

The REVELATION of JESUS CHRIST

"Mystery Babylon!" (Part 2)

Chapter 17

I) THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT HARLOT! (v1-6)

(v1-2) **A great harlot sits on many waters** – The word Harlot is a metaphor for false religion, spiritual defection idolatry, and religious apostasy. Her influence covers (many waters) the whole earth! (ref. v15)

- **She causes the kings of the earth to commit fornication** – Embracing and worshipping false gods.

- **She causes the inhabitants of the earth to be drunk with the wine of her fornication** – The world will be intoxicated with Antichrist's charisma and power! **Jer 51:7** - *Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore the nations are deranged.*

(v3-4) **John is taken away in the Spirit to the wilderness** – The wilderness is a place of worldliness, unbelief and satanic deception. (The Israelites were at the edge of the "promise land," but did not enter in because of unbelief. That generation died in the wilderness. We discover that Jesus fought against Satan in the wilderness, Mt. ch. 4.)

- **She rides the scarlet beast** – The antichrist and harlot church/religion will be united; there will not be a separation of church and state. (Sorry ACLU)

- **She is arrayed with beauty and riches** – Unveils a seductive attraction with power and greed!

- **She carries a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication** – Of abominable things; of things suited to excite abhorrence and disgust; things unlawful and forbidden. The word, in the Scriptures, is commonly used to denote the impurities and abominations of idolatry.

(v5) **What's in a name? (1) Mystery Babylon the great!** – The world's religions united! **(2) The Mother of Harlots** – The hostess of harlots who infiltrate the whole world! **(3) The abominations of the earth** – Producing idolatry, blasphemy, immorality.

(v6) **What has she done? She is drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus** – She is completely out of control, without conscience and bloodthirsty! She is lustfully addicted to killing those who believe in God and Jesus Christ! (History repeats itself: Papal Rome's so-called "Holy" Inquisition ran officially, according to some scholars, from 1203 A.D. to 1808 A.D., and was responsible for the murder of up to 50 million innocent people. Many of its victims were brutally tortured. Many of its victims (including a large number of women) were burned alive at the stake, often using green or wet wood to prolong the agony of the poor victims! "*It is inconceivable that any ecclesiastical organization, in its mania for power, could have distorted and desecrated and corrupted, for its own exaltation, the beautiful and holy religion of Jesus [Christ].*" – Henry H. Halley ("Halley's Bible Handbook")

II) THE MASTERY OF THE BEAST! (v7-13)

(v7) **Notice that the beast, the Antichrist is carrying the harlot** – The one world political power combined with the one world religious system.

(v8) **The beast** - Both a king and kingdom are referred to in this term. **Was, and is not, and will ascend** - A reference to the Antichrist's false resurrection (13:3,4,12-14; *see note on 13:3*). **Out of the bottomless pit** - After his "resurrection," the Antichrist will become possessed by a great demon from the abyss (*see notes on 13:1,3*). **Perdition** - Eternal destruction (cf. v. 11; Matt. 7:13; John 17:12; Phil. 1:28; 3:19; 2 Thess. 2:3; Heb. 10:39; 2 Pet. 2:3; 3:7,16). This is the lake of fire, the place of Antichrist's destruction.

(v9) **The seven mountains represent Rome the city that sits upon seven hills.** Rome was the city set on seven hills and was known as such to both pagan and Christian writers. Horace wrote, "The gods, who look with favor on the seven hills. . . ." Ovid added, "But Rome looks around on the whole globe from her seven mountains, the seat of empire and abode of the gods." Augustine wrote, "Babylon is a former Rome, and Rome is a later Babylon." In the Catholic Bible (The New American Bible), in the introduction to the Book of Revelation, one will read, "The book (Revelation) itself suggests that the crisis was ruthless persecution of the early church by the Roman authorities; the harlot Babylon symbolizes pagan Rome, the city on seven hills (17:9)."

(v10-11) **Seven kings - Representatives** of the 7 great world empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and that of the Antichrist). The Antichrist will reign a short time seven years (during the Great Tribulation, in absolute conquering power during the last three and a half years, when he establishes the mark of the beast "666" (Rev. 13).

(v12-13) **These kings are sub-rulers under the Antichrist**, whose empire will apparently be divided into 10 administrative federations. Thus, the kings cannot be identified with any historical figures. **One hour** is symbolic of the brief 3½-year period of time (cf. 11:2,3; 12:6,12,14; 13:5; 18:10,17,19).

The Ten Kingdoms of the New World Government

Kingdom 1: Canada and the United States of America

Kingdom 2: European Union - Western Europe

Kingdom 3: Japan

Kingdom 4: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel and Pacific Islands

Kingdom 5: Eastern Europe

Kingdom 6: Latin America - Mexico, Central and South America

Kingdom 7: North Africa and the Middle East (*Moslems*)

Kingdom 8: Central Africa

Kingdom 9: South and Southeast Asia

Kingdom 10: Central Asia

III) THE MISERY OF THE ANTICHRIST! (v14-18)

(v14) **These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them** - A reference to the *battle of Armageddon* (16:14-16), where the Lamb will utterly destroy the kings (19:17-21).

(v15-18) **The great harlot, ecclesiastical Babylon will be destroyed by political Babylon**, so that the beast may alone be the object of worship (2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:15). The power of political Babylon will be destroyed by the return of the Lord in glory!