

Revelation 17: “Mystery Babylon” The Left Behind Apostate Church of the Tribulation

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

Chapter 16 Review: 7 Bowls of Wrath

- Final Judgment / 7 Bowls of God’s Undiluted Wrath

Chapter 17 Introduction/Interpretation:

- **2 Babylons** in the Book of Revelation:

➤ **Ecclesiastical or Mystery Babylon** [Ch. 17]

Jeremiah 51:7 Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD’s hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.

- Worldwide False-Religious System first 3 ½ years of Tribulation
- Used by Anti-Christ
- Later [Mid-Tribulation] Hated and Destroyed by the Anti-Christ

➤ **Commercial Babylon** [Ch. 18]

Revelation 16:19 ...the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

- Godless Economic System controlled by Anti-Christ
- Loved by the World
- Destroyed by/at the Return of Jesus Christ

Interpretation of Ecclesiastical [Mystery] Babylon [Chapter 17]

1. **The Beast is the Anti-Christ**; i.e. Satan possessed man who will seemingly die and come “back to life”; i.e. false **resurrection**:v8
2. **Seven Heads of the Beast** are **both Seven Mountains AND Seven Kings**: v9
 - a) **5** Past Kingdoms
 - b) **1** Present Kingdom [Rome]

- c) **1 Kingdom to come** [Earth divided into 10 sectors]]
- d) **The Eighth King**, Anti-Christ will rise from the Seven, v.11 and he will crown 10 kings over the 10 sectors of the earth [revived Rome]
- 3. **Ten Horns of the Beast** are **Ten Kings** having no authority at the time of John's writing Revelation. They will be given power and authority by Anti-Christ to "be kings" with him. They will be of "one mind" with the Anti-Christ, set on making war the Harlot and with Jesus Christ [Both A.C. Competition]. Hating the Religious System, they will eventually give all power back to the Anti-Christ: vv 12-14
- 4. **The Woman [Harlot] Riding the Beast is the Great City** ; the epicenter of the false religious system which reigns over the "kings" of the earth. The 10 kings will hate the woman:v18
- 5. **The Water that the Woman [the Harlot] is sitting on** are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues:v15

Revelation 17: Ecclesiastical [Mystery] Babylon

I. Scarlet Woman on the Scarlet Beast:

- **Symbiotic Relation: Mutually beneficial relationship:** a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship between two people or groups: [gr. *sumbiōsis* , literally "a living together"]; i.e. "Nobody rides for free"
- Anti-Christ and False Religious System of the first 3 ½ years of Tribulation

¹ Then **one of the seven angels** who had the **seven bowls** came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will **show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters**, ² with whom **the kings of the earth committed fornication**, and the **inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.**"

- **One of the Seven Angels:** Individual Angels [c.f. Revelation 1:20, 17:1, 21:9]
- After John is shown the overview of the 7 Bowl Judgments in Ch. 16 and Angel comes and talks with John
- John is shown details concerning judgment of:
 1. **Great City**
 2. **Sits on many waters**
 3. **Kings of the earth commit fornication with her**

4. Made drunk by her fornication

- **Harlot** [Whore]: gr. *porne* and related to *porneia*; lit. fornication. Also related to *pornos*; lit. fornicator/whoremonger
- Def. *Any* who commit fornication; here: **Spiritual**; i.e. unnatural intimate union:

1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For "*the two*," He says, "*shall become one flesh*." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

- Prophesied in the to happen before Jesus 2nd Coming:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first*, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God...⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

I will show you the judgment of the great city which controls the false religious system and reigns over the kings of the earth, peoples, multitudes and tongues. These kings use the Spiritual Harlot for what they can get from her, but are deceived and under the influence of her religious spell which keeps them and their people from the Truth of Christ.

- The city is **Rome** [v9]

³ So he carried me away **in the Spirit into the wilderness**. And I saw a **woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy**, having **seven heads and ten horns**.⁴ The woman was arrayed in **purple and scarlet**, and adorned with **gold and precious stones and pearls**, having in her hand a **golden cup full of abominations** and the **filthiness of her fornication**.

- John is again "**in the Spirit**"

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit** on the **Lord's Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice...

- "One" of the Seven Angels "carries John away" **in the Spirit to the wilderness**:

Matthew 4:1 Then [directly after baptism] Jesus was **led up by the Spirit into the wilderness** to be tempted by the devil.

- **In the Spirit:**

Revelation 1:10 I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's Day**, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 4:2 Immediately **I was in the Spirit**; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne.

- **Wilderness:** After the deluge; i.e. Babylon's beginnings at the **Tower**
- John sees the **Harlot "riding" the Beast**:
 - Harlot is *sitting on a Scarlet Beast*
 - Scarlet Beast is "**full of names of blasphemes**" and is Anti-Christ

Revelation 13:1 Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads **a blasphemous name**.

- Scarlet Beast has **Seven Heads and Ten Horns** as does **Satan**:

Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having **seven heads and ten horns**, and seven diadems on his heads.

- Harlot is also *arrayed in purple and scarlet*
- Harlot is *adorned with Gold, Precious Stones and Pearls*
- Harlot has a *golden Cup of "full of" Abominations* mixed with the *filthiness of her fornication in her hand*



I saw Religious Rome embracing and empowering all forms of Satan-inspired, man-made religions and religious practices working together with the Anti-Christ to deceive the world through a devilish and perverse doctrines of "tolerance" during the first 3½ years of Tribulation as both profited from the partnership. The Beast was dressed in purple as a King and has 10 Kings waiting for a Kingdom that he will give to them after he uses this Apostate Church to attain power for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. The Vatican and its citizens were also arrayed in scarlet as the colors of a kingdom. Competition is unavoidable as the Beast [Anti-Christ will demand worship]

II. Mystery Babylon

5 And on her **forehead a name** was written:

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

- **Mystery Babylon Beginnings:**

1. **Plains of Shinar** [Babylon] after the Flood
2. **Nimrod:** First World Dictator and builder of Babylon, Assyria, etc

Genesis 10:10 And the beginning of his [Nimrod's] **kingdom was Babel**, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to **Assyria and built Nineveh...**

3. **Superintendent of the Tower of Babel project:** A tower built to withstand God's Judgment [again causing doubt /questioning of God's Word that He would not flood the earth again]; Study of the Stars and the basis for Astrology
4. **Semiramis:** Nimrod's wife

Legend: Semiramis conceived a son named **Tammuz** miraculously by a "sunbeam" He was later killed by a wild boar but after **40 days of Semiramis weeping was "raised for the dead"**

5. **Semiramis and Tammuz:** Cultic worship of "mother and child"
6. **Nimrod's Babylon**, not Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, has made the "inhabitants of the earth drunk with the wine of her fornication through the dispersion and scattering of people to all nations":

Genesis 11:9 ...its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD *scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth*

- **Later, Semiramis** alias "Ashtoreth" alias the "Queen of Heaven" alias "Jezebel" of Revelation 2 alias "Mary"... **would continue to be worshiped:**

Jeremiah 44:15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying: 16 "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you! 17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to **burn incense to the queen of heaven** and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. 18 But since we stopped burning incense to the **queen of heaven** and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine." 19 The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the **queen of heaven** and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"

- **Feast of Lent:** Remembering *40 Days of weeping over Tammuz*

Ezekiel 8:13 And He said to me, "Turn again, *and* you will see greater abominations that they are doing." ¹⁴ So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the LORD's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there **weeping for Tammuz**.

- **Feast of Ishtar** [Easter] celebrated the "resurrection" of Tammuz; exchanging of eggs symbolizing "new life" was [is] part of the "festivities"
 1. From Babylon it spread to Phoenicia under the name of Ashteroth and Tammuz.
 2. From Phoenicia it traveled to Pergamos in Asia Minor. This is the reason for John's admonition to the church at Pergamos in the book of Revelation: "I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is" (Rev. 2:13).
 3. In Egypt the mother-child cult was known as Isia and Horus.
 4. In Greece it became Aphrodite and Eros.
 5. In Rome this pair was worshipped as Venus and cupid.
 6. In China it became known as Mother Shing Moo and her child.
 7. In Mexico an image was found and authenticated as belonging to the period about 200 years before Christ, where it was the center of religious worship among some of the early Indians in Mexico. The image was of a mother with a child in her arms.
- **Babylon was the seat of Satan worship** until it fell, in 539 B.C., to the Persians.

Babylonian/Roman Relation and Development of Mystery Babylon

- **Mother/Child Cult embraced by Rome** as the last Roman emperor elected named *Pontifex Maximus* [the greatest high priest]
- **Subsequently the Bishop of Rome assumed all his** [emperor's] **titles** and responsibilities...**the Pope** [papa]. Dr. H.A. Ironside wrote:

When Constantine came to the throne and the first pope assumed the title Potifex Maximus, all those heathen associations and ceremonies had their beginning with Nimrod-the worship of the Queen of the Heavens, the eating of the wafer, the doctrine of purgatory, the wearing of vestments and the observance of a thousand and one lesser mysteries-all these were brought into the church, and for a thousand years they prevailed over all Europe. Thus the Catholic Church with all its doctrines and practices came into existence. [Ironside]

- Today the worship of "Mary" actually the worship of **Semiramis**



Semiramís

Nimrod

Thus Mary, in a subordinate role to Christ, had a "part with him in the redemption of the human race."(8) She is, therefore, called by the Church the "the co-operatrix in man's redemption,"(9) "our coredemptor."(10) For at the cross, Mary triumphed "utterly over the ancient serpent."(11)

8 Pope Pius XII, *Ad Coeli Reginam*. **9** Pope Leo XIII, *Ubi Primum*. **10** Decree of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, "Indulgences," June 26, 1913, published in *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*. Also refer to Henry Denzinger, *Sources of Catholic Dogma* (St. Louis, MO: Herder Book Co., 1957), p. 502, article 1978 a and footnote 2; A. Tanquerey, *A Manual of Dogmatic Theology* (New York, NY: Desclee Company, 1959), vol. 2, p. 108-109; and Ludwig Ott, *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* (Rockford, IL: Tan Books and Publishers, 1960), p. 212-213. **11** Pope Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*.

▪ Messages from Heaven?

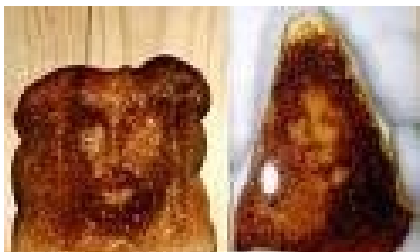
Guadalupe, Mexico 1531 Know and understand well that I am the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. I wish that a temple be erected here quickly, so I may therein exhibit and give all my love, compassion, help, and protection, because I am your merciful mother, to you, and to all the inhabitants of this land and all the rest who love me, invoke and confide in me.

Fatima 1917

In Fatima Our Lady asked for prayer (particularly the daily recitation of the Rosary), penance, the Communion of Reparation of the Five First Saturdays, and the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. In 1917, she said: *If my request granted, atheistic Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, she will scatter her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecution of the Church. The good will be martyred, the Holy Father will suffer much, and various nations will be annihilated... But in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and a period of peace will be granted to the world.*

"Blessed Mother" again has some prescriptions:

My prophecy, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" will be fulfilled than ever before, once the dogma (Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate) has been proclaimed. When this happens - and it will be the last steep in Marian history - the Lady of All Nations will give peace, the true peace, throughout the world But the nations must say My Prayer in union with the Church.



- Mary would be **appalled**:

Luke 1:46 ...Mary said: " My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in **God my Savior**. 48 For He has regarded the **lowly state of His maidservant**; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. 49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. 50 And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. 52 He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. 54 He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of *His* mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

- Daniel encountered magicians, sorcerers and astrologers in Babylon as Nebuchadnezzar re-established worship of Marduk as chief god of the Babylonian pantheon
- **Marduk** also known as **Merodach**; strong probability derived from **Nimrod**
- **Harlot's union with the Beast** will embrace all man-made/Satan-inspired religion:

4/3/91 letter written by Pope John Paul II *"my beloved Muslim brothers and sisters," ..."I close my greeting to you with the words of one of my predecessors Pope Gregory VII, who in 1076 wrote to Al-Nasir, the Muslim ruler of Bijaya, present day Algeria: 'We believe in and confess one God, admittedly in a different way, and daily praise and venerate him, the creator of the world and the ruler of this world.'"*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Pantheistic | Physical universe is the ultimate Reality |
| 2. Polytheistic | Nature personified as various "gods" and "goddesses" |
| 3. Evolutionary | Nature generates a higher order of beings |
| 4. Animistic/Spiritistic | Spirits of dead continue to survive and evolve |
| 5. Astrological | Higher beings inhabit/are host of heaven controlling events |
| 6. Idolatry | Worship of and through Images |

- **Idol/Demon Relation**
- **Rejection of God leading to Idolatry**; i.e. the worship of demons

2 Chronicles 11:14 ...the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions and came

to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the LORD. ¹⁵ Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, **for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made.**

- **Behind every Idol worshiped is a demon:**

To the Virgin Mary they pray in these words: "O Mother of God, Queen of heaven, command thy Son to have mercy upon us!" and, "The right use of images," says the Council of Trent, "is to honor them, by bowing down before them." (Sess. 25, pars 2.)

1 Corinthians 10:19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? ²⁰ Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. ²² Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

- **False-Prophet** [Beast of the Earth. Pope, etc] will command worship of the "image of the beast"; i.e. idolatry- which in actuality will be the worship of Anti-Christ and in turn the worship of Satan; **the end game:**

Matthew 4:8 ...the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You **will fall down and worship me.**" ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*'"

Revelation 13:14 And he [false-prophet] deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to **make an image to the beast** who was wounded by the sword and lived. ¹⁵ He was granted *power* to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Psalms 97:7 Let all be put to shame who serve carved **images**, Who boast of idols. **Worship** Him, all you gods.

Revelation 14:9b... "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

- **Drunk with the blood of the saints** and martyrs of Jesus; Hailey's Bible Handbook states that...

...the inquisition was the main agency in the Papacy's effort to crush the Reformation. It is

stated that in the thirty years between 1540 and 1570, **no fewer than nine hundred thousand Protestants were put to death**. Think of the monks and priests directing, with heartless cruelty and inhuman brutality, the work of torturing and burning alive innocent men and woman; and doing it in the name of Christ, by the direct order of the "Vicar of Christ." The inquisition is the most infamous thing in history. It was devised by the Popes, and used by them for five hundred years to maintain their power.

- I marveled with **"Great Amazement"**

III. Interpretation of the Scarlet Woman and Scarlet Beast

7 But the angel said to me, **"Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

- **"Why do you marvel?"** Interpretation:

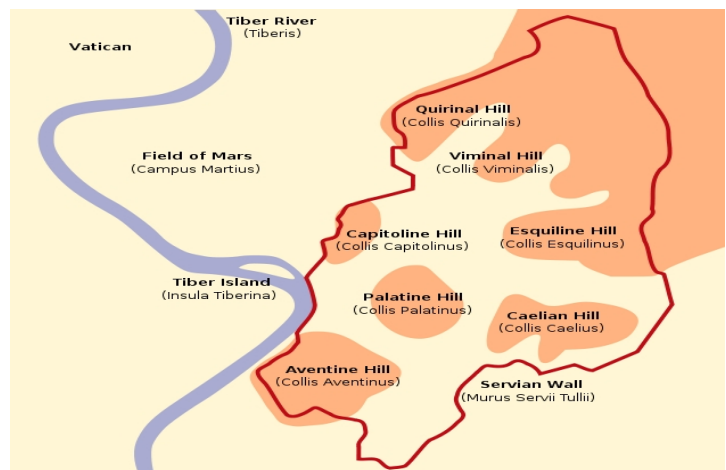
8 **The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit** and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are **not written in the Book of Life** from the foundation of the world, **when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.**

- **Was, is not, will ascend from the Pit:** False Resurrection
- Anti-Christ will demand worship at mid-tribulation and will be worshiped as "Christ-Rejecters" Marvel at this deception

9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The **seven heads are seven mountains** on which the woman sits.

- **Seven Heads:** Seven Mountains; i.e. 7 Hills of **Rome**

1. Aventine Hill
2. Caelian Hill
3. Capitoline Hill
4. Esquiline Hill
5. Palatine Hill
6. Quirinal Hill
7. Viminal Hill



10 There are **also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.** And when he comes, he must continue a **short time.**

Seven Kings

- **Five have Fallen**

1. Egypt
2. Babylon
3. Medo-Persia
4. Assyria
5. Greece

- **6th is:**

1. Rome

- **7th not yet come:**

1. Rome -Restored: 10 Sectors without kings during the first 3 ½ years

11 The **beast** that was, and is not, **is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.**

- **Eighth Kingdom is Anti-Christ's Kingdom:** He is doomed to damnation

12 "The **ten horns** which you saw **are ten kings** who have received **no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.** 13 These are of **one mind**, and they will **give their power and authority to the beast.** 14 These **will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings;** and those who are with Him are called, **chosen, and faithful."**

- **Ten Kings:** Not the "kings of the earth from v 2
- 10 sectors from the first half of the Tribulation now controlled by 10 Kings given **authority by the beast to be kings with the beast**

During the first 3 1/2 years of Tribulation the earth will be divided into 10 sectors with no individual king over each. After the first 3 ½ years of Tribulation there will be Ten Kings that had no authority at the time of John's writing or during the first 3 ½ years. They will be given power and authority by eighth king, Anti-Christ, to "be kings with the Anti-Christ" after he betrays the false-religious system at the Abomination of Desolation. They will with "one mind" give authority back to the Anti-Christ intent on following him to make war with the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

- **The Lamb will overcome them:**

Psalm 2:1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying,* ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I

have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” 7 “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You.’⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.’⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.”¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

15 Then he said to me, “The **waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are **peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues**.”**

- The Harlot proselytizes the world: **Peoples, nations, tongues**

Matthew 23:15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Castro: Pope Francis so impressive I might return to church Pope Francis meets Cuban President Raul Castro during a private audience at the Vatican, ...By FRANCES D'EMILIO, AP **Sun May 10, 2015** 6:14 PM UTCVATICAN CITY (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro paid a call Sunday on Pope Francis at the Vatican to thank him for working for Cuban-U.S. detente — and said he was so impressed by the pontiff he is considering a return to the Catholic church's fold. "Bienvenido (welcome)!" Francis said in his native Spanish, welcoming Castro to his studio near the Vatican public audience hall. The Cuban president, bowing his head, gripped Francis' hand with both of his, and the two men began private talks. The meeting lasted nearly an hour, as the Argentine-born Francis and Castro spoke in Spanish. Francis will visit Cuba in September en route to the United States. After leaving the Vatican, Castro, the brother of Fidel, the revolutionary leader who brought the Communists to power in Cuba, gushed with praise for Francis. The pontiff "is a Jesuit, and I, in some way, am too," Castro said at a news conference. "I always studied at Jesuit schools. ""When the pope goes to Cuba in September, I promise to go to all his Masses, and with satisfaction," Castro said at a news conference at the office of Italian Premier Matteo Renzi, whom he met with after the Vatican talks. "I read all the speeches of the pope, his commentaries, and if the pope continues this way, I will go back to praying and go back to the church, and I'm not joking," he said. It was a startling assertion for the leader of a Communist country, whose crackdown on dissidents in the past had drawn sharp Vatican criticism. "I am from the Cuban Communist Party, that doesn't allow (religious) believers, but now we are allowing it, it's an important step," Castro said. Speaking about Francis, Castro said he has been "very impressed by his wisdom, his modesty, and all his virtues that we know he has. "Castro had already publicly thanked Francis for helping to bring Havana and Washington closer together after decades of U.S. government policy of strict isolation of the Communist-ruled Caribbean island. On Sunday, he stepped up his praise on Francis' push for the two nations to put enmity aside and work for reconciliation for the benefit of Americans and Cubans. As he took his leave from the Vatican, Castro told journalists, "I thanked the pope for what he did. "Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the president also "laid out to the pope the sentiments of the Cuban people in the wait and preparation for his upcoming visit to the island in September." After his meeting with Renzi, Castro expressed hope that his country would quickly see more fruits of the thaw between Cuba and the United States. "Maybe the (U.S.) Senate will take us off the list of terrorist nations" soon, Castro told reporters. Francis gave Castro a medal depicting St. Martin of Tours, known for caring for

the destitute. "With his mantle he covers the poor," Francis told Castro, saying more efforts on behalf of the poor are needed. Fidel Castro met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in 1996. That encounter helped pave the way for John Paul's 1998 pilgrimage to Cuba, the first visit by a pontiff to the island. John Paul was also eager for Cuba to grant more visas for foreign priests to bolster the dwindling corps of clergy on the island. The Vatican's general policy of opposing economic sanctions as a foreign policy tool carries appeal for Cuban leaders and people, after decades under a U.S. economic embargo. With the Vatican keen on protecting the interests of its Catholic followers under Cuban Communist rule, Pope Benedict XVI also visited the island. Castro told reporters that "we are trying to carry forward improvements of our political, social and cultural system. But it's very difficult to do it without causing shocks, without leaving some in the street. "He came to Rome on his way back from celebrations in Moscow of the 70th anniversary of the surrender of Nazi Germany in World War II.

16 And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

Revelation 2:18 "...to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. ²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** ²¹ **And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.** ²² **Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.** ²³ **I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.** And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ²⁷ ' *He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels*—

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

The 10 Kings who are crowned by Anti-Christ after the Abomination of Desolation will hate Anti-Christ's competition the Apostate Church [Rome/Spiritual Babylon] and God will use these Ten Kings and the Anti-Christ to fulfill his purpose; i.e. to judge this false religious system. These Kings willingly allow the Beast to rule over their 10 sectors of the world until Jesus says "no more" at the Battle of Armageddon

Aerial View: Revelation Chapters 1-17

See ourrefuge.org for Notes and Audio

Chapter 1
Chapters 2-3
Chapter 4
Chapter 5
Chapter 6
Chapter 7
Chapter 8
Chapter 9
Chapter 10
Chapter 11
Chapter 12
Chapter 13
Chapter 14
Chapter 15
Chapter 16

Chapter 17

I. Person of Jesus Christ [The Judge]
II. Possession of Jesus Christ [The Church on Earth]
III. Program of Jesus Christ: Church gone; John sees the Future
 Lion and the Lamb: Worthy to Open the Scroll
 Olivet Outline / Tribulation Overview [6 Seals]
 Remembering Mercy in Wrath: Interlude 144,000/Great Multitude
 Seventh Seal...Trumpet Judgments Begin Trumpet Judgments Begin
 Trumpet Judgments Continue/Demonic Plagues
 Bitter Sweet Interlude: Mighty Angel vs. Usurper
 Two Witnesses / Seventh Trumpet
 Players of the Final Scene War in Heaven Satan Cast Down, Holocaust
 Unholy Trinity: Dragon/Satan; Sea Beast/Antichrist/Earth Beast/False-Prophet
 Last Call: Lamb/First fruits; 6 angels and Two Harvests
 Prelude to Conclude: Prelude 7 Bowls of Wrath to Bowl Judgments
 Bowls of Wrath

- Last Judgment / 7 Bowls of God's Undiluted Wrath

"Mystery Babylon" The Left Behind Apostate Church of the Tribulation

- **Scarlet Woman and Scarlet Beast**
- **Mystery Babylon**
- **Interpretation of the Scarlet Woman on the Scarlet Beast**