

We are picking up the story after the 8th Empire of Bible prophecy has begun, the following chapters take place in the last 42 months of the 7 year Tribulation. The islamic one world government leader (the antichrist) along with the apostate christian leader (the false prophet) have taken over the Temple Mount in Revelation 13. The Jewish people have fled half of the city and the Temple Mount as was prophesied and the battle of Armageddon is getting ready to begin.

John is writing from the Island of Patmos about the events that are to take place. An angel is telling John what to write that which was told by God Himself.

Revelation 16 AMPC

- I Then I heard a mighty voice from the temple sanctuary saying to the seven angels, Go and empty out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath and indignation.
- 2 So the first [angel] went and emptied his bowl on the earth, and foul and painful ulcers (sores) came on the people who were marked with the stamp of the beast and who did homage to his image.
- 3 The second [angel] emptied his bowl into the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a corpse [thick, corrupt, ill-smelling, and disgusting], and every living thing that was in the sea perished.

- 4 Then the third [angel] emptied out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they turned into (became) blood.
- 5 And I also heard the angel of the waters say, Righteous (just) are You in these Your decisions and judgments, You Who are and were, O Holy One!
- 6 Because they have poured out the blood of Your people (the saints) and the prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. Such is their due [they deserve it]!
- 7 And [from] the altar I heard [the] cry, Yes, Lord God the Omnipotent, Your judgments (sentences, decisions) are true and just and righteous!
- 8 Then the fourth [angel] emptied out his bowl upon the sun, and it was permitted to burn (scorch) humanity with [fierce, glowing] heat (fire).
- 9 People were severely burned (scorched) by the fiery heat, and they reviled and blasphemed the name of God, Who has control of these plagues, and they did not repent of their sins [felt no regret, contrition, and compunction for their waywardness, refusing to amend their ways] to give Him glory.
- 10 Then the fifth [angel] emptied his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was [plunged] in darkness; and people gnawed their tongues for the torment [of their excruciating distress and severe pain] 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their anguish and their ulcers (sores), and they did not deplore their wicked deeds or repent [for what they had done].
- 12 Then the sixth [angel] emptied his bowl on the mighty river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to make ready a road for [the coming of] the kings of the east (from the rising sun).
- 13 And I saw three loathsome spirits like frogs, [leaping] from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet.
- 14 For really they are the spirits of demons that perform signs (wonders, miracles). And they go forth to the rulers and leaders all over the world, to gather them together for war on the great day of God the Almighty.

- 15 Behold, I am going to come like a thief! Blessed (happy, [a]to be envied) is he who stays awake (alert) and who guards his clothes, so that he may not be naked and [have the shame of being] seen exposed!
- 16 And they gathered them together at the place which in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- 17 Then the seventh [angel] emptied out his bowl into the air, and a mighty voice came out of the sanctuary of heaven from the throne [of God], saying, It is done! [It is all over, it is all accomplished, it has come!]
- 18 And there followed lightning flashes, loud rumblings, peals of thunder, and a tremendous earthquake; nothing like it has ever occurred since men dwelt on the earth, so severe and far-reaching was that earthquake.
- 19 The mighty city was broken into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And God kept in mind mighty Babylon, to make her drain the cup of His furious wrath and indignation.
- 20 And every island fled and no mountains could be found.
- 21 And great (excessively oppressive) hailstones, as heavy as a talent [between fifty and sixty pounds], of immense size, fell from the sky on the people; and men blasphemed God for the plague of the hail, so very great was [the torture] of that plague.

Revelation 17 AMPC

- I One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls then came and spoke to me, saying, Come with me! I will show you the doom (sentence, judgment) of the great harlot (idolatress) who is seated on many waters,
- 2 [She] with whom the rulers of the earth have joined in prostitution (idolatry) and with the wine of whose immorality (idolatry) the inhabitants of the earth have become intoxicated.
- 3 And [the angel] bore me away [rapt] in the Spirit into a desert (wilderness), and <u>I saw a woman seated on a scarlet beast that was all covered with blasphemous titles (names), and he had seven heads and ten horns.</u>

- 4 The woman was robed in purple and scarlet and bedecked with gold, precious stones, and pearls, [and she was] holding in her hand a golden cup full of the accursed offenses and the filth of her lewdness and vice.
- 5 And on her forehead there was inscribed a name of <u>mystery [with a secret symbolic meaning]</u>: <u>Babylon</u> the great, <u>the mother of prostitutes</u> (<u>idolatresses</u>) and of the filth and atrocities and abominations of the <u>earth</u>.
- 6 I also saw that the woman was drunk, [drunk] with the blood of the saints (God's people) and the blood of the martyrs [who witnessed] for Jesus. And when I saw her, I was utterly amazed and wondered greatly.
- 7 But the angel said to me, Why do you wonder? I will explain to you the [secret symbolic meaning of the] mystery of the woman, as well as of the beast having the seven heads and ten horns that carries her.
- 8 The beast that you saw [once] was, but [now] is no more, and he is going to come up out of the Abyss (the bottomless pit) and proceed to go to perdition. And the inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been recorded in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world will be astonished when they look at the beast, because he [once] was, but [now] is no more, and he is [yet] to come.
- 9 This calls for a mind [to consider that is packed] with wisdom and intelligence [it is something for a particular mode of thinking and judging of thoughts, feelings, and purposes]. The seven heads are seven hills upon which the woman is sitting;

There have been various interpretations of the identity of the harlot riding the beast. The most common, and what I believe, based on scripture is that this woman is symbolic of the Roman catholic church, and the false prophet will be a pope.

The woman in scripture, his clothes and purple and Scarlet, colors, worn by the Cardinals and bishops (verse four). The precious stones and pearls I thought to represent the wealth of the church. They acquired it through donations by followers and pilgrims over the centuries. The golden cup is a symbol of the popes communion cup, and it was noted that the Roman churches throughout Europe have countless golden silver chalices into treasuries. The blood of the Saints, and those who kill Christ is a clear reference to the Roman empire, including Roman emperors, who murdered the righteous and the Roman soldiers who oversaw Christ crucifixion (verse six).

The seven hills reference was common knowledge as the city of Rome is built on seven hills (verse nine). Rome was the political and economic headquarters of the empire in John's day, and since the sixth century, the Roman church has influence and control the rise and fall of kings and leaders throughout Europe (verse two).

The statement that this woman is a religious symbol, and believed she could control the souls of men (see Rev. 18:13) as seen as the doctrine of purgatory. This teaching basically taught that if a person died in unrepentant sin, he, or she wouldn't do a time of purifying fires. The relatives of the deceased could pray that person out of purgatory through prayers of the priest, helping him or her game, gods forgiveness, and access to heaven.

There is no doubt that this woman is a symbol of Rome, as John was told she was the city "which reigneth over the kings of the Earth" (verse 18 - KJV) who in John's day with the emperors in armies of the imperial Roman empire.

The angel called the city and the religious system "mystery, Babylon" (Verse five) here, Johnathon reminded that the Babylonian system once existed, I did not exist at that time, but would rise again, through the influence of a powerful demonic spirit coming out of the bottomless pit. The spirit inspires the antichrist to be destructive. (Dan 11:44; 1 Thess, 5:3).

The antichrist will reform and raise up a dead, ancient empire, or beast, making his kingdom, the most devastating, empire, or beast in world history.

- 9 This calls for a mind [to consider that is packed] with wisdom and intelligence [it is something for a particular mode of thinking and judging of thoughts, feelings, and purposes]. The seven heads are seven hills upon which the woman is sitting:
- 10 And they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one still exists [and is reigning]; the other [the seventh] has not yet appeared, and when he does arrive, he must stay [but] a brief time.
- 11 And as for the beast that [once] was, but now is no more, he [himself] is an eighth ruler (king, head), but he is of the seven and belongs to them, and he goes to perdition.
- 12 Also the ten horns that you observed are ten rulers (kings) who have as yet received no royal dominion, but together they are to receive power and authority as rulers for a single hour, along with the beast.
- 13 These have one common policy (opinion, purpose), and they deliver their power and authority to the beast.
- 14 They will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will triumph over them; for He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and those with Him and on His side are chosen and called [elected] and loyal and faithful followers.
- 15 And [the angel further] said to me, <u>The waters that you observed</u>, where the harlot is seated, are races and multitudes and nations and <u>dialects (languages)</u>.
- 16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will [be the very ones to] hate the harlot (the idolatrous woman); they will make her cheerless (bereaved, desolate), and they will strip her and eat up her flesh and utterly consume her with fire.
- 17 For God has put it into their hearts to carry out His own purpose by acting in harmony in surrendering their royal power and authority to the beast, until the prophetic words (intentions and promises) of God shall be fulfilled.
- 18 And the woman that you saw is herself the great city which dominates and controls the rulers and the leaders of the earth.

The seven heads on the beast have a dual meaning. They represent seven mountains and which the woman – the city is sitting and they represent seven Kings or seven prophetic empires.

Five former, one at the time of John's writing in the one to come. The five fallen empires that were passed were Egypt, Syria, Babylon, media, Persia, and Greece. The kingdom existing at the time of John's riding in revelation was Rome. The Empire to come is the seventh empire, which would see the Roman empire reforming, a global religion and government during the first 42 months of the seven year tribulation and will continue for short space (verse eight, ten).

When the 10 kings merge their kingdoms with the antichrist, he will organize the eighth empire (verse eleven) which will be the final kingdom on earth before Jesus returns to rule as king.

The 10 kings give their kingdom to the beast in "one hour" (verse twelve) possibly after they see mystery, Babylon (Rome) destroyed in one hour and great fear Caesars them (Rev 18:10, 17).

The waters can be a metaphor for many nations, as in Isaiah 17:12–13, or the nations are identified as many waters, making noise like the sea. Many prophetic nations, including Israel, have coastal areas of seawater. Rome has both a shipping port, in large rivers leading into the city.

Under the approval of the 10 kings, the city of Rome is wiped out in one hour (Rev. 18:10, 17, 19) note that in John's day, Rome was built of marble, stone, and Wood, and could have never been destroyed in one hour. When you're old burned Rome, the 14 sections of the city took six days to burn. The sudden destruction (see 1 Thess 5:3) could be the result of a nuclear detonation that completely destroyed a city in one hour. Notice, however, that God is controlling the events: He is the One who placed in the hearts of these 10 Kings to desire to destroy the harlot, the city - fulfilling His will (verse seventeen)

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Revelation 18 AMPC

1 Then I saw another angel descending from heaven, possessing great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his radiance and splendor. 2 And he shouted with a mighty voice, She is fallen! Mighty Babylon is fallen! She has become a resort and dwelling place for demons, a dungeon haunted by every loathsome spirit, an abode for every filthy and detestable bird.

Babylon becomes a strong hold of demons, foul, spirits, and hateful birds. A metaphor used for demonic spirits. The ancient city of Babylon was located near the Euphrates river, and it's the same river where the four evil angels are bound. (Revelation 9:14–15).

- 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of her passionate unchastity, and the rulers and leaders of the earth have joined with her in committing fornication (idolatry), and the businessmen of the earth have become rich with the wealth of her excessive luxury and wantonness.
- 4 I then heard another voice from heaven saying, <u>Come out from her,</u> my people, so that you may not share in her sins, neither participate in <u>her plagues.</u>
- 5 For her iniquities (her crimes and transgressions) are piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her wickedness and [her] crimes [and calls them up for settlement].
- 6 Repay to her what she herself has paid [to others] and double [her doom] in accordance with what she has done. Mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed [for others].
- 7 To the degree that she glorified herself and reveled in her wantonness [living deliciously and luxuriously], to that measure impose on her torment and anguish and tears and mourning. Since in her heart she boasts, I am not a widow; as a queen [on a throne] I sit, and I shall never see suffering or experience sorrow—
- 8 So shall her plagues (afflictions, calamities) come thick upon her in a single day, pestilence and anguish and sorrow and famine; and she shall be utterly consumed (burned up with fire), for mighty is the Lord God Who judges her.

The phrase come out of her, my people, mini, believe as a warning for Living now, and not just for those in the future tribulation, as God is warning his people to separate themselves from faults or man-made, religious Systems because they will be judged in the tribulation. Her sins reached heaven in verse five in the same manner that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah had reached heaven and released God's destruction on these cities (Genesis 18:20-21)

The sins of mystery Babylon are so grievous that God brings a double judgment on two parts of Babylon – on the religious Babylon, in chapter 17, and upon the economic Babylon, in chapter 18.

9 And the rulers and leaders of the earth who joined her in her immorality (idolatry) and luxuriated with her will weep and beat their breasts and lament over her when they see the smoke of her conflagration.

10 They will stand a long way off, in terror of her torment, and they will cry, Woe and alas, the great city, the mighty city, Babylon! In one single hour how your doom (judgment) has overtaken you!

- 11 And earth's businessmen will weep and grieve over her because no one buys their freight (cargo) any more.
- 12 Their merchandise is of gold, silver, precious stones, and pearls; of fine linen, purple, silk, and scarlet [stuffs]; all kinds of scented wood, all sorts of articles of ivory, all varieties of objects of costly woods, bronze, iron, and marble;
- 13 Of cinnamon, spices, incense, ointment and perfume, and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, fine flour and wheat; of cattle and sheep, horses and conveyances; and of slaves (the bodies) and souls of men!
- 14 The ripe fruits and delicacies for which your soul longed have gone from you, and all your luxuries and dainties, your elegance and splendor are lost to you, never again to be recovered or experienced!
- 15 The dealers who handled these articles, who grew wealthy through their business with her, will stand a long way off, in terror of her doom and torment, weeping and grieving aloud, and saying.

16 Alas, alas for the great city that was robed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, bedecked and glittering with gold, with precious stones, and with pearls!

17 Because in one [single] hour all the vast wealth has been destroyed (wiped out). And all ship captains and pilots, navigators and all who live by seafaring, the crews and all who ply their trade on the sea, stood a long way off.

18 And exclaimed as they watched the smoke of her burning, What city could be compared to the great city!

The results of an reaction to this destruction indicate a strong possibility that a weapon of mass destruction is used. This large great mega city is destroyed in one hour by fire in Kingsville see the smoke of her burning and total destruction. The fear of being contaminated by the smoke, has caused people to stand far off from the city, wailing and weeping, when they see the smoke of the burning city. With the common belief that the city is Rome, with Ron being viewed globally as a heart of traditional Christianity, then the antichrist and his 10 kings forever, erase the last visible image of what is viewed as the Christian faith..

19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and grieved, exclaiming, Woe and alas, for the great city, where all who had ships on the sea grew rich [through her extravagance] from her great wealth! In one single hour she has been destroyed and has become a desert!

20 Rejoice (celebrate) over her, O heaven! O saints (people of God) and apostles and prophets, because God has executed vengeance for you upon her!

While, the economic, prosperity and dominion of Babylon is completely destroyed, now that the apostles and prophets are in heaven, rejoicing. This is additional proof that the Saints have been caught up to heaven, while the judgments are poured out here on the Earth.

21 Then a single powerful angel took up a boulder like a great millstone and flung it into the sea, crying, With such violence shall Babylon the great city be hurled down to destruction and shall never again be found.

- 22 And the sound of harpists and minstrels and flute players and trumpeters shall never again be heard in you, and no skilled artisan of any craft shall ever again be found in you, and the sound of the millstone shall never again be heard in you.
- 23 And never again shall the light of a lamp shine in you, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall never be heard in you again; for your businessmen were the great and prominent men of the earth, and by your magic spells and poisonous charm all nations were led astray (seduced and deluded).
- 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all those who have been slain (slaughtered) on earth.

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