



# Revelation 17

Randy

Duke 01/12/25 **The Harlot of Babylon**

[randyduke@protonmail.com](mailto:randyduke@protonmail.com)

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- i. Remember to continue to pray for America, a peaceful transition, for revival, for Calvary & Pastor Mike, & the 'Peace of Jerusalem' ( 2 Chron. 7:14)
- ii. Support "Informed Parents of California at <https://ip-sv.square.site/>
- iii. Dead Sea Scrolls at Reagan Library: <https://tinyurl.com/47d3brfk>
- iv. **Understanding The Times:** "Shadow Government: More than Conspiracy" Today at 1:00PM on 88.1 FM or at OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/2hraupmw>
- v. **Understanding the Times Prophecy Conference:** Thurs, Dec 16, 5:00-7:30 PM, free online at [www.MarkHenryMinistries.com](http://www.MarkHenryMinistries.com)
- vi. **Agenda Weekly:** "The Fires of Communist Subversion" <https://tinyurl.com/4vt9kd4f>
- vii. **Amir Tsarfati's Weekly Newsletter:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n8m4ysx>
- viii. **Could a Hostage Release be in negotiation?** <https://tinyurl.com/4vt6ha7n>
- ix. **AI takes a MAJOR leap forward with GB10 chip from Nvidia:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n77n66e> (complete 2.5 hr report at <https://tinyurl.com/5n7i5h32>)
- x. **Extensive Digital Tracking & 'Fingerprinting' to begin in 6 weeks:** <https://tinyurl.com/3cprs9rr>

## II. Revelation Chapter 17: Babylon - The Prostitute on the Beast

- i. The concept of Babylon
  - a. [Revelation 16:19](#) & [14:8](#) already declared Babylon's fall. In [Revelation 17](#) and [18](#), the fall of Babylon is detailed.
  - b. **Babylon is actually mentioned 287 times in the Scriptures, more than any other city, except Jerusalem.**
  - c. **Babylon was a literal city on the Euphrates River.** Gen 11:11-10 records that right after the flood, Babylon was the seat of the civilization that expressed organized hostility to God.
  - d. **Babylon was always an evil empire in the eyes of God's chosen**  
*"Babylon, to them (the Jews), was the essence of all evil, the embodiment of cruelty, the foe of God's people, and the lasting type of sin, carnality, lust and greed."* (Merrill C. Tenney, "Interpreting Revelation")
  - e. In the OT, the name **Babylon** is associated with organized idolatry, blasphemy and the persecution of God's people.
  - f. In John's day Rome epitomized all the antagonism and opposition to the Christian faith. Rome was the clearest fulfillment of the **Babylon attitude**. If we had to pick one city today that most exemplifies the world system, **Los Angeles/Hollywood would be the Babylon of today.**
  - g. **The 'Babylonian World View' is revealed in [Revelation 17 & 18](#) & the shown in the Antichrist's reign.**
  - h. **Babylon's values** were present in John's day (typified by Rome), in our day, and throughout history, as the *world's system*. But under the Antichrist, Babylon (in both its religious and commercial aspects) will have influence over the entire earth as never before.
  - i. **Where we see 'Babylon' today:**  
Government, abortion (AKA 'Women's Reproductive Rights'), LGBTQ rights promoted as normal, Governmental persecution of its citizenry, Climate/Earth as 'god', 'Woke' world view both within society & the church, Globalism, Governmental controls, mandates, surveillance, Entertainment, Morals & Social values
- ii. The "Great Harlot" (religious Babylon) is described (verses 1-2)
  - a. **"I will show you the judgment of the great harlot":** Babylon's **judgment** is assured at the outset. There is never any doubt regarding the fate - and ultimate failure - of Babylon.
  - b. **As a religious system**, Babylon came into being long before Christianity, but in Satanic imitation it anticipated the coming true Messiah.
  - c. The Babylonian religion was founded by the wife of Nimrod (great-grandson of Noah), named Semiramis. She was a high priestess of idol worship, & gave birth to a son she claimed was conceived miraculously. The son, named Tammuz, was considered a savior.
  - d. Ancient artifacts show Semiramis holding the savior-infant Tammuz. It was also said that Tammuz was killed by a wild beast & miraculously brought back to life. Baal was the Canaanite name for the Babylonian Tammuz.
  - e. **The Bible makes specific mention of some of the features of the classic religion of Babylon:**
  - f. [Ezekiel 8:14-15](#) condemns the ceremony of weeping for Tammuz
  - g. Jeremiah condemns practice of making cakes for the queen of heaven ([Jer 7:18](#)) & offering incense to the her ([Jer 44:17-19](#), [44:25](#))
  - h. **"Who sits on many waters":** Here, Babylon presides over many nations (compare with [Rev 17:15](#)). She has a universal, international character.

- i. This is the unification of all false, idolatrous religions, with representatives from apostate Catholicism, Protestantism, & other religions of the world.
  - j. "The woman pictures false religion that will dominate the world in the tribulation period." (Hocking) Many people like to identify this **great harlot** with the Roman Catholic Church, but false religion is not limited to any one church.
  - k. "**The inhabitants of the earth were made drunk**": Babylon's 'Religious System' intoxicates kings and people. Karl Marx was *partly* right when he said, "Religion is the opiate of the masses." But he was only partly right because it's **EMPTY** religion that is the opium of the masses. Christ gives us a 'religion' based on a **RELATIONSHIP with God!**
  - l. "**Made drunk with the wine of her fornication**": The idea of **fornication** carries a strong associations throughout the Bible with idolatry. Since Babylon religious system is so well-accepted, it is likely to appear as attractive and spiritual, though is an empty immoral belief system.
- iii. **What John saw (Verses 3-6)**
- a. "**He carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness**": John is carried away into the **wilderness**; the desolate nature of the **wilderness** is an appropriate setting for a vision of judgment.
  - b. "**Sitting on a scarlet beast**": The harlot rides the same beast (**seven heads and ten horns**) that was previously described in [Rev 13:1](#) – **the Antichrist & his dictatorship**.
  - c. "Her position, that of riding the beast, indicates on the one hand that she is supported by the political power of the beast, and on the other that she is in a dominant role and at least outwardly controls and directs the beast." (Walvoord: "The Rapture Question")
  - d. Her association with blasphemy and the dragon's beast are clearly seen from God's perspective. But to the people of the earth she will look quite religious, and have the "faith" everybody wants. (**What/who does this describe to you?**)
  - e. "**The woman was arrayed**": The woman is clothed with emblems of luxury ("**purple... gold and precious stones**") and governmental power (**scarlet**). Yet she offers idolatry ("**abominations**") & impurity ("**filthiness of her fornication**") in this sumptuous setting.
  - f. "We find in the course of church history that one of the deadliest marks of ecclesiastical corruption is the lust for temporal power." (Barnhouse) Purple & scarlet were the colors of *rulers*, whether economic or political.
  - g. "**On her forehead a name was written**": The name on her forehead identifies her in more ways than one. Roman prostitutes frequently wore a headband with their name engraved upon it.
  - h. **Our 'woke' world**, with the philosophy that it doesn't matter **WHAT** you believe as long as you **believe**, is perfectly prepared for this harlot's seduction. See the disregard for the **BIBLICAL TRUTH** crippling the church today.
  - i. "**Drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus**": The woman not only persecutes, she also *revels* in her persecution of the godly as a drunk revels in wine.
- iv. **The Great Harlot is interpreted (Verse 7)**
- a. The focus of the explanation is on the '**beast**'. It appeared that the harlot ruled (*rode*) the Antichrist's system, but he is the dynamic factor, using her as tyrants have always used religion – as a mere tool to accomplish their purposes & 'control' a population.
- v. **Seven mountains associated with the beast (Verse 9)**
- a. "**The seven heads are seven mountains**": Many associate the **seven mountains** with Rome and the Papacy, as Rome is known as the city on seven hills. But the Greek word means **mountains**, not *hills*.
  - b. Many commentators regard the **seven mountains** as a connection with Rome. But in the Bible mountains are **symbols of governments** (such as in [Daniel 2:35](#)) and Rome is built on hills, not mountains.
  - c. It's better to see the **seven mountains** as representing the seven kings and kingdoms described in [Revelation 17:10](#). Linking religious Babylon & Roman Catholicism is natural, but it will be *much bigger* than Roman Catholicism.
- vi. **Seven Kings & Kingdoms (Verse 10)**
- a. This is one of the more difficult passages in the Book of Revelation. Some think these **seven kings**, five past, one present, and one to come in the succession of Roman Emperors in John's era, but there are many historical difficulties with this approach. More likely, it is a reference to:
    - ✓ "**Five have fallen**" refers to 5 world empires before John's day: Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Medo-Persia, & Greece
    - ✓ "**One is**" refers to the world empire of John's day: Rome
    - ✓ "**The other has not yet come**" refers to the one world empire to come: a revival of the Roman Empire
  - b. "**When he comes, he must continue a short time**": This seventh King will quickly be taken over by an eighth – and will become the '**State of the Antichrist**' ([Revelation 17:11](#)).
  - c. There are problems with this viewpoint as well (so some have taken the seven as symbolic).
  - d. This is a difficult passage with no clear Scriptural answer, so once again ... **YOU GET TO BE A BEREAN**
  - e. ... and yes, in case you're interested, the majority of commentaries also say there's no clear-cut position, so there!
- vii. **The beast (the Antichrist) is clearly identified as the eighth king (Verse 11)**
- viii. **Ten kings to come, allies of the Antichrist (Verses 12-15)**
- a. "**Ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet**": This likely alludes to a ten-nation confederation (as in the toes of the [Daniel 2:24-45](#) image)
  - b. **The EU itself claims to be a successor to the ancient Roman Empire**. The EEC started in 1957, when 6 European nations met to talk about combining nuclear, coal, & economic resources. They met in Rome & signed the Treaty of Rome – the beginning of the present EU.
  - c. The harlot presides over **peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues**. This shows the harlot's influence is **worldwide**, through her connection to the beast. This will truly be a **one-world religion**.
- ix. **The great harlot is judged. (Verse 16)**
- x. **God's hand ultimately directs all this (Verse 17): "God put it into their hearts"**: God directed the judgment against Babylon.

**xi. The great harlot is identified with Rome (Verse 18):** The question for Christians is, "Does it reign over me? Or am I the citizen of a better city, the Jerusalem above?" ([Galatians 4:26](#))