will become the ruler of the world. But, his judgment is set in stone.

Even with all his power and popularity, the Antichrist is headed to perdition!

The word "perdition" means "utter destruction"

Revelation 17: 12-13 KJ

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

* These two verses refer to ten kings who will give their allegiance and power to the Antichrist

* In return, he gives them great power and authority

* These kings are wholly committed to the reign of the Antichrist

* They are given a kingdom, but their reign is short lived, Ill. "one hour".

Revelation 17: 14-15 KJ

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues"

This verse also refers to those who are with the Lamb when He does battle with the world

* These people who are "called, and chosen and faithful" refer to the Bride of Christ

* This, my friends, is us! When He comes, we are coming with Him!

We will watch the Lamb do battle and shout for Him as He claims victory over all His enemies! What a day that will be!

Revelation 17:16-18 (KJV)

“16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth”

Religious Babylon will be destroyed because of God

*** In the final analysis God is the One who will cause false religion to be destroyed.**

*** God will plant the idea to destroy religious Babylon within the mind of the antichrist.**

*** God will then arouse the ten other governments to support him.**

*** And false religion, religious Babylon, will be wiped off the face of the earth once for all**

The woman—religious Babylon, the state religion—is the great city that reigns over the leaders of the world

*** Religion, the false religion, will be the power that gains and holds the loyalty of the people to the state.**

*** God hates false religion! In the end of the world, He will use the ungodly to destroy the ungodly!**

When the Tribulation Period ends, all false religion will have been destroyed

*** This will pave the way for the Millennial reign of Jesus**

*** He will usher in a one thousand year period of time when people will worship no one but Him, at least openly!**

Jesus said - John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”

John 8:24 “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”