

Revelation 17:1-18 **Babylon the Great – Introduced and Identified**

The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

¹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

⁴ The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Explanation of the Woman and the Beast

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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."

¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His

purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18 And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The Scarlet Woman and the Scarlet Beast

- ✚ Then **one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls** came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the **GREAT HARLOT** who sits on **MANY WATERS**,² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." [Revelation 17:1-2]
 - ✧ One of the angels who poured out the bowls of the Wrath of God now ushers John through the vision and explains it to him.
 - ✧ The vision includes the Judgment of the one identified as the Great Harlot, indicating her total moral depravity and influence on the nations of the entire earth.
 - ✧ She sits on many waters indicating her support comes from the mass of the world's population as defined near the end of the vision.
- ✚ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a **WOMAN** sitting on a **SCARLET BEAST** which was full of names of blasphemy, having **SEVEN HEADS** and **TEN HORNS**. [Revelation 17:3]
 - ✧ John was **transported in the Spirit** into the wilderness for the vision. [Revelation 4:2]
 - ✧ We know that Ezekiel had been **transported by the Spirit** from Chaldea to Jerusalem and back to Chaldea when God showed him the offenses of the priests in Jerusalem and His reason for its fall. [Ezekiel 3:12-14, 8:1-18, 11:1-25, 37:1-14, 43:1-11, 44:1]
 - ✧ Philip the Evangelist was **caught up and transported** from the road between Jerusalem and Gaza to Azotus. [Acts 38:39-40]
 - ✧ Here we have the introduction of the Woman, the Beast, Seven Heads, and Ten Horns.
- ✚ The **WOMAN** was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written:
MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. [Revelation 17:4-5]
 - ✧ The **Woman** is the City, the seat of the One World Government.
 - ✧ The word **Mystery Babylon** indicates that this is not the Babylon on the banks of the Euphrates River on the plain in the land of Shinar known as Old Babylon. This one is situated in such a way that men would not normally draw a connection with Mystery Babylon and Old Babylon.
 - ✧ The woman is adorned in the finest luxury the earth has to offer as seen by the people of the world, the pinnacle of financial success and self-indulgence.
 - ✧ The name on her forehead is how God sees her.
- ✚ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. [Revelation 17:6]
 - ✧ Drunk with the blood of the Saints and Martyrs of Jesus, speaks of her violence toward the Church in casting off its restraint against evil.
 - ✧ So many Christians will have been killed by the Antichrist in the last three and a half years that the number will not be counted for multitude. [Revelation 7:9]

Explanation of the Woman and the Beast

✠ 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**.

[Revelation 17:7]

✠ 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.

[Revelation 17:8]

✧ Both Satan and the Antichrist are described as a Beast having seven heads and ten horns.

[Satan Revelation 12:3, Antichrist Revelation 13:1] The Antichrist is the embodiment of Satan.

✧ Satan was influencing mankind to sin from the beginning of Creation in the Garden of Eden. [Genesis 3:1-6]

✧ Satan will be in prison in the Bottomless Pit for the 1,000 years of the Kingdom Age.

[Revelation 20:1-3]

✧ Satan will ascend out of the Bottomless Pit at the end of the Kingdom Age to stir up the last rebellion against God and His Messiah. [Revelation 20:7-9]

✧ At the Great White Throne Judgment Satan will be cast into the Eternal Lake of Fire (perdition) permanently. [Revelation 20:10]

✧ Considering all this and the exact comparison with the description of the Beast, it may be supposed that the Beast is Satan himself. No other evil entity gets to come back after they have been removed from the earth.

✧ The Antichrist fits part of the description being a Beast with seven heads and ten horns, who appears to have been slain but is alive and whom the world worships, and he goes into Perdition. [Revelation 13:1-4]

✧ As we saw before, Satan is the Dragon who gives his power, throne, and authority to the Beast the Antichrist, however the Antichrist does not ascend from the Bottomless Pit to come back after the Battle of Armageddon, but Satan does. [Revelation 13:1-2, 19:20, 7-9]

✧ The world will also worship Satan as well as the Antichrist. [Revelation 13:4]

✧ Therefore it could certainly be said, that Satan was, and is not, and will ascend out of the Bottomless Pit and go into Perdition as the text states.

✧ The unsaved of the earth will worship the Beast. [Revelation 17:8]

✧ The names of the Saints have been written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the Earth.

✠ "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The **SEVEN HEADS** are **seven mountains** on which the woman sits.

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. [Revelation 17:9-10]

✧ Old Babylon sits on a plain in the land of Shinar.

✧ Mystery Babylon sits on seven mountains. Likely Rome which is known as a city on seven hills (mountains).

✧ Seven world ruling kings, **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Media-Persia, and Greece** had already fallen and **Rome** was still ruling the world when Revelation was written on the isle of Patmos. The **Antichrist** is still to come and will be numbered with the earlier world rulers being the seventh so mentioned.

✠ The **BEAST** that was, and is not, is himself also the **eighth**, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition. [Revelation 17:11]

✧ Satan ruling through the Antichrist may be counted as the eighth who is going to perdition.

- ✧ These kings could represent the spiritual rulers of the seven kingdoms, very like the Prince of Persia who restrained the angel Gabriel on his way to answer Daniel's prayer, [\[Daniel 10:12-13\]](#) If that is the case, then Satan can certainly be counted among them as the text indicates.
- ✧ "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. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. 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." [\[Revelation 17:12-14\]](#)
 - ✧ These same **Ten Horns** show up in the vision of Daniel. [\[Daniel 7:1-8, 24\]](#)
 - ✧ Their connection with Satan is seen in the Red Dragon identified as the devil. [\[Revelation 12:3, 9\]](#)
 - ✧ Ten national rulers will join the Antichrist for the last three and a half years lending their support for his one world government, but they will turn on him at the end.
 - ✧ They will all be at the Battle of Armageddon, and the Lord Messiah Jesus will prevail and overcome them.
 - ✧ Jesus the Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings. [\[Revelation 19:11-16\]](#)
 - ✧ Those with Jesus are called, chosen, and faithful. [\[Revelation 17:14, 19:14\]](#)
- ✧ Then he said to me, "The **WATERS** which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. [\[Revelation 17:15\]](#)
 - ✧ This is a picture of the people of the earth over which the Antichrist and Satan rule in the great World Government.
- ✧ 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 fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. [\[Revelation 17:16-17\]](#)
- ✧ And the **WOMAN** whom you saw is **that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.**" [\[Revelation 17:18\]](#)
 - ✧ This verse takes all guess work out of identifying the Woman, **Mystery Babylon The Great**, is that great city that was reigning over the world at the time of writing Revelation, and that was the city of **ROME**, as the Roman empire seemed to bestride the earth.
 - ✧ So for the last three and a half years, the world will be ruled by the Antichrist and the False Prophet from **Rome** the seat of the Beast.
 - ✧ **Antichrist** will be the monarch of the world, while the **False Prophet** working with him will be the world recognized religious leader who deceives the nations with the miracles he has been given the ability to do in the sight of the people.