

The Destruction of the Harlot

Lesson #29 August 5, 2020

Items of Interest

1. Rev. 16:17-21 And the seventh angel poured out his vial [bowl] into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.
¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
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.²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
²¹ And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Consider: The seventh angel had poured out his bowl of the wrath and the judgment of God upon this Christ-rejecting and sinful earth. It Is Done! What follows next?

It must be the personal appearance and 2nd coming of Jesus Christ in Rev. 19: 1-16.

Note: Rev. 17:1-18:24 is an intermission; interlude; parenthesis; to GIVE DETAILS

During the intermission, one of those seven vial angels of the judgments and wrath of Almighty God, comes to John and he says, "Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: [Rev. 17:1]. [Her judgment is assured at the outset].

Rev. 17:1-18 reveals to us mystery Babylon, the course of the religious system in this world.

Rev. 18:1-24 reveals to us the city Babylon, the course of culture and commerce in this world.

2. In Rev. 17:3 John was taken to a "wilderness;" a desolate, desert-kind of place, but it is designed to picture the world which the woman and beast will rule. It will be full of cities and peoples, but it will be a spiritual desert. There will be no true spiritual food or water from this empty religious system. The world will be starving and dying. Religion leaves man in the desert. In the desert, God has provided an "oasis," a place where food and water can be found for those who are seeking. In the Tribulation Period, the "oasis" will involve the ministry of the 144,000 evangelists of Rev. 7 & 14, the 2 witnesses and others who are saved.

When the Lord showed the apostle John the bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, the city and the people of the Lord, He took Him to a mountain great and high [Rev. 21:10].

The earthly Jerusalem, "the City of the Great King," will be lit up by the beams of glory from the heavenly city, as it is written:

Isa. 60:1 "Arise; shine! for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee."

That glory will fill the temple [Ezek. 43:5].

"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it" [Isa. 40:5].

3. The Babylonian woman has a double identity:

- A mother Rev. 17:5
- A City Rev. 17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city,

Consider: As a mother, Babylon the great is a failure. She is a prostitute and the mother of prostitutes. Biblically, a prostitute is a person who spiritually has stopped following the true God and has turned to idol worship. Babylon the great abandoned the true God and has raised her daughters [false religions] to do the same. Some of her daughters are: New Age, Satan worship, Mother Earth worship, Globalism, Hinduism, Islam, etc.

- Her daughters talk about love and peace, but NONE of them love and exalt Jesus.
- Her daughters' followers are a collection of "religious people" who will be left behind at the rapture of the TRUE CHURCH.

Consider: As a city, Babylon is a place of great failure. She is the birthplace of the mother of prostitutes. During the Tribulation period, Babylon will be filled with adulterous kings.

Babylon will open her doors to one-world religion, one-world government, and global trade.

- People intoxicated with big government, big money, global commerce and a lust for pleasure will flock to her.
- She will entice adulterous leaders to marry her daughters which will represent a merger of one-world prostitute religions with one-world government.

4. Rev. 17:6 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,

"ethaumasa thauma mega"[4x in Rev.] looking upon her and understanding what she meant—"I was amazed with a great amazement, I was filled with wonder of a great wonder, I was astonished with a great astonishment."

Note: John never wrote that when he saw the beast, the course of the political empire and governments of this world. He never wrote that when he saw any other thing that God revealed to him of the future.

But when he saw THE SCARLET WHORE, and when he was made to understand what she represented, he saw the development of the course of religion in this world, ethaumasa thauma mega, "I wondered with a great wonder."

- The background of the development of this religious idolatry, this scarlet whore, is seen in the very name written on her forehead. MYSTERY, BABYLON THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Babylon was a literal city on the Euphrates River.

Genesis 11:1-10 After the flood, Babylon "was the seat of the civilization that expressed organized hostility to God under the leadership of Nimrod. [Tenney]

- Nimrod and his wife, Semiramis, developed a counterfeit and idolatrous religion that spread throughout the known world.
- In the Old Testament, *Babylon* is associated with organized idolatry, blasphemy and the persecution of God's people.

- The Bible calls the use of images, ordinances, sacraments, rites and rituals that are contrary to the revealed Word of God > Harlotry; spiritual adultery; fornication.
- Babylon was later the capital of the empire that cruelly conquered Judah.
- "Babylon, to the Jews, was the essence of all evil, the embodiment of cruelty, the foe of God's people, and the lasting type of sin, carnality, lust and greed." [Tenney]

The woman [religious system] is portrayed as riding the beast which is the symbol in the Word of God for government, for political power. Rev. 17:3-5 describes the woman.

- Emblazoned across her forehead: "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Prostitutes and of the Abominations of the Earth."
- Dressed in purple, scarlet, gold, precious stones and pearls
- Golden cup filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.
- Commits adultery with the kings of the earth
- Intoxicates earth's inhabitants with the wine of her adulteries
- She rides on a 7 headed, 10 horned, scarlet beast who is covered with blasphemous names
- "In spite of all her glamour she is nothing but a prostitute."

Rev. 17:6 "And I saw the woman [religious system] drunken"—*methuouan*, "continuously drunk," with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."

- ❖ The only church John knew was despised, poor, hunted, hounded and hated.
- ❖ John could not believe his eyes, for it was pagan Rome that was persecuting the Christians.
- ❖ When they laid down their lives, it was a heathen judge that condemned them.
- ❖ When his head was chopped off or he was crucified, or he was thrown into a boiling caldron of oil, or fed to the wild beasts, or burned at the stake, it was pagan Rome that crucified or that slew or that fed to those wild and ferocious animals these humble Christians of Jesus.

But in this vision God gave to John, the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus are shed by that rich and scarlet-robed idolatrous church.

It has been estimated she has slain more than 50,000,000 of the servants of Jesus Christ.

Walvoord: John was amazed because this wasn't pagan persecution (such as he knew in his day), but religious error and persecution. This is a *psuedo-church*, thirsty for the blood of the saints.

"False religion is always the worst enemy of true religion."

Note: The spirit of Babylon was present in John's day (typified by Rome), in our day, and throughout history, as the *world system*. But under the Antichrist, Babylon [in both its religious and commercial aspects] will have influence over the earth as never before.

Rev. 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of The Beast that carries her, which hath the 7 heads and 10 horns.

- The mystery of great Babylon involves not only the woman = religious system
- But also the beast that carries her = totalitarian system of unified government
- There will be a religious system united with a political system to manipulate the inhabitants of the earth into a false government approved religion.

Question: From where does THE BEAST [political system] come?

Dan. 7:3 And four great beasts came up from The Sea, diverse one from another.

Rev. 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of The Sea, having 7 heads and 10 horns,

The Sea Rev. 17:15 ...the waters which thou sawest...are peoples, and multitudes, and nations and tongues.

- This beast will arise out of a "sea" of people from different nations and having different languages. The sea from which the last Empire-Beast is birthed represents no single nationality, but is the raging sea of world politics, which in the end will begin to consolidate into this final world order.

The Seven Heads of History

Rev. 17: John prophesies of a "great harlot" that is said to reign over the kingdoms of the world. She is also said to sit upon a beast that has 7 heads and 10 horns. [Rev. 17:3]

An angel describes to John these 7 heads:

Rev. 17:9 "And here is the mind which hath wisdom.

- Only those who know this truth and accept it will be prepared to recognize and stand against the deception of this future system. Understanding God's truth always gives us the capacity, if we will use it, to recognize the enemy as the enemy.
- The Beast symbolizes Satan's historical effort to take over and rule the world.
- Its 7 heads are 7 empires that arose from the sea of humanity.

Rev. 17:10 The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

And they are 7 kings: 5 are fallen, and 1 is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space." [#7]

Bible: Hills or mountains are a symbol of kingdoms. The 7 hills must be 7 kings or kingdoms.

- These 7 kingdoms, Satan's Super 7 Kingdoms, are greatly influenced by the Harlot = the Satanic religious system.
- 5 of these kings/kingdoms had fallen at the time the prophecy was given to John-100 AD. These 7 kingdoms include more than the 4 beasts Daniel saw. The original 4 empires in Daniel only represented those powers which would arise from his time up until the time of the end. However, before Daniel lived there were additional powers which had affected the history of Israel. Daniel did not include previous empires because his prophecy was meant to be one describing the future, not the past.

The Lord gives us much greater detail in John's vision in order to make the totality of world history more understandable.

Our understanding of Nimrod, Semiramis and 'the mystery religion of Babylon' sheds light on which kingdoms are represented here. God's prophetic Word generally involves Israel over the course of Biblical history. Israel did not exist prior to the Noahic worldwide flood.

In fact, Israel did not exist during the time of Nimrod and the origin of 'the mystery religion of Babylon.' Several generations later Abram was called by God to leave Ur of the Chaldees in Mesopotamia and head to the promised land - Canaan.

The strongest empire in the world at that time was Egypt.

1. Egyptian Empire

- Heavily suffused with the "mystery religion of Babylon"
- Intricately involved with the development of Israel as a nation

2. Assyrian Empire

- Heavily influenced by the 'mystery religion' and located north of Nimrod's capital, Babylon
- Assyria was a horrific enemy of God's people which defeated and destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in the days of the prophet Isaiah. ~ 772 BC.
- The Assyrians used similar methods of warfare and body mutilation that Nimrod had invented over a millennia before.

Beast = The empire or kingdom OR sometimes, it means the person.

Visions Of The Future Gentile History = 5 More Heads

Daniel 2:31-35; 37-45 Daniel recalled Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the statue and interpreted it.

- The head of gold began the "Times of the Gentiles."
- The statue gives us a chronological sweep through history beginning with the kingdom that was in existence at the time. Babylon; Medo/Persia; Greek; Roman; 10 Toes
- The statue included the "stone" that would come during the days of the 10 toes and crush all Gentile kingdoms.
- The stone [Jesus Christ] would set up His Kingdom which will fill the earth. His Kingdom will never end.

Dan. 7:2-3 Daniel spoke and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

- The beasts represent the same 4 kingdoms as Neb.'s statue.
- They both represent 4 successive kingdoms in history.

3. Babylonian Empire = 3rd head of the beast the harlot is riding on

- This empire, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, invaded Israel and destroyed Judah and its capital Jerusalem in 586 BC.
- God gave an image of 'the times of the gentiles' in a dream to King Neb. in Dan. 2.
- The empires depicted in this image comprise the remainder of the heads upon which the harlot sits in the prophecy.

4. Medo-Persian Empire = chest & arms of silver = Bear raised up with 3 ribs in mouth

- This empire controlled the destiny of the Jewish nation for several generations.
- Israel almost perished under the wicked designs of Haman. Book of Esther

5. Greece Empire = belly & thighs of brass = 4 headed leopard with bird wings = shaggy goat
- Alexander the Great was the initial conqueror. After his death, his empire was split into four parts controlled by generals in Alexander's army.
 - A fearsome and wicked king arose from one of these parts [Seleucid empire - in the area of present day Syria], whose ambition was to exterminate the Jewish religion and the Jewish people who were determined to follow their God.
 - His name was Antiochus [god in the flesh] Theos Epiphanes. Biblical typology reveals he was also a type/picture of the antichrist who is to come. Literally hundreds of thousands and likely millions of Jews perished through his wicked campaign.

Recall: Rev. 17:9-10 there are seven kings: five are fallen, and ONE IS,

6. Roman Empire was during John's day = ONE IS

- This kingdom was in existence during John's time and fully embraced 'the mystery religion of Babylon.' [legs of iron from Neb.'s statue & 4th beast of Daniel's vision]
- It was prophesied to disappear, then arise once again in the future.

Each of the above 6 empires were completely immersed in the 'mystery religion of Babylon.' They were all lovers, supporters, and defenders of organized falsehood in religion, the patrons of idolatry, and the foster friends of all manner of spiritual harlotry."

Polytheism, human sacrifice, astrology, divination, and prostitution were rampant in these empires. Their subjects were required to fully participate in this religion.

Note: We are currently in the invisible Church Age and working our way into the 10 Toes.

The Church Age = prophetic gap

Recall: Rev. 17:9-10 there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. [#7]

What is this final world power?

7. The other is not yet come = Rome Revised = 7th Head With The Ten Nation Confederation of the first half of the Tribulation. It will truly be a work of the Devil. [10 Toes]

Note: He must continue a short space.

The 7th kingdom, with 10 horns, will continue for the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation.

The revived Roman Empire which will be in sway immediately after the rapture of the church is apparently indicated by the 7th head.

The Ten Horns of the Beast [The 10 horns are on the 7th head]

Rev. 17:12 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.

- The harlot continues riding or reigning over the Beast with 7 heads and 10 horns.
- This is the first 3½ years of the Tribulation period.
- The 10 Horns DO NOT have their crowns the first 3 ½ years.

The world will be divided into 10 sections. Each of the 10 Kings will answer to the Antichrist.

- This alludes to the statue with 10 toes in Dan. 2:24-45
- Each will receive authority for ONE HOUR. = Bible = short time

- These nations may be nominally Christian in the "foot stage" of Daniel's image = "partly strong and partly broken." BUT they have been the chief repository for the perpetuation of the religion of the great harlot.
- This will ultimately be a modernized version of the same age-old pagan system introduced at Babel by Nimrod. Underneath it all it is the same ancient whore.

Note: According to Rev. 13:7, at the mid-point of the tribulation, the Satan-empowered beast will be given power over all kindreds, tongues and nations.

These 10 kings are a phase of the transmission of power from the various kingdoms to that of the beast itself.

- Daniel's prophecy indicates there will be considerable resistance at first.

Dan. 7:8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

Rev. 17:13 These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

- These 10 rulers under the Antichrist will actually be "puppet kings."
- God will ordain the political support of these ten kings for the Antichrist.
- God will give the world just what it wants: godless religion and godless rulers.

Rev. 17:14 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.

Rev. 17:16 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.

- During the first half of the 7 years, the Antichrist [Beast] will be submissive to Babylon [mother and false religious system, the city and its one world government].
- The Antichrist and his 10 puppet kings will rise up against Babylon at the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ year mark.
- Antichrist will enter the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and declare that He is God.
- Obviously, there is no more room for Babylon and her one world religion.
- The fact that they "will eat her flesh" and "burn her with fire" is indicative of the intensity and totality of the prostitute's end. NOTHING will remain.

Prophecy regarding death of Jezebel The Harlot:

I Kings 21:23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel

II Kings 9:33, 35, 37 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot.

And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

God wants The Harlot utterly destroyed to eliminate the influence of 'mystery religion of Babylon' in this world. Never again, will false religions, opposing the purpose of the one true God, exist in this world. All vestiges of them will be annihilated.

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

➤ The Antichrist doesn't realize it, but he is also a "puppet king" just like the 10 under him.

Rev. 18:1-18 God destroys the city of Babylon.

Rev. 19:19 God destroys the beast and the false prophet.

Rev. 17:15-17 God DOES NOT destroy the Harlot. It is man that destroys her.

It is an amazing thing that men should fulfill God's will even while they oppose His will.

God will use these 10 kings to destroy the age-old pseudoscientific system of religious Babylon which had deceived and damned multitudes throughout the centuries.

At this point, though the kings certainly do not have such a thing in mind, God is constraining them to unite in this way under the beast in order that His own words might be fulfilled.

In order for "all nations" to be "gathered together" for judgment and destruction at the day of the Lord [Joel 3:2; Zech. 14:2], as God had promised long ago, there must first be established a human agency to implement such a convocation. Nothing could ever accomplish this except an all-powerful world government. Hence, the kings of the earth must first yield their sovereignty to such a commander. God's Word must be fulfilled whether men intend it so or not.

Ps. 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee...

Spurgeon: Man with his breath of threatening is but blowing the trumpet of the Lord's eternal fame.

Phil. 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Rom. 14:11-12 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Nebuchadnezzar's Statue: Foretells World History until Christ's 2nd Coming - Daniel 2

- Babylon 3rd Empire
 - Medo-Perian 4th Empire
 - Greek 5th Empire
 - Roman 6th Empire
- John's Day

Prophetic Gap = Church Age

- Revised Roman 7th Empire 10 Toes Confederation
- Crushing Stone Kingdom of Jesus Christ Crush ALL Gentile Kingdoms

Daniel's Vision of 4 Beasts: Daniel 7

- Babylon Lion with Eagle's Wings
- Medo-Persian Bear raised up on 1 side with 3 ribs in mouth
- Greek Leopard with 4 heads and 4 wings of a fowl
- Roman Dreadful, Terrible, Fierce; teeth of iron; 10 Horns & A Little Horn

The Beast The Harlot Rides - Revelation 17 - 7 Heads & 10 Horns

- Egyptian Head #1
- Assyrian Head #2
- Babylon Head #3
- Medo/Persian Head #4
- Greek Head #5
- Roman Head #6
- Revised Roman Head #7 = 10 Horns Or Kings With The Anti-Christ

Note: ALL these heads or empires have supported the Harlot and her false religion.
These 10 heads have no crowns.

1. The 10 Toes of Nebuchadnezzar's statue = 10 Horns on the 7th Head of the Beast the Harlot Rides.
2. The 10 Toes or 10 Horns are in the making now.
3. The "little horn" on Daniel's 4th beast will arise in the future, subdue 3 of the 10 kings, and the other 7 will yield their power at the mid-point of the Tribulation Period to the "LITTLE HORN" who is the Anti-Christ.

The Final Beast is in Revelation 13:1-10. It is the LITTLE HORN of Daniel's 4th beast.

- 7 Heads 10 Horns 10 Crowns Blasphemy upon his heads
- The Beast looks like a leopard with feet of a bear and mouth of a lion.
- He receives his power, seat and great authority from the Dragon, Satan.
- The final beast has power for 42 months.