

# Revelation Step by Step 12

## Revelation 17

We now come to the judgement of the great harlot, whose name is 'Mystery', verse 5. The mystery is that Babylon is a recurring Satanic world system of control and oppression first seen under Nimrod, in Genesis 10:9-10, 'He was a mighty hunter before the LORD. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.' Nimrod was the first person to elevate himself above other men in place of God as king, **for his own advantage and power.** Ever since there have been those who have emulated him.

Chapter 17 is about the **religious** aspect of Babylon, which encroaches on more than just religion. Education, governments, culture, science – all can be subject to its powerful influence. Atheistic communism, and foreign religions can equally be hostile to God, and part of this Satanic, mind controlling system of dominion, as we see in places like North Korea, for the advantage of the few.

No doubt the Apostle John had in mind pagan Rome when he wrote Revelation down, but *we* think of its more recent emergence as Papal Rome, for the image presented in verses 3-5 is immediately recognisable to a modern audience: '...I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead a mysterious name was written:

**BABYLON THE GREAT,  
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS  
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.'**

The 'many waters' the great whore sits upon (verse one) are **the nations and peoples of the earth (verse 15)** who are led astray by the harlot's prostitution of the truth of God's word, with the intoxication of her appealing doctrines, which are idolatrous and violate God's word.

This great false church (woman v.4) will come to power once more during the last 7 years of the Tribulation by partnership with the political power of the Roman Beast, displaying her 'scarlet' (purple-red) colouring which is so familiar in that church, but which also denotes sin and adultery.

She is drunken with the blood of unnumbered saints, killed for their love of the truth during the persecution and inquisition that started with Nero, and went on for hundreds of years in a vain attempt to stamp out the true religion. Eventually, King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> replaced the Pope as head of the church in England, making himself its head to gain freedom to marry again in order to gain a male heir, and also to steal the great wealth of the church. His dominion still continued to burn people at the stake for daring to believe the Bible, as did his daughter Mary, though it's killing virtually ended with the reign of his next daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth who was a Protestant. Jesus Christ is the true Head of the Church, Colossians 1:18, 'And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.'

Nevertheless, the "image of the Beast" is still to be found today in Catholic and Protestant countries around the world. It has even existed in the form of controlling hierarchies under 'Presidents' and 'Apostles' in the Church of God; dominion which Jesus Christ condemned in Matthew 20:25-27, 'But Jesus called them aside and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.'

Such churches demand adherence to church doctrine on the threat of expulsion, which works only because many of their members are Laodicean (Revelation 3:14-22) and not close enough to the word of God to flee from what is spiritual adultery, as we are instructed in Revelation 18:4, 'Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;'

These churches are categorised as harlots by God, daughters of Babylon along with the protestant churches, because of their acceptance of false religion, as we saw in verse 5 above.

The image we saw mentioned in verse 3, with 7 heads and 10 horns, is mentioned in Daniel 2:39-44, 'But after you, there will arise another kingdom, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; for iron shatters and crushes all things, and like iron that crushes all things, it will shatter and crush all the others. And just as you saw that the feet and toes were made partly of fired clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom, yet some of the strength of iron will be in it—just as you saw the iron mixed with clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. As you saw the iron mixed with clay, so the peoples will mix with one another, but will not hold together any more than iron mixes with clay. In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to

another people. It will shatter all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself stand forever.’

King Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold, followed by Persian, Greek and Roman Empires, which finally become the European Union, the ten toes of the feet, partly iron, partly clay, which will be smashed to pieces by the God of Heaven, Jesus Christ, on His return from Heaven with His Bride.

This final resurgence of the Roman Empire is inspired by the False Prophet, himself driven by a demon who ascends out of the bottomless pit, verses 6-8, ‘And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marvelled greatly. 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.’

It was, and is not yet, but will arrive along with with the person of the political Beast who is shortly to come. Make sure you are not left behind after the First Resurrection to face the Great Tribulation and the Beast, or its image, for then your only choice will be it’s worship, or death!

Verse 9 pictures the 7 hills of Rome, but also the series of Roman Emperors, which, after that intermission, will resume with the Anti-Christ, the eighth, verse 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.’ He will rule over the ten nation federation whose ‘kings’, who will share the brief authority of the Beast, and hand over their armies of the United States of Europe to him. With their help, he will invade the Middle East via his stepping-stone of Israel, at the half way point in the 7 years and then move on to Africa...

Daniel 11:40, “At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train.’

After more conquering, the Beast and his armies will meet their end at Armageddon, verse 14, “These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.” Those with Him are His Bride, and His Angelic armies, which returned with Him from the Sea of Glass in Heaven.

Finally, we see the ten Kings turn against the harlot-city which has dominated the peoples of the world at the End-Time. Her spiritual power is stripped away along with her rich adornments mentioned in verse 4, a detailed account of which is found in Isaiah 47. Revelation 17:16-18,

“And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfil His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

God brings this about. He is all in all, and controls all things, even the designs of the evil ones inspired by Satan fall beneath His will, Revelation 10:7, “When the seventh angel blows his trumpet, God’s mysterious plan will be fulfilled. It will happen just as he announced it to his servants the prophets.” New Living Translation. For a brief period it seems the Beast may be without the support of the False Prophet, just when his Satanic powers are most needed!

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