

to the book of [Revelation](#). The 17 chapter is where we are at in our journey, our adventure in the Word of God, and today we will conclude this particular chapter. And we were able to look in depth last week at verses 1 through 5. Now, remembering that what we're looking at here is Bible prophecy, stuff that is yet to happen.

This will unfold in the future and probably not to this future. We don't know exactly when the Lord knows exactly when, but we know the time and the seasons are upon us and we've been through that before. So I want to quickly recap by reading those first five verses and then we'll launch into the rest of our study and conclude that chapter today. But to kind of get a foundation for today, let's read those first five verses again, [Revelation](#) chapter 17.

[John](#) the Apostle, when he was in exile on the island of Patmos under the current Roman leader at that time, penned these words, used inspired by the Holy Spirit. Now, hopefully you've got a Bible, we've got the verses up here as well and there are Bibles underneath the chairs as well. So it should be a shortage of the Word of God near this morning. We find in verse 1 it says that one of the seven angels who had poured out the seven bowls came over and spoke to me.

Come with me, he said, I will show you the judgment that is going to come on the great prostitute who rules over many waters. The kings of the world have committed adultery with her and the people who belong to this world have been made drunk by the wine of her immorality. So the angel took me in the spirit into the wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that had seven heads and ten horns and blasphemies against God were written all over it.

The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. In her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality. In verse 5 says, a mysterious name was written on her forehead, babel on the great, the mother of all prostitutes and harlots and obscenities in the world. Wow, interesting stuff to say the least, right?

Now I want to throw this out as we move on. If you haven't been with us in this study, working our way through the book of [Revelation](#), it's interesting. It can be challenging in that. Of course, some of what we find here is literal.

Some of what we find in the book of [Revelation](#) is speaking symbolically or metaphorically. Context is critical in determining what is being spoken of realistically or symbolically. And so what we saw last week as we were looking here was this incredible vision that God was giving [John](#) from also God's perspective because the world wouldn't see it this way. But it was from God's perspective showing him what will be happening in the last days.

But before we jump into these last six verses, and I really don't have time to really go over those first five verses again, we went through that last week. So if you want to go to the website and check out the message or get a CD later today you can and you can put these two together. But I want to pose a theological question to you this morning. A thought-provoking theological question.

You have to really think about this. Does a fish know it's wet? Think about that for a second. Does a fish know that it's wet?

I guarantee you a fish knows when it's out of water, right? It fights for its life. It fights for its life. Why?

Why I pose that question. Do we as Christians know when we're really in the spirit? When we're really walking with the Lord? Do we know when we're immersed in Him or we're immersed in the world?

And the reason I pose that question is what we're seeing here in chapter 17 and in chapter 18 is a focus on Babylon. But two aspects of that theme of Babylon, the first one in chapter 17 is as a religious system in the last days. When we're going to chapter 18 we'll see Babylon as a commercial system that affects the world commercially. So that's really interesting.

But as we looked last week we traced all the way back. The Babylon is much more than just a city because we know it's a city in modern day Iraq. It's existed for centuries. We could trace it all the way back to where the Euphrates River is.

All the way back to [Genesis](#) chapter 10 and 11 went through that last week with Nimrod and his wife, Facimir Amis and their son, Tamuz and the pagan cultures, the pagan influence and the false religious systems that have come out from that particular location in history. It's amazing. We can trace all false religious systems all the way back to what occurred originally in that area. And of course everybody's familiar with the Tower of Babel, right?

And that's what we say in modern day terms is Babylon. It's all they're just speaking in gibberish. Babylon, it's just Babylon. We know that God confused the languages of the people then because of their attempt to try to basically usurp God's authority.

They had their own agenda and God dealt with them. They'll have a chance to really get into that today. But that's important to understand that that influence of Babylon is prevalent in the world today, in the world system and in the religious systems today. And that's what we're seeing here is this incredible culmination during the Tribulation Hour of all the false systems of the world coming together in an amalgamation of a false religious system is under the influence of the world leader at that time, the Antichrist.

Very, very powerful stuff that we're seeing. So why I ask that question again is how much is Babylon influencing us today? Because Babylon is alive and well in the world system today, folks. So we are under the influence of the Lord, the Word of God or the things of this world.

That's a question that we need to be asking ourselves on a consistent basis. And the closer we get to God, the closer we are to him, the greater knowledge we have and the application of his word, then we know when we're walking with him and we're in the Word. So with that in mind, having to find some of the things so far, in fact we knew looking at verse 5, let's look at that particular verse as launching Pat and the remainder of our study today. When it says in verse 5 of [Revelation](#) 17 that a mysterious name was written on our forehead again, we know that the her speaks of that false religious system that will hold sway and influence over the culture in the world during the Tribulation Hour.

But it says a mysterious name was written on our forehead and it was babble on the Great. The mother of all prostitutes and obscenities in the world. So that's how we know that that influence that began centuries ago there has had that dramatic influence throughout history because she is the mother of all those who have been unfaithful. That's what it's speaking about.

It talks about hearted tree or prostitution. We know that that's speaking of unfaithfulness. Okay, and we see the terminology even fornication if you will in the Bible is speaking about a lack of faithfulness here specifically as relates to relationship with God and spiritually. So this system that is in place during that day will wrap up the false systems that have existed through history.

Now in verse 6 we find this. I could see that she was drunk, [John](#) says. Drunk with what? The blood of God's holy people who were witnesses for Jesus and I stared at her in complete amazement.

Some of your translations will say in on wonder really, but that's what he's saying. He was in complete amazement. Why was he in amazement? Because it says that this religious system that will exist in that day and age was drunk on what the blood of those who accepted Jesus as a Savior during the tribulation hour.

Wow. Again, we talked about this. I know this is kind of a heavy study, but it's going to be a horrendous scene on the year of during the tribulation hour. It's going to be a horrendous scene on those who will accept Jesus as a Lord and Savior.

The bulk of them will give their life because this system that will exist at that time will have the appearance of godliness if you will because it is religious right. And when people think about religion they think about something pointing us to God, but the reality is the religion is really one of Satan's greatest tools because there are thousands of religions. And again, if people get caught up in a religious system and think that they are going to heaven because they're involved in this system, if they don't know Jesus Christ, there's the way in the truth and the life. If you have not accepted Jesus, you're Lord and Savior, that religious system doesn't get you into heaven.

All your good works don't get us into heaven. It's the grace of God extended through Jesus that provides eternity for us. So this religious system blows [John](#) away here. He sees this religious system what?

Being drunk, basically influenced and just out of control by this bloodlust for killing the people who are really our gods people during this tribulation hour. Now it's staggering because we can look back through history and we know that there are many who have been martyred for the cause of Christ throughout the centuries. And we know a lot of people have died in the name of the church if you will. It's funny because if you've ever watched like the history channels and discovery channel any of those things, by the way a lot of the religious things you see on there, really guys, you better know the word and you better know what is real and what's authentic because a lot of that stuff is not consistent with biblical truth.

But it's funny because what you see there is a lot of times or even in movies when the church is representative or represented, it's usually represented from the world's perspective by the Catholic church. Like that's supposed to be the church. Have you noticed that? Now I'm not trying to cap on the Catholic church.

We talked about that a little bit last week. But an interesting thing is and we talked about some stuff and you know what I think this would be a good time. I have a role and a video clip today that's going to give you some background. It's from a video that was made years ago by a guy named Dave Hunt who is a prophet's expert and it's called a woman rides the beast.

Now he give us some historical background and also some background that seems to point to the fact that this structure of the Catholic church is in place today could be the vehicle which all these religions come together during the tribulation hour. So don't get me wrong. I'm not bashing Catholics today. It's not about that.

But we cannot but help but look through history and also look to the future and see the incredible ties that seem to be communicated here and their consistency and the parallels with Catholicism and the trappings of that religious system. So I want to share this with you today and I'm sorry about the poor video because it's off in YouTube but just be listening to the important elements of this. They'll take about 14 minutes but you'll see some stuff that will help us know study before we move on. Prophecy for telling the future.

A sort of psychics claim to do it but fail miserably. Nor is prophecy found in the Qur'an, Hindu Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, the sayings of Buddha, Confucius or Muhammad, the book of Mormon or writings of Mary Baker Eddy. The Bible alone reliably foretells the future. About 30% of God's word is prophecy with hundreds of specific predictions and a record of 100% accuracy.

These are not clothed in the ambiguous language of a no-strict domus but are clear decorations about world shaking and world shaping events, hundreds and even thousands of years before they became history. For example, let the Jews would be scattered to every corner of the earth and today you'll find the wandering Jew everywhere that they would be hated, persecuted and slaughtered as no other people. The outrage of anti-semitism is a phenomenon absolutely unique to the Jews precisely as the Bible foretold. Yet the Bible also prophesied that in spite of being scattered worldwide for 2500 years since the Babylonian captivity.

With every reason the intermarion changes their identity to escape persecution and in spite of a thousand Hitler's determined to exterminate them, the Jews would be preserved as an identifiable people and brought back to their own land in the last days just before Antichrist would set up his kingdom. And so it happened in 1948. Even more astonishing, the Bible said that Jerusalem would become the key to world peace and a cup of trembling, a millstone around the necks of the nations. And today, exactly as prophesied, Jerusalem is the United Nations number one problem and the world looks on in fear and trembling, knowing that the next world war could break out at any moment over that tiny city.

The undeniable fulfillment of these and scores of other prophecies provides irrefutable evidence that God exists and that the Bible is his [Revelation](#) to man. Prophecy is likewise unique to Israel's Messiah. There are no prophecies concerning Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Zorwaist or Joseph Smith or any of the founders of the world's religions. Yet there are over 300 prophecies concerning the Jewish Messiah.

Then he would be born of a virgin and a Bethlehem, a descendant of King David. Then he would perform miracles, convert the Gentiles, and he would write into Jerusalem on a donkey and he hailed as a Messiah. And if this would occur on April 6, 32 AD, now celebrated as Palm Sunday. And that four days later, having been betrayed for exactly 30 pieces of silver, he would be crucified, a form of execution unknown at the time of that prophecy of Psalm 22.

And that three days later, he would rise from the dead and astonishing event would separate Christianity from every religion and for which we have irrefutable evidence. These are but a few of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. Prophecies which

are so numerous and specific and their fulfillment in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ so indisputable that no one can honestly deny that he is the prophesied Savior of cities. And the Bible says he's coming back.

The 100% fulfillment of biblical prophecies right on schedule assures us that those which are still future will also be fulfilled. The last book in the Bible contains dozens of yet to be fulfilled prophecies recorded in a series of visions given to the Apostle [John](#). There are three visions of the fourth beast that represents Satan, the anti-Christ and the Revival Roman Empire, he will rule. There's another intriguing figure however which is given even more space and prominence than the beast of the mysterious woman.

In [John](#)'s third vision of this scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, a woman rides the beast and not as if a rodeo on a creature which is trying to buck her off but sitting relaxed and comfortable. Obviously a key player in the unfolding drama of anti-Christ rule over the Revival Roman Empire. Who does this woman? [John](#)'s vision identifies her beyond question.

First of all, Jesus City which is built on seven hills. The beast seven heads are seven mountains or hills on which the woman's city. Several cities sit on seven hills but [John](#)'s vision eliminates all but one and blazing on her forehead are the words mystery Babylon. Saddam Hussein has been rebuilding Iraq's ancient city of Babylon headquarters of the first world empire.

Could the woman be that city rebuilt for the anti-Christ? But is the fourth empire headquartered in Rome which would be brought back to life? Not the Babylonian empire and Babylon was not built on seven hills but Rome was and has universally been known as the city of seven hills. The Catholic Encyclopedia states quote, it is within the city of Rome called the city of seven hills that the entire area of Vatican State proper is now confined.

Interestingly Rome was also known as Babylon. Catholic Apologist Carl Keating identifies this woman as Babylon. He writes, Babylon was a code word for Rome. It is used that way six times in the last book of the Bible and in extrabiblical works such as sibling oracles, the apocalypse of Baruch and Estrus.

Eusebius Pamphilius writing about 303 noted that Peter referred to Rome figuratively as Babylon unquote. Could Rome be the woman on the beast? That would make good sense because the beast she rides is the revived Roman Empire. This woman is also called the great whore with whom the kings of the earth of committed fornication.

Obviously, liberal hordam and fornication would be impossible for a city but spiritual fornication would be possible if the city were a spiritual entity. Jerusalem is such a city. It is called the holy city and the city of God having been chosen by God representing to the nations. Transically, Jerusalem violated that relationship and was repeatedly accused by God's presence of spiritual harlotry and adultery.

[Isaiah](#) said of Jerusalem, how is the faithful city become a harlot? Jerusalem, however, can't be the one riding the beast because it wasn't built on 70 hills nor does it meet any of the other criteria in [John](#)'s vision. There is one other city in the world and only one which is a spiritual entity and could therefore commit spiritual fornication with the kings of the earth and it's built on the seven hills. Again, that city is Rome, the headquarters of Roman Catholicism which claims to be the true Christianity.



The potent claims to be the vicar of Christ or over the Roman Catholic Church claims that its members have taken the place of Israel as the true people of God and that Rome is therefore the New Jerusalem. Catholic Rome claims the very titles God gave to Jerusalem, the holy city, the city of God. And even the triumphant. Let me pause for a moment to state sincerely that I have no desire to attack Catholics.

I'm not a Catholic basher. I love Catholics and I want them to know the truth. Let's set the record straight. The canons and decrees of the Council of Trent which Vatican II reconfirmed contain more than 100 anathemas damning me in every evangelical Christian for our beliefs and our unwillingness to accept Catholic dogmas and authority.

So who is really bashing whom? Let's face the facts honestly from history and the Bible, whatever they may be. We've already discovered from [John](#)'s vision that these four criteria being a city known as Babylon built on seven hills that committed spiritual fornication with earth rulers have ruled out every other city on earth except Rome. We are of course not talking about political civil Rome but about religious Rome and more specifically the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church.

It's focused currently leading the greatest ecumenical movement in history in order to unite all religions under Rome's leadership. In 1986 Pope [John](#) Paul II gathered in a CC Italy the leaders of the world's major religions to pray for peace. There were snake worshipers, fire worshipers, spiritists, animus, glutus, Muslims, Hindus, North America, and witch doctors. I watched in astonishment as they walked to the microphone to pray.

The Pope said they were all praying to the same God and that their prayers were creating the spiritual energy that was bringing about a new climate for peace. [John](#) Paul II allowed his mid-friend the Dalai Lama to put the Buddha on the altar in St. Peter's church in a CC and with his monks to have a Buddhist worship ceremony there while shinto us chanted and rang their bells outside. The prophesied world religion is in the process of being formed before our eyes and the Vatican is the headquarters of the movement.

Is this not spiritual fornication? The objection is immediately raised that Vatican City is only a small part of Rome and is not itself built on seven hills. Historically, however, the Pope ruled his kings over all of Rome in the surrounding area as well as over large territories across Italy known as the Papal States. Pope innocent the third abolished the Roman Senate and placed the administration of Rome directly under his control.

It wasn't until 1870 that Rome and the other Vatican-controlled territories were finally captured by the army of the newly united Italy. The Jews were liberated of last from Rome's shameful ghetto and Pope Pius IX took refuge in Vatican City which has been the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church ever since. Today, the Vatican owns about one third of Rome and its influences everywhere through its churches and other institutions scattered throughout the entire city of seven hills. That church proudly identifies itself as the Roman Catholic Church.

A recent article in the National Catholic Reporter titled Rome where the Pontiff is supreme declared, quote, no city comes close to being so suffused with religious culture as Rome is with Catholicism. What has emerged over the centuries is unmistakably a culture of the papacy, unquote. The article goes on to refer to the monuments to Rome and Catholicism found everywhere in Rome and states, quote,

all roads lead sooner or later down the Via della Questa di Azzione to the Vatican. Rome is the world's spiritual crossroads, unquote.

Our Sunday visitors, Catholic and Cyclopedia adds, quote, hence one understands the central place of Rome in the life of the church today and the significance of the title, Roman Catholic Church. Since the founding of the church there, Rome has been the center of all Christendom, unquote. This is the one city in the world built on seven hills and known as Babylon, which is undoubtedly a spiritual entity. Has spiritual Rome violated its claim relationship with Christ and thus been guilty of spiritual fornication?

Christ said that his kingdom is not of this world and his servants are not to fight. In direct disobedience, the popes who included some of the greatest military leaders in history fought with armies and navies in the name of Christ to build a huge kingdom, an unrivaled worldwide empire of property, wealth and political influence, which is very much of this world. And they have repeatedly engaged in partnership and thus spiritual fornication with emperors, kings and princes. Claiming to be the bride of Christ, the Roman Catholic church has been in bed with godless rulers down through history.

In more recent times, there were even alliances with Mussolini and Hitler. The Vatican literally put Mussolini into power, Pope Pius XI and his Cardinals praised Mussolini as a man chosen by God and for bad Roman Catholics to oppose him politically. In turn, Mussolini signed the Concordate with the Vatican in 1929, making Roman Catholicism the sole religion of Italy. The Vatican received 750 million lira and cash and one billion in state bonds.

Four years later, in 1933, came a similar Concordate with Hitler, resulting in the Vatican's reception of hundreds of millions of German marks from the Nazi regime all through World War II. One could not ask for clear examples of fornication with the kings of the earth. Similar Concordettes with many other governments have made the Roman Catholic Church the only religion allowed in those countries and have brought persecution and death upon thousands of evangelicals. Christ never joined forces with Caesar, nor did Peter or Paul, but the Roman Catholic Church has continually engaged in adulterous relationships with secular rulers right up to the present.

The alliance between Reagan and Pope [John](#) Paul II, between the CIA and the light. Thank you very much. Intriguing to say the least and again, I want you to understand from my perspective as a disclaimer from this fellowship, this is not intended to begin, be bashing Catholics. What I'm trying to point out here is by sharing this material is that you need to do your own homework.

You need to know the word of God. You need to do your own study. What I'm talking about here is a precedent that is already in place. It's already been established historically as based on fact of a religious system with such influence in the culture and the world that Christians and other religions have been persecuted by.

And as we turn our attention back here to the book of [Revelation](#) in verse 6 where it says, I could see that she was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, meaning those in the Greek language says saints means haggie also has been set apart and they're set apart because of accepted Jesus that there has been already a historical precedence for that. And I think the thing that was really intriguing about watching that, when we look to the future, whatever this religious system is in place, it is not going to wear probably a particular name of a religious system we have now.

Although interestingly enough, the term Catholic means universal, the church universal, which means all encompassing. So but we do see again the religious trappings as we read the description by the way in verse 4, the woman was wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls in her hand she held a gold goblet full of obscenities.

When you look at the services, you see all that finery, you see all those colors involved. So you can kind of see how that was tied into that. But here's the critical thing guys that when we as Christians stand before Jesus, if you've accepted Him as your Savior and somebody was we stand before Him, you know what? You can't say well I'm here because I went to Calvary Chapel, that's not going to mean anything.

There aren't going to be people standing there saying well I was a Baptist or I went to this church or I went to that church, no what matters is that you accepted Jesus the one who living God who was God in the flesh is your Savior. That's what's going to matter, are you wearing the name of Jesus? That's what matters most. But we will see the system that will be in place at that time and again we have a presence that's already set.

So I think it's very intriguing as we move forward that the state certainly has set and I was really amazed and I want you guys to see visually that under Pope [John](#) Paul the second of course with the new Pope who's been in place for about five years, he's carried on this tradition of gathering world religious leaders together. You don't hear about it very much but do your homework and people representing all these pagan religious systems are getting together praying for world peace. Now is world peace a noble endeavor? Well on a surface it sure seems like it would be but the only real peace it will ever come to this world is when the prince of peace with another than Jesus establishes that peace and we can have peace with him right now when we have a relationship with him.

So turning our attention back to the word here then we see this. Again we saw that in verse 7 that [John](#) was amazed by what he had seen so far right says and the angel asked I tell you the mystery of this woman as he asked her you so amazed and of the beast seven heads and the ten horns on which she sits. Versailles goes on to say the beast you saw was once alive but isn't now and yet will soon come up out of the bottom of the spitter of the abyss the abusso and go into eternal destruction and the people will be longed to this world whose names were not written in the book of life before the world was made will be amazed at the reappearance of this beast who had died. Now I want to point something out this is a complex portion of the book of [Revelation](#) there are competent skilled, equipped knowledgeable Bible scholars who have differing perspectives about what is being said here.

I'll tell you right now I'm not sure exactly what [John](#) was trying to communicate here what the description is about some believe that it was speaking about in [John](#)'s time contemporarily that under the Roman Empire that there were a series of emperors up to the final one who was the eighth one under which [John](#) was being persecuted and as we move forward you'll see the mention of an eighth kingdom some believe that was speaking about kingdoms in the past and will elaborate about a little bit more as we move on but it's just important to know that God is in control and when it says again and the people who belong to this world whose names were not written in the book of life before the world was died will be amazed at the appearance of this beast.