



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 17

**Is the one world, end time religion
already in place, and if so, can you
identify it?**

Chapter 17

- **“Any interpretation of Revelation 17 and 18 is difficult because expositors have not agreed as to the detail of their interpretations. In general, however, it is helpful to consider chapter 17 as dealing with Babylon as an ecclesiastical or spiritual entity and chapter 18 as dealing with Babylon as a political entity. While reasons will be given later to support this, two different aspects of Babylon are contemplated in these chapters, two separate aspects of Babylon and her fall (perhaps suggested by the repetition of the phrase “is fallen” in 18:2 and 14:8). Chapter 17 describes Babylon in its mystery form, as a religious system or spirit of false worship; chapter 18 describes Babylon as a political and commercial system embodied in a city, the city of Babylon of the future. So we have two Babylons: religious Babylon and political Babylon. As mentioned at the conclusion of chapter 16, these two chapters do not continue the chronological sequence of events (they do not follow the seven bowls). In fact, nothing does except the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the judgments associated with His return.” John Walvoord**

Chapter 17

- **“Instead, chapters 17 and 18 are an amplification of one of the main features of the Tribulation, the place, function, and final judgment of Babylon. Chapter 17, which deals with the destruction of religious Babylon, would have to occur somewhere around the middle of the Tribulation when the beast is finished using her as a means to his rise to power. Chapter 18 describes the destruction of political (economic or commercial) Babylon as it is embodied in the city of Babylon, the headquarters of the beast. The destruction undoubtedly occurs at the seventh bowl when the great city of 16:19, along with other cities, fall in the great earthquake. Seeing and understanding this concept of the two Babylons— the religious and politico-economic—is the key to understanding chapters 17 and 18.” John Walvoord**

Chapter 17

- **6** And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly. **7** And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? 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 is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. **9** Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, **10** and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. **11** The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

Chapter 17

- **12** The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. **13** These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. **14** These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” **15** And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. **16** And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. **17** For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. **18** The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

Chapter 17

- **6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.**
- **The “woman” is the one world religion that will make war with and kill Christians during the Tribulation period.**
- **This has been the case throughout history that false religions are violent, and seek to silence all opposition by murdering them if that is what it takes.**

Chapter 17

- **The “inquisitions” of history initiated by the Roman Catholic church, supposedly to suppress heresy, killed millions in an effort to impose a religion on other peoples.**
- **Today, we have radical Islam seeking to impose their religion on others, and have included mass murder as a means to an end.**
- **Christians are not to use force for conversions, as though that were even possible, but our methods of dealing with those who oppose us are the same as the methods use to deal with those who agree us – love, kindness, and respect.**

Chapter 17

- **7 And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? 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.**
- **What is interesting here is that the “woman” (the harlot) is riding on the Beast (the political system), so it is fair to assume she exercised at least a measure of control over the Beast for a time.**
- **Equally interesting is that the Beast is carrying the harlot, indicating that the Beast was supplying a measure of support to the false religion.**

Chapter 17

- **At this point think about the big picture and the intermingling of the religion and the state as a necessary means to an end – the worship of Satan.**
- **For a time, 42 months to be exact, the state will be cooperative with and support the new one world religion that really believes nothing that has any power.**
- **In the end, after co-opting the one world religion, the Beast will insist on being the object of worship and will abolish any pretense to the one world religion being anything but devil worship.**

Chapter 17

- **8 “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.”**
- **This is retracing some ground we covered in chapter 13 where we were introduced to the Beast.**
- **The Beast (Antichrist) “was”, then suffered what appeared to be a fatal wound, “was not”, then appeared to be resurrected, “is about to come”. (we will see later that this same fake resurrection also tells us how an 8th kingdom comes to be)**

Chapter 17

- **“And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.”**
- **Again we are reminded that there will be many people who will fall for the fake resurrection, and buy into worshipping the Beast.**
- **It is important to note that they are described as “those whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world”. (unbelievers)**

Chapter 17

- **9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.**
- **If you recall, the harlot (the one world religion) is the woman that sits on the one world government exercising some influence and also being supported by the system. (a dangerous and deadly combination)**
- **And here John writes – “Here is the mind which has wisdom”. In other words, this is deep - to understand this, one needs to look closely and examine what is being said. (fortunately for us “we have the mind of Christ”)**


Chapter 17

- **9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.**
- **The “seven heads” described as “seven mountains” have led many in recent years to tie the “harlot” to Roman Catholicism because Rome is “the city built on seven hills”.**
- **While I see how one could get “there” given Roman Catholicism’s history and doctrine, I think there is a better explanation.**

Chapter 17

- **“The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.”**
- **The “seven mountains” are defined for us in the text – they are “seven kings” – five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come”.**
- **I believe the “seven mountains” are the 7 great world empires of history.**

Chapter 17

- Egypt
 - Assyria
 - Babylon (Time of Daniel)
 - Medo-Persia
 - Greece
 - Rome (4th beast)
 - End Time Confederacy
- Rev 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, 10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes, he must remain a little while.
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Chapter 17

- **11 The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.**
- **Some strange language that is really not that difficult – the Beast that is described as “was, and is not” is described as the 8th king.**
- **There will be 7 great worldwide empires and the End Time Confederacy is one of them – the effect of the Beast’s fake resurrection is that he goes quickly from leading #7 to what appears to be leading #8.**

Chapter 17

- **12 The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.**
- **Within the End Time Confederacy there will be 10 kings – they do not have a kingdom at the time John is writing, but they will receive kingdoms under the reign of the Beast.**
- **They will receive delegated power from the Beast for “one hour” – not to be taken literally as 60 minutes, but the “one hour” most likely means a brief time.**

Chapter 17

- **In chapter 13:1 we read some similar language – “having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.”**
- **The beast, as a kingdom or a system of government, has seven heads, ten horns, and ten crowns with blasphemy written on them.**
- **It is hard to be dogmatic about the exact extent of this kingdom, but many think it is at least like the Roman empire, and therefore believe it is the revived Roman empire.**

Chapter 17

- **Now many say that the United States is nowhere to be seen in the end time kingdoms, but maybe we should not be so sure.**
- **In the 90's I heard "globalization" and thought, "it's just cute talk", today I hear the term and think, "it's upon us".**
- **The ten horns may well be referring to the 10 economic regions that many in the globalist movement of our day have in mind for their Utopia.**

Chapter 17



Chapter 17

- **13 “These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast. 14 These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.”**
- **The 10 kings are said to have one purpose – to lend their military and political resources to the Beast so that war can be waged against the “Lamb”, Jesus Christ, in the battle of Armageddon.**
- **The Lamb will prevail because while these 10 kings have some power, they are going up against the “King of kings”.**

Chapter 17

- **15 And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”**
- **The ancient city of Babylon, where the Beast may have his capitol in the tribulation, was located near the Persian Gulf where the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers converge.**
- **If you wanted to have influence, politically and economically, in John’s day you had to be located near a major waterway or seaport.**

Chapter 17



Chapter 17

- **16 “And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.”**
- **The ten kings of the economic regions will eventually show their true colors – no more pretending to be a normal religion that seeks peace and good will, but openly hating anyone or thing that stands in the way of devil worship.**
- **Satan wants no rivals, he wants to be the focus of all worship and, in the tribulation period he will have what he wants for a short period of time.**

Chapter 17

- The end of the harlot religion is described as having her enemies eat her flesh and burn her up with fire – totally consumed.
- So why is it not enough to supplant the harlot and just move on?
- The text gives us the answer to that in verse #17 - “For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.”

Chapter 17

- **So we learn from verse #17 that the Beast consuming the harlot religion actually is the will of God.**
- **And notice His method – “God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose”.**
- **Would God actually motivate and use the devil and his henchmen for His own purposes?**
- **God not only would, but will do exactly that.**

Chapter 17

- The common purpose is so that the end time government and the end time religion are all rolled into one when they wage war against the Lamb – the biggest mismatch in all of history.
- When the Beast and his system confront God in the valley of Megiddo, Satan will suffer the most one sided, swift, and devastating defeat, ever seen.
- **2nd Thes 2:8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Chapter 17

- **18 “The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”**
- **Okay, so what city is this? When we studied chapter 16, I was convinced the “great city” was Jerusalem, but after studying chapter 17, the “great city” appears to be Babylon, or maybe no literal city at all.**
- **I think what we can be certain of is that the Beast will have a headquarters somewhere in the middle east that functions as the end time capitol city.**

Chapter 17

- **“Some believe there are two prominent cities representing two prominent systems and both are called Babylon. The first is Rome, the head of the religious system in the first half, which is also entrenched in the political realm as she has always been (17:18). The other city is the capitol of the great political and commercial system of the last half of the Tribulation after the woman is destroyed (the religious system), and when the beast assumes his great power. This will be his primary headquarters, though a secondary headquarters will be Jerusalem, when he carries out the abomination of desolation. However, since the religious aspect, even as seen in Rome today, had its beginnings in ancient Babylon or Babylonianism, the great city mentioned in 17:18 most likely refers to the rebuilt city of Babylon because this city and this name personifies the whole system religiously, politically, and commercially.” John Walvoord**

Questions