

Mystery Babylon

Revelation 17 – July 18, 2021

The world is changing at an alarming rate.

First, it is changing in terms of knowledge.

A man by the name of **Buckminster Fuller** created the “Knowledge Doubling Curve”

He noticed that up until the end of the 19th human knowledge doubled approximately every century. By the end of World War II knowledge was doubling every 25 years. Today things are not as simple. Different types of knowledge have different rates of growth.

For example,

Nanotechnology knowledge is doubling every two years. **Clinical knowledge** doubling every 18 months. On the average **human knowledge** is doubling every 13 months. According to IBM, the build out of the “internet of things” will lead to the doubling of **knowledge every 12 hours**.

Second: Things are also rapidly changing geographically and economically.

Geographically, In the last 25 years 10 new countries emerged: Mon-te-neg-ro- 1996; Czech Republic – 1993; East Timor – 2002; Eritrea on the horn of west Africa –1991; Slovakia – 1993; Palau – 1994; Serbia – 1990; Bosnia & Hercegovina 1996; Kazakhstan – 1991 and Montenegro Kosovo – 2008.

Economically in 1951 the **first credit card** was issued by Diner’s Club.

Today we have all kinds of credit cards, debit cards, PayPal, apple pay and so much more. A few countries like Sweden, and Denmark have almost completely gone cashless, other nations including our own are moving in the same direction. Many digital payments are made by a thumb print, smartphone, iris scan and soon by DNA. These moves will impact security, privacy and even the global economy. It will affect the way we save, spend and invest.

Thirdly, things are changing with world religions.

In the west there is a rise in Islam, Wiccan’s, and a decline in Christianity.

Within Christianity there is departure from traditional doctrines and values and worship.

Finally, Things are changing politically.

The world is seemingly getting smaller by the second. Global economies and businesses are messing in ways they never connected before. No longer do businesses look at serving 360 million people in the US, but rather they are looking at the growing 7.4 billion people in the global marketplace.

WHERE IS THIS WORLD HEADING?

Our passage this morning mentions a mystery – Mystery Babylon the Great. **Defined: In biblical terms, a mystery** is something that was hid in the past but in this age is being made known.

There are three mysteries that are unveiled for us in Scripture that help us understand these last days. Mystery of Iniquity – 2 Thess. 2:7 (*Revealing of the global wickedness and the Antichrist.*) Mystery of Israel's blindness and the fulness of the Gentiles – Rom. 11:25 and Mystery of Babylon – Rev. 17.

That is, the Scriptures reveal that the world will one day grow into a global empire that will be in total revolt against God. In other words, over time our world will become so filled with anti-biblical teachings and vile conduct that it will ultimately lead to the rise of a world leader who will be wholly given over to Satan. This global government and its satanic leader will be part of this mystery Babylon.

It is a reference to the ancient world city Babel where the world gathered in revolt against God. Later, in that same region the city of Babylon was built. Babylonian Empire in the days of Daniel was the world's superpower. It too was filled with all the detestable practices that was prevalent in Babel.

That same vile practice and satanic oppression will in the last days fill the world. Revelation 17 is the snapshot of this Mystery Babylon. We will see two prime items detailed (1) its religious nature depicted as a woman riding the beast (2) its government depicted as a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns.

In Revelation 17 and 18 breaks down this global rebellion into two separate visions. Revelation 17 focuses on the religion that is behind the global

government. Revelation 18 focus on the political/corporate aspect of this global revolt.

Think of it this way. Religion historically has united the world in the most compelling way. Politics, economics, even military force are unable to overcome the world's cultural diversity. Only religion, with its appeal to the supernatural, can transcend the physical, geographical, historical, economic and cultural barriers to world unity.

The ultimate expression of false religion will be an essential element of the Antichrist's final world empire. The diverse false religions of the world will be reunited (in some way) into one great world religion.

WE SEE A FORESHADOWING OF THIS ALREADY TAKING PLACE.

Examples of this are seen with the Koran being read daily at the Vatican. Recently, Evangelical, Hindus, Wiccans, Catholics, Buddhists, Shamanists and others gathering together for worship and celebration. This is not mainstream – yet. But we are headed there.

Our Scriptures point to a world religion exploding onto the scene.

As mentioned before, people are incurably religious because God created us to be worshippers. If humanity does not embrace a genuine faith in Christ, then they will seek to find a way to fill the vacuum in their soul with the worship of false gods.

RELIGIOUS BABYLON

Revelation 17:1-2 is an interlude where John is shown the religious and political system dominating the world during the Tribulation.

“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.”

The kings and the **inhabitation of the world** have become drunk with false teaching. One of the angels of the seven bowl judgments directs John's attention to the great harlot [who is the symbol of Babylon].

The harlot here is a metaphor for the coming false religion which will mix all forms of idolatry and spiritual defection together. It will result in all forms of vile and indecent acts. Remember, when a people embrace false religion Scripture likens their illicit conduct to that of a harlot. False religion has the powerful appeal to satisfy man spiritually and sometimes physical desires without bringing him under God's authority.

This false religion is described as sitting on many waters [vs. 1b]

*"Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot **who sits on many waters** . . ."*

The passage above references to the woman's authority and influence she will have on all people and nations.

Her alliances are with the Unredeemed and the Scarlet Beast

Not only will her influence reach the highest levels of power **as she seduces the kings** of the earth, but her evil tentacles will reach all humanity - **all peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.**

" . . . The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitting, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." - Revelation 17:15

The harlot "**who sits upon many waters**" shows that this **worldwide religious system** will dominate the world of that day.

The Scarlet Beast - Rev. 17:3b-5

*" . . . 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."*

The woman is riding on a scarlet beast. **The beast describes the godless kingdoms throughout the ages.** We see this in the seven heads and ten horns. It is the same kingdom described in **Rev. 13:1-2**

*"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, **having seven heads and ten horns,** and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like*

unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

In the book of Daniel 7:7, 19 it is called a **dreadful beast**. i.e. the Antichrist and his kingdom.

The mystery of the woman and the beast is interpreted in Revelation 17:7

“I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.”

We are told the seven heads represent **seven kingdoms** in **Revelation 17:9**.

“The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”

Nations or kingdoms are often referred to as mountains in Scripture. The mountain image represents the power of kingdoms and individual kings (Jeremiah 51:25, Daniel 2:35, Zechariah 4:7).

The woman in our passage is sitting on a beast which has seven heads which represent seven mountains or seven kingdoms.

This can be described in two different ways; (a) it either means the place where the woman is sitting, or (b) **it can mean she has/had a controlling influence of the seven mountains (kingdoms)**. Since the woman represents the worldwide false religion it's **best to say she is the controlling influence over the seven kingdoms and the beast she sits on.**

False religions have been a controlling factor in governments since Nimrod established Babel, and even today false religions are a controlling factor in many of the nations around the world.

“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.” – Rev.17:9-10

In the passage above we are told **“five are fallen.”** Since the final kingdom pictured in Revelation 17 is a global empire. The five fallen must be global empires of the past. Most believe them to be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece.

The empire that is “**one is**” [the 6th kingdom] is the easiest to identify. It is the empire that existed during the Apostle’s lifetime [Rome]. The last kingdom (which is still future).

“and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space” – Rev. 17:10

When this final kingdom arrives, it will not last long like the other kingdoms that went on before. **Furthermore, it** will be represented by ten horns [kings] that will rise out of this final kingdom. They will give all their power and allegiance to the Antichrist.

“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. ¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb” – Revelation 17:12-14.

The Beast Described

It is described as red in color. Scarlet represents **luxury** [2 Sam. 1:24], splendor, and royalty. It is also the color that represents sin [Isa. 1:18] as well as **blood**.

This adequately represents Antibiblical kingdoms throughout the ages. They were rich in splendor and royalty but evil and bloody in practice. Many people [especially believers] were and will be murdered under these evil regimes.

The Beast and its Leader has names of blasphemy. *“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition.”* Here the leader of the kingdom is seen as ascending out of the bottomless pit.

Furthermore, this satanic leader is pictured as changed at some point.

The 10 kings are described as those “who have received no kingdom as yet” – Rev. 17:12. But at some point give all their power to the beast.

In Daniel 7:8 – The beast (pictured first **as a kingdom** with ten horns. The horn describes 10 kings who have some authority over this empire.)

*“had ten **horns**. ⁸ I (Daniel) 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."

Three of the 10 kings were uprooted by what seems to be the Antichrist.

In **Daniel 7:20-21** we are told that eighth horn

"had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. ²¹ I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them."

In Revelation 17:11

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

The Antichrist will take the names and titles that belong only to God the True God. Furthermore, the Antichrist will slander, ridicule, and make boastful claims against God [Rev. 13:5-6; Dan. 7:25; 11:36].

Rev. 13:5 – "And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven."

Dan. 7:25 – "And he shall speak **great words against the most High**, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."

Dan. 11:36 – "And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and **shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods**, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

Therefore, the woman riding the beast, indicate that she (the representation of false religion) is the cement holding the global kingdom together.

The Woman is seen as dressed in beautiful clothing - (Rev. 17:4). They are the colors of **royalty**, prosperity and nobility. She will have all the outward trappings to **allure** people to her false form of worship - from kings to

commonplace people - all who are unredeemed will succumb to her deadly beauty.

She is covered in jewels. Not only will religious Babylon be beautiful but also, she will be arrayed with fine gold and precious stones - signs of **success** and “extreme wealth”. This religious body will look great on the outside [wealth, power and beauty] but will be **spiritually dead** on the inside [full of compromise, false doctrines and idol worship].

She is holding a golden cup full of abominations. She entices her victims to drink – bringing them under her intoxicating influence and under the bondage of her false worship [Jer. 51:7, 1 Kings 14:22-24; 2 Kings 21:2-7, 9, 16; Ezek. 20:30-33].

Her Name: (Revelation 17:5).

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

Just as a prostitute had to identify herself in the Roman world, here she is known as Mystery Babylon referring to spiritual Babylon, the symbol of all worldly resistance to God. The term “great harlot” - refers to her worldwide influence. She is the mother of harlots and abominations because all false religious systems have their roots in the city of Babylon.

Revelation 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.”

She is declared a murderer for she is intoxicated with the blood of God’s people. Throughout history, false religion has been the biggest persecutor of God’s prophets and saints. The more the world chases after apostate Christianity, the more this harlot seeks to snuff out the lives of the true believers of God.

Revelation 17:7

As John wondered over the beautiful and bloody harlot, the angel tells John he will explain the mystery of the woman and the beast that carries her.

John understood two things. 1) **The woman** represented false religion; 2) The beast upon which she rides represents **the Antichrist and his kingdom** [13:1; 17:3].

What John is puzzled about is how these two figures are connected – the beast and the woman riding the beast. Therefore, the angel begins to explain the beast’s connection to the woman.

Revelation 17:8, 16-17

“Rev. 17:8 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.

*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.** 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.”*

This is the same beast that appeared in Revelation 13:3 which took a deadly wound to the head. He will appear to have died but miraculously comes back to life. The false prophet will use the alleged miracle of the beast’s death and resurrection to deceive the world in worshiping Antichrist [13:14].

It is at this point that Antichrist’s body will be indwelt by a demon from the abyss. **This “resurrected Antichrist” will no longer tolerate the ecumenical apostate church.** He will utterly destroy the harlot for the only religion he will tolerate is the worship of Himself.

The unsaved will be deceived and amazed by the Antichrist’s death and resurrection. His miraculous return to life [13:3-4] will cause many to worship him; however, the elect will not fall for this deception [Matt. 24:24].

Notice the sovereignty of God – Revelation 17:17

Although Antichrist is self-serving and satanically inspired, this is all part of God’s plan to bring about the ultimate destruction of the last evil empire to rule the earth.

It is God who puts in the hearts of the Antichrist and his kings to destroy religious Babylon. In God's sovereignty, Satan [and his followers] are just instruments that carry out the ultimate will of God.

Insights:

Where is the Mystery Babylon headquarter?

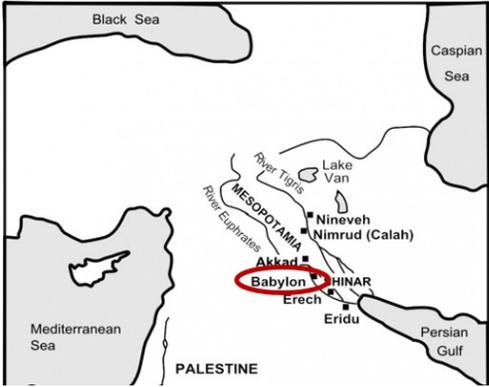
There are many views and many books written on this subject. Some say ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt and it will be the headquarters of the Antichrist. Other say his headquarters will be in Rome for Rome is built on seven hills. Still others suggest the UN or the EU have something to do with the Mystery Babylon.

TO BE HONEST, NO ONE TODAY KNOWS FOR SURE, NOR WILL ANYONE KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL THE MAN OF SIN APPEARS.

What we see today is the growing manifestation of this world's rebellion against God. I can illustrate man's growing rebellion in several ways. We can look at the unification of the world religions. We can look at the emergence of globalism from a political, economic, health, or ecological points of views. Or we can look at the UN in its world policies and so much the more.

In this message I just want to focus on one place in the world where this rise of human and governmental rebellion against God is in your face. **That is in the EU.**

Of course, this body of government today is in danger of collapsing with Brexit and other members of this union. But remember, **this is just an example** of how a global rebellion can emerge right under our noses and with the right charismatic leader be hijacked.



Babel to Babylon

My example goes back to Genesis 11 and the emergence of ancient Babel. It seems under the leadership and builder of Nimrod that the city of Babel was built. In Genesis 11 it became a city of rebellion, where the people of the world gathered to build a tower to reach the heavens. It was in

disobedience to God who told them to multiple and fill the earth.

God visited this city and struck them with languages which broke up their unity and ended their uprising for a time.

Here is an artist rendition of this tower. It is called the Tower of Babel painted in 1563 - by Pieter Brueghel the Elder.

Tower of Babel

EXISTED AROUND
2300 B.C.

Tower of Babel

Painted in 1563 - Genesis 11

by Pieter Brueghel the Elder



He designed his painting on his concept of the tower of babel and the Roman, Colosseum. He depicted a crooked tower designed with Roman construction. It's angles and the building's lean were purposeful to illustrate the failure of those governments.

About 1600 years later on a site near where the tower of Babel was built the nation of Babylon build another ziggurat. It contained the equivalent gods worshipped during the Sumerian period. Marduk then later known as Bel or Baal. Later in the Grecian pantheon he was called Zeus, and later in Rome, Jupiter. Innanu - Istra - Venus and their equivalence named the Queen of Heaven. All these world empires manifesting similar manifestations and major religious aspects over their governments.

Ironically, we find the EU's parliamentary building in Strasbourg, France fashioned after Pieter Brueghel's tower of Babel. The outside to look like the tower of Babel, the opened inside designed to look like the Roman Colosseum.

A sidenote on the Roman Colosseum. It was commissioned in 70 AD to commemorate the end of the Roman-Judean war which ended with the

destruction of Jerusalem. 60,000 to 100,000 Jewish people were taken from Jerusalem as slaves to Rome to build the Roman Colosseum.



The site of the EU Parliament in Strasbourg, France is also near the site of the first mass burning of Jews which took place on February 14, 1349.

The brochure passed out in Europe commemorating the \$12 billion building has 12 stars. Note that they are the inverted five-pointed star. It a Satanic symbol. The EU slogan is many tongues, one voice.



Furthermore, the EU leaders are aware of these ancient symbols and proudly proclaim their hope to complete what the builders of Babel and Rome failed to do.

Has not our world gone mad?

I don't have time to look at the other symbols like the woman riding the bull like this one in front of the EU parliamentary building in Brussels.

The woman is the Phoenician maiden named Europa who is riding a white bull who is Zeus in disguise.



In the legend Phoenician myth, Zeus disguised as a bull seduces Europa. When she climbs on his back he quickly runs into the sea and swims to Crete where he reveals himself to her and rapes her.



That is quick a myth to have depict your currency, statues, painting, and decor. This symbol of European union is eerily similar to the woman riding the beast in Revelation chapter 17. She sits upon many waters and is later brutally killed by the 10 kings who submit to the beast.

My point in all this is that our world has gone mad and is more than ready to be seduced and led astray.

This is just one of many examples where we see the emergence of paganism and the idea of man in rebellion against God. It is rampant amongst our world leaders and many of their followers.