



Ecclesiastical Babylon: Harlot on the Beast
Revelation 17:1-18

SCRIPTURE

Revelation, Chapter 17

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 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.”

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.

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.

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.

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. ⁸The 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.

⁹ And here is the mind which hath wisdom. 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. ¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

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 fulfill 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.”

COMMENTARY

Satan’s religious system is pictured as woman dressed in purple and scarlet, sitting upon many waters. She is adorned with gold and pearls and precious stones. She carries a gold cup in her hand, and she rides upon a scarlet colored beast, with seven heads and ten horns.

The waters that she sits upon speak of the world’s population. Verse 15 identifies the waters as “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues”, hence the sea of

mankind. Satan's religious system will be a one-world church.

The woman is a harlot and pictures spiritual fornication. She is the mother of all false religions. The false religious system is rich with wealth, and drunk with the blood of the saints and martyrs. Her cup speaks of her as an abomination to God. She is dressed in the purple of wealth and the scarlet of the dragon, Satan. She rides upon the beast of [Revelation 13](#). The Antichrist carries the religious system to accomplish his own wicked ends. The seven heads are seven mountains and seven kingdoms. The mountains, as we mentioned before, refer to Rome, which is built on seven hills.

The fifth kingdom, and the final kingdom, will be the revived Roman Empire, controlled by the Antichrist. It was pictured by God in [Daniel 2:41-45](#), by the ten toes of the image. It is pictured here by the ten crowns. The final Gentile empire will be made up of a ten-nation confederacy. It will be of one mind and will give its military strength to the Antichrist.

Verse 18 says that the woman is that great city. Babylon has always represented Satan's Gentile world domination. Mystery Babylon is Satan's false religious system: Ecclesiastical Babylon. It is the one world church.

Babylon the great is Satan's political system: Commercial Babylon. It is the one world government. Chapters 17 & 18 end them both.