

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The Woman, the Beast & the Fall of Babylon Revelation 17-18

Dr. Rev. Paul Conway ©2024

I. THE WOMAN, THE BEAST & THE FALL OF BABYLON Revelation 17:1-18.

A. WHAT'S WHAT?

1. What does **Revelation 17:1** say is the subject of this section? The judgment of God on Babylon the great, city of lust and luxury, greed and wickedness corruption and commerce of this world.
 - a. **Revelation 17:1** Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
2. **THE DIRGE OF BABYLON A CHIASM OF CALAMITY**
 - Satan is thrown from heaven to earth (**12:1–17**).
 - o Beast and false prophet conquer (**13:1–18**).
 - Whore rides on the beast (**17:1–12**).
 - Whore destroyed by the beast (**17:13–18**).
 - o Beast and false prophet are conquered (**19:11–21**).
 - Satan is thrown from earth into the abyss and lake of fire (**20:1–3, 7–10**).¹

B. WHO'S WHO?

1. **The Woman: Revelation 17:5, 18** “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth’s abominations... ...the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”
2. **The Waters: Revelation 17:15** “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. We chose to throne her on our backs.

3. The Beast:

- a. **Seven Heads: Revelation 17:9** “the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;

- i. Throughout history the reference to the seven hills served as a substitute for the city of Rome. The location seems possibly clear, but **as Pastor Josiah reminded us;** “when the Bible says, “*this calls for a mind of wisdom (vs. 9).*” We should take that warning seriously and with humility.
- ii. **Vs 10, they are also seven kings,** five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come, he must remain only a little while.



Coin by Caesar Vespasian with the Goddess Roma Sitting on the seven hills 71 A.D.

- b. **The Ten Horns: And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.**
 - i. The seven heads are seven kingdoms, but the ten horns are kings without kingdoms yet.²
 - ii. The ten kings will join in a confederacy.⁵⁴ According to **Daniel 7:7, 24**, these are rulers who will receive their dominions in the last days³
 - iii. The imagery is also seen in the book of Daniel; (**Daniel 7:7, 20, 24**).
 - iv. This is a coalition of 10 leaders/kings with the one leader who is yet to come. They all unify with the beast to destroy the woman (Metaphoric Babylon). The world turns on itself. **Revelation 17:16** And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire...
 - v. The ten kings (**Ten Horns**) who hate the whore are different from the kings who consort with her and grieve her downfall (**Rev.18:3, 9–10**).⁴
- c. **The Beast: Revelation 17:11** As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. see **Daniel 7 (Rev 13:1–10)**.⁵

¹ Craig R. Koester, 682.

² Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 300.

⁵⁴ Bullinger, *Apocalypse*, pp. 545–48; Walvoord, *Revelation*, p. 255; Kelly, *Lectures*, pp. 368–76.

³ Robert L. Thomas, 300–301.

⁴ Craig R. Koester, 680.

⁵ Craig R. Koester, 687.

- i. The beast **“was and is not, and is about to come up from the abyss and go to destruction” (17:8)**. This description makes the beast the negative counterpart to God, **“who is and who was and who is to come” (1:4)**.⁶

C. WHAT’S UP?

1. Babylon personifies the arrogance, materialism, violence, lies, sexual immorality, blasphemy and false belief at work in this world undergirded by its foundation, lust.⁷
2. Revelation does not offer a consistent description of the fall of Babylon. It is variously said to fall through an **earthquake (Rev 16:19)**, to be **defeated by its allies (17:16)**, and to be devastated by **plagues, pestilence, famine, and fire (18:8–9)**. Revelation uses Babylon in multiple images to show the severity of God’s judgment.⁸
3. **The Lord creator had creation contorted by Satan.** The Bible is God untying the knots humanity made by the lies of Satan, the lust of their eyes and flesh and the pride of life.
 - a. **1 John 2:16** For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.
 - b. In the New Testament **Rome** held that title.
 - c. New York, London, Paris, Munich, Moscow, Hong Kong. Many contenders have sought the title.
 - d. Babylon is the place where the people of God were held captive and take up a cities filthy habits.
 - e. **The Sewage of the Cities.** They are all Sodom’s and Gamora’s - Nothing new.
 - f. In God’s design, evil becomes evil’s own undoing.⁹
 - g. **Statistics of Cities:** Murders 450-750 a yr. Drug overdoses 1,500-2000 a yr. Robberies 17,000 a yr. Rapes 1,700 reported a yr. Money taken 22.6 mil. a yr. Trafficked Lives in USA 300,000.
 - h. (Vs. 4, 6) **golden cup filled with abdominal things, filth of her adulteries... the blood of the saints!**
 - i. ἡ μήτηρ τῶν πορνῶν **The Mother of PornOn.** The combination of two Greek words, **πόρνη** to write and **πόρνη** *pornay* makes our English word “pornography.” It is the written form of the act of immoral sexual acts. Weather its visual or physical its sin and it needs to be repented of.
 - i. **The Nathan Project:** Monday nights a professional group that services men struggling with sexual addiction.

II. THE FINAL CUT album, tape, 8 track, recording, podcast.

A. The Angel’s Declaration of Babylon’s fate **Revelation 18:1-3**

1. **Fallen! Fallen! Is Babylon the great!**
 - a. A home of demons
 - b. A haunt of evil spirits
 - c. A haunt of everything unclean

B. The Voice from Heaven **Revelation 18:4-8**

1. **Revelation 18:4** Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven and God has remembered her crimes. **You don’t belong here & you don’t want to be here at the judgment.**
2. Give back to her “as she has given” a double portion from her own cup.” She drinks martyr’s blood.
3. Give back to her “torture and grief, “for her glory and luxury. She enriched herself at others cost.

C. The Woes of the World because she was their source, not God. **Revelation 18:9-20**

1. **Merchants and Sea Captains of the world** weep over torment from those who **“Sold things and gained their wealth from her... And sailors and all who earned their living from the sea.”**
2. These people don’t weep over sin, over injustice over blood. They weep over product **“ivory, costly wood bronze, iron and marble, cinnamon and spice, myrrh and frankincense, wine and oil horses and carriages and even the bodies and souls of men.”** They don’t weep over people and exploited product or price gouging, only their profits and source. Only their profit and source.

III. THE END (**DEAR MARIA: No matter what you’ve done or become, please, come home).**

⁶ Craig R. Koester, 689.

⁷ Craig R. Koester, 683.

⁸ Craig R. Koester, 680.

⁹ Craig R. Koester, 682.