

**"The Destruction of Babylon"**

**Part 3**

**Revelation 17-18**

**Introduction:** Today as we return to our study of Revelation I am reminded of the privilege that is set before us. We are currently looking into the future which is something many people desire to do but they do not know where to look. We have before us God's revelation of what is going to happen on the earth in the future and in this account, we have many details.

We are currently in Revelation 17 where we are told about the destruction of RELIGIOUS BABYLON. In chapter 17 we see the destruction RELIGIOUS BABYLON and in chapter 18 we will see the destruction of COMMERCIAL BABYLON.

To get started today I want to consider a review of where we have been in this chapter.

**Notice Revelation 17:5**

Religious Babylon in this chapter as referred to as *Mystery Babylon the Great*, the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. This false worship system had it start in Genesis 11 under the rule of a man named Nimrod at the Tower of Babel. When God scattered the people at the Tower of Babel they all carried with them the false worship that was established there. This false worship has been in existence since then and will come back together in the Tribulation. Every false worship system that exists today of that has ever existed has its roots in Babel.

That is why RELIGIOUS BABYLON is called the MOTHER OF HARLOTS and the MOTHER of the ABOMINATIONS of the earth. Every false worship system will come home to MOTHER in the Tribulation and this system will be a system in which they are all rolled into one.

This RELIGIOUS BABYLON exists today in every false system and in some it is very obvious such as the Roman Catholic Church and the worship of the MOTHER and the SON. This all started back at Babel with the wife of Nimrod. There is something very interesting that was shared with me this past week.

**Show the painting of Babel.**

**Show the picture of the EU Parliament building in Strasburg France.**

This shows the influence of Religious Babylon even today. I did some reading and found that those in leadership desire to finish what Nimrod began.

I. The Vision

a. The Power

**Notice Revelation 17:1**

She is sitting upon many waters and the waters are the nations and people of the Tribulation. The fact that she is sitting is very significant. That is the position of kings. She will rule over the people and she will be supported by the people.

**Notice Revelation 17:2**

The kings of the earth and the people of the earth will give their devotion to this religious system. She will "prostitute" herself to the earth dwellers.

Let me explain the idea behind the word "FORNICATION". The word means "TO PROSTITUTE". To prostitute something is to use it for the wrong intended purpose. Prostitutes today take sexual relations intended for a husband and a wife and they use it instead for personal gain.

Here in our text Religious Babylon will take RELIGION which in its original intent was to serve.

**James 1:26-27**

*<sup>26</sup> If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

*<sup>27</sup> Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

Religion was meant to honor God as we serve one another. But the RELIGION of this false worship will be used NOT TO SERVE BUT TO RULE over the people. **She will promise whatever they desire in return for their devotion and her power to rule over them.**

They will be made drunk with the wine of her fornication. They will have rejected God and His plan of salvation and so He will give them over to sink deep into this false worship. They will become intoxicated to the point they will not realize what it is that they are involved in. They will be blinded to the Truth because they rejected the Truth.

**Notice Revelation 17:3**

Here we see that she is sitting upon the Beast who is the Anti-Christ. She will also be supported by him for a time.

**Notice Revelation 17:4**

Here we see the wealth of this false religious system. Being supported by the people she will become extremely wealthy.

The cup in her hand is full of abominations and filthiness of here fornication. Let me explain what we are seeing here. An ABOMINATION is anything that is brought before God that arouses His wrath. These false religious practices that have existed since Nimrod are abominations and because the cup is FULL she this means she has reached her limit and it is time for her to be judged.

**b. Her Power Exercised**

**Notice Revelation 17:6**

This false worship system will bring great persecution upon the True believers. She will, and she has over the years killed the True followers of Jesus Christ. I want you to listen to something concerning the history of the Church of Rome over the years. I point this out because this false system will be seated in Rome.

*"For professing faith contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church of Rome, history records the martyrdom of more than one hundred million people. A million Swiss and French Protestants perished during a crusade proclaimed by Pope Innocent III in 1208. Beginning from the establishment of the Jesuits in 1540 to 1580, nine hundred thousand were destroyed. One hundred and fifty thousand perished by the Inquisition in thirty years. Within the space of thirty-eight years after the edict of Charles V against the Protestants, fifty thousand persons were hanged, beheaded, or burned alive for heresy. Eighteen thousand more perished during the administration of the Duke of Alva in five and a half years."*

During the Tribulation this APOSTATE CHURCH will kill many of the True followers of Jesus Christ. I had told you before that when someone comes to faith in Christ during the Tribulation they will be signing their own death warrant.

Now let me paint a picture of how this will unfold during the Tribulation.

This false church exists today and when the Rapture happens this false church will be left to enter the Tribulation. This will become the RELIGION of the Tribulation and it will be supported by the Anti-Christ. The reason it will be supported by him is because God will bring

on the scene the two witnesses who will denounce this false system and then the 144,000 will join with them and they will proclaim the TRUE GOD and the TRUE WAY OF SALVATION.

Now because the Anti-Christ is the masterpiece of Satan he will despise the TRUE followers of Jesus Christ and that is why he will support this apostate church and as this Religious Babylon unleashes the persecution upon the two witnesses, the 144,000 Jewish missionaries and those who believe their message the Anti-Christ will support the persecution because he too hates the followers of Jesus Christ. So, this system will be used by him to persecute TRUE believers.

## II. The Interpretation

### Notice Revelation 17:7-8

In verse 8 we see the Anti-Christ and how he will die and be resurrected which will cause all the world to wonder.

This is a major turning point as we shall see.

### Notice Revelation 17:9-11

I do not want to go deep into these verses because we looked at them when we were in Revelation 13. The point I want you to see is that the WOMAN is seated upon 7 hills. This no doubt refers to Rome for Rome is a city built upon seven hills. Rome will be the center of this false worship system.

These hills also represent 7 kings and their world empires. Five had already existed in John's day and one was existing which was the Roman Empire. The one that was yet to come is the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE. The Anti-Christ will rule the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE and after he dies and is resurrected he will then be the EIGHTH KING.

### Notice Revelation 17:12-13

The TEN HORNS are ten kings that will be puppet kings under the rule of the ANTI-CHRIST. They will give their power to him during the Tribulation.

Now let me show you what Daniel says concerning all of this.

### Daniel 7:2-7, 24-25

<sup>2</sup> Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

<sup>3</sup> And **four great beasts came up from the sea**, diverse one from another.

<sup>4</sup> The first was like **a lion**, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

<sup>5</sup> And behold another beast, a second, like to **a bear**, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

<sup>6</sup> After this I beheld, and lo another, like **a leopard**, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

<sup>7</sup> After this I saw in the night visions, and behold **a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth**: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; **and it had ten horns**.

<sup>24</sup> And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise**: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

<sup>25</sup> And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

These 10 kings will be allied with the Anti-Christ.

The 5 FALLEN KINGDOMS would be, Nimrod's kingdom, Egypt, Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece or Alexandrian. The one that is would be Rome and Revived Rome would be the DREADFUL BEAST.

#### Notice Revelation 17:14-15

These kings as well as the Anti-Christ will be destroyed by Jesus Christ.

#### Psalm 110:1-7

*The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

<sup>2</sup> *The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.*

<sup>3</sup> *Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*

<sup>4</sup> *The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*

<sup>5</sup> *The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.*

<sup>6</sup> *He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.*

<sup>7</sup> *He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.*

But before they are destroyed by the Lord they will be used by Him to destroy RELIGIOUS BABYLON.

### III. The Destruction of Religious Babylon

#### Notice Revelation 17:16-17

Here now is how the false religious system will be destroyed. God will use the 10 kings and the Anti-Christ to fulfill His will by destroying the false worship system.

But the question is, "How will this happen?"

As I told you earlier the Anti-Christ will use Religious Babylon to do all he can to destroy the True believers of the Tribulation. But there are two things on his agenda:

1. **To sit in the Temple and to be worshipped as God.**

Keep in mind he will be the master piece of Satan and after his resurrection he will be possessed by Satan.

#### Isaiah 14:12-14

<sup>12</sup> *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*

<sup>13</sup> *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:*

<sup>14</sup> *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

So, the worship given to Religious Babylon he desires for himself.

But there is something else on Satan's agenda.

**2. He desires to destroy the nation of Israel.**

The destruction of Religious Babylon will be a ploy to destroy Israel.

In the middle of the Tribulation the Anti-Christ will claim to be the PROMISED MESSIAH. By destroying RELIGIOUS BABYLON, he will be claiming to be the Lord destroying the false system. This then will cause Israel to trust him even more as he lures them in to attempt to destroy them. The Anti-Christ and the ten kings will believe they are doing their own will when they are really fulfilling the will of God.

**Conclusion:**

What does all this mean for you and me?

We live in a world that is full of darkness and evil. There are times when it looks like evil is dominating our society. At times things can become very unsettling.

But in all of this I can see and be assured that God is in control of the events which unfold around us. He has a plan and there is no one who can stop His plan. Man cannot stop Him, and the angels cannot stop His plan.

**Daniel 2:20-22**

*<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

*<sup>21</sup> And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

*<sup>22</sup> He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*