**Revelation 17 Conference**

Village SDA Church, Berrien Springs, MI

October 16-18, 2025

**Identification of the Woman and the 7-headed beast of Rev. 17.**

We seek to identify the players in prophecy in Rev. 17. Rev. 17 contains the most complete

description of the principal rulers of this earth at the end time.

Some ground rules:

1. Strict historicist (symbolic) interpretation. 2. Build from the historicist view of Bible

Interpreters. 3. Bible is self-interpreting. 4. Correlation with the Spirit of Prophecy

Paul initiates the prophecy picture in 2 Thess. 2:1-4, where he says there will be a falling away from truth before Jesus comes, and the “man of sin,” “the son of perdition” will be revealed. This “man of sin,” “…who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he is God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” Does Paul’s statement relate to the description of the woman on the scarlet-coloured beast? In GC88, 49.1, Ellen White identifies the Pauline text with the papacy, stating that “…errors creeping into the church would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.”

The “dragon, beast and false prophet” of Rev. 16:13 make their most descriptive appearance as a dragon (Satan) Rev. 12; sea-beast Papacy Rev. 13:1-10; and the earth-beast in Rev. 13:11-18. Attempting to interpret Rev. 17 without this CONTEXT would be difficult. The prophetic picture builds from its beginnings in Daniel till we come to Rev. 17. (Self-interpreting Scriptures)

1. **Ch. 12.** **Satan (dragon)** persecutes the woman (pure church) 1260 years.
2. **Ch. 13:1-10** The **sea-beast (Papacy)** exhibits the same qualities as the Little Horn (Daniel 7:8) in speaking great things, blasphemies against God, and making war with the saints and overcomes then for 42 months or 1260 years. It suffers a “deadly wound” on Feb 15, 1798, with the capture of Pope Pius VI. But the deadly wound is healed and all the world wonders after it.
3. **Ch. 13:11-18** The earth-beast (United States) comes up at the end of the 1260 year prophecy, with two horns like a lamb but ends up speaking like a “dragon” or Satan. The United States (apostate Protestant America) will form an image to this sea-beast and cause all the earth to worship this sea-beast of Rev. 13:1-10.
4. **Ch. 17** This dragon, sea-beast, and earth-beast (dragon (Satan), beast (Papacy), and false prophet (Apostate Protestant America) all meet in their final “reveal” TOGETHER in Rev. 17. This background is important in accurately and completely identifying these three beasts and their activities.

Let us look at the interpretation of Rev. 17. May God bless the reading of His Word!

**Revelation 17:1** **1And 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:**

The prophet John is nearing the end of his written Revelation. I believe he wonders what is going to happen at the end of time. One of the angels which holds the seven vials comes to him stating he is going to “show thee the judgment of the great whore” or describe what happens to this world-wide empire.

Where is John in time when he sees this vision? He is obviously receiving the visions on the Isle of Patmos about 95-96 AD, in the reign of Domitian. Rev. 17:10 could suggest he is in the “one is” section of the discussion of the seven kings. This would be during the “Rome” time period, the 6th head.

There are two women of prophetic prominence in Scripture, the pregnant woman clothed with the sun, etc., (Rev. 12:1-6) and the “woman seated on the scarlet-coloured beast (Rev. 17:1). Understanding the symbolism, the two women represent a world-wide movement, a church. The contrast of their purity suggests a “pure” church[[1]](#footnote-1) and an “impure” church; a true church and an apostate church. The first city mentioned is the great city, Babylon. The second city mentioned is the holy city, the New Jerusalem. The word, “whore,” is rather stark in its own right. It is a metaphor, in church terms, for an idolatress. The “pure” woman represents a belief in true biblical teachings, the “impure” woman represents a belief in non-biblical teachings.

**Rev. 17:2. 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.**

She is a “prostitute” because she has committed fornication with the kings of the earth. She is in league with and in partnership with these “kings of the earth.” These “kings of the earth” have “set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his anointed…” Psalm 2:2. The “great prostitute” and the kings of the earth” are in league and purpose with each other; as the text says, “against the Lord and against his anointed.” (Jesus).

**Rev. 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet-coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.**

We have a description of the vision with all the participants. We shall endeavor to identify and review each one throughout the paper. Let us make some preliminary observations.

1. What is the wilderness? (uninhabited) Note that in Rev. 12:6, the pregnant woman “fled into the wilderness” for protection. We consider this to at least be the United States, where she fled persecution, for protection and for instruction in God’s Word. Was this woman only in the wilderness for the 1260 years? Where else would she have gone?

BOTH CHURCHES (women) appear to have an experience in the wilderness. They both exist to the very end of this earth. It is true that apostasy developed in the early Christian church, but a “remnant” stayed faithful. There are TWO churches on the earth, God’s church and Satan’s church.

1. Why is this woman “full of names of blasphemy? This statement is in contradistinction to a “woman” with “no names of blasphemy.” Jesus was accused of blasphemy by the Pharisees in Matthew 26:65 and Luke 5:21. The first time for equating himself with God, and the second time, the ability to forgive the paralytic’s sins. By contrast, the Pope claims to be god on earth and has the power on earth to forgive sins. The 144,000 in Rev. 7 & 14 praise God and follow the Lamb wherever He goes. The woman/scarlet-coloured beast/seven heads of the beast of Rev. 17, says great things AGAINST God and utter blasphemies (claim to be god and claim to forgive sins) in the world.
2. Who is the scarlet-coloured beast?
	1. A beast represents a king and/or a kingdom. See Daniel 7:17, 23. The scarlet-coloured beast represents a kingdom. By contrast, the woman on the scarlet-coloured beast represents a church, with impure doctrines that are not based on Scripture, and blasphemes; claims to be God and forgive sins.
	2. We have two entities here: a woman representing a church and a beast representing a kingdom. We shall identify the woman later.
	3. Identification of the differences between the scarlet-coloured beast and the woman is critical to the entire story here. We shall visit it again shortly.
	4. Does Satan appear among the beasts in Rev. 17? Satan is the missing entity. Every beast/kingdom/horn/woman is there in 17, just not Satan. Satan HAS TO BE THERE. Satan is the “prince of this world,” (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:8-11, 2 Cor. 4:4; Luke 4:6.) Satan is the “god” and “prince” of this world. Satan is the “angel of light” in 2 Cor. 11:14. Satan is the scarlet-coloured beast of Rev. 17, in all his glory and revelation at the End Time. With this identification, all the major players in the prophecy show up at the end-time, together.

In Rev. 17:7, there are four entities the angel wishes to explain to John. 1) the woman 2) the beast 3) the seven heads 4) and the ten horns. I would infer from this that the woman and the beast are two different entities. We shall explore the identity of this beast more fully in verses 7, 8.

* 1. What is the relationship of the seven heads to the dragon, sea-beast and earth-beast?

Big Question!!!! Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, & the United States are the seven heads of the scarlet-coloured beast. They have, by virtue of being on the dragon and the sea-beast, been nations in consort with Satan AND the papacy. These heads on the beasts describe a secular/religious consortium of power between the nations Satan controls in chapter 12 and the papacy is shown in control in chapter 13. We shall say more about these relationships later on in the paper.

**Rev. 17:4 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.**

1. The woman sitting on the scarlet-coloured beast is adorned in sharp contrast to the woman in white in 12:1-3. The dragon is fighting with the woman of 12:1, who keeps the commandments of God and has the faith of Jesus. But the dragon (scarlet-coloured beast of Rev. 17) has a rider that is another woman.
2. The first woman is clad in fine linen, clean and white. She is the virgin bride of Christ. The second woman is arrayed in purple and scarlet and decked with gold and silver and precious stones. She is the bride of Satan. We have here a picture of two women. One woman’s allegiance to Christ is complete. The other woman is mixed up with the state and the world. One woman is clad in fine linen, clean and white. The other woman is clad in blue, purple, and scarlet. Against one woman, the dragon fights. The other rides the dragon.
3. This woman was portrayed as a sea-beast in Rev. 13. She is a kingdom in her own right, but consorts with the seven heads to control the earth and its people. In Rev. 17, she is shown specifically as a woman, which is to identify her clearly as a CHURCH! She sits on the scarlet-coloured beast, Satan, who is the god and prince of this world, and in Rev. 13:2, who gives her “his power, and his seat, and great authority.” Together, they work with the seven heads, the ten horns, the kings of the earth, to bring events on earth to what they hope is a favorable conclusion for them.
4. Being arrayed in purple and scarlet again suggests her kingly ambitions and reception of the glory of pagan Rome. The imperial purple is called that for a reason! Gold, precious stones and pearls easily suggest earthly wealth, but could also represent her kind of faith, her false character, and her false gospel. (as apposed to the gold of faith, character, and salvation in the three)
5. The Golden Cup. The picture on the screen reveals something important about the cup. Picture of the Statue of the **Triumph of Faith over Idolatry** in the Gesu Jesuit Cathedral in Rome. The cup in the right hand is the focal point of the statue. In ancient Roman religion, [Roma](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&cs=0&sca_esv=b7e10f4faee97bf6&sxsrf=AHTn8zryJgkA5nUUp_tIgVmVjaqkLI3zog:1743864217530&q=Roma&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiVmca5kMGMAxWfRTABHUV7NnQQxccNegQIBBAB) was a female deity who personified the city of Rome and the Roman state, created to represent and justify Rome's power and rule, often depicted on coins, sculptures, and in art. **What is in the cup?**
6. Life, the “wine” of the new covenant, and the “oil” of the Holy Spirit was in scarce supply. Corn, wine, and oil were the mainstays of the diet in Hebrew times and were always attacked by those who would destroy God’s people. These three food items form a metaphor in the New Testament for the life-giving properties of the Son of God. Of these three, the blood is the most important, representing the blood of Christ in ratifying the new covenant on our behalf. For “without shedding of blood is no remission (**Hebrews 9:22**).” The wine in the cup, in **1 Corinthians 11:25,** “is the New Testament in my blood.” Jesus most clearly expressed the covenant relationship in **John 6:53–55,** when He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”

By contrast, in **14:8;** and **17:2, 4**, Babylon has made all nations drink of the “wine” of her spiritual adulteries, or the false covenant, or the covenant of death. To drink the blood of Jesus, as in John, is to have a relationship unto eternal life. To drink of the wine of Babylon is to enter ultimately into a covenant of death. Drinking wine from the cup means two different things in these verses. Those who drink the wine of Babylon (imbibe in her false teachings) will ultimately drink of the wine of God’s wrath (experience the seven last plagues and the lake of fire), in **14:10** and **20:10**. RRJ pg. 794.

 We need not enumerate every doctrine of this church. Those major ones that come to mind are:

Immortality of the Soul, Sunday Sacredness, Forgiveness of sins, pope is god on earth, and is infallible, to name a few.

1. In summary we see the following:

This woman on the scarlet-coloured beast is the end-time papacy, the Catholic church. She is the Mother Church of all the existing Protestant Churches. She is the head of all the other churches through her control with secret organizations, except for those “who keep the commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus. Rev. 14:12. She is consorting with the Kings of the Earth, and with the earth-beast, (Apostate Protestantism) to enforce its decrees and laws. She has a Mark, which she wishes to universally enforce, Sunday worship. **All the material we have reviewed thus far on the Woman seated on the Scarlet-coloured Beast points to the end-time Papacy, with the Pope as its head.**  There is no other power, secular or religious, that fulfills the criteria for its identification.

**Rev. 17:5 5 And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

1. The name written on the woman’s forehead is hugely significant!
2. Something written on the forehead has to do with what kind of character you have, or what you believe in. In Revelation 7:2, 3, an angel comes down and seals the servants of God in their foreheads. The seal in your forehead represents the character you have. “The fourth commandment is the only one of the ten in which are found both the name and the title of the Lawgiver, the only one that shows by whose authority the law is given. Thus it contains the Seal of God.” EP 212.4.
3. The seal demonstrates at least three things: ownership, protection and genuineness. The title on the forehead of the woman on the beast is unique and forwardly brazen. This church makes no pretension, it knows exactly who it is. The reference to Babylon simply alludes to her beginnings; a mystery religion that worshipped multiple gods and defied the God of Heaven.
4. Babylon the Great is, in turn, the little horn of **Daniel 7**; Jezebel of **2:20**; the sea beast of **13:1**; the mother of harlots in **17:5**; and the great city in **18:10**. Each succeeding symbol describes the evolution of this great apostate system in her character and conduct. Despite Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion and praise to the God of heaven, ancient Babylon ends up being a repository of the satanic mysteries and of total idolatry. Just as ancient Babylon was destroyed for its rebellion against the God of the universe, so too will spiritual Babylon be destroyed for her spiritual immorality and rebellion against God.
5. That she is the Mother of Harlots suggests that there are daughter harlots. We see today that the Daughters; Lutheranism, Methodism, Presbyterianism, etc., are all coming back toward the Papacy. They never quit worshipping on Sunday, the Lord’s Day. They were accused of being hypocrites by the Catholics at the Council of Trent because they still kept the Lord’s Day, (Sunday) holy as prescribed by the Catholic Church.

**What does the Catholic Church say about SISTER Churches?**

Does the Universal Church consider itself the mother of all other churches? Here is a letter from Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to the Presidents of the Conferences of Bishops, on June 30, 2000. He enjoins the bishops to be careful in the use of the term *sister churches: “Sister Churches* are exclusively particular Churches; (or groupings of particular Churches; for example, the Patriarchates or Metropolitan provinces) among themselves. **It must always be clear, when the expression *sister Churches* is used in the proper sense, that the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Universal Church is not sister but *mother* of all the particular churches.” Notice the citation.**

Ratzinger, Joseph Cardinal, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Letter to the Presidents of the Conferences Oo Bishops, Rome, June 30, 2000—Section 10 of the notes that accompany the letter.

**Rev. 17:6 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.**

We shall not take the time to enumerate all the persecutions and deaths through the Dark Ages. They are horrific! The souls under the altar cried out, how long? Rev. 6:9.

Why did John wonder with such great admiration? Why indeed, does all the world wonder after the harlot, in its symbolism as the sea beast of **13:3**? The NIV renders this phrase as, “I was greatly astonished.” Daniel (in **Daniel 4:19**) was astonished for at least an hour after realizing the implications of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great tree being cut down. John likewise marveled at this apparition in the wilderness. This woman has absolute power, and unlimited resources. She slaughters saints, changes Scripture and on and on. John is dumfounded at the brazenness of this woman.

**17:7—“And the angel said unto me, wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.”**

Here comes a more complete explanation and interpretation of the woman, the beast that carried her, and the seven heads and ten horns. There are four different entities mentioned here, **(1)** the woman **(2)** the beast, **(3)** the seven heads and **(4)** ten horns. Let’s identify more fully each of these four entities and how they relate to one another.

**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.**

1. Who is the scarlet-coloured beast?

Referring to 17:7, is this the beast 17:8 is talking about? That would be Satan, the scarlet-coloured beast. Rev. 17:8 is going to tell us who the “beast that carried her” is in 17:7.

To put it together, the Rev. 17:7 explanation of the “beast that carried her,” is found in 17:8. We have identified the “beast that carried her” as Satan.

Here is a chart on this explanation. Notice the comparison between Jesus and Satan.

Jesus (LAMB) WAS IS IS TO COME REIGN FOREVER

Satan (BEAST) WAS IS NOT ASCEND OUT OF PIT GOES TO PERDITION

End time 2nd Coming Millennium Satan loosed Deceives again Lake of Fire

Satan WAS Satan IS NOT Satan YET IS Goes to Perdition

The scarlet-coloured beast in the bottomless pit is Satan. The great red dragon is Satan.

1. Who are the heads?

I currently identify these seven heads as the following:

 1) Egypt

2) Assyria

3) Babylon

4) Medo-Persia

5) Greece

6) Rome (in all its forms)

7) United States makes image to the beast, and end-time (Church-state relationship)

**Rev. 17:9 9 And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.**

The 7 heads were identified in the last section. Verse 9 adds the idea that the seven heads are seven mountains. Is this additional symbolism for emphasis? Despite the temptation to state these seven mountains are the “seven hills of Rome,” I agree with most Bible Students that this “mountain” symbolism represents a kingdom, Daniel 2:35 and 2:44 make it clear that the “stone” becomes a mountain and fills the whole earth,” God’s kingdom. These heads/mountains are basically the same kingdoms which have consorted with the sea-beast/woman on the scarlet-coloured beast.

**Rev. 17:10 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.**

We review the heads/mountains again. The term “kings” can equally be stated kingdoms, including nations or republics.

1. Egypt 2) Assyria 3) Babylon 4) Medo-Persia 5) Greece 6) Rome 7) USA

John is writing in the 1st century. He would be living in the time of the 6th king, kingdom, (head), Rome. The first five kingdoms have fallen, one is, ROME, and the other is not yet come USA.

The king who “is not yet come…he must continue a short space,” is the USA. Apostate Protestantism cooperating with the Papacy will occur in the end time, AFTER “the time of the end.” This is a relative “short space” of time, compared to the other kingdoms before it.

We live in the “time of the end,” in the seventh trumpet, the Laodicean Church period, the Sixth Seal, but also in the ten toes of Daniel 2:44. (My thanks to Ed Reynolds for pointing this out)

**Rev. 17:11 11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.**

Who is the 8th **KING**? If “beast” in verse 11 is Satan, then Satan is the 8th **KING**. That would make sense. He is the Prince/King/god of this Earth. He shows up as an “angel of light” to the world, quoting the bible and healing people. Verse 11 does NOT say, “head or horn or woman,” it says “beast.” This is the KING who, after the millennium, will become KING again, deceiving the people risen from the dead. Following the Great White Throne Judgment, Satan and all those who followed him will be destroyed in the Lake of Fire. (Perdition, Destruction)

**Rev. 17:12 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.**

Based on the Prophet John being “carried away in the spirit into the wilderness,” John is focusing on final events. Rev. 17:1-3. In seeing the “judgment” of the great whore, he is seeing almost everything that has happened up to the very Second Coming of Jesus, all the protagonists that go “into perdition” etc.

Verse 12 obviously has NOT happened yet. These ten horns are ten kings who HAVE RECEIVED NO KINGDOM AS YET, … But, they will receive power for “one hour,” (not prophetic time, but a very short period of time.) with the beast. Could this be the military alliance Satan pulls together to face the coming King from the East?

As horns (kingdoms) on the Great Red Dragon, they give power to Satan himself. As horns (kingdoms) on the sea beast, they give power to the medieval papacy. As horns (kingdoms) on the scarlet-colored beast, they give power for “one hour” to the end-time to Babylon the Great, the apostate Christian church. If this support in the final hours of earth’s history are true, then they could be the “kings of the earth,” who support Satan’s last war with the coming King of Kings, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

**Rev. 17:13 13 These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.**

These ten horns “have one mind,” meaning that they are unified in their purpose. Other translations use “purpose” rather than “mind” to describe this union (NAU, NIV). They shall conspire to give power and strength to Satan, the scarlet-colored beast of the end time. This consortium of ten kingdoms will be the dominant economic power at the end. It should be noted that the earth beast also goes to the very end of the age (see 13:11–17). The coercive power of the earth beast figures large in compelling spiritual worship to the end-time papacy. The text of Chapter 13 gives it such a large place at the end time that it is unlikely to be “just one of the ten horns.” The ten horns of the Old World become dominant again, as they were in medieval times. The earth beast of the New World becomes dominant throughout the world in compelling spiritual worship. Both the earth beast and the ten horns form a liaison with the great apostate Christian church and Satan himself, to set up a one-world government.

**Rev. 17:14 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.**

The dragon, the sea beast, the false prophet, spiritualism; all conspire at the end, along with the ten horns, because Satan knows Jesus is about to come. He is making one last, desperate attempt to stop Jesus from physically taking over this earthly kingdom. As the vision of the image in Daniel 2 testifies, Jesus comes the second time and “grinds” all worldly kingdoms (including the ten toes/horns) into powder—and the wind blows them away. Jesus sets up a new kingdom in this new age, and it will last forever. This coming kingdom is the reason Satan draws his armies of earth-dwellers together in one last forced unity, to defeat the coming of the Son of Man.

The little horn of Daniel 7:21 waged war against the saints and overpowered them (NAU; see also 13:7a). Now the tables are turned; the roles are reversed. The dragon, sea beast, and false prophet make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them. They shall receive unto themselves double (18:6) for what they have meted out in the past.

**Rev. 17:15 And he saith unto me, the waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**

This passage is quite familiar to any student of Prophecy. The sea-beast comes out of the sea. The papacy, centered in Italy, sits on many nations, multitudes, peoples and tongues. This is the explanation for Rev. 17:1, where the “great whore” “sitteth upon many waters.”

The angel identifies the waters or Ta. u[data here. These are the peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues—or the people—who dwell on Planet Earth, particularly the Mediterranean Sea. All the peoples, nations, and tongues” of this earth are witnesses to the mighty acts of God. They must choose on which side of this great controversy they must take their stand. Some choose the righteous robe of Christ; others choose to stay with Satan and his conspirators.

**Rev. 17:16 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.**

The ten horns have something in common with the ten toes of the image of Daniel 2:44. “In the days of these kings,” referring to the ten toes, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed…”

There is a time when the “nations” or the “ten horns” realize they have been totally deceived. Their support for the great apostate Christian church dries up and withers away. In fact, these deceived nations hate the great apostate church for what she did to them. They turn on the great apostate church and the papal system and destroy it. They destroy the harlot just before they attempt to destroy the returning Jesus—the Lamb.

I think John is alluding to texts like Ezekiel, where judgment falls upon apostate Jerusalem. Ezekiel 16 and 23 contain terrifying prophecies of the fate of those who rebel against God and take up false doctrines and consort with false religions. Ezekiel describes 17:16 almost verbatim, when he says, “Therefore, O Aholibah [This is Jerusalem], thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will raise up thy lovers against thee, from whom thy mind is alienated, and I will bring them against thee on every side (Ezekiel 23:22). The nations of the earth hate the deception that has been practiced upon them. They attack their former lover and destroy her. It is worth looking at this statement from the Spirit of Prophecy on how the despairing world will turn on the people who have deceived them with their false Bible teachings.

**GC 1911 655.4.** The people see that they have been deluded. They accuse one another of having led them to destruction; but all unite in heaping their bitterest condemnation upon the ministers. Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. “We are lost!” they cry, “and you are the cause of our ruin;” and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God's people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed.

**Rev. 17:17 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.**

We do not have time to talk about how fully God oversees the affairs and people of this earth. The Heavenly Trio has given their created beings the power of free will and the power of choice. This makes love and obedience possible but also makes hate and disobedience possible.

Consider these thoughts. In believing that they are working out the purposes of the beast, the united governing political powers are, in fact, unconsciously carrying out God’s purposes to bring judgment upon Babylon. This echoes the statement of Paul that “those who have received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved,” “God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2 Thessalonians 2:9–12).” Jesus mentions this time again, when He says, “Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me (John 16:2, 3).”

God is in full control, and the wicked can do no more than He allows. They exercise only the power that God allows them to exercise. In the final analysis, the powers of evil serve the purposes of God. The coalition between the beast and his allies will continue until the words of the prophecies leading up to the overthrow of the antichrist are fulfilled. The sovereignty of God over this world is complete. Nothing happens that He does not know about, foresee, or allow, until His covenant with His people is complete.

**Rev. 17:18 18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. 7 heads and 10 horns worldwide and universal in time.**

The “woman” here refers to the woman on the scarlet-coloured beast. She reigns over the “kings of the earth.” Here is a superlative, “the great city.” Ninevah was described in Scripture as a “great city.” Jonah 1:2, etc. And Revelation refers to Babylon the Great as the “great city.” Rev. 14: 8; 16:19 and several others. Ancient Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar’s empire, was great!

Babylon the Great is, in turn, the little horn of **Daniel 7**; Jezebel of **2:20**; the sea beast of

**13:1**; the mother of harlots in **17:5**; and the great city in **18:10**. Each succeeding symbol describes the evolution of this great apostate system in her character and conduct. Despite Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion and praise to the God of heaven, ancient Babylon ends up being a repository of the satanic mysteries and of total idolatry. Just as ancient Babylon was destroyed for its rebellion against the God of the universe, so too will spiritual Babylon be destroyed for her spiritual immorality and rebellion against God.

Babylon is “Great” because of her worldwide power and also due to her influence and notoriety, which spans the ages. Never has there been anyone like her. No one can match her influence. Babylon the Great is the visible manifestation of Satan’s counterfeit to the true church of God and of the 144,000. The Satanic trinity is involved. The woman (little horn, sea-beast) sits astride the beast, or Satan. Apostate Protestantism, in the form of the United States, forces everyone to worship the woman who sits astride Satan. The ten horns of the Western European economic powers also contribute their support to the woman sitting astride Satan himself. A close liaison and a terrific supporting cast exists, but the “woman” rules. The rest of the satanic trinity support the woman against the church of

God and against the Second Coming of Jesus.

It is my humble privilege to study the Word of God. I think these meetings are good for studying the Word of God together that we may find the real truth of God’s Word for the last days. Our witness of this powerful and revealing Word will help finish the Work of God on earth and take us home to be with Jesus forever!

Kenneth Mathews Jr.

1. Jeremiah 6:2 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)