

Revelation 17:1-18 (NIV)

- ¹ **One of** the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.
- ² **With her** the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."
- ³ **Then the** angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.
- ⁴ **The** woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.
- ⁵ **This title** was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.
- ⁶ **I saw** that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished.
- ⁷ **Then** the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns.
- ⁸ **The beast**, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.
- ⁹ **"This calls** for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.
- ¹⁰ **They are** also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.
- ¹¹ **The beast** who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.
- ¹² **"The ten** horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.
- ¹³ **They have** one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.
- ¹⁴ **They will** make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."
- ¹⁵ **Then the** angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.
- ¹⁶ **The beast** and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.
- ¹⁷ **For God** has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled.
- ¹⁸ **The woman** you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

Revelation 17:1-18 (NIV) "One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters.

This evil "woman" (prostitute) symbolizes the religious system of Babylon.

V15 states: "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."

The "woman" dominates the world system—her influence penetrates the peoples and nations of the world.

² With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."

With her, they (people of the earth) committed adultery (they cheated on the Lord) with the prostitute, the religious system of Babylon, led by the Antichrist & False Prophet.

People were intoxicated—they were so full/drunk on the activities of the Antichrist—they fully "drank the juice!"

The announcement of Babylon's fall—Ch 14:8. Ch 17-18 expand on what that means. Spiritual prostitution and idolatry means the rulers (kings) of the world partnered with the Babylonian religious system—immorality and corruption.

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After much study, I believe the woman, which could also be a specific human woman, but seems to be more the spiritual (non-physical) woman who is referred to as the mother of prostitutes/abominations... a false/prostitute religion. The woman (false religion) sitting on the scarlet beast (political system lead by the Antichrist) – religion & politics working hand in hand against God and His people. The beast & the woman together corrupt the nations of the world—a corrupt religious/political system—one world government & one world religion.

THE WOMAN DOMINATES THE WORLD SYSTEM AND HER INFLUENCE INFILTRATES THE PEOPLE & NATIONS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.



Outwardly this woman is adorned with the brilliant colors and jewels—all the signs of wealth and success. She is only attractive on the outside. She offers the golden cup—not the cup of suffering and salvation of Jesus—but the cup "filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries."

JESUS TO THE PHARISEES: Matt. 23:25 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!

⁶ I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

Drunk with the blood of the saints means at her hand was carried out the murder of countless followers of Jesus. "Saints" is Greek word "hagion," meaning holy ones. This isn't a title given to specially-righteous people, but to anyone saved by Jesus. False religion throughout history has been guilty of persecuting and killing God's people. This kind of hatred, in the name of religion, will flourish in the tribulation period.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.



The beast will come up out of the Abyss (the home of demons). The world (the unsaved) will be astonished/ amazed at what appears to be a supernatural survival of both the world ruler and his empire. His ultimate demise is foretold. **Rev. 11:7** "When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them."

⁹ "This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for a little while. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

The 7 heads seems to have a twofold symbolism. One=7 mountains/hills. In NT times, the city of 7 hills was Rome. Rome and its emperors were united in John's day against the true believers—and will be again.

John was writing from his point of view in which five prominent kings of the Roman Empire had already come and gone, and one was then on the throne (probably Domitian, who caused the persecution which put John on the island of Patmos). The identity of the seventh king, the one to come after John's time, is unknown.

¹² "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. ¹³ They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. ¹⁴ They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."

10 kings will be raised up in the last days. They will receive power & authority at the time of the Antichrist.

Whoever these nations and leaders are, they will oppose Jesus & His people.

The Lamb will overcome them—and God's chosen and faithful followers will be with Him.

¹⁵ Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶ The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

This seems to indicate that the time will come when the beast (Antichrist) will influence the political leaders to abandon the religious system and leader. Beast will "hate"—detest & persecute.

This is Satan's way. Lure people into self-serving religious rituals... He offers us wealth, power, authority for us, not God's kingdom. Then, he proceeds to steal, kill, destroy us. LOVE US, THEN LEAVE US.

The Antichrist will lead towards what Lucifer tried to do in the beginning.

Isaiah 14:13-14 For you [Lucifer] have said in your heart:

I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation In the sides of the north;

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.

The world church movement, which characterizes the first half of the seven years leading up to the physical Second Coming of Jesus will be brought to an abrupt end. **It will be** replaced by the final form of world religion which will ultimately be the worship of the world ruler, the Antichrist, Satan's substitute for Christ.

The Antichrist will no longer want to share "glory" with a religious system...a false god.

Now, **he** wants not only political power, but seeks to be worshipped as well (Satan's desire all along).

He will strip the woman naked (no more jewels/fine clothes (her signs of wealth, power/authority)).

THE ONE WHO WAS DRUNK WITH THE BLOOD OF MARTYRS WILL HERSELF BECOME A VICTIM.

¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. ¹⁸ The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

God “put it into their hearts” —the hearts of the rulers/political system to bring down the “woman,” the false religious system, and give the Antichrist full power!

God gives the beast power to rule...and God gives the kings of the earth the heart to allow and promote his satanic rule—but God sets the boundaries and the time limit.

The reference to the woman as a city is another link with ancient Babylon, which will be the religious center for false religion. The apostate church represented by the woman was a combination of religious and political power.

TO FOLLOW JESUS IS NOT FOR OUR PERSONAL WEALTH, POPULARITY, OR AUTHORITY, BUT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND HIS KINGDOM. THE WALK OF A CHRISTIAN IS A WALK OF SACRIFICE AND SELF-DENIAL. THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM IS THE SERVANT, JESUS SAID. IN THE END, HE WELCOMES GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!