

## Chapter 11

# THE HARLOT, BEAST, AND FALL OF BABYLON

## REVELATION 16

### *Vial 7: Great Earthquake*

Revelation

16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, [and] so great.

16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

This vial goes into the air where the prince and power of the air resides. Therefore, this vial is right at the dominion of Satan.

All the rest of this passage is very difficult, and I do not know what the hail means. Hail symbolizes something, but I do not know what it is. There may be a double entendre there as well. It would be easy to just say 100-pound hunks of ice falling out of the sky, but it is symbolic of something at the very least. I leave that to you to wrestle with.

## The Great City

But let us look at verse 19, the great city. When we are dealing with cities, we are dealing with systems, and we have nations and cities. Cities are systems the way I am interpreting these, and the great city would be the world system. The world system is exemplified by Babylon, which will be addressed in Revelation 17. Here, though, is an introduction of the great system, and it is divided into three parts: economics, religion, and government. Would that not fit with six, six, six (666) if you put six with each one of the three parts?

Henry: You are talking about dividing it into three. There is a meeting, November 16 in South Africa regarding setting up government, monetary, and religious systems. There are the three elements: government, money and religion.

Oscar: I was going to share something about the hailstones. I heard at one point that when they were doing nuclear bomb testing, that the dirt and debris was blown so far into the atmosphere that part of the aftermath was 50-pound hailstones. The debris blew so far into the atmosphere that ice kept gathering and gathering.

V: Oh, but you see that is the literal interpretation, and that is the easy part. However, when dealing with signs, what do hailstones mean? It has to be symbolic of something, but I do not know what it is. As far as hail being frozen water, it could mean a hardened

kind of religious credo that is very hurtful when it rains down on us.

As far as the chunks of ice, that is what hail is. That thought is the literal understanding, and where hail comes from is from updrafts. A nuclear explosion could create the updraft. But there are just plain updrafts that do that. I do not know what the hail represents. It is something coming from heaven. What is that something? I do not know. I do not have to know everything. I just try to know some of this.

Mary: If you go over to verse 20, it talks about the islands that fled away, and the mountains cannot be found. Islands are land in the midst of the sea. I see them as denominations of religions. Fleeing away may mean that their distinctions are disappearing. The mountains refer back to institutions. Our institutions of an ordered society are just wiped away and are no more. It is finished. So, man, you are right. I do not know. It is tough, but the hailstones have to tie in some way with destruction or something.

V: I see the islands as being denominations, and of course we have talked about mountains before being institutions. The banking institution is going to collapse, and other institutions as well; even the institution of marriage is going to collapse. When I say collapse, that may not be collapse out of existence, but collapse into a perversion like a one-world religion and a one-world economy. That kind of collapsing. What we know as independent and individual kinds of denominations and institutions are going to cease to exist in this vial.

The great city is divided into three parts, and I think there is some connection with the six, six, six there. That is just a gut feeling. You feel absolutely free to reject it.

This is the last vial, and as soon as it is poured out into the air, the voice from heaven says, "It is done."<sup>1</sup> It is over with. All of God's wrath is initiated, and now we are going to see the completion of those things working their way out. You remember that it was linear, each seal started and continued onward toward the Day of the Lord. Each trumpet had a starting point and the results continued onward toward the same Day of the Lord. The vials come out one by one, and they, too, will climax at the same time as the seals and the trumpets at the Day of the Lord. Everything is progressive.

When the vial is poured out, when the trumpet sounds, when the seal is opened, it starts the process. You cannot see the whole thing at the starting point. All you know is that it got started, and it is growing and growing, and here we are in the midst of all of that. We are able to observe then where that particular thing is in its status, but we cannot see except by God's Word what it is going to look like when it gets all the way out to the end point. We know, though, that that is where it is going. That trumpet, which indicates a darkening, has already blown, and we are at least one-third dim right now. The church will not speak out against Antichrist in fear of losing its tax exemption (the right to buy and sell). The church's witness has been dimmed by one-third—the third dealing with the government.

Ted: You mentioned six, six, six in regard to the system. Since the young man up here earlier mentioned six, six, six being man, man, man, we have man controlled economics, man-centered Gospel, and man for his government.

V: Yes, that fits!

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 16:18.

Tom: Man, that does fit!

V: It does indeed fit.

Pete: I think there is something out there in verses 20 and 21 in Revelation 16. When I went through this, I looked at the verses before and what is happening in the vial. I looked at the mountains as institutions, and then you have the fall of government, etc., but when I came down to verse 21 I saw the stones, the weight of the talent. I took the talent to be the denominations of money, and I took that as being the final blow to economics.

V: Okay. We should give consideration to that. That is a good possibility.

## REVELATION 17

One of our students did something today. Would you tell them about it?

Paul: There is a radio show on 91.7, and the other day they were discussing the Southern Baptist seminaries. Today they were discussing politics. I called the show, and I told them first of all that I was a student at SWBTS, and I could promise them that our teachers are conservative and are teaching the Word of God so they can quit worrying about that. The other thing was that as far as when it came to voting, I said Christians do not know how to vote. It is amazing that the people who follow Satan all know how to vote. That is how all these people in office got in office. I said the problem is that Christians do not understand how they are supposed to vote, but I said one of our teachers gave us a great way to figure out how to tell our church members to vote. They said, "Well, how is that?" I said, "All you have to do is ask somebody that you know is an abortionist or follows the political correctness

philosophy who they are going to vote for, and then vote for the other guy.

Joe: What did they say?

Paul: Oh, they loved it. He said, "That will work!"

Joe: Use some reverse psychology.

Pete: I wanted to remark that the thing that destroyed the trees and the grass, part of that was hail, and what made me think of that was that the hail had something to do with the towns and the money and the final blow.

V: That is a very good point because you have the trees, the larger economics systems, the grass the lower economy. That works. That is consistent. Consistency is what we are looking for.

Paul: One other thing, and it comes off the same program. It was two days ago, and it deals with the mark. They had seen the commercial. Apparently it was aired on TV. Since I do not watch TV very much, I have not seen it personally, but they had a commercial come on where they had a person come into a store wearing biker clothes, scruffy looking, very bad, like he was going to steal something. He goes down the aisle, picks up products, puts them in his coat, etc. You think he is stealing. There is no checkout counter, only a security guard at the front of the business. As he walks out the security guard stops him and says, "Oh, you forgot your receipt." Then there is a young lady's voice that says, "Who needs checkout stands. All you need is the implant."

V: Wow!

Henry: We are being conditioned already.

Paul: If you walk out of a store now, and you have not paid for something, there is something on those tags that make an alarm go

off. What they were illustrating in that commercial is that in the future what will happen if you just go ahead and walk out of the store, the monitor will check everything that you are carrying and charge it automatically to your numbered account.

Steve: Businesses are merging. Our food stores are doing that. Safeway has bought Tom Thumb's, and Kroger is buying Winn-Dixie.

V: Yes, there is a movement toward consolidation that is already going on.

Beth: I did a little research the other day. I got on the internet and looked at MasterCard and Visa's websites. MasterCard says, "There are some things money can't buy, but for everything else there is MasterCard." Visa's logo is, "It is everywhere you want to be." I was thinking the other day, you cannot spend an American dollar bill in Italy or Germany or whatever, but you can use a Visa or MasterCard and spend them anywhere.

V: Oh, that is right. Universal.

Beth: I looked up the word visa and what it means. Visa means a passport to anywhere. I was also thinking about MasterCard. We call Jesus Lord and Master, but this is MasterCard. Think about that for a minute.

V: Oh!

Beth: They are not putting fingerprints and picture ID's on those cards, but you can use a Visa Card or MasterCard for anything. They flaunt their superiority because for example they say, "Do not bring your check or whatever to Tiffany's or whatever because they do not take checks or American Express. They only take MasterCard."

Jerry: Our agency has been under review. One of the higher-level people was speaking via a video link. He was talking about the near

future when his daughter comes to work for that agency. He said that she will not have to do anything but get that nice chip in her arm or shoulder or wherever. He said, "I just can't wait because she will have this chip, and she won't have to worry about all the other stuff, just go here or there." This is government?

V: This is our government?

Jerry: Our government today, right now.

Wanda: You know for the safety of our young children what is being pushed is getting them fingerprinted and identified and into the system so they can be tracked.

V: That is going to expand, too.

### ***The Great Whore***

Revelation

17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

Let's look at Jeremiah 2 and 3. Beginning in Jeremiah 2:20 is a statement about how God's people are being called the harlot.

Jeremiah

2:20 For of old time I have broken thy yoke, [and] burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

He is talking about His own people, God's people who have pledged themselves to God but are transgressing their pledge and using their freedom for self-indulgence (idolatry).

Jeremiah

3:1 . . . but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

3:2 . . . thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

3:6 . . . and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

3:8 . . . Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

Here it is over and over again, you see, talking about God's people being the harlot. Then we come back to Revelation, who is the harlot? It is God's people! This harlot is committing fornication, it says, with the kings. But look what it says about the people. It says, ". . . and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication" (Revelation 17:2). There is a distinction here where the kings and the harlot are committing fornication directly. There must be, then, some kind of collusion, the desire of the kings and the desires of the harlot are similar in nature, and that is this concept of climbing. You remember how that goes? The opposite of the *kenosis*.

Sybil: Are you saying the great whore is God's people or the secular world?

V: No, not the secular world. It is God's people. Here is the secular world down here in verse 2 where it says, "and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication (Revelation 17:2).

Drunkness is when you go into the stupor. We have talked about this if you have had my courses on the book of Isaiah and the book of Jeremiah. In those courses we deal at length with drunkness. Isaiah and Jeremiah are all the time talking about the drunkness of God's people. It is not the drunkness where you drink alcoholic beverages.

The whole nation was drunk. They were drunk because God said they were drunk. But

why were they drunk? Because they were not focused, they were not alert, and they were stumbling around in life like drunken people. A person with the mind of Christ sets his goal, locks his teeth down, and goes that way. That is not drunkness. But when you are wandering around, "I wonder if I ought to do this? I will do this for a while." That is drunkness, and the inhabitants of the world have been given drunkness through the wine of that fornication.

Jill: Where it says, "Sitteth upon many waters," then, is that listening to a lot of different preachers or a lot of false teaching or . . .

V: No, not listening. This woman sits upon many waters. All of these waters come under the harlot's dominion. Different denominations, different religions come under the domination of the harlot.

Carl: Wine! It says the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries. Again, what does the wine signify?

V: It is the lust for self-indulgence (upside down *kenosis*. You see the kings committed fornication, which is a climb. The kings and the harlot join together in a climb. The harlot is pledged to God but is fornicating with the kings of the earth. She wants temporal power and riches rather than eternal rewards. The inhabitants of the world want the climbing. They lust for the climb. They want it so badly, they begin to lose all sensitivity to God and eternal things and seek to emulate the kings and the harlot. They become desensitized to sin, salvation, heaven and hell. Basically when the church becomes like the world, then the people of the world see no distinctions and remain entrenched in political correctness.

Tim: The inhabitants are the church?

V: No, the harlot is the Christian church. Here we have a harlot that is sitting on the many waters. All of these various religions and denominations are under her dominion. She is committing fornication with the kings of the earth, and the inhabitants of the earth are drunk, staggering all around. None of them know how to go in the right direction, and so they are drunk. If the church is seen to be going in the same direction as they, then there is no incentive for waking up and repenting. They are drunk.

### **Harlot on the Beast**

Revelation

17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: . . .

The wilderness is the same place the woman was, you know, the good woman. She was in the wilderness. Where is the harlot? In the wilderness! Both of them are in the same place.

Revelation

17:3 ...and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

### **The Beast**

The beast has seven heads. Heads are nations. Thus the number seven means all nations. It signifies universality. Thus all nations having a king are those under Satan's sway.

The beast has ten horns. Horns are kings. The number ten means all temporal kings. The only king not under Satan's sway is King Jesus. His Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom

that will be guided by Him without the lust for temporal riches.

Does that cup not sound like the chalice that you take the sacrament through? And then here are the colors, the scarlet and purple colors, and then all of the jewels and all of the riches and finery. Let me tell you that this woman is sitting on a beast, and all these commentaries that I have been reading are all wrong when it comes to "She is guiding the beast." No, she is not guiding the beast. She is trading her power to control her own destination for riches and political and secular power. Riding on the beast is rewarded with all this finery with the protection of the beast and all manner of glorious stuff, but she does not have any reins to guide the beast. She is just sitting up there. The beast says, "I think I am going to take her into political correctness." She says, "That is fine, just keep the jewels coming. Keep the money coming. Keep the praise and glory coming, and I will go wherever you want to go. Here we go!"

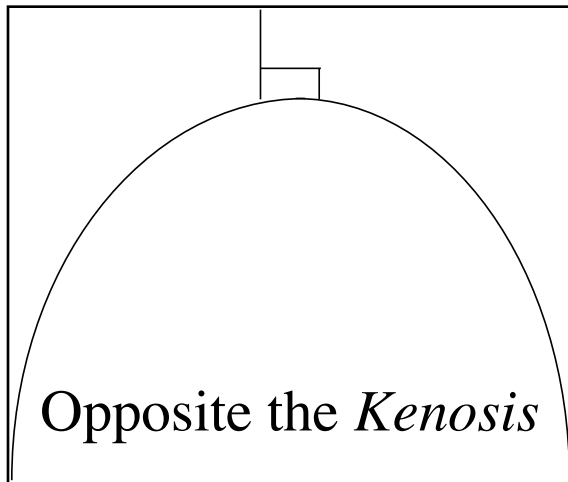
### **Mystery Babylon**

There is a statement in Revelation 17:5:

17:5 And upon her forehead [was] a name written, MYSTERY, . . .

There is something very mysterious about the church, and I am talking about the apostate church. There is still something mysterious, even with the apostate church. It is mysterious. It just keeps on staying alive. It does not disappear, even the apostate church stays in place and prospers and grows. There is a mystery about this. So written on her forehead is MYSTERY. Also written on her forehead is

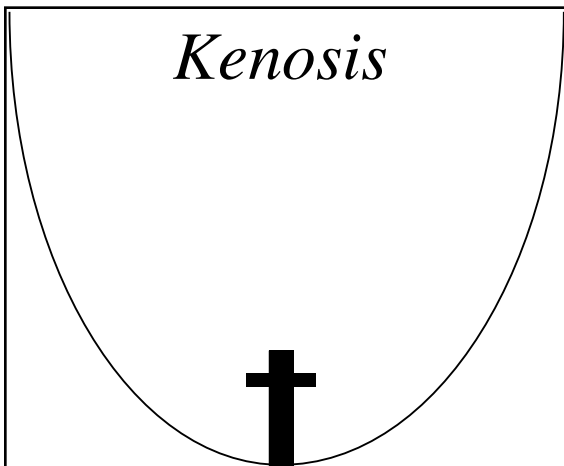
17:5 . . . BABYLON THE GREAT, . . .



Babylon is the world system that is this upside down *kenosis*. It is a climbing quest for riches and power. (Isaiah 14:13-15)

Chart 11.1

So we are looking at two different cities, two different systems, and one system is climbing up to a throne (while the other system is following Jesus down to the cross). There is written on her head, BABYLON THE GREAT. The apostate church looks



The great city, Jerusalem is this, the *kenosis* (Philippians 2:5-11).

Chart 11.2

like Babylon. She is identified with the world system, but she is not this system. She cer-

tainly is not identified with the kenotic system. While she is not Babylon, she has BABYLON THE GREAT written on her. Also written on her is . . .

17:5 . . . THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Harlotry in the church breeds harlotry and breeds abominations. Whenever you or I become lukewarm in our fellowship of Jesus Christ, we become the mother of harlotry and abominations on the earth. We breed that. When you show a Christian example that is lukewarm and not dedicated to Jesus with your life, you are breeding what we have today. The church has brought what we have here today, and you and I are guilty here. This is a terrible indictment.

Wanda: Is this like an image of the beast?

V: An image? No.

Wanda: She is like it?

V: Yes, she is somewhat like it. She is adopting the beast's ways. She is taking the system of the beast. She is climbing in her quest for riches and power, and you cannot tell her apart from anybody else who is climbing. She is sold out to the world system. There ought to be something that distinguishes the church from the world.

Bob: The church is no longer set apart.

Joe: You made the statement that harlotry breeds itself in the church, that it reproduces itself and takes the opposite of the *kenosis*. Think about Christ when he told his disciples the great commission: "Go and make disciples." Go and reproduce Christians.

Henry: It is just the opposite of the Great Commission.

V: It sure is. It is exactly opposite of the Great Commission because harlotry is being produced rather than disciples.

Tom: What Wanda said when talking about the image made me think of Satan who hates that we are in God's image. I think that is why he beats up on us. He wants to be god, and he is trying to recreate us in his image to get us to take the opposite of the *kenosis*.

V: That is good. Let us go a little further here.

Revelation

17:6 And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Please remember that this is a day when John was on the Isle of Patmos in the Spirit worshipping the Lord, and the Lord came up behind him. John turned and saw God and almost fainted to death. The Lord came up and touched him. Then the Lord says, "I am going to give you some signs." Now he is in the midst of the signs.

This process is from one day when John was on his knees and seeing the Lord. Not much time has passed. However it sounds like it has been centuries passing before John. I want you to remember that John is just getting up off his knees, and the angel comes and whisks him away in the Spirit and starts showing him all these signs. Shortly after seeing the signs, this martyr back on the Isle of Patmos is writing back to the seven churches. Remember Ephesus is his church. The martyrdom that is going on right there in his day of which he is one is his context of life.

Then he is brought to our time and shown the church. It says here, "When I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." Let me tell

you what those words mean. When he saw the church, he was stricken to the point of falling down. He looks! What!!!? Because here he is one day away from his context of seeing the church that is being crucified, being martyred, dying, suffering great persecution. One day away from that, then he sees us, and he goes AHHHhhhhhhh. You go back in time to when the lions were eating the saints, and when the saints were being burned alive, then come and take a look at our church. The contrast will stagger you. You will stagger, tear your clothes, fall on your face, and say, "It cannot be!!"

That woman on the beast is where we are, and you see here John's context is a world where Christians are dying and being tortured for their faith. He is being brought to our time via signs, but he is not escaping time because John has to go back to the Isle of Patmos to die. However he is pulled up in the Spirit and brought all the way to today, and shown the church. It just cannot be!

You know how the Lord gets upset about the church He died for? He gave His life for this mess! This is what He died for? My land!

John has to go back to this Isle of Patmos, and he is thinking, "Man! I have to warn my people. I have to warn them, that we are going to fall. We are going to become a harlot on the back of the beast."

Dear reader, it is your job to warn the people. I must tell you that if you do not warn your people, God help you. If you are in this class and do not warn your people, I will testify against you. This is absolutely critical. If you do a hermeneutical trick on this, and say, "Oh, this is not us because we are the bride of Christ. We are spotless—He is just swooning over us because we can tie



our own shoes.” If we do those hermeneutical tricks that everybody is playing these days, then we can escape our responsibilities. But, listen, brethren, there is going to be that final judgment, and you are not going to escape it. You can become MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. You can do that, you have done that—you have done that at some time in your life. Some of you are doing it now.

Joe: You know Jesus said, “Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through that gate, but small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few will find it.”<sup>2</sup>

V: I pray that God will make you the few that find it. It would be a disaster for me to know that you were in here, and you did not grab hold of it. I am not talking about getting saved. Do not even think like that. I am talking about sanctification and glorification, all the parts and processes of salvation that come after justification.

Jill: Getting that white robe?

V: Yes, getting that white robe and not being naked.

Pete: How do we see our churches nowadays because the outside world is coming into our churches? I see a lot of those things coming into our churches that are not supposed to be in there, that we are not supposed to let happen. Many churches have members just like the people in Mystery Babylon.

V: See, this is called “drunkenness” when God described His people in Jeremiah. He talks a lot about Judah’s drunkenness. It was not because they were literally drunk. It was

because their lives took on a characteristic of drunkenness. They had no focus. They were not alert. They were just stumbling around. That is a picture of us today.

Jack: This condition of ours hurts the gospel, and it hurts the Kingdom of God, too. It is a stumbling block because I have had people throw it in my face when I witness to them about Jesus. They say, “Why should I go to church, you are doing the same thing we are doing out here.”

V: We are! and it is critical. We have already had testimony in here about praying for someone who thinks we are hypocrites.<sup>3</sup>

Steve: I see a lot of stuff going on in church, but do not judge anybody for it. I know one of our members, a sinner who is, I think, full of the devil. Should sinners be in control of anything in the church?

V: If it is an open and public sin, no. But we cannot know the heart of the individual apart from the actual acts. If they are acting badly, call them down. If you do not, you are endorsing it. Tolerance of sin is the beginning of the mother of harlotries.

Steve: The church does not disciple people any more. You were talking about having people come in from the outside world, but we do not disciple people any more. Did you know that in the early church before somebody was baptized, they worked with that person for two or three years? Look at the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. He was disciplined for three, five, I have heard eleven years. We do not do that any more. We just have people come down the aisle. Our goal is to get them on the roll, baptize them, and get them in a Sunday school class.

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 7:13.

<sup>3</sup> Before each class, there was a time of prayer requests and prayers.

We neglect knowing who teaches them or what is being taught. We do not disciple people any more. Rather we incorporate them. We have people who are biblically illiterate. They do not know anything. God help us. We need to equip people with the Word of God.

V: Amen! To be a disciple, one must deny self, pick up his/her cross, and follow Jesus.

### ***An Angel Interprets the Woman on the Beast***

Revelation

17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Now this beast is not Antichrist. This is Satan and the wonder is the same word as that in verse 6 where John wondered when he saw the harlot. But when he saw the harlot he wondered with great admiration. There is that shock there with John concerning the harlot that is not present at this point of wondering. This wonder in verse 8 is the same verb, but it not nearly to the same extent. This beast is Satan, and his seven heads and ten horns are all the nations and kings of his one-world empire. The woman is the church, and she is riding on the beast. This beast has been reigning over the world (was), was cast into the bottomless pit (is not), and then will come out again at the end of the millennium (yet is).

### ***Heads are Mountains***

Revelation

17:9 And here [is] the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.

Now we have a mixing of signs. Heads are nations, and we know mountains are institutions. Now he says the heads are mountains. This is a mixing of signs, so I take the nations, and I take the institutions, and I put them together, what do I get? I get empires. The seven world empires are: The empire of Assyria, the empire of Babylon, the empire of Persia, the Greek empire, the Roman empire, the present empire, and the empire of Antichrist. These are the seven empires listed in order of their occurrence. We have had, or now have, six of these empires, and we are moving toward the seventh. If you have had Old Testament Survey or Biblical Backgrounds, you have dealt with all of these empires.

### ***Emperors***

Revelation

17:10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, [and] the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

That last one will be a short reign I think. That will be the seventh one. That will be the reign of the Antichrist.

Revelation

17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, . . .

There is Satan. Satan is the eighth. He is not one of the seven emperor kings running these empires, but he is an eighth. He stands outside of them because he is an invisible power behind the throne. He is the eighth. "The beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth," but he is of the seven.

Revelation

17:11... and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition.

He is outside of the empires and their emperors as Satan, but he is incarnated into Antichrist, and he is of the seven, but he is also the eighth. But now we come to the hard part, the ten horns.

### ***Ten Horns***

Revelation

17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

I consider this to be a sudden endowment of power, not a one-hour “length” of power, but a “sudden” endowment of power. These ten horns are ten kings, and this means all of the horns in temporal power of the final empire. Right here at this point we have seven as a count when describing seven empires that you can count, but seven means also all as in universal. The horns also can be counted when you go to Daniel. Daniel has ten horns, and then a little horn coming up. The little horn uproots three of the horns by the roots and becomes the ruler, the greatest horn of all. There seems to be both symbolic and real numbers here, and this is where I struggle. Are we symbolically looking at ten, or is it a real number ten. I leave that to you because I have not resolved that in my own mind.

Homer: Do you think that since the beast has so much power, the kings come together and hand their power over to him to affirm his position?

V: Yes, but have we gotten to that part where they give the power back to him?

Homer: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

V: Yes, that is the next verse. I had not gotten there yet.

Homer: Going back to Daniel where you have ten horns, and you have the little horn which is the eleventh, uprooting three, gives you back to the eighth which is also the seventh. This would agree numerically with Revelation that declares the beast to be the eighth.

V: Yes, that is good.

Beth: The seven empires; do they coincide with the seven heads of the dragon?

V: Yes, they could. I am not sure how close they correlate.

Beth: Okay, so do you think that the one that was slain and came back alive would be the present empire?

V: It could be the Roman Empire coming back in the present, or it could be the empire of the Antichrist with the ten kings. It could be the German or Russian nations. I do not know. It is tough. That can be your paper.

REVELATION

17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

These ten horns are going to be united in mind. Christians are to be united in mind as well. We are to have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is Philippians 2. These ten kings are going to have one mind. They are going to be politically correct right down the line. They are going to give their power back to the Antichrist, and the Antichrist is going to be running this one mind, this politically correct system that is going to be worldwide.

Revelation

17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, . . .

And this war is described when we were over here in the sixth trumpet. It said that the whole world would be gathered to battle, the battle of that great day of God Almighty, the great day is the battle of Armageddon that goes right into the judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment which we will look at in the next chapter. This sixth trumpet is being described right here as war: “These shall make war with the Lamb.”

### *The Called, Chosen, and Faithful*

Revelation

17:14 . . . and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him [are] called, and chosen, and faithful.

You are called. Many are called, but few are chosen. Fewer are faithful. If you want to, look at it this way: If you looked at the called as the call to salvation, and the chosen as those who are saved, and the faithful as those that follow the Lord . . .

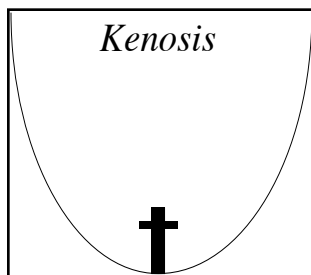


Chart 11.3

That is one way to look at it. But let us look at it in a church environment. All of the true church is saved, so we are not looking for a call to salvation. We are looking for a call to sanctification. Even fewer are faithful who grit their teeth and go all the way to the death, and those are going to be glorified. If you look at it that way as a message to the church, this gets tight because it is a call to follow Jesus in His path of suffering that leads to death. You have then called, chosen, and faithful of the church. All are called. Few are chosen. The only ones chosen are disciples, those who deny themselves, pick up their crosses, and follow Jesus. Fewer are

faithful. Faithful takes you to the bottom (see Chart 11.3), all the way, sacrifice, death on the cross, the same path that He followed.

You see, we have the martyrs that are under the altar that were crying out, “How long, Oh, God, how long?” The answer is not only until all those who have been called and chosen for salvation, but also those who follow the Lord until they are dead. They just keep on keeping on. You are being called, some of you are being chosen, fewer of you will be faithful. The ball is in your court. Will you answer the call to be chosen as a disciple, and further yet, will you be faithful?

We are not playing games here. What we are dealing with here is life and death. It is so real I can see the flames. I can see the cross. I see many running the other way, carrying a banner that says **CHRISTIAN**. They are running the wrong way. The more the saints run the wrong way, the more harlotry and abominations are being bred in the church. Now we are coming to a time in our life when to be accepted in the church is going to be against your creed. You are not going to be able to accept the apostasy. We are coming to that in this next chapter of Revelation.

Mary: I asked a person, “Will you persecute Smyrna and Philadelphia while you chase after your signs and wonders?”

V: The persecutors and politically correct “Christians” will have no problem. They will not say it with their mouths in the beginning, but will do it with their deeds.

Beth: I woke up this morning with this thought in my mind: You know a lot of times you stand at the gas pump, and you have three different gases there, regular, mid-grade, and super. The thought came to me, “What kind of believer are you going to be, regular, mid-grade, or super?” and the price determines

the quality. The greater the price, the greater the quality. The price we pay . . .

V: That is right. Good analogy.

Jerry: That will preach; that is a sermon for next Sunday. Thanks.

### ***The Waters***

Revelation

17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

This is not just one language, it is not just one race, and it is not just one nation. It is a religion around the world as the waters. Waters signify the mixing of all the world religions into a one-world religion.

### ***Ten Horns, Beast, and Woman***

Revelation

17:16 And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.

17:17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

17:18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.

You need to see something here. This harlot is the apostate church against whom the final empire of Antichrist is going to turn and destroy. The apostate church, the politically correct church that is in league with Satan and following Antichrist and worshipping Antichrist, this church is going to be destroyed by the empire of Antichrist because there is still the mystery of the church within it.

### ***Speckled Bird Analogy of the Church***

Consider the speckled bird in Jeremiah 12.<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah told the nation of Judah, You are a speckled bird, and you are going to be pecked to death by the surrounding nations that are birds. All of these birds are going to look at you, and you are of a like feather, but there is a little bit of distinction about you. You look a little different with those specks on you. Because of those specks, the other birds are going to peck you to death because you are different.

The same thing happens with the apostate church. It is the speckled bird analogy all over again, and the ten kings are going to look at that church who is following them and their plan and is fornicating with them and is doing everything just exactly the way Antichrist wants them to do. However the members of this church are meeting together still as this wonderful, mysterious conglomerate church worshipping God in their perverted way, and the kings are going to destroy her because of the name of the church, not because of her behavior, not because of her ideology, not because of her credo or doctrine or anything, but because of her name “God’s church.” The kings are going to kill her.

If not already, she soon will be up there on that beast reigning and being glorified and carrying all the jewels and wealth and praise of men, but there is coming a time when all of that is going to turn against her.

She is going to lose the whole thing. You could be part of that harlot riding the beast, but there is going to come a time, regardless of how politically correct you get, when the beast is going to turn upon you, his lover, and destroy you.

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<sup>4</sup> Jeremiah 12:9.

Joe: Do you think that even though it is an apostate church because there could be some Christians there, the Spirit of God is still there, and that is the mystery? That is why the turning? Even though it is still an apostate church, God still loves the sinner even though they are sinning. Is that connected any way?

V: There is going to be a calling out of the Christians, and the true Christians are going to come out of her. But there is still going to be this destruction, and I believe the destruction is going to come about because of the word church, church of God. Satan is going to bring about that destruction because he wants nothing to do with the church of God, even the apostate church that is following him. Right now while she is on the back of the beast. He is using the church to gain his ends. If the church breeds harlots, Satan is going to say, "Bring them on! I will encourage this church as long as harlotry and abominations are being bred by the church." He will use her as long as she is useful to him. He is going to achieve his ends through the church, through the harlot. But when he is through with her, he will turn against her.

It is a speckled bird analogy. There is identification yet with distinction. The apostate church is identified with Babylon, with the beast, with Antichrist, with the empire, but yet there is distinction. There is identification yet with distinction.

## REVELATION 18

### *Fall of Babylon's Church*

Revelation

18:1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen,

is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

At this point at the beginning of Revelation 18, the harlot is already being called Babylon. Instead of just having the name written on her head, she is identified now as Babylon. However, she is not Babylon. You need to see this. But she is being called Babylon because of her close relationship with Babylon. Soon we will have a description of her committing fornication with the kings of the earth. But now it talks about the merchants, and how the merchants have gotten rich through their relationship with her.

### *God calls His Saints Out of Babylon's Church*

Revelation

18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Now here is a call for the Christians to come out of her. This is an interesting situation because if you have the world here (see Chart 11.4), and you have Christians in the world who are called out (saved), they make the church. Then the *ecclesia* is already the called out ones. What if the church becomes the world, then we have need of another calling out. The definition of holiness is separation unto God's use, called and set apart. When He calls us out of the world to make a new community or a new city, Jerusalem, and we become so perverted that the new city becomes Babylon once again, then there is a

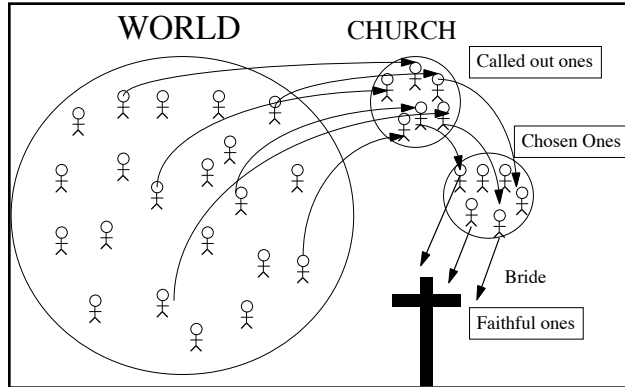


Chart 11.4

need for another call. He says, then, to the real Christians in the apostate church, “Come out of there.” This time the calling will involve death to the saints because they choose to follow God rather than Antichrist. So now you have the called, chosen, faithful, and dead. At this point, you will get your head whacked off.

Sybil: He who will be faithful unto death.

V: Yes, to the death. Let us go on a little further.

Revelation

18:5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

18:6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.

18:7 How much she hath glorified herself,  
...

We are talking about the first called out ones, the ones labeled church.

Revelation

18:7 How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

Do you hear that today, folks? The harlot says that she will see no sorrow: “If it is true that we will see no sorrow, then we do not have to worry about it. We are going to be raptured. We are not going to see any of this! Do not worry about it. Cool. It is going to be all right. We are not going to have any sorrow and pains and suffering. What kind of Christian are you? Do you not know about the rapture?” But friend, do not listen to the harlot.

Revelation

18:8 Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong [is] the Lord God who judgeth her.

18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

The kings are the first ones to grieve over the harlot’s destruction because they are the ones who fornicated directly, one to one, you see. They have a love-hate relationship with her. They hate her connection to God, but they love making money off her. They will be the first ones affected by the loss of the harlot because they will lose her political support. The kings of the earth are going to be mourning and lamenting over her fall.

Revelation

18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

18:11 And the merchants . . .

The church’s members would be the ones who stagger around drunk. They are church merchants who profit from the church. They are extensions of Balaam, the profit prophet.

***Merchandising in souls***

Revelation

8:11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

18:12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,

18:13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Merchandising in souls is what the harlot has been and is going to be doing. How can I get money? I can get money as a pastor by selling your souls. Pastors, listen to this. Are you going to trade the souls of your congregation for money? The temptation is going to be there. Temper our sermons, tickle their ears, get yourself some raises and a parsonage and a new car. All you have to do is sell the souls of your congregation.

Oscar: Just get them to walk the aisle and make that decision, get them on the roll, get them in Sunday school.

V: Get them on the roll . . .

Pete: Get those numbers up there.

Betty: We can also look at the church today and see the economics that have developed out of that. Church construction and furnishing, all the trappings of the church today.

Paul: Build elaborate buildings, family life centers that will rival any health club facility . . . No wonder John almost passed out.

V: But if that is what you want, the trade is there for you. Sunday school teachers, if

that is what you want, the trade is there for you. Parents, if that is what you want, the trade is there for you. I am telling you, if you sell the souls of your people, you are going to pay for eternity. This merchandising in the souls of men is a staggering thing to me. Making slaves of your people to your agenda is merchandizing in the souls of men. Get your values right. One soul is worth more than all the money in the world.

Revelation

18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all.

People who begin to see things in relation to their eternity place a diminishing value on the things. In fact, things begin to have no value. Thus, this statement is eternal. Gold will be used as street pavement in heaven.

Revelation

18:15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

18:16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, . . .

That great harlot, that wonderful church, which made the merchants of the world rich will be in great torment under the persecution of her lover, Antichrist. Those merchants will not come to her aid because of their fear of Antichrist.

Revelation

18:16 ...that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

18:17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, . . .

Who are the shipmasters?

Tim: Pastors.



## REVELATION

18:17 . . . and all the company in ships, .

..

All those people in the pews of local churches.

## Revelation

18:17 . . . and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

18:18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What [city is] like unto this great city!

Still a mystery, what city could be like this city? The sailors and those who trade by sea are the vocational ministers who derive their income from the church.

## Revelation

18:19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

18:20 Rejoice over her, [thou] heaven, and [ye] holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast [it] into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

18:22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft [he be], shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee;

18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Deception came through this false apostate church. She deceived the nations. Her harlotry bred harlotry. Now God's judgment on the apostate institutional church is going to be

delivered via Antichrist. The church fornicated with Antichrist, kings, and merchants. She became a harlot for anyone who could pay her price.

## Revelation

18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

If you go back in history and look at the people, the most wonderful people who have ever lived, have been destroyed by the church. Some of the best people that have ever lived! It started with Jesus Christ, destroyed by the Jews, by the people of God.

**REVELATION 19**

## Revelation

19:1 And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:

19:2 For true and righteous [are] his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

19:3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

If these people in this apostate church had been saved, we would have had a case for losing your salvation. But, you see, I believe that the true saints will be called out, and that this will be a truly apostate church that will be made up of politically correct people, and that they will go to the lake of fire. Their smoke will ascend forever and ever. That is the way I am seeing this. This apostasy is so extensive that after the saints come out, there is nothing left but politically correct worshippers of Antichrist in the institutional, universal church. That is why I have no problem with the smoke of her rising up for eternity.

## Revelation

19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

19:5 And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

19:6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, . . .

That is us, guys. The voice of many waters means the saved people of many nations, cultures, races, and denominations.

## Revelation

19:6 . . . and as the voice of mighty thunders, . . .

That thundering could represent God's voice as spoken by all the glorified saints.

## Revelation

19:6 . . . saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Now we come to the marriage of the Lamb.

What are the ideas presented under the symbol "marriage of the Lamb?"

1. Rejoicing and honor, verse 7.
2. The bride in fine linen, verse 8.
3. The blessedness of the bride, verse 9.
4. The marriage supper of the Lamb, verse 9.

Those four descriptions or ideas are presented in this marriage of the Lamb. Here is the bride, the original called out ones. Here is the bride, the chosen ones. Here is the bride, the faithful ones. These are the bride who is going to be in that marriage supper along with those who have died along the way.

## Chapter Questions

1. What is the great city?
2. Who is riding on the beast?
3. Describe Vial #7.
4. Describe the scarlet beast.
5. Describe Mystery Babylon.
6. Who is the mother of harlots?
7. What are heads? Mountains?
8. If there are seven heads on the beast, how can Satan be one of them and the eighth as well?
9. Interpret the called, chosen, and faithful of Revelation 17:14.
10. How does Jeremiah's speckled bird analogy apply to the church?
11. How does the church merchandise in men's souls?