

Babylon

Revelation 16

- 1) **Commandment from the Temple (Revelation 16:1)**
- c. **The Angels and their Vials (Revelation 16:2-11)**
 - 1) **The First Angel - sores (Revelation 16:2)**
 - 2) **The Second Angel - sea turned to blood (Revelation 16:3)**
 - 3) **The Third Angel - rivers and fountains turned to blood (Revelation 16:4-7)**
 - a) **The Angel of the waters (Revelation 16:5-6)**
 - b) **Another angel from the Altar (Revelation 16:7)**
 - 4) **The Fourth Angel - Men scorched with fire from the Sun (Revelation 16:8-9)**
 - 5) **The Fifth Angel - darkness (Revelation 16:10-11)**
- d. **Interlude: Kings of Earth Proceed to Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16)**
 - 1) **The Sixth Angel - Euphrates River Dried up (Revelation 16:12a)**
 - 2) **The Euphrates dried up (Revelation 16:12b)**
 - a) **Unclean Frog Spirits (Revelation 16:13-15)**
 - b) **The Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16)**
- e. **Pouring Out of the Seventh Bowl (Revelation 16:17-21)**
 - 1) **The Seventh Angel - great earthquake (Revelation 16:17-21)**
 - a) **Voices & Thunders and Lightnings (Revelation 16:18a)**
 - b) **A Great Earthquake (Revelation 16:18b)**
 - c) **The city is divided (Revelation 16:19-20)**
 - d) **Great Hail (Revelation 16:21)**

6. The Two Babylons Judged, Revelation 17-18

a. The Apostate Church in the Great Tribulation, Revelation 17

SPECIAL NOTE: (J. Vernon McGee)

In chapters 17-18 we see **the judgment of the two Babylons**. We will first see **the apostate church** in the Great Tribulation in chapter 17, and then we will see not only religious Babylon but also **commercial Babylon** in chapter 18.

So many great issues are brought to a crisis in the Great Tribulation that **it is difficult to keep them separated**, and **MANY FINE EXPOSITORS DISAGREE ON DETAILS**. We have already noted this as we have gone through this Book of Revelation. Although we agree with the system of interpretation, **WE DO DISAGREE ON DETAILS**.

This fact should not be disturbing to believers, as **many details will not be clarified until the world enters the Great Tribulation period and actually faces the climax to each crisis**.

This is especially evident relative to the two Babylons in chapters 17–18. The questions are: “**Are there two Babylons, and are they in two different geographical locations? Are they representative of two systems? Are they two literal cities, or are they the same?**” The answers to these questions **will become more apparent as our redemption draws near. It appears at the present time, in my judgment, that two distinct cities are in view.**

Here in chapter 17 it is **mystery Babylon**, the **cosmic(the world order)** church, the **apostate(one who has forsaken the church)** church. The church of Thyatira, described in chapter 2, verses 18–29,

Revelation 2:18-29

18 And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman **Jezebel**, which **calleth herself a prophetess**, to teach and **to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.**

21 And **I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.**

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, **and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, EXCEPT THEY REPENT** of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and **I will give unto every one of you according to your works.**

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not **known the depths of Satan**, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him **the morning star.**

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

which **permitted Jezebel to teach**, will become **the apostate church** of the Great Tribulation. It will attain the goal of the present-day apostates of all **the great systems of the world: Romanism, Protestantism, pagan religions, cults and “isms.”** Even in our so-called independent Bible churches there will be those who are not believers, and during the

Tribulation they will join this great organization that may call itself a church but is not. The Bible calls it a **harlot**. There couldn't be a worse label than that! This is **ecumenical**(Webster's = representing the whole of a body of churches) **ecclesiasticism**(W1828 = pertaining or relating to the church) of the one-world church. The location of this system **COULD BE IN ROME**. Rome, the city built on seven hills, is probably the city in mind here. However, Geneva, where the World Council of Churches has its headquarters, is also included, and other places, such as Los Angeles—if I know Los Angeles, and I think I do—can also make a healthy contribution to it!

It is called **MYSTERY**(W1828 = In religion, any thing in the character or attributes of God, or in the economy of divine providence, which is not revealed to man.) Babylon because of its origin. At the Tower of Babel man attempted to rally against God. Under Nimrod, Babylon became the origin of all false religion. Now **the dream of Nimrod will be realized in the first half of the Great Tribulation period, for the cosmic church dominates the wild Beast**. The church that should have been the bride of Christ **is a harlot here**. This church is **guilty of spiritual fornication**, selling herself to the world for hire. This is the church that says, “I am rich and increased with goods, and I have need of nothing.” Revelation 17 TBC - Looking back at the study of the seven churches, in chapters 3–4 of the Book of Revelation, I pointed out that the church in Philadelphia represented the church that would be raptured before the time of the Tribulation period. He said to that church, “I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation” (Rev. 3:10).

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the **hour** of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

That “**hour**” is the **Great Tribulation**, and we have been in that “hour” a long time in our study of this Book of Revelation.

The **true church**(those who are saved) will not go through the Great Tribulation; **it will be raptured before the Tribulation begins**. Let's be specific: who will be raptured? Not certain denominations and not just individual churches, but **His church**, a collective term meaning **all true believers, those who are in Christ**. That is the group that will be taken out at the Rapture, and the **rest** of the church members will be left here on this earth to go through the Great Tribulation.

My difference - I don't believe that the Church is going to be going through the Tribulation at all. The only Christians that will experience the Tribulation, I believe are those saved as a result of the Two witnesses and the 144,000 Jews that preach Christ!

1) Great Harlot Riding the Beast (Revelation 17:1–7)

Isaiah 1:21-26

21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it WAS full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but NOW murderers.

22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

23 Thy princes(rulers) are rebellious(backslidden), and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards(bribe): they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

24 Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: AFTERWARD thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

a) The Judgment of the Great Whore (A view of the picture of the end!)

1 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(strumpet; W1828 - a prostitute) that sitteth upon many waters:

Revelation 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

b) Violated kings of the earth

2 With whom the kings(foundations of political power) of the earth have committed fornication(practice of idolatry), and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

c) Transported to the wilderness

3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness:

2) Description of the Whore

a) Her Beast

3b and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured(crimson color of an insect) beast, full of names of blasphemy(evil speaking), having seven heads and ten horns.

b) The Whore

i. Her clothing

4 And the woman was arrayed(**cast about; covered**) in purple(**red blue color**) and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations(**idolatry**) and filthiness(**moral impurity**) of her fornication:

ii. Her Forehead

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

iii. Her behavior

6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints(**holy**), and with the blood of the martyrs(**witness**) of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration(**wonder**).

3) The Beast Destroys the Great Harlot (Revelation 17:7–18)

a) The Beast is Satan

7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel(**admire**)? I will tell thee the mystery(**secret**) of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast(**dangerous**) rise up out of the sea, having seven heads(**the head**) and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy(**vilification; W1828 = to make vile; defame; slander**).

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.

3 And I saw one(**of 7**) of his heads as it were(**like**) wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered(**admired**) after the beast.

4 And they worshipped(**kiss ;like a dog licking his master**) the dragon(**satan**) which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

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(**3 ½ years**).

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit,

and go into perdition(**destruction**): 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.

Revelation 13:8

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

b) If You Know you know

9 And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom.

Revelation 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* **Six hundred threescore *and* six**.

9b The **seven heads** are **seven mountains**, on which the woman sitteth.

SPECIAL NOTE:

"City of Seven Hills" most famously refers to

Rome, Italy, founded on seven iconic hills east of the Tiber River (Palatine, Aventine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Viminal, Esquiline, and Caelian).

Wikipedia

10 And there are **seven kings**: **five are fallen**,

- 1. Egyptian Empire - 3,000 years**
- 2. Assyrian Empire - 300 years**
- 3. Neo - Babylonian Empire - 87 years**
- 4. Medes and Persians Empire - 230 years**
- 5. Grecian Empire - lasted about 13 years**
- **These 5 had fallen by John's writing of the book of Revelation**

10b and one is,

- **The Roman Empire was still in power at the writing of the book of Revelation**
- 6. Roman Empire - 450 years**

10c *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue A SHORT SPACE(**oligos = puny extent**).

11 And the beast that was,

11b and is not,

11c even he is the **eighth**, and is of the seven,

11d and goeth into perdition(**destruction**).

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.

13 These have **one mind**, and shall **give their power and strength unto the beast**.

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.

15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the **whore** sitteth, are **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues**.

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**.

18 And **THE WOMAN WHICH THOU SAWEST IS THAT GREAT CITY**, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time.

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of *my* body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things.

17 These great beasts, which are four, *are* four kings, *which* shall arise out of the earth.

18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth *were of* iron, and his nails *of* brass; *which* devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

20 And of the ten horns that *were* in his head, and *of* the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even *of* that horn that 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;

22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom *are* ten kings *that* shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

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.

26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end.

27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

28 Hitherto *is* the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.