

Prayer:

The Bible is the only truly inspired book in the world. It is the only truly prophetic book in the world. Only God knows the future, and therefore, a key proof of the Bible is fulfilled prophecy. 28% of the Bible was prophetic when it was originally given. There are about 1000 prophecies in the Bible, of which about half have literally been fulfilled. This argues strongly that the other half will yet be literally fulfilled.

The book of Revelation is like Grand Central Station of prophetic truth. Here we find all the prophetic truth finding its ultimate fulfillment. To this end, we are given an inspired outline in Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.”

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

God has a sovereign plan for the world, but Satan also has a plan for the world. God’s plan is centered in the Christ, Who will one day subdue and rule the world. Satan’s plan is to marshal the world around the antichrist who will one day rally the entire world to try and defeat God’s plan. Satan believes there is strength in numbers, God shows Himself to be all powerful within Himself!

Satan’s plan is centered in organized rebellion against God. This plan goes back to Babel in Genesis 10-11. This was the first outbreak of unified rebellion after the universal flood of Noah’s day. Ever since that time, Satan has been pushing for a one-world order of unified rebellion involving the union of state and religion. This is the development of the Babylonian System.

People are inherently religious. People were created to worship (cf. Rom. 1) and worship they will. However, in their fallen state, this trait reflects rebellion resulting in **idolatrour worship**. As I said, the first major outbreak of unified rebellion happened at **the tower of Babel** following the flood. This **pivotal event** became the catalyst for all false religions that would develop in world history.

Throughout history, this has always been the issue: True worshipers of the true God in contrast to idolatrour worship in all of its various aspects.

Babel represented UNIFIED IDOLATROUS REBELLION. *It involved a city (representing centralized gov't) and a tower (representing unified religion) in idolatrour union* (Gen. 11:4-5). It was MAN-CENTERED and PRIDE-centered in nature as seen in "**let us make ourselves a name**". In effect, it represented a MAN-MADE ECUMENICAL RELIGION IN UNION WITH GOVERNMENT!

What began in Genesis 10-11 **comes full circle** in Revelation 17-18. The development of the Babylonian System of idolatrour religion in the end has two aspects that culminate in Antichrist. As noted last week, end times Babylon has TWO STAGES.

Slide # 2

"The harlot" (Rev. 17) is the religious system that "the beast" uses to help build his organization. When Antichrist establishes his own religion (Rev. 13:11-15), he will destroy the "harlot" [Rev. 17:16], but it is God who will destroy Babylon [Rev. 18]. – **Warren Wiersbe**

This is key to understanding what Revelation 17 and 18 are all about. There are TWO aspects to last days Babylon. To show you this is true, note that "MYSTERY BABYLON" is a great city which reigns over the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:18), but then is destroyed by the forces of Antichrist (Rev. 17:16) prior to the rule of Antichrist over the whole world.

So I take it that "Mystery Babylon" in Revelation 17 (called "the great harlot") is distinct from "Babylon the Great" in Revelation 18, which is the final form of the Babylonian System under Antichrist. Both are headquartered in a city, but the city of Mystery Babylon is destroyed by Antichrist, and therefore, it can't actually be the same city that is later destroyed by God in Revelation 18. However, both cities are a continuation and culmination of the Babylonian System.

Slide # 3**THE BABYLONIAN SYSTEM**

Idolatrous False Religion
(Genesis – Revelation)

Revelation 17

Stage One

A City (Papal Rome)
“Church” & State in Union
Mystery Babylon
Religious Emphasis
Rides the Beast (Control)
Destroyed by Antichrist
1st Half of the Trib

Revelation 18

Stage Two

A City (Babylon Revived)
Religion & State in Union
Babylon the Great
Economic Emphasis
Controls the World
Destroyed by God
2nd Half of the Trib

If you were the devil and your goal is to get the whole world united in defiance of God in an effort to defeat God, how would you go about it?

Satan’s master Babylonian plan involves two prongs, a religious prong and an economic prong. Revelation 17 emphasizes the religious prong and Revelation 18 emphasizes the financial prong.

In the end, these two strategic prongs come together in Antichrist. Under the first prong, a one-world order of false religion is in union with Antichrist, but under the second prong, Antichrist will have destroyed this ecumenical false religion system and will himself assume the one-world religion as he makes it all about him! This becomes the final form of Babylonian rebellion.

Last time in Revelation 17:1-6, we saw the reality of a great ecumenical harlot that will be on the scene following the rapture of the church. This great harlot will be in play during the first half of the Tribulation.

Last time in Revelation 17:1-6, we noted these facts about this ecumenical Babylonian harlot.

Slide # 4***Mystery Babylon – the Great Harlot***

1. She is a large harlot – worldwide in scope – 17:1
2. She has religious intercourse with kings and peoples of the earth alike. - 17:2
3. She has tremendous influence and power in the political realm – initially being in the dominant/sitting position over antichrist. - 17:3
4. She is outwardly attractive but inwardly full of idolatrous corruption. – 17:4
5. She is a product of the Babylonian mystery religions – combining many strains of false religion all tracing their source back to Babylon. – 17:5
6. She hates the true people of God as seen in her murder of them. –17:6

As I showed last week, I believe this initial form of the last days Babylon System is centered in the papal city of Rome. It undoubtedly is larger than Rome, bringing many strands of idolatrous religion together, but I think papal Rome is the essential catalyst and the city that is called “Mystery Babylon.”

When John saw this religious harlot, the great religious system that is unfaithful to God, he was amazed, as seen in verse 6. He was amazed and obviously somewhat perplexed.

Revelation 17:7–13 (NKJV)

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.

John must have been amazed at the relationship, at the union between this religious harlot and the beast, because the interpreting angel goes on to address this very issue at length, making mention of it three times (17:3, 7, 9).

Note what John saw that caused him to marvel – it was this woman and the beast that carries her. In verse 3, John saw this “**woman sitting on a scarlet beast.**” So at this point, this is a prominent emphasis! It is the woman who is in the dominant position. She is riding the beast. She has the major position of influence and control. That is how the relationship between the woman (false religion) and Antichrist begins. They are in league, but the woman initially dominates.

Yes, I think the appearance of the woman was shocking, but the emphasis throughout is on her massive influence and sway – even over the beast at this point. Her power and influence were shocking!

To think that the church, indeed the false church as the ecumenical leader of the world's false religions, could be this powerful was amazing. How could this happen? Here, the angel spells out the mystery.

A mystery in the NT was something that could not be known apart from being revealed by God. What the angel does is develop the Babylonian history on which the woman is built. There is a whole long-running historical foundation that has brought her to this point. It didn't happen overnight!

The beast that the woman rides upon has seven heads and ten horns.

As we work our way down to verses 10-11, it will become clear that these 7 heads are representative of seven world empires that incorporated the Babylonian System into the fabric of their being, with the final form being seen in the 10 horns, which are shown to be 10 kings that serve as the base of Antichrist's empire.

Slide # 5

Mystery Babylon (Sits on)

Revived Rome
Rome
Greece
Medo-Persia
Babylon
Assyria
Egypt

As you can see, the Babylonian System has been developing through the centuries, and it finally comes to consummation in the form of "***Mystery Babylon the Great.***" (17:5)

However, there is one more final Babylonian development as seen in relation to the beast (Antichrist).

In effect, John saw a 7-headed BEAST that is progressively developing the Babylonian System down through history, and he sees that in the end, at this point, the WOMAN/HARLOT is the capstone of this Babylonian System. He sees that this woman and the beast are contemporaries functioning in league with each other.

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.

Here we have an overview of what is going to happen in relation to the beast (Antichrist) that the woman comes riding on in the first part of the Tribulation Period.

Here, we are given a synoptic overview of the career of the Antichrist after the woman is seen riding the beast.

Was – relates to his rise to power in the first half of the Tribulation.

Is not – Signifies Antichrist's death in the Middle of the Tribulation (Rev. 11:7; 13:12).

Will ascend out of the bottomless pit (Abyss/Hades) - This refers to Antichrist's resurrection in the Middle of the Tribulation.

This is the major turning point resulting in his empire going worldwide for 3 and ½ years (cf. Rev. 13:3-8). It connects back with his killing the two witnesses in chapter 11.

Slide # 6

Revelation 11:7 (NKJV)

7 When they finish their testimony, **the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit** will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

This [ascending out of the bottomless pit] seems clearly to be a paraphrase of the idea in chapter 13 of the sword-wounded beast who was healed (13:3, 14); the language is similar, the astonishment of the world's inhabitants identical, and the threefold emphasis on this spectacular feature is repeated in both contexts (13:3, 12, 14; 17:8 bis, 11). – **Expositors**

“The bottomless pit” is more literally “***the shaft of the abyss***”. The meaning of abyss is literally “***without a base***” or the idea of the “***unfathomable deep***”. The word ***shaft*** denotes the entry channel to this place, which is shown as having a lid of some sort that is locked (cf. Num. 16:33; Rev. 9:1-2).

This bottomless pit is the temporary holding place of especially bad demons and also where the Antichrist will go in death (cf. Rev. 9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3; also see Luke 8:31 and Rom. 10:7).

In Revelation 13:3, it says he is “**mortally wounded and his deadly wound was healed.**” (cf. 13:12) This is the very same language used of Christ’s death in Revelation 5:6.

“Here it is said that he “is about to come up” indicating that the events of verses 1-7 precede his seizure of power in the middle of the tribulation period.” – **Charles Ryrie**

Go to perdition – refers to his ultimate destiny of being cast into the lake of fire at the end of the Tribulation Period (cf. Rev. 19:20; 20:10). The word “perdition” refers to the condition of eternal ruin or destruction. Nothing ever gets any better. Both Judas and the Antichrist are referred to as the “son of perdition” (Jn. 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3).

Note the description of “**Was, Is not, and Yet is**” is brought out **twice** in this same verse. This takes us back to Revelation 13, where we find that this beast will receive a mortal wound and is then healed.

Slide # 7

Revelation 13:3–5 (NKJV)

3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been **mortally wounded**, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the **world marveled** and **followed** the beast.

4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they **worshiped the beast**, saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was **given authority to continue for forty-two months.**

Note that following his resurrection, the world marvels, follows, and worships him, and he is given authority for 42 months to have absolute dominion over the entire world. This is the last 3 and ½ years of the Tribulation Period wherein his rule will be over all the world (Rev. 13:7).

I take it that this EVENT of the Antichrist’s resurrection at the midpoint of the Tribulation is the most significant event in his career and launches his worldwide empire. I also believe this is most likely what is in view in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

Slide # 8**2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)**

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.

Some theologians have had a problem with the idea of the devil, who empowers the beast, being able to bring the Antichrist back to life. And I get that because in all the Bible we find that it is God who has the power to give life. God alone is life. Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” – not Satan (Jn. 11:25). That is certainly true!

However, it would appear that this is a very unique situation in the history of the world.

All Christians agree that only God has the power to resurrect the dead. This is a given. However, God can allow Satan to have this ability if He chooses to do so. I believe that’s what will happen during the Tribulation. God’s permission for Satan to do this will be part of the great delusion God will send upon those who reject Him (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). – **Dr. Mark Hitchcock**

This is the ultimate LIE, the “**strong delusion**” that God allows “**that they should believe the lie.**” (2 Thess. 2:11). If you cling to a LIE strong enough, God may allow you to HARDEN and be deceived (Rom. 1).

The double emphasis on this event in 17:8 shows just how significant it is. It is referred to yet again in verse 11.

Note the language of 13:4 is similar to what we find here in that the world **will marvel**. This event will blow their minds. They will be completely enamored with him and buy into this deception completely. They will be moved to worshipful allegiance and take the mark of the beast.

They will be awestruck with admiration, thinking he is invincible, not realizing that in a very short while, he will be on his way to PERDITION and taking all his followers with him. The deception will be strong!

In fact, all the unsaved who are not written in God's book of life from the foundation of the world will worship him.

"Earth dwellers" in the book of Revelation is a technical phrase used 10 times to refer to the lost (cf. 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 17:2, 8). They are earth dwellers in that they sell out to antichrist for the things of this life. They have no pilgrim character – they live for the here and now – for this life.

They sell out eternity for everything in the here and NOW!

God has a book of life. He knows all who will be saved from the foundation of the world. They are all recorded in this book. All the lost who will follow Antichrist, however, are not in this book. (cf. 20:15) Only the elect will not fall for Antichrist's deception.

Slide # 9

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Revelation 20:15 (NKJV)

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Note again their marveling happens in conjunction with them seeing **"the beast that was, and is not and yet is."** It is this death/resurrection event that sells them on antichrist. Just like the death and resurrection of Jesus sells the true believer on Christ, so the death and resurrection of Antichrist will sell the world on him. That is deception on a whole other level, and in this "God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie" because they "did not receive the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10-11).

Once again, we see that Satan ever seeks to imitate what God has done in the person of Christ. Nothing, apart from SIN, ever originated with Satan. He constantly strives to be **"like the Most High."** (Isa. 14:14) The language here is very similar to that which describes Christ in Revelation 1:4 and 1:18.

Slide # 10**Revelation 17:8 – Career of Antichrist**

Was – Antichrist’s rise to power (1st half of Tribulation).

Is not – Antichrist’s death in the Middle of the Tribulation.

Will ascend out of the bottomless pit - Antichrist’s resurrection

Perdition – Destiny of destruction at the end of the Tribulation.

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

This will require wisdom to discern. There has been so much disagreement amongst scholars at this point that one wonders how much wisdom is really brought to the table.

It is essential that we understand the Biblical concept of wisdom. It is not just **straining** your mind and trying to figure it out on your own. Wisdom is not figuring out the mystery because you are **smart** and come up with this on your own, or a matter of having a high I.Q.

In the Bible, wisdom is a matter of properly applying the word of God after careful/diligent study. Proper application of God’s word is wisdom (cf. the book of Proverbs and James). **Knowledge** is important, but wisdom is the proper **APPLICATION** of the word of God to whatever situation we face.

Therefore, I take it that what God is telling us is that in order to properly understand this, we will need to make the PROPER APPLICATION of God’s Word regarding this issue. The answer is found in the Bible and by prayerful and careful study in keeping with sound principles of interpretation.

We know wisdom by what God has revealed. Wisdom is seeking out what God has said and making the proper application. James says if we lack wisdom, we should ask God in faith and He will give it (Ja. 1:5-8). I had a professor in Bible College who said we should never read the Bible without first asking God to help us see what He wants us to see.

Slide # 11

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

15 Be **diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Psalm 119:18 (NKJV)

18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

In the proper understanding of Scripture, there are some basic principles to keep in mind, and if we do this consistently, we will consistently be handling the word of God properly – we will rightly be dividing the word of truth.

Slide # 12

1. Always consider the context. A text without a context is a pretext.
2. Consistently interpret the Bible NORMALLY or literally, which allows for obvious figures of speech and metaphors just like we do in normal everyday conversation. Rule of thumb: **“When plain sense makes good sense then seek no other sense.”**
3. Scripture interprets Scripture. The best commentary on Scripture is more Scripture. Revelation is progressive. The entire Bible builds on the book of Genesis. For example, in dealing with marriage in Matt. 19 Jesus goes back to Genesis – the book of beginnings. In dealing with salvation by faith Paul goes back to Gen. 15:6 and so forth.

There was an older lady who made the comment: ***“This Bible sure does shed some light on those commentaries.”*** Now, don’t get me wrong, God has given teachers to the church (of which I am one), and I very much appreciate their contribution, but we must always make the Word our ultimate focus and authority.

Keeping all this in mind, it is extremely important to realize that Revelation is the last book of the Bible that builds on the rest of the previous Scriptures. Revelation, drawing on all the previous Scriptures, is the capstone of all inspired revelation. **Of the 404** verses in Revelation, **278** of them are tied to OT Scriptures. In other words, to properly understand Revelation deeply, you really need to know the rest of the Bible first because it builds on all this previous foundation and ties it all together. With all this in mind, let us consider what is being said.

Revelation 17:9 says, ***“The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.”***

Who are these 7 heads? Well they are 7 mountains on which the woman sits.

Some have stopped right here and jumped to what they consider the obvious conclusion that Rome is in view because she is known as the **7-hilled city of history**. Therefore, they often seek to tie in 7 major historical leaders of Rome. But that doesn't really fit when you consider the exact language, the background, and context more carefully in keeping with the wisdom principles previously stated.

Slide # 13

Problems with making Revelation 17:9 just Rome...

1. Rome encompasses more than just seven hills.
2. The city sits on hills and not mountains.
3. The text identifies these "seven mountains" as "seven kings" as the thought continues into verse 10.
4. The seven heads belong to the beast and not the woman, as so stated in verse 7. Yes, the woman sits on this comprehensive beast, but the mountains specifically belong to the beast.

Mountains in the prophetic OT Scriptures consistently symbolize the idea of a kingdom or empire (cf. Ps. 30:7; Isa. 2:2; Jer. 51:25; Dan. 2:35; Hab. 3:6; Zech. 4:7).

The Greek word (oros), everywhere in the book of Revelation, is translated as "mountain" and not as "hill". There is a whole different word for "hills." The proper translation is MOUNTAINS.

Slide # 14

Jeremiah 51:25 (NKJV)

25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying **mountain** [Babylon], Who destroys all the earth," says the Lord. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt **mountain**."

Daniel 2:35 (NKJV)

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great **mountain** [Christ's kingdom] and filled the whole earth.

Prophetically speaking, “Mountains” here would most naturally refer to 7 successive kingdoms in history on which this woman of false religion sits. As previously mentioned, I would take it that Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the Revived Roman Empire are in view.

There were other great, powerful empires in the ancient world...but these had only peripheral contact with the Word of God and the chosen people. There were only six kingdoms that met both criteria up to the time of Christ and the apostles. Furthermore, all six of these were not only legitimate heirs of political Babel but also of religious Babel as well. – **Henry M. Morris**

Going back to Babel, the wife of Nimrod was Semiramis. Supposedly, Nimrod died and became the sun god. He then miraculously impregnated Semiramis by a sunbeam. She had a miraculously born son named Tammuz.

This mother/son ideology became the core of the “Babylonian Mystery Religions,” of which Semiramis was the High Priestess, involving all sorts of idolatrous practices. But the mother/son connection was key. The **names and the places changed**, but the same mother and son religion that started in Babylon infiltrated the world through the channel of these 7 empires in particular.

Slide # 15

Seven Heads of “Babylonian” Succession (Mother (Semiramis) & Son (Tammuz) Cult)

- Egypt (Isis and Osiris)
- Assyria (Ishtar and Bacchus)
- Babylon (Ishtar and Duzu)
- Medo-Persia (Cybele and Deoious)
- Greece (Aphrodite and Eros)
- Rome (Venus and Cupid)
- Revived Rome (Idolized Mary in relation to Jesus)

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.

Verse 10 continues the thought of verse 9. In the Greek there is no “There” there. Verse 10 is simply an extension of verse 9. The first part of verse 10 more literally is, “**and the seven heads are seven kings.**”

Slide # 16**Revelation 17:10 (NASB)**

10 and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

Putting it all together in verses 9-10 we find...

Seven heads
Seven mountains
Seven kings

These are all used interchangeably. Because of the reference to 7 kings, some have argued that 7 Roman emperors are in view.

However, the precedent of Daniel is that king and kingdom are used interchangeably.

Slide # 17**Daniel 7:17 (NASB)**

17 'These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth.

The most consistent view is to see these as 7 kingdoms personified as 7 major leaders/kings of 7 consecutive kingdoms/empires.

Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come.

If you take the view that Roman emperors are in view, it doesn't fit because MORE than 6 Roman emperors had already been in place and fallen by the time John wrote. It therefore becomes arbitrary/subjective in terms of where you start counting.

The best way to take it is that Five have fallen refers to 5 empires – namely, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. These 5 kingdoms that played such a major role in relation to God's people, Israel, and the development of the Babylonian System have fallen. They are history – part of the past.

One is – refers to the Roman Empire currently in place at time John was writing the book of Revelation.

The other that has not yet come refers to the future REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE, out of which will come the antichrist as seen in Daniel 2 and 7. Daniel 7 makes it explicitly clear that the ten horns are part of the Roman Empire (cf. Dan. 7:23-24). This demands that there be a revival of the Roman Empire, which in general corresponds to Europe.

When he comes, that is the antichrist, he must continue for a short time. When the antichrist makes his appearance, it will be a big splash but not for long. He rises to power in conjunction with the great harlot during the first half of the 7-year Tribulation and then rules over all the earth for the last 3 and ½ years.

Slide # 18

Mystery Babylon (Sits on)

Revived Rome (yet to come)

Rome (one is)

~~Greece~~

~~Medo-Persia~~

~~Babylon~~

~~Assyria~~

~~Egypt~~

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

The beast in view here is the antichrist.

Again, he is described in terms of “**was**” relating to his first 3 and ½ years – the first half of the Tribulation, and “**is not**” describes his death at about the middle of the Tribulation.

In effect, he is the 7th head – that is, he is the head of the Revived Roman Empire during the first part of the Tribulation Period (cf. Dan. 7:20 – overtakes 3), but then he dies. He is the 7th head in this succession of KEY empires that further the Babylonian system. But that is not the end of the story....

He comes back to life and thereby becomes the 8th also. That is how he can be of the 7 and yet be the 8th. In his capacity as the 8th, his domain encompasses ruling over the entire world in contrast to his role as the 7th, which was just in relation to the revived Roman Empire. This would seem to be the distinction, and his death and resurrection is the TRANSITION point.

“...as one of the seven, the beast is a kingdom, but as an 8th he is the king of that kingdom who sustains the wound and ascends from the abyss after his wound (v. 8). When this occurs, he is king over an 8th kingdom because his reign following his ascent from the abyss will be far more dynamic and dominant than before. This is the sense in which he is one of the seven, but also an eighth.... Making the 8th a fusion of the raised beast and the empire over which he rules is the only way to meet all the criteria of this passage.” – **Robert Thomas**

Slide # 19

The Seven Heads of Revelation 17:3, 9-11 (Seven Kings and Seven Kingdoms)		
1 st head (Fallen)	Egypt	<i>Exo. 1:8-11</i>
2 nd head (Fallen)	Assyria	<i>2 Kings 17:6</i>
3 rd head (Fallen)	Babylon	<i>2 Kings 24:10-16</i>
4 th head (Fallen)	Mede-Persia	<i>2 Chron. 36:20</i>
5 th head (Fallen)	Greece	<i>Dan. 8:21</i>
6 th head (one is)	Rome (in power at the time John received the vision)	<i>Luke 2:1</i>
7 th head (Has not yet come)	Future fulfillment of the Roman Empire	<i>Rev. 17:10, 18</i>
An eighth king	The anti-Christ	<i>Rev. 17:11</i>

In this way, “the beast” was both “one of the seven [kings, kingdoms]” but also “the eighth.” His kingdom was nothing but a revival of the Roman Empire (“one of the seven”), but it was a new kingdom (“the eighth”). – **Warren Wiersbe**

Again, his final destination of perdition is emphasized. It is like God wants to EMPHASIZE that his duration is short, and here is where he is going. His fate is CERTAIN! This is emphasized twice in our text this morning, being seen in verse 8 and then again here in verse 11. Unlike the previous six empires he will be directly destroyed by God (cf. Rev. 19:20; 20:10).

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.

Horns in the Bible are a symbol of power – military or political power. These 10 horns are plainly said to represent 10 kings. They are parallel to the 10 toes in Dan. 2 (Dan. 2:41-42) or the 10 horns in Dan. 7 (Dan. 7:7-8, 20, 24). Thus Revelation harmonizes perfectly with the prophetic end times truth of Daniel.

At the time of John the apostle, these 10 were yet future. When they come on the scene, these 10 will serve simultaneously as contemporaries with the antichrist.

Never in history have there been 10 major leaders in Europe simultaneously serving a superior. This is unfulfilled to date and will be fulfilled ONLY when the antichrist shows up on the scene.

They are allowed “one hour” of authority serving under the beast. One hour denotes a short period of time.

These kings make up the nucleus of Antichrist’s revived Roman empire. They are the backbone of what will become a worldwide empire.

I believe, based on Dan. 7:2-3, that a revived Roman empire is in view. Daniel picked up the prophetic picture from his day – that is, starting with Babylon instead of Egypt. He counted 4 and only 4 major world empires that would be major players in relation to God’s people, Israel, in the history of the world from his day on. All 4 of these relate to the context of the Great Sea (Dan. 7:2), which is always the Mediterranean Sea in Scripture. The 4th empire, Rome, however, is shown to have 2 stages – The Roman Empire in place at the first coming of Christ and the Revived Roman Empire in place at the second coming of Christ.

These 10 relate to that last phase of the Roman Empire – the Revived Roman Empire, which will develop into a Worldwide empire in the last half of the Tribulation Period (cf. Dan. 7:7, 24).

During the first half of the Tribulation, the emphasis is on Europe – that is, the Mediterranean basin from out of which emerges the antichrist in the context of a Revived Roman Empire. (cf. Dan. 9:26)

The second half of the Tribulation puts the emphasis on a worldwide empire led by the Antichrist with headquarters evidently in the rebuilt city of Babylon on the Euphrates. Revelation 18 deals with this.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

These 10 are of one purpose. They are unanimous in their full support of the beast.

They are so ONE-minded that they are totally with the beast in his taking on the Lord at His second coming, as seen in verse 14. They are all in with Antichrist. They are “with the beast” totally and completely.

Right now, the world is being prepared for the final rebellion before the final put-down. Right now, we see the development of the great harlot (Mystery Babylon the Great), which will already be in place immediately after the rapture. I believe this is the great conglomeration of idolatrous false religion, sourced in the Babylonian tradition, which is headed up by the false church headquartered in Rome.

Just this last week, the headlines read: “

Slide # 20

“Rubio visits Vatican amid escalating tensions between Trump and Pope Leo”.



And then the article went on to say...

Amid a growing public rift between Pope Leo XIV and President Donald Trump — arguably the two most influential American-born figures in the world — Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited the Vatican on Thursday seeking to highlight common ground between the Holy See and the Trump administration. Rubio's meeting with Vatican officials lasted roughly two and a half hours and focused on "the strong relationship between the United States and the Holy See and their shared commitment to promoting peace and human dignity," according to a statement from the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

- May 7, 2026 (NPR Report)

The sway that Rome has over the “rulers” of the world is totally amazing, including the most powerful of all countries in the world.

Three times in Revelation 17, we find the woman presented as sitting on the beast as seen in verses 3, 7, and 9.

Slide # 21

The woman sits on many waters (17:1, 15).

The woman sits on the beast (17:3, 7, 9).

The woman sits on seven mountains (17:9).

This woman is the development of the Babylonian mystery religions through the centuries, has come to have a worldwide presence, and finally, in union with the beast, facilitates the final form of Babylon under Antichrist.

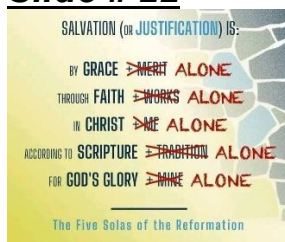
This defines the woman, the harlot, who is the last days Mystery Babylon, consisting of all manner of idolatrous religion tracing its heritage back through history to Babylon in Genesis 10-11, and of which the apostate church has become the leading catalyst, now in league with Antichrist.

Mike Gendron is an evangelist who was converted out of Roman Catholicism. He loves Catholics but hates Roman Catholic doctrine. He has a website “proclaimingthegospel.org”. Some of us went to hear him this last week in Lincoln.

One of the things he shared is that in the early days of his ministry his focus was on equipping the saints to be able to share with Catholics, but now so much of his attention is on this huge push in evangelicalism on ecumenism that seeks to align with Roman Catholicism. Many are converting back to Catholicism, and a key reason they do this is that they are going back to some of the early church fathers who were very Catholic in their orientation, and that is very convincing to them. Thus, they end up putting a lot of stock in tradition instead of the Scriptures themselves.

What they fail to do is go back to the apostles, back to the Scriptures. We must always go back to the Bible itself. The real dividing line between the great harlot of false Christendom and genuine Christianity is well summed up in what are called the 5 Solas of the Reformation.

Slide # 22



Sola means “only”. This is the defining issue. The Solas mark the difference between genuine Christianity and bogus Christendom that is idolatrous in nature.

Are you saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, based on Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone! This and nothing else, is representative of the true faith. A church can't save you, sacraments can't save you, other mediators can't save you, good works can't save you. **Only Christ is Savior!** Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!