

# REVELATION

The Fall of Spiritual  
Babylon

(Revelation 17:7~18)

*Psalm 2:1-6: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.*

*Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."*

## During the Tribulation:

- The Antichrist and his kingdom will look powerful and will severely persecute true believers.
- The woman on the beast will lead many astray and will severely persecute true believers.

But Christ will be victorious, and the woman and the beast will be judged.

Revelation 17:1-6: John's vision of  
the woman and the beast

Revelation 17:7-18: The angel's  
explanation of the vision

The coming victory of Christ should  
encourage us as we go throughout  
our Christian lives.



# 1. The angel's explanation

❖ Revelation 17:7-14: But the angel said to me, “Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;

they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

# 1. The angel's explanation

## A. The beast itself points to the Antichrist.

❖ Revelation 13:3-4: One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?”

# 1. The angel's explanation

A. The beast itself points to the Antichrist.

- ❖ In Revelation 17, the people again marvel at the beast.
- ❖ “Was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit” points to death and resurrection, whether an allusion or genuine.
- ❖ People marvel and he seems to conquer death, but even here, his doom is sure. He is going to destruction.



# 1. The angel's explanation

## B. The angel explained the seven heads.

- ❖ Even the angel acknowledged how difficult this idea is.
- ❖ Revelation 17:9-11: This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.

# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

1. The heads are said to represent seven mountains.

- ❖ Traditionally, many have taken this as a reference to Rome.
- ❖ Many see Rome as the center of the Antichrist's empire and the Roman Catholic Church as the woman.
- ❖ This is *possible*, but it doesn't *have* to be Rome.



# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

1. The heads are said to represent seven mountains.

❖ Many other cities are said to be built on seven hills.





# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

1. The heads are said to represent seven mountains.

- ❖ Some believe the seven mountains refer to seven different kingdoms.
- ❖ Psalm 2:6: Messiah is on Mt. Zion
- ❖ Psalm 30:7: David's kingdom is called a mountain.
- ❖ Jeremiah 51:25: Babylon is a destroying mountain.
- ❖ Daniel 2:35: The mountain that fills the whole earth is the Messiah's kingdom.



# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

2. The seven heads are clearly said to be seven different kings.

❖ Revelation 17:10: They are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

❖ The angel seems to be speaking from John's timeframe (meaning the sixth kingdom would be Rome).

# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

2. The seven heads are clearly said to be seven different kings.

- ❖ The Bible often focuses on kingdoms in relation to Israel
- ❖ Egypt: enslaved Israel
- ❖ Assyria: exiled Israel, threatened Judah
- ❖ Babylon: exiled Judah, destroyed temple
- ❖ Persia: let Jews return, Haman's threat
- ❖ Greece: desecrated temple, Hellenism
- ❖ Rome: Christ crucified, destroyed temple

# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

3. The Antichrist is part of a similar kingdom and political system.

- ❖ Revelation 17:11: As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.
- ❖ How is the kingdom of the Tribulation the seventh, but the Antichrist's the eighth?

# 1. The angel's explanation

B. The angel explained the seven heads.

3. The Antichrist is part of a similar kingdom and political system.

- ❖ Daniel 9 refers to seven-year peace treaty with Israel (Antichrist has some influence).
- ❖ The Antichrist is given throne and power and authority from Satan for 3½ years.
- ❖ Many see a kingdom influenced by the Antichrist early in the Tribulation, but growing into a dictatorship later in the Tribulation.



# 1. The angel's explanation

C. The ten horns represent ten kings during the time of the Tribulation.

- ❖ Revelation 17:12-14: And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings **who have not yet received royal power**, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

# 1. The angel's explanation

C. The ten horns represent ten kings during the time of the Tribulation.

- ❖ Daniel 7 pictures beast with ten horns, and the ten horns are ten kings. Another horn (the Antichrist) arises after them.
- ❖ Most see this as ten kings who rule different parts of the earth, eventually under the rule of the Antichrist.
- ❖ Apparently, they give power over to the Antichrist at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

- ❖ Revelation 17:15-18: And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth.”

## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

A. This woman had some measure of power and influence over the people of the earth.

- ❖ Verse 1 said she sat on many waters.
- ❖ Verse 15 explains that by saying the many waters refers to people, multitudes, nations, and languages.
- ❖ If the woman represents a false religion, then she is influential in leading many away from God.



## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

B. Although she was closely connected to the political system of the day, they turn on her and destroy her.

❖ Verse 16 gives a graphic description of the destruction of the woman by the beast and the ten kings.

❖ The woman was first seen sitting on the beast. Throughout history, political and religious systems have often been united to gain power and control.

## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

B. Although she was closely connected to the political system of the day, they turn on her and destroy her.

- ❖ Daniel 9: Abomination of Desolation and cutting off of the sacrifices

- ❖ Matthew 24: Christ warns those in Judea to flee to the mountains.

- ❖ Revelation 13 and 17: People of the earth worship the Antichrist.

- ❖ Other false religion is set aside as people worship the Antichrist.

## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

C. The main point of the chapter is that God fulfills His purposes in judgment.

❖ Revelation 17:17: For God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

❖ God will judge both the woman and the beast.

## 2. The Antichrist and the ten kings united to destroy spiritual Babylon.

C. The main point of the chapter is that God fulfills His purposes in judgment.

- ❖ How can the wicked beast be used in judgment?
- ❖ In the end, God will judge the beast too.
- ❖ The woman has persecuted believers, and the martyrs in the fifth seal of Revelation 6 had prayed for justice. God is now answering that plea for justice.



# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We see ideas about the political system of the Tribulation and throughout history, and we see the judgment of the woman. How do those things affect us today?
- Revelation 17:14: They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.

# **Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?**

- We live in a world that often follows false religion, and we see many unbelievers seem to prosper and do well. Knowing Christ will be victorious in the end, how can we live faithfully today?
- Hebrews 11: Many Old Testament believers are commended for faithfulness in difficulty.
- Hebrews 12: God disciplines His own children for their good.

# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Hebrews 12:12-13: Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.
- The coming victory of Christ should encourage us as we go throughout our Christian lives.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 18:1-24

- The Fall of  
Economic Babylon