

Judgment on One World Religion

Revelation 17

Judgment on counterfeit religion—final conglomeration of all religious systems into one in Last Days. It's happening as we speak. Current Pope Francis recently called for **one world government**. *“UN must be granted full governmental control for the good of humanity and creation of a New World Order and one world religion....religious pluralism is an expression of the wisdom of God's will in creation. All religions must be considered equal”*.

Ch 17 Destruction of religious Babylon--ch 18 destruction of political & commercial Babylon. Babylon is synonymous w/ the mystery of lawlessness in government & religion. *2Thes 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. ⁸ Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹ that is, the one whose ¹coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,*

Twice we've read of the fall of Babylon w/o specifics but now filling in identity of Babylon (parentheses). Ch 19 picks up in chronology from Ch 16

1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.” 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. 4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, 5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.” 6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

Beast is person & empire both ultimately destroyed. Woman is religious system we see her doom in this chapter.

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Interpret bible by bible so **Gen 10** intro to Bablyon or Bab-el house of god founded by **Nimrod** the apostate '*a mighty hunter before God*' that is a **hunter of the souls of men** according to rabbinic tradition. He collected a multitude of souls to himself in contradiction to God's demand to fill the earth, subdue it, rule over--spread out upon the face of the earth.

Nimrod built a city w/ a tower reaching to heaven—he named city Bab-El *the gate of God* in defiance of God. God changed it to Babel—confusion. It was a **counterfeit** gateway to God--A man-centered religious city.

Ancient tradition says the wife of Nimrod was Semiramis--said to have originated *Babylonian mysteries* & high priestess of idolatry making Babylon the source of all idolatry & mother of every pagan system of world religion.

What began in Babylon eventually spread in various forms & fashions thru-out the world--we see in Ch 17 the culmination in full expression ripe for judgment

Gen 3:15 seed of the woman to come...crush head of serpent—prophecy of Jesus **Bab-El** usurped prophecy--Semiramis said to have bore a son Tammuz of miraculously conception-when presented to multitude & hailed as promised deliverer. Satanic deception, replace true Seed of woman-Mary

Babylon's mystery religion spread and flourished among nations as the population spread the cult symbols were the same--mother w/ child worship w/ degrading practices. Image of queen of heaven w/ babe in arms--each culture had its own version a form of idolatry **Pictures**.

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Pagan practices such as baptism for dead, purgatory, sprinkling w/ holy water, offering round cakes to queen of heaven *Jer 7:18 the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out libations to other gods in order to spite Me* dedication of virgins to the gods which sanctified prostitution, weeping for Tammuz for 40 days *Ez 8:13 “Yet you will see still greater abominations which they are committing.” 14 Then He brought me to the entrance of the gate of the LORD’s house which was toward the north; and behold, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.*

It was said Tammuz out in the field was gored by a boar and came back from the dead—psuedo resurrection—now worshiped

Abraham was separated from these pagan systems, called out & nation Israel born—afterward it had constant conflicts w/ pagan nations. With Christ and His church also came constant conflict w/ false religion. Although Babylon the city no longer existed the remnant of its spiritual apostasy did.

1,2 Great Harlot sitting many waters—One world apostate religion influencing many nations—those ruled by Antichrist **:15** They commit spiritual fornication—religious but lost--false worship, false religion--always seeks the favor of the world.

3,4 Same *Scarlet Beast* 13:1 Revived Roman Empire--a global one world government. False religion riding, influencing, having power to influence, direct & control movement, make decisions in Beast’s empire

Events of first half of tribulation--*7 heads*-successive forms of government or rulers. *10 horns*-10 kings who reign simultaneously. Beast *blasphemes* and is of **one mind** w/ woman-harlot-apostate religion. We see depths of depravity of false ecclesiastical system. After rapture antichrist spirit is popular & prevails.

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Note wealth-riches :4-outward show of materialism & it's allurements to carnal mind vs simplicity even poverty Laodicea 3:17 ***'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,*** Smyrna 2:9 ***9'I know your tribulation and your poverty but you are rich, and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan*** Poor of this world rich in faith.

5 ***Babylon the Great*** 16:19; 18:2 not reference to city or nation but religion, mother of harlots—initiator of pagan rites & practices in church in Rome—Hyslop Two Babylons' of which protestant reformation came out of & now joined ranks being liberal & apostate—part of conglomerate of religions.

6 Not only apostate but persecuting tribulation saints. Tyndale 1536 burned at stake for translating bible into common language of people-called heretic. False religion unsparing in persecution of true bible believers.

7 And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall 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 to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.

8 Beast was, is not, is about to come from abyss (bottomless pit) and go to perdition-destruction—The home Satan & demons & rise--power of beasts government, inspired by demonic forces and Satan himself

Wonder, amazement grips the world 13:4 at intrigue & power & mindless popularity—a leader or government arising from abyss.

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 "And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction.

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9-11 Spiritual wisdom needed – 7 heads=7 mountains Rome called ‘*city of 7 hills*’ center of ecclesiastical power—minted coins referring to this.

7 heads=7 kings 5 fallen, one in power, 7th yet to come, followed by 8th who was & is not and is Beast himself. 7 kings represent 7 successive kingdoms...kings are kingdoms personified of which antichrist manifest

Kings: Julius Caesar, Tiberias, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Domitian in Johns day all Roman Empire—will be a last days revival of Rome Empire w/ 7th—Beast is the 8th during tribulation period & destroyed at Jesus 2nd coming.

Beast one of the 7 w/ mortal wound **Zech 11:17** *“Woe to the worthless shepherd Who leaves the flock! A sword will be on his arm And on his right eye! His arm will be totally withered, And his right eye will be blind.”* Pseudo--bogus resurrection he becomes the 8th **13:14** also called the *worthless shepherd*.

12 *“And 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.*

Here are more details of the final stages of this world ruling empire—which consist of a network of 10 kings confederated together represented by 10 horns who rule simultaneously (at same time). These 10 are in subjection to Beast himself. They are cheer leaders for transference of power of various kingdoms over to Beast :13

Wage war w/ Lamb—Ridiculous—man against God for power and authority over kingdoms of world. It is futile & short lived.

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

Many waters symbol explained—peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues— indication of vast sway & political influence Beast has and shared w/ harlot who sits and directs, coerce masses of world

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 should be fulfilled. 18 "And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."

10 kings conspire w/ beast to destroy the harlot. Picture of downfall of one world religious system. Timing? During first 3 1/2 years? Mid-point? After church is gone in rapture--It is an escalation of false worship worldwide in tribulation apart from Jesus Christ and His church. Period even Jews renew old dead system of worship *Dan 9:27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."* This whole picture of one world, unified religions is pictured by woman all decked out, in pomp and pride riding Beast.

½ way into 7 yr covenant, Beast proclaims himself world ruler and to be worshiped. No longer needs the help of this religious system so he destroys it and sets his own image up to be *worshiped Dan 11:36,37 36"Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done. 37"And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all. .*

The way is now open & clear for world to exclusively worship the antichrist.